

ADVENTIST REVIEW

WEEKLY NEWS AND INSPIRATION FOR SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

JULY 11, 1995



TOP: GC Vice Presidents: Left to Right: Jan Paulsen, Philip S. Follett, Calvin B. Rock, Leo Ranzolin, Robert J. Kloosterhuis, and Matthew A. Bediako

BELOW: Division Presidents: Left to Right: P. D. Chun (Asia-Pacific), L. D. Raelly (Eastern Africa), M. E. Cherian (Southern Asia), Bryan W. Ball (South Pacific), Ulrich Frikart (Euro-Africa), L. T. Daniel (Africa-Indian Ocean), Alfred C. McClure (North America), Ted N. C. Wilson (Euro-Asia), Ruy H. Nagel (South America), Israel Leito (Inter-American), Bertil Wiklander (Trans-European)



GC BULLETIN



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in Christ

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The Day in Utrecht

FRIDAY, JULY 7



By Bert B. Beach
Director, General
Conference Public
Affairs and
Religious Liberty
Department

The day in Utrecht began for me in a rather inauspicious way. Let me explain.

I was using the elevator around 5:25 p.m. to go down from the Royal Lobby (a reception room for special guests at the Jaarbeurs) to join the group of delegates to be bused for a reception at the palatial residence of the Queen's Commissioner. But on the ground floor the elevator door would not open! I was finally liberated by a competent technician and whisked by car to the reception. Referring to the incident in his welcoming speech, the Queen's Commissioner suggested, tongue in cheek, that the reason for my trouble was that I had "been going down instead of following the Christian way of going up!"

At the reception, the Queen's Commissioner was at his eloquent best. Our society, he noted, has more freedom now than ever. But the question is With what do we fill this freedom? He gave us an interesting history of his stately residence, "The Pope's House," as it's called. The reason for this name, he said, is that the house was originally planned to be the home for the only Dutch pope, though that pope never actually lived there. The Commissioner concluded by referring to the parable of the 10 virgins and its message: "Be on your guard and keep your life's light burning."

Thursday Evening, July 6

I walked into the assembly auditorium as the Euro-Asia Division program was getting under way in the International Festival of Mission. The religious liberty doors have opened, with the explosive consequence of unprecedented evangelistic advances. In giving his report, Elder Ted Wilson and his fellow officers thanked the General Conference leadership and division presidents for their great help in evangelistic meetings and the burgeoning building programs. Each leader received a lovely liberty bell, and the delegates and guests, miniature models. The tinkling of these several thousand bells signaled the opening of the doors to spiritual freedom in the 12 recognized countries that make up the Euro-Asia Division.

We all enjoyed the four choirs,

including the Russian mass choir and the ladies' Bandura ensemble with the colorful floral headdresses. The video presentation showed a plethora of evangelistic campaigns resulting in more than a tripling of the division's membership during the quinquennium.

South America

Then it was time for the mighty South American Division to march onto the stage, led by retiring president Joao Wolff. The division's theme, "A Blazing Continent," ignited the delegates. In one century the membership has jumped from 34 to more than 1.3 million members. Currently, an average of 300 are baptized every day. What a success story! New president Ruy Nagel plans to move at an even faster pace.

Some reporters of this fifty-sixth session highlight the fact that this is their first session—a marvelously exciting experience. For me, this is my twelfth General Conference session. Furthermore, for the past quarter of a century I've served as one of the writers of the day at the session. A great deal has changed at General Conference sessions. The meeting is now more complex—and of course, much more expensive. There has been a dramatic change in its international character, with the developing countries not only sending full delegations, but many more delegates because of the wonderful membership growth. The number of press representatives—both general and SDA—has mushroomed. The media coverage of this session here in the Netherlands has surpassed our expectations and has been both extensive and positive. The church has stepped fully into the electronic age (can you believe that just a few months ago an old man like me could have been converted to using a computer, which I have here with me!).

Innovations

There are many innovations at this session. For the first time we have three types of microphones on the floor, one for those in favor of the motion, one for those opposed, and one for points of order. We even have a parliamentarian, attorney Walter Carson, who jokingly says he is using the "Beach Rules of



Delegates from the Eastern Africa Division display their national costumes from Kenya.

Order," since I was asked to both write and revise the rules.

The music at this session has simply been superb, whether choirs, ensembles, or soloists, both young or old. We were all impressed with the prodigious gifts of 16-year-old violinist Kybra Tutt, from California. One very attractive innovation is the outside performances of musical groups every evening after the close of the meeting, in front of the convention center. Another very welcome innovation is the stipulation that divisions stay within the allocated time during their evening programs. In past years they tended to go on and on. With many session participants having to stay in other parts of the Netherlands, I am sure that they appreciate being able to leave in a timely fashion for their hotels.

So far I haven't read any mention of what the convention center's name, Jaarbeurs, really means. Literally, it translates "annual fairs." But "Royal Dutch Fairs" sounds much grander!

Previously, at General Conference sessions, the prestige committee has been the Nominating Committee. At this fifty-sixth session the Constitution and Bylaws Committee was the premier committee. Significant and far-reaching structural and organizational changes have been successfully pro-

cessed through this committee, chaired with both competence and infinite patience by Calvin Rock, general vice president of the General Conference.

Friday Morning, July 7

Important changes were voted Friday morning at the session. There will be greater representation of laity and pastoral/frontline workers at General Conference sessions. And the session voted to cap the number of delegates attending General Conference sessions at 2,000, thereby saving the church several million dollars. The many structural changes make this session indeed a watershed in church organization and governance. A couple of days ago people were saying that it would be impossible to process the multitudinous constitutional and other changes by Friday afternoon, July 7. Indeed, the church of God seemed to be moving like a mighty tortoise. But miracle of miracles, by the middle of Friday afternoon all the constitutional and *Church Manual* changes had been dealt with and passed on for implementation.

A traditional ceremony the last Friday afternoon of General Conference sessions is the honoring of those retiring from General Conference service. This Friday there were 49 people honored for

their multifaceted service to the world church. What an assemblage of talent and lengthy service stood before the delegates. Tribute was also paid to those many individuals whose hard behind-the-scenes work and expertise made possible the success of this session.

May I end this warm and sunny day in Utrecht with a personal retrospective. My first official assignment, 35 years ago this month, after becoming a member of the General Conference Executive Committee, was in this very city of Utrecht. It was here that I was asked to serve as the Sabbath school superintendent of a division-wide youth congress. A few weeks ago I happened to run across a copy of that Sabbath-morning program. Everyone listed has since either passed away or retired. Time marches on. The church has gained new heights, and we as leaders and members must also stride along, reaching alpine altitudes. What a privilege it is to be coworkers together with God.

Session Schedule

■ FRIDAY, JULY 7

7:30 a.m.

Devotional—Fitz Henry

8:30 a.m.

Business session—*Church Manual* amendments and constitution and bylaws

11:00 a.m.

Devotional—
Walter L. Pearson, Jr.

1:30 p.m.

Business session—
constitution and bylaws
Nominating committee Report
#8

6:30 p.m.

Music program
Vesper service—
Dwight K. Nelson



Homeless No More



WALTER L. PEARSON, JR.

*Associate Director,
Ellen G. White Estate*

Homelessness is generally described as the lack of legal access to adequate housing. The cumulative effect of poverty, natural catastrophe, and war or military occupation has multiplied the numbers of homeless people.

The recent mammoth migration of refugees from Rwanda challenged demographers. In terms of sheer numbers, it was almost without parallel in the annals of human experience.

The dilemma faced by refugees and dispossessed people around the world is critical and should never be trivialized. And while the scriptural account of Israel leaving Egypt is sometimes viewed as the first occurrence of homelessness, the dramatic expulsion of the first family on earth from Eden is overlooked by practically all secular historians.

In a real sense, however, Adam and Eve became homeless when they disobeyed God's instructions. This striking instance of homelessness is actually the beginning of every problem faced by the human family.

A Dilemma for the First Couple

After the Almighty fashioned beings made in His own image, He gave humankind dominion over the earth.¹ Ellen White explains that God so honored our forebears because, with their superior intelligence, they would be able to appreciate the works of His hands.²

For six literal days the unique creative powers of God wrought dramatic changes that gave birth to a planet. An aggregate mass that was "without form, and void" was now an artfully arranged sphere.

Tender blades of grass slithered up through the rich soil to form a lush carpet around giant trees. The tantalizing aroma of exotic fruits and flamboyant blossoms filled the air. Poetic vines adorned the borders of diverse species of plants.

Delicate clouds drifted silently through tranquil azure skies, responding to the commanding brilliance of a newly formed sun. The part of the earth that rotated into the dark phase of the daily cycle

saw the sun's rays form long shadows and fill the western horizon with a symphony of glowing colors until the moon appeared with its shimmering silver reflection.

God trusted Adam and Eve to exercise dominion over the earth.³ Having considered the sum of God's handiwork and the infinitesimally small role that humankind represented in the grand scheme of things, the psalmist asked, What is man?⁴ At first blush the answer seems to be a rhetorical invitation to consider the human body.

Astounding as they were, however, the qualities of human physiology served essentially to equip our forebears to function as the managers of God's handiwork. They were endowed with physical, mental, and spiritual capacities equal to the demands that dominion would place upon them.

Adam and Eve were granted a peculiar privilege as "the reins of self-government were placed in [their] hands."⁵ They were given responsibility as well as freedom.

The tree in the midst of the garden was not forbidden because it represented a threat. It contained no ingredient that made it potentially dangerous.⁶ It gave them the opportunity to display their recognition of God's sovereignty.⁷

In exchange for knowledge that they would naturally have received from the hand of God without curse, they forfeited the prospect of endless satisfaction.⁸ They believed and obeyed the words of the apostate.

The drama of the ages concerns itself with humanity's possession, loss, and ultimate repossession of the dominion that was God's gift at the beginning.⁹

A Limit on the Loss

Adam and Eve might have forfeited whatever authority they possessed over the earth when they ate the fruit of that tree, but ownership of the planet remained with the sovereign.¹⁰ The Bible declares that "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."¹¹

*Devotional
message
presented
Friday
morning,
July 7, 1995*

Satan's intent was to dispossess the original human family of their legal claim to dominion of the home that God had provided for them.¹² But Adam and Eve could not relinquish what was not theirs. It was rulership, not ownership, that God had given Adam and Eve, and even that was forfeited when they disobeyed.¹³

The rulership of the earth had indeed fallen to the control of a hostile foe. Nevertheless, not all was lost. From the foundation of the world, a plan for the rescue of a fallen planet had been devised.¹⁴

A Divine Solution

The first gospel promise, recorded in Genesis 3:15, clearly indicated a wrinkle in the deceiver's ambitious plan. Jesus' willingness to leave the courts of heaven and come to earth sounded the death knell for Satan's aspirations. The control of Planet Earth could never remain in Satan's hands under these circumstances.¹⁵ Angels were sent to tell Adam and Eve that there was hope for them. They learned that through faith in Christ and His atonement for them they would have life and hope in spite of their failure.¹⁶

The writer to the Hebrews joins the psalmist in adoration of God for His marvelous beneficence toward human-kind. Disobedience had allowed those things that God made subject to Adam and Eve to become subject to Satan. But the passage introduces Jesus immediately after the suggestion of potential loss.¹⁷

Without Jesus, sin would have caused the eternal termination of any future aspirations for the human family, including the forfeiture of an eternal home. However, in the second instance, the same words suggest the appearance of Him who is the hope for mankind.

"But we see Jesus!" For hopeless, helpless humanity, He is the desire of the ages. Disobedience caused the problem, but Scripture introduces Jesus as the solution.¹⁸

Theoretically, God might have restored the rulership of humankind without the expensive plan that involved the sacrifice of the Only Begotten of heaven. He who owned the earth certainly had the right to designate who should exercise rulership over it. But more was at stake.¹⁹

Not only was humanity to be



The Pasay Adventist Church Choir from the Philippines dazzled the assembly with their music. The choir is led by Linda Correa.

redeemed and Planet Earth retrieved, but the true nature of God was to be revealed in Christ. Christ's sacrifice to pay the penalty for man's sin would reaffirm the permanence of God's law and the fairness of His rulership. At the same time it would demonstrate God's infinite mercy toward those willing to be reconciled.²⁰

Adam and Eve recoiled at the thought that Christ should suffer and die in their stead. But they rejoiced that Christ's sacrifice would turn death and darkness into immortality and light.²¹

While humanity could not fully understand the sacrifice of Christ in leaving the peace and majesty of heaven, Satan did. His selfish nature was baffled at the plan to save humankind at such a high cost. Nevertheless, he would continue to devalue the plan of salvation in the eyes of human beings so that they would never recognize the depths of God's love.²²

A Sensational Prediction

"And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."²³ This declaration follows several significant passages in which the powers of the earth are represented by various symbols.

After the reign of the entity symbolized by the little horn has exhausted its time upon the stage, Christ assumes the rulership of an everlasting kingdom. The world is returned to the hands of its rightful owners, with Christ as the permanent head of state. Despite the prediction of an unparalleled time of trouble, it should be noted that Michael stands on behalf of God's children.²⁴

"In the closing period of earth's history the Lord will work mightily in behalf of those who stand steadfastly for the right. . . . Satan with all the hosts of evil cannot destroy the weakest of God's saints. Angels that excel in strength will protect them, and in their behalf Jehovah will reveal Himself as a 'God of gods,' able to save to the uttermost those who have put their trust in Him."²⁵

The saints of God shall suffer great mental anguish while chaos covers the earth. Yet it is not torture or death that they fear. Their anxiety springs from a desire to know that their sins have been forgiven so that they may rest in the promise of Revelation 3:10.²⁶ That promise guarantees their successful passage through the time of trouble.

If the saints are secure in Christ, they shall indeed be delivered by the Prince, who has never lost a battle. When the final conflict has ended, the earth will belong to Christ and those who have been faithful through His power.

A United Family

Negative circumstances will continue to swirl about the family of God with increasing intensity as the powers referred to in prophecy consolidate. The arguments are compelling for unity among God's people during this period. When we surrender to Christ, affiliations with those who do not honor Him naturally tend to become strained. Christ did not leave us without warning. He says, "I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world; hates you."²⁷

Abraham discovered this phenomenon when he was called to leave his kin and country. Though it was not so clear to Abraham then, he was destined to live a nomadic life in search of a city that did not exist on earth.²⁸ He did not hesitate to seek that heavenly land, but he also grasped the corollary reality that he had become a stranger on earth. His firm, loving leadership influenced many to accept Jehovah wherever he traveled. Yet he recognized that his citizenship had been transferred and future relationships had been permanently altered.

This is a perfect time for strengthening family bonds. Let us celebrate our apparent dissimilarities as testimonies to the magnetism of Calvary, which Christ promised would draw all unto Him.

Then, instead of insisting that all adhere to the peculiar characteristics of any one society, let us unite in the precious truths that identify us as Seventh-day Adventist Christians.

Those things that tend to divide us pale in the glory of the Christ who seeks to unify us. "In spite of all the good qualities a man may have, he cannot be a good soldier if he acts independently of those connected with him. . . . A few men and women who unite together, having the glory of God in view, will be growing in strength and wisdom, and gaining new victories."²⁹

A Window of Opportunity

The slender margin of time that separates us from the coming of Jesus presents us with a unique window of opportunity. Ours is the privilege to advance the cause of Christ despite the trouble that surrounds us. We are not left to fight this battle in our own strength. We are allied with forces that cannot fail. The only fear is that we shall cease to trust in the merits of our mighty Commander.³⁰

Not only is Christ's victory assured in the matter of our future home, but He empowers us to hold fast until the day of His return. How useless it would be for the Lord to secure for His people an everlasting kingdom if He did not provide for their sustenance in the interim.

We may trust Him for the final victory and for the ability to withstand the onslaughts of the archenemy.

A Complete Restoration

The effects of sin shall soon be completely erased because of the victory of Christ. In Eden humanity lost a perpetual home. But Christ's perfect life on earth, perfect sacrifice on Calvary, and perfect intercession in heaven shall restore even more than that which was lost.

We shall be transformed at the second advent of our Lord. Clothed in immortality, we are prepared to spend eternity with Christ in the home that was ours before the fall of Adam and Eve.³¹

Think of the joy that shall fill the hearts of the first pair as they return to their garden home. The intense sadness and remorse that haunted them after their disobedience is lifted.³² They behold the trees and plants that were known to them before the Fall. In gratitude Adam bows at the feet of his Redeemer.³³ They are led again to the tree of life, and Christ offers them the life-giving fruit. It was forbidden to them as the result of their sin. It has been made available again through the merits of the Second Adam.³⁴ The controversy has ended. We are homeless no more!

¹ Gen. 1:26.

² *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, p. 1082.

³ *Conflict and Courage*, p. 11.

⁴ Ps. 8:4-6.

⁵ *Review and Herald*, Feb. 24, 1874.

⁶ *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 9, p. 232.

⁷ *Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 386.

⁸ *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 427.

⁹ *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 67.

¹⁰ *Christian Service*, p. 168.

¹¹ Ps. 24:1.

¹² *Review and Herald*, Feb. 24, 1874.

¹³ *Conflict and Courage*, p. 19.

¹⁴ Rev. 13:8.

¹⁵ *Review and Herald*, Feb. 24, 1874.

¹⁶ *Lift Him Up*, p. 23.

¹⁷ Heb. 2:6-9.

¹⁸ Matt. 1:21.

¹⁹ *Signs of the Times*, Nov. 4, 1908.

²⁰ "That I May Know Him," p. 366.

²¹ *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, p. 50.

²² *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 115, 116.

²³ Dan. 7:14.

²⁴ Dan. 12:1.

²⁵ *Maranatha*, p. 270.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 273.

²⁷ See John 15:18.

²⁸ Heb. 11:13-16.

²⁹ *Signs of the Times*, Sept. 7, 1891.

³⁰ *Review and Herald*, Feb. 5, 1895.

³¹ *The Great Controversy*, p. 322.

³² *Ibid.*, pp. 647, 648.

³³ *God's Amazing Grace*, p. 360.

³⁴ *The Great Controversy*, p. 648.

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Global Mission



By Mike L. Ryan
Coordinator

Although it was a major agenda item at the 1990 General Conference session, Global Mission, when voted, was little more than a document of intention to ignite the vision of our members to preach the gospel to "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" (Rev. 14:6). With the world population increasing by 330,000 per day, and the Adventist membership increasing by 1,200 per day, launching the Global Mission initiative was crucial in addressing these sobering statistics.

Where We Have Come From

In the past five years work has been established in the formerly unentered countries of Albania, Bahrain, Bhutan, Cambodia, Comoros, Djibouti, Nauru, Guinea, Mauritania, Mongolia, Oman, Tunisia, and Yemen. More than 8,186 new congregations have been organized, with 186 of those in areas each with a population of 1 million people where previously there was no Adventist presence. Plans are being implemented in 383 other areas each of 1 million people.

In 1989 the General Conference chose four Global Mission "direct action" areas: China, the Soviet Union, central and northern India, and the Middle East. In China alone, more than 100,000 new believers have come to Christ since 1989, increasing the number of Adventists to 157,000.

In the former Soviet Union people hungering for the gospel responded to evangelistic efforts. A membership just under 29,000 in 1990 has more than tripled to nearly 100,000.

In Southern Asia church elders were trained to take charge of existing churches so their ministers could lead the Global Mission Pioneer volunteers. Using simple outreach methods, more than 400 Pioneer volunteers planted 134 new congregations, yielding 6,121 baptisms. Eighty-three new

congregations now exist in hard-to-reach northern India, which is predominantly Hindu. Nearly every one of these 134 new congregations has already spawned a second body of believers.

In the Middle East, three previously unentered population segments, each of a million people, were entered. At least 24 new groups of believers are worshipping in Sudan, and a school has been established with an enrollment of more than 200 students. Membership in the Middle East Union rose from 5,336 at the beginning of 1990 to 8,207 by the end of 1994.

In addition to the four direct action areas mentioned above, hundreds of other "success" stories from around the world could be told. In the small Muslim country of Djibouti the Holy Spirit has broken down barriers through dental clinics and other programs. On October 29, 1994, five people were baptized in the Red Sea, the first Djibouti Seventh-day Adventists.

In Bhutan propagating any religion other than Hinduism is illegal, but in May 1992 the first ever Bhutanese was baptized as a result of the witness of an Indian layperson. Since then four others have been baptized.

Just a few years ago our church had no presence in Cambodia. Today, at least 36 groups of believers are worshipping there each Sabbath. In one area a group of 70 people had been worshipping each Sabbath, had a functioning Pathfinder Club, and were well on their way to constructing a church, yet not one person had been baptized! They were waiting for a pastor to come and examine the candidates and perform the baptism!

The Challenges Before Us

In spite of the headway God has allowed the Adventist people to experience, there are still significant challenges

ahead. One out of five people in the world is a Muslim. Nearly 800 million people in the world are Hindus. More than 300 million are Buddhists. Eight million are Adventists—just a little more than .1 percent of the world population.

By the year 2000, 72 percent of the world will live in cities, making the gospel challenge even greater. Within a 3,000-mile radius of Rangoon, Myanmar, lives three fifths of the world's population, where the concentration of Hindus, Buddhists, and Muslims is the greatest. Only 11 percent of the Adventists in the world live in that circle.

Never Stop Praying

Katrina* was born into an Adventist family living in Kazakhstan, Russia. Although the government prohibited any kind of worship outside of the state religion, her family often gathered around a table to pray and comfort one another with stories and promises they read from the Bible.

During World War II she was separated from her parents by the Communists and assigned to work in Sokuluk, Kyrgyzstan, a country in which 80 percent of the population is of Muslim heritage. Saddened to be the only Adventist living there, she approached God with her burden. "Lord, please send other workers to help me share Your love with these people and tell them of Your soon coming."

Years turned into decades, without a glimmer of hope. But the prayer of her heart remained the same.

Becoming old and frail, Katrina heard about an Adventist pastor who had been assigned to a town 22 miles (36 kilometers) away. Immediately she asked if he would come over to Sokuluk and help establish a group of believers. She and the pastor went to work visiting, studying, and praying for these believers. Of a group of 16 believers, who now meet regularly in a room in Katrina's house, seven have been baptized. At 82 years of age God answered her lifelong prayer by sending other Adventists to her town.

Pointing to the new group of believers, with tears in her eyes Katrina remarked in her native Russian language, "Never stop praying. See what God hath wrought." ☞

* Not her real name

Office of Women's Ministries



By **Rose Otis**
Director

Many church members viewed the decision of the 1990 Annual Council to establish a General Conference Office of Women's Ministries as a "new idea." However, church history reveals that Ellen White encouraged an active "woman ministry" (see supplement to *Review and Herald*, Dec. 6, 1898) that was led by Mrs. S.M.I. Henry from 1898 to 1900. Three short years after her conversion, however, Mrs. Henry's health failed and thus early women's ministries lapsed. Now, more than nine decades later, the ministry has been reborn. It has become a worldwide network of consecrated women nurturing one another, reaching out to reclaim discouraged and disillusioned former members, and winning new ones by the thousands.

1990: Reestablished

The 1990 Annual Council voted to begin women's ministries once again. The new General Conference Office of Women's Ministries developed a mission statement, and appointed a 35-member advisory made up of women from various cultures to give input to the budding ministry.

Earlier, in September 1990, the North American Division had already established its Office of Women's Ministries and elected Elizabeth Stern-dale director and Ramona Perez Greek assistant director.

1991: From the Starting Line

In 1991 four additional divisions adopted women's ministries. These included the Asia-Pacific Division (formerly Far Eastern Division) (Nancy

Bassham, director); Euro-Asia Division (Ludmila Krushenitskaya, director); Africa-Indian Ocean Division (Thelma Nortey, director); and Trans-European Division (Berthe Kendel, director). Women's ministries moved off the



A women's ministries leader in upper Egypt teaches a 31-year-old mother how to write her name.

starting line in January 1991 with a training program for newly appointed leaders in the various divisions. These new leaders lost no time in putting their skills to work, and women's ministries programs began to produce exciting, measurable results even before celebrating its first birthday.

1992: Global Mission Project

In 1992 women's ministries expanded to the South Pacific and South American divisions and the Middle East Union with the appointments of Carol Ferch-Johnson, Susana Schulz, and Valerie Fidelia, respectively.

The General Conference Office of Women's Ministries took on its first Global Mission project in Ngawi, Indonesia, a Muslim area, by purchasing a well-situated piece of property for a church and offering a Health Expo, stop-smoking program, Vaca-

tion Bible School, and cottage meetings, which eventually yielded 60 baptisms in April 1994.

Success in this project was achieved by a team effort that included Nancy Bassham, director, Far Eastern Division; Naomi Hendriks, West Indonesia Union director; Ellen Missah, director, East Java Conference, and her team; and the director of the GC Office of Women's Ministries. The Far Eastern Division women led the world field in baptisms in 1992 with 3,859.

The year 1992 was the first that we kept statistics on our programs in order to measure their success better. We learned that 50,368 women attended 748 spiritual retreats and brought 9,090 non-SDA friends along with them. Nearly 1,800 training seminars were held throughout the divisions. Also, 5,228 new members were added to the church, and 1,120 women were "reclaimed."

1993: Growing in All Directions

In 1993 the Euro-Asia Division held its first division-wide departmental council. Women's ministries leaders were there to encourage and train Euro-Asia Division women, some faithful veterans and others newly baptized members.

Annual Council delegates in Bangalore, India, voted to add the position of a women's ministries coordinator to the list of offices in local churches that are to be filled by nominating committees. This addition will appear in the 1995 *Church Manual*.

In the Southern Asia Division the leadership team of Elder Injeti and Julia James was appointed in the fall of 1993. Sixty women attended the first introductory course on women's ministries.

The South American Division appointed Vasti Viana to lead a mushrooming women's ministries program following Susana Schulz's resignation.

In South Africa the new Office of Women's Ministries used its influence to strengthen relationships among the women of our multicultural church family in this union. Ivy Petersen was appointed union coordinator.

1994: Looking Ahead

The 1994 Annual Council delegates voted to designate 1995 the Year of the Adventist Woman. Meanwhile, our Global Mission program in Indonesia concluded with 60 baptisms. Adly Campos, a General Conference employee and lay evangelist, was honored during the Annual Council for having won 726 souls to the Lord. The first Sabbath of March was designated as the International Women's Day of Prayer; and the Calendar of Special Days and Events would approve the second Sabbath of each June as Women's Ministries Emphasis Day in our local churches around the world.

1995: The Year of the Adventist Woman

The year began when 80 world church leaders spent two days attending an educational conference for church leadership, where six critical issues facing Adventist women were discussed. Meanwhile, more than 5,929 Adventist women marched through the streets of Accra, Ghana, proclaiming their allegiance to Christ during this special year.

The six critical issues identified for attention during The Year of the Adventist Woman are: (1) illiteracy, (2)



An AID recipient of a women's ministries scholarship ministers to hurting children in a refugee camp in Goma, Zaire.

poverty, (3) health risks, (4) abuse, (5) excessive workloads, and (6) the need to train and mentor women so that they can better participate in the mission of the church.

Ardis Dick Stenbakken accepted the challenge of coordinating the year's events and developing resource materials.

Other Highlights

► Dr. Arlene Taylor, speaker and radio host, produced *Profiles of Faith*, 52 interviews with Adventist women, which are being aired on Adventist World Radio in 1995.

► Dorothy Eaton Watts has developed a program called PALS—Prayer and Love Saves. This small group min-

istry is designed to encourage parents whose adult children no longer come to church.

► Three women's devotional books have been published: *Among Friends* (1993); *The Listening Heart* (1994); and *A Gift of Love* (1995). The proceeds have provided many scholarships to women students throughout the world.

► Additional Global Mission projects are in various stages of development in Cyprus, Belarus, Pakistan, Torres Strait, and South Africa.

► Statistics for 1994 reflect the growth of women's ministries in the church. More than 176,500 Adventist women attended 5,647 spiritual retreats. They brought 15,263 non-Adventist friends and family members. They led 4,793 training seminars, 2,153 evangelistic meetings, and 42,632 other meetings or events. Women's ministries accounted for 8,624 baptisms and 5,271 women reclaimed for the Lord.

► In the three divisions in which we do not have directors, coordinators for the Year of the Adventist Woman have been appointed. They are: Georgina Amelda, IAD; Siphewe Chisewe, EAD; and Noelle Vitry, EUD.

► A series of 40 seminars will be offered during the GC session for women who are nondelegates.

In a remarkable rebirth women's ministries is helping women to capture a vision of how networking, mentoring, nurturing, and training can enrich the lives of Adventist women and the church at large.

I believe we are beginning to see what Ellen White predicted when she said, speaking of a ministry to women, "If we can arrange . . . to have regularly organized companies intelligently instructed in regard to the part they should act as servants of the Master, our churches will have life and vitality such as have been so long needed" (*Review and Herald*, May 9, 1899).

The glory for the victories and blessings of this first quinquennium go to our heavenly Father, from whom all blessings flow.



Sabbath school program during North Philippine Union Mission Year of Adventist Woman Conference attended by 450

Ministerial Association



By James A. Cress
Director

The fervent hope of every sincere Seventh-day Adventist is to spend the new millennium in heaven. Accordingly, the Ministerial Association of the General Conference exists to hasten the fulfilling of our church's stated mission: proclaiming to all peoples the everlasting gospel in the context of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12.

Although the term *association* may seem archaic, the Ministerial Association is unlike other departments at the General Conference in that we are indeed an association of local church pastors throughout the world. Therefore, while we train and encourage ministerial secretaries in the divisions, unions, and conferences toward greater effectiveness, our real responsibility is to our fellow pastors and their families as well as to their assistants in ministry, the local church elders.

A New Cooperation

Traditionally, the Ministerial Association has operated as a federation of seven collegial but separate entities: Evangelism, Shepherdess International, *Ministry* magazine, Continuing Education, Ministry to Elders, Ministerial Supply Center, and PREACH (Project for Reaching Every non-Adventist Clergy at Home). Each entity was served by its own assigned personnel, working as colleagues but maintaining defined entity boundaries. Now, to better serve the world field and to facilitate more cohesive cooperative implementation of the association's services, staff members are not only colleagues but facilitators of each other's ministry in carrying out the total mission of the association. Individual staff members still will be specialists dealing primarily—but no longer exclusively—with their own entities.

Ministry Magazine

Of the various vehicles of communication for the Association, the major one is *Ministry*, an international professional journal published monthly for English-reading pastors around the world and quarterly in Spanish and Portuguese. It also is translated and adapted into French, German, Russian, and other languages.

The goal of *Ministry* is helping pastors to be faithful to biblical principles. A major focus of editor David Newman and associate editor John M. Fowler is the nurture and stability of pastors' marriage relationships and helping spouses relate to the ministry and life of the church. The magazine also presents biblical, theological, and historical studies that speak to human needs; communicating distinctive doctrines in a Christ-centered way.

Picture Roll Evangelism

Another vehicle of communication for the Ministerial Association is its evangelism entity, which operates primarily through field schools to train and equip pastors and local church elders. Part of the evangelistic thrust of the association is the development of evangelistic tools.

The Picture Roll project merits special mention. It came about when we surveyed evangelists and ministerial secretaries in economically deprived regions of the world to determine their soul-winning needs. They didn't request video equipment or even slide projectors, since they often preach many miles from electrical outlets. Everyone, from African jungles to Asian tropics to the South Pacific islands to the far reaches of Inter- and South America, urgently requested the same thing: doctrinal Picture Rolls for an entire evangelistic series. They wanted stand-alone illustra-

tive material light enough to carry for miles over muddy trails, waterproof, and unbreakable. With their counsel, Jim Zachary of our Ministerial Association developed a set of Picture Rolls with the following features:

- ▶ 24 topics—a full doctrinal evangelistic series (four pages of graphics per topic).
- ▶ Bound in two rolls for portability plus double usage capacity.
- ▶ Durable plastic that is washable, durable, mildew- and tear-resistant.
- ▶ Study guides with corresponding pictures to guide the presenters. Included are a sample sermon text, decision appeal, questions and answers, and short review quiz.

Recent prototype field tests of the Picture Rolls have been encouraging. Orders are flooding in. With such a huge demand, we have placed the first order for 75,000 sets. Competitive bidding has brought down production costs. But even after the typical developing country evangelist invests sacrificially to purchase this product, and local subsidies are factored in, the association is left with a substantial shortfall to sponsor.

Robert Folkenberg, our world president, is enthused with the possibilities of this project, declaring: "It is exciting to think what this will do for our pastors and lay workers in many parts of the world where these Picture Rolls will be the 'talk of the town.' But even in more sophisticated places they will find acceptance." He has challenged the Ministerial Association with the daunting task of raising the additional US\$2 million necessary to bring this dream to reality.

The Picture Roll will come in the four languages most widely used by the world church—English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese. We hope to add Russian and Chinese.

So the need is there. The solution is here. All we lack is sufficient funding.

Other Evangelistic and Educational Tools

Another Ministerial Association project just completed is the largest printing production in the history of the Review and Herald Publishing Association: the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* series exclusively for workers in economically challenged areas. More than a

half million pounds of paper in 36 huge rolls were required for the 20,000 sets commissioned by the Ministerial Association. A substantial and generous subsidy by the Review and Herald makes possible a bottom-line price of US\$52 for the eight-volume, hardbound, gold-embossed set.

Many pastors and local church elders in developing countries have had little formal education and possess no Bible research tools. Acquisition of the commentary set would be a dream come true for these dedicated and productive workers. But thousands of them, unable to afford even \$52, are praying for further subsidies anticipated through donations to come from lay member partnership in this project.

Another major project of the association is the Dollar Book Series, under the direction of Mike Speegle. There are 10,000 standing orders for our dollar books from conferences and unions around the world. The series features reprints at amazingly low cost of such timeless classics as *Preaching to the Times*, by C. E. Bradford; *Success Secrets*, by John Rhodes; and *The Pastor's Handbook on Interpersonal Relationships*, by Jard DeVille.

Next year's releases include *The Perils of Power*, by Richard Exley, on the topic of pastoral sexual ethics. Also scheduled are a stewardship how-to book by Mel Rees and *Every Member a Believer*, by Rex Edwards.

Edwards, director of Continuing Education for the Ministerial Association, oversees the production of study courses and pastoral instructional videos. The United States armed forces purchased a set of his videos on sexual ethics for every U.S. military chaplain in the world.

Edwards has enlisted a group of qualified instructors to conduct international field schools offering seminary credit. He will also coordinate the upcoming World Ministers' Councils in the various divisions around the globe.

Miscellaneous Publications

Through the first half of this quinquennium the association was led by now-retired Floyd Bresee. Among his many accomplishments is the 1992 publication of the *Minister's Handbook*.



While adults meet in business sessions, youth have been involved in witnessing activities such as community service and street performances. These members of the Korean delegation paused for prayer outside the Jaarbeurs convention center.

Last year we released a companion volume also authored by Bresee, the *Elder's Handbook*, which includes a study guide by Mike Speegle. Also meeting the educational needs of local church elders is the quarterly *Elder's Digest*, edited by Joel Sarli of the association. Sarli also coordinates our relationship with seminaries and colleges and their curriculum development for ministerial training. Additionally, he oversees resources for local elders and develops training seminars for them.

Among the various productions of the Ministerial Association, nothing is more important or appreciated around the world than *Shepherdess International*, published for pastoral wives and families. Sharon Cress, editor of *Shepherdess International* and world coordinator of Shepherdess International, conducts field workshops and seminars relating to family and relational matters for pastors and their spouses. She also trains Shepherdess International coordinators and develops resource materials and continuing education courses on team ministry for pastoral couples. Margarida Sarli serves as a volunteer assistant in this important ministry to pastoral spouses.

One Shepherdess project just completed is a vegetarian cookbook, *Seasoned With Love*, featuring international recipes from pastoral families. Proceeds will go toward equipping pastoral wives for their own soul-winning activities.

The CompuServe Project

To maximize our services to pastors,

the Ministerial Association strives to keep abreast of developing technologies. Through the CompuServe SDA Forum, pastors around the world now have on-line computer access to professional resources and enjoy live fellowship with peers around the world. Martin Weber selects and uploads files to the Pastoral Practices library of the CompuServe SDA Forum. He also coordinates such special projects as the PREACH outreach, which involves sending *Ministry* magazine to more than 55,000 clergy of other denominations.

The PREACH project was launched and sustained by recently retired J. R. Spangler, a former secretary of the Ministerial Association. Follow-up seminars have enlisted the participation of thousands of these friendly clergy. Weber is developing experimental low-budget seminars on how to use computer software in Bible study and research.

According to this plan, an Adventist pastor who already has established relationships with other pastors, perhaps through the local ministerium, will invite these clergy friends to the Adventist Church for a morning-long seminar that will showcase computer Bible software. The passage under study will strategically convey an Adventist doctrine, such as the Sabbath. Follow-up will be a monthly computer Bible study in the Adventist church, led by our local pastor. Traditional PREACH seminars will also be scheduled and organized as time permits.

The New Millennium

Ultimately the Ministerial Association exists to hasten the fulfillment of our church's stated mission: proclaiming to all peoples the everlasting gospel in the context of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12, leading them to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour, and uniting them with His church.

While pastors, elders, and their supporting ministerial association leaders throughout the world hope for the Lord's return before the year 2000, He has directed the church to "occupy till I come." In harmony with that mandate, the General Conference Ministerial Association needs long-range vision while maintaining short-term expectations for life on this planet.

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries



By Richard O. Stenbakken
Director

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) celebrates its tenth anniversary at this General Conference session in Utrecht. In 1985 at the New Orleans session ACM became an umbrella agency linking the specialized ministry of chaplaincies with corrections, education, health care, and the military, as well as related ministries such as pastoral counseling.

Today hundreds of Adventist clergy, in more than 50 countries of the world, are linked by ACM and liaison offices in each division. Highly trained chaplains, caring for persons in need, are front-line participants in the Global Mission of the church. Often they are the only presence the church has in unique settings.

Several leadership changes took place during the past quinquennium because of the loss of ACM's director, Clarence E. "Bud" Bracebridge to leukemia in 1991. Martin W. Feldbush served as acting director for 18 months until the new director, Richard Stenbakken, assumed the leadership responsibilities in 1992.

Chaplains Feldbush and Stenbakken work together with local leaders to fulfill several basic roles, such as the following:

► **Mission Emphasis.** ACM encourages our chaplains to be fully involved in the life and mission of the church at every level.

► **Affiliation and Communication.** Through publications, conferences, and membership associations, chaplains are linked as partners in mission.

► **Education.** Periodic training conferences help equip chaplains to be effective in meeting the needs of persons in

crisis as well as sharing the gospel.

► **Professional Development.** ACM offers career guidance for chaplains and consulting services for division leaders, aimed at helping place qualified chaplains in the field. A program of ecclesiastical endorsement and professional screening for chaplaincy is operated by ACM for the church.

► **Expansion of Chaplaincy.** ACM actively seeks additional opportunities for Adventist chaplains, such as in the field of business and industry, secular college campus, and other areas.

► **Advocacy and Church Linkage.** ACM is instrumental in interpreting the nature of chaplaincy to church leaders and its contribution to church mission. ACM also assists with policy issues that impact chaplains' work.

ACM is responsible for operating the National Service Organization (NSO), the military relations arm of the church, which educates our members in military-related issues and provides spiritual care services and materials for those Adventists who are active duty military

members. While NSO is active particularly in the North American Division, it is available for consultation and assistance worldwide.

International Outreach, 1990-1995

During the past quinquennium Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries personnel have supported the work of chaplains and church leaders with activities throughout the world field. Direct training, visits, and ministry was personally provided by ACM staff members in seven divisions of the church.

Educational and training conferences for health-care chaplains were held in Malaysia, Singapore, Korea, Germany, Puerto Rico, Argentina, Brazil, and India. The Brazilian Hospital Chaplains' Association was formed in 1992-1993.

Additionally, workshops were held in North America and South Africa for campus chaplains and student outreach coordinators on Adventist and secular college campuses.

ACM Serving the Church at Large

ACM serves the church at large through activities such as emergency response services. In the spring of 1994 ACM leaders facilitated a critical-incident-stress-debriefing process for our missionaries evacuated from Rwanda. ACM continues to be active in this endeavor, with particular emphasis on helping to develop a proactive emergency response plan for the world church.

ACM and Global Mission

Ultimately, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries seeks to coordinate the energies and talent in specialized ministries for effective involvement in the Global Mission of the church.

Adventist chaplains are credentialed ministers of the church who are committed to fulfilling the gospel commission in ways that are relevant to their unique ministry settings. Along with the rest of our membership and ministry they long and labor for the day when Christ will return. To that end, ACM pledges its resources and talents as an agency of the church.



Southern Asia Division delegates parade during their division report at the International Festival of Missions.

Adventist Media Center



By Glenn Aufderhar
President

The most exciting aspect of the Adventist Media Center is not physical. It is seeing the onward march of the message as television and radio productions are reaching millions of people weekly in large segments of the earth's population.

A joint effort between the Voice of Prophecy, Asia-Pacific Division, the Philippine unions, and participating churches in the North American Division anticipates more than 50,000 baptisms during the summer of 1996. More than 300 churches in North America are expected to participate with hundreds of churches in the Philippines holding crusades following airwave saturation by the Voice of Prophecy's broadcast and the *It Is Written* telecast.

NET '96, a North American Division initiative, will once again be implemented through the Adventist Media Center when Mark Finley takes the stage October 5, 1996. That evangelistic crusade will probably reach more than 2,000 audiences live in North America plus hundreds of congregations in other divisions. If the audience and results parallel NET '95, there could be an opening audience of 150,000 people and baptisms of 20,000 or more in North America.

The Breath of Life telecast continues to spearhead direct evangelism by C. D. Brooks, Reginald Robinson, and Walter Arties. A recent citywide, multi-cultural crusade in Phoenix saw more than 50 new Adventists join the church through baptism. That crusade was also videotaped and will be available soon for individuals to use in home cottage meetings or public crusades.

La Voz de la Esperanza is entering into a joint venture in television with *It Is Written*. The load was already heavy, reaching four continents via radio with a staff of three assisting Dr. Milton Peverini. Now with *Esta Escrito* added, the search is on for an associate speaker. Work continues to blossom in Cuba as Bible correspondence students swell the ranks of new converts in that formerly closed Communist island nation.

Faith for Today has expanded its local coverage by more than 80 stations in the past two months. The exciting part is these stations are paying in barter time for Faith for Today to be on the air with its new talk show, *Lifestyle Magazine*. The new programming has reached competitive excellence with commercial programming and has received awards at the largest commercial film festival in the U.S. It is bringing many former members back to involvement with the church and filling a major need for the church to be able to speak to critical, current issues. In addition, in Russia Faith for

Today has established a locally produced television program patterned after the talk show *Lifestyle Magazine*. It is hosted by Andrei Nikitin and produced totally with Russian crew in Russian studios at a fraction of the cost required for production elsewhere. It speaks to the Russian culture and changing issues.

Dan Matthews recently returned from Ireland, where his evangelistic crusade established an exciting beachhead for soul winning in that troubled nation. A similar effort has met with outstanding success in Greece.

It Is Written is negotiating an agreement with the great nation of China to release health programs over government TV network. As many as 900 million viewers could be impacted.

Seminars Unlimited, the newest evangelistic agency at Adventist Media Center, has already purchased tons of paper to print Bibles and handbills for NET '96. More than 7 million handbills printed by a half dozen major printing houses were coordinated through Carl and Ella Johnston and their staff at Seminars Unlimited. They gave loyal service and kept prices way below market value. That contributed immensely to the large crowds attending NET '95 and the 5,000 baptisms that resulted from the total team effort division-wide.

Life Talk Radio, a satellite radio network system, has just added a new station in Nashville, Tennessee. In places where they are on the air locally, more than two thirds of all their donors are non-Adventists. Amazing letters of interest and conversion are coming from this newest network just becoming affiliated with the Adventist Media Center.

By God's Spirit, the movement of the Seventh-day Adventist message is expanding exponentially through the cooperative effort of the local pastors and churches teamed up with the ministries at the Adventist Media Center. This movement will only increase, by God's grace, and end in the blaze of glory known as the Second Coming.



The London Adventist Chorale, which has received many awards for its performances, provided memorable music during the GC session.

Communication Department



By Ray Dabrowski
Director

As we come to our communication offices daily, we find pieces of mail suggesting better quality, greater speed, new techniques, and political correctness. We are flooded with suggestions and ideas—one chasing another, one outpacing the other.

A three-decades-old church public relations workbook states in one of its opening paragraphs that “the speed of God’s message must keep pace with the swiftness of the age.” If this were true then, what are we to say today? What reflections come to mind when we look at our high-tech gadgets: broadcasting, desktop publishing, and cyberspace challenges? How do we marry the technology and the message? The “swiftness of the age” today forces us to reflect on the quality and relevance of our service as communicators to the church and to the world.

Time of Change

The past quinquennium has seen many and varied developments in the world of Adventist communication. The department, from the world church headquarters perspective, has seen a major shift from being just “one of the departments” to that of becoming a management function of the administration. As a result of the extensive downsizing of the General Conference operations in 1990, the Communication Department’s functions were reduced to basically news and information.

Since then, however, things have changed. Today the department is driven by a mission statement that reads, in part, as follows: “Our *raison d’être* is to reach both the diverse church audience and the general society with an open, responsible, and hope-filled communication program through an effective

employment of contemporary technologies. The desired effect is to create a favorable image of the church—its mission, life and activities, and witness—so that many will become followers of Christ and become responsible members of His church.” The context of our activities was enlarged by an action of the 1993 Annual Council in Bangalore, India, which voted “six focus points” to direct the church’s life and mission, with communication being one of them.

Today our ministry from the world church headquarters includes operating the Office of News and Information, PR and Media Relations, SDAs On-line Forum on CompuServe and a presence on Internet, as well as Media Productions.

In particular, the Office of News and Information operates the denomination’s official news agency, the Adventist News Network, with a weekly release of an ANN bulletin, as well as a press release service. The ANN is distributed through world divisions and is also sent to the public media. Plans are under way to establish a five-minute ANN weekly radio newscast in cooperation with Adventist World Radio (AWR), to be also offered to local church stations. The department plans soon to establish a news and information clearinghouse; a centralized news gathering, research, and dissemination system; and a database of facts and figures of the international church.

In the area of Public and Media Relations, the department is responsible for in-house information services (within the GC office itself), and, in cooperation with the Adventist Media Center, is currently working on developing a series of Adventist awareness presentations. Externally, the department seeks to strengthen and develop media contacts in the Washington, D.C., area

with national and international media. *Images of Mission*, a church souvenir book, was one of the most recent major projects of the department.

In July 1994 the church entered the information superhighway with the establishment of SDAs On-line Forum on CompuServe. The forum has given church administration a process to communicate nearly instantaneously across the borders of leadership, administration, ministry, and laity—nationally and internationally. At the beginning of June 1995 there were 2,700 forum users.

The General Conference, in cooperation with Columbia Union College, has also established a presence on Internet. News from the world church session in Utrecht will be brought closer to the members through news releases on CompuServe and Internet.

Since 1990 the department has been involved in several Media Productions. The *SDA World Report*, a 30-minute monthly video program, was produced by former Communication Department director Shirley Burton. In 1995 the department developed two new programs, the *Seventh-day Adventists—People of Hope* (a 30-minute talk show format TV/video program), and *Global Mission Frontlines*, developed for and in cooperation with the Office of Global Mission. This new 30-minute TV/video program presents the progress of the church’s mission throughout the world.

An Expanding Vision

One of the department’s major preoccupations in the past two years was that of participating in the developing of a communication strategy for the church through the Communication Strategy Commission (COSCO), initiated by GC president Robert S. Folkenberg. Charged with developing a coherent approach to the communication ministry of the church on all its levels, COSCO proposed a comprehensive report to the 1994 Annual Council. Having been reviewed by world divisions, that report has been received by the current General Conference session.

As the overall strategic statement to govern communication both inside and outside the church, the report recommends that “Seventh-day Adventists . . . communicate hope by focusing on the

quality of life that is complete in Christ.”

The strategy proposes four guiding principles for both internal and external communication: (1) to make the local congregations the primary focus of internal communication; (2) to enable congregations and church members to be effective communicators within the context of their communities; (3) to present the Seventh-day Adventist Church as the preferred source for whole person development; and (4) to improve the public perception of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its members.

Around the World

During 1990-1995 we have witnessed many encouraging communication developments. Here are some of the highlights from the world divisions:

► In *Southern Asia* the department promoted indigenous writing talents, improved press relations, and launched radio broadcasts in three new languages: Punjabi, Kannada, and Nepali.

► In *South America* the success story centered on an effective use of public media and advertising to feature the church and its program. Five thousand billboards were seen throughout Brazil in the past five years. Twenty radio stations are owned by the church, and the church supports television ministry in several countries.

► With the coming of religious freedom, *Euro-Asia* communication activities have centered on establishing an effective broadcast ministry, and AWR's *Voice of Hope* is the most popular radio program in Russia. A quarterly division magazine, *Adventist Herald*, is now published. *It Is Written*, popular in several parts of Russia, now features a native Russian speaker.

► Local communication initiatives in the *Africa-Indian Ocean Division* included developing new publications and information service in several countries. Health education initiatives were supported by effective media productions and advertising. AWR continues to support radio programming in the area.

► In *Eastern Africa* the church has concentrated on initiatives to raise our public image, conducting communication training seminars in many countries.

► In the *South Pacific* during 1990-1991 the island countries of the division

vices in different countries—these and much more are reported from the *Euro-Africa Division* headquarters in Bern, Switzerland. The French *Vie et Santé* (Life and Health) magazine dramatically increased its circulation from 40,000 to 120,000 copies. In Italy, though we have

only about 6,000 church members, the name of our church (because of the “8 for 1,000 income tax” campaign) has as much recognition as that of the Roman Catholic!

► In countries of the *Trans-European Division* the Adventist News Review continues to provide an effective news service. The radio ministry continues to flourish in Scandinavia and Eastern and Central Europe through more than 30 radio studios. The latest communication initiative demonstrates an international joint venture in communication, the publication of a “friendship magazine” in 12 languages. Plans call for distributing 120,000 of these to households in Utrecht, Netherlands.

► In *North America*, the Adventist Communication Network (ACN), a satellite broadcasting entity, is now embraced by 800 local churches. A weekly *First Wednesday* broadcast—featuring news, mission stories, and theological presentations—has become a part of the local church life. The division is studying the possibility of developing a major church awareness strategy throughout North America.

► Two impressive features of the communication ministry in the *Middle East* are the activities of the Adventist Media Center in Nicosia and the Middle East Union News. Radio programs in Arabic have created a breakthrough for the church in many countries. New radio program languages, impressive correspondence from Muslim listeners—this and much more testifies to a well-run communication program in this part of the church's global mission.

► In *South Africa* the communication challenge is being met by publication of a magazine fostering internal communication. The church is negotiating a license for a radio station.



A communication rally in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, attracted nearly 5,000 participants.

to which the mission ship *Pitcairn* sailed 100 years ago used the centennial anniversary as a major PR opportunity. The media coverage of the event was considerable. The Adventist Media Centre in Sydney, Australia, continues to produce top-quality audio and video materials, with the Video Production Department winning international awards for some of its work.

► Radio programming and video production were among the chief preoccupations of the *Asia-Pacific* communicators. New languages being broadcast include Burmese, Bangla, Sinhalese, and Vietnamese. A new station off the coast of Singapore was established with programming in Malay and English.

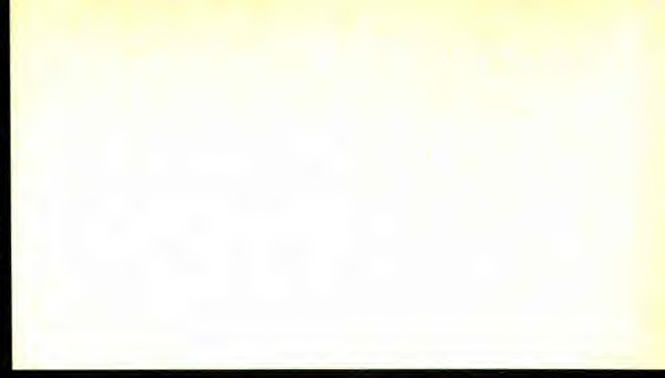
► In *Inter-America*, the department reports several local media initiatives, including new radio and TV stations. In Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, the first church-owned TV station in the division was inaugurated in 1994. In several countries new radio stations have sprung up.

► Three video production centers, 18 full-time radio stations (including four in Romania), 100 weekly radio programs broadcast in Germany, five press ser-

Images of the Session

1. Delegates and visitors pressed forward to pick up headphones that allowed them to hear proceedings in their own languages. Languages included Dutch, Finnish, Korean, and Russian.—*Joel D. Springer/R&H*
2. Crowds cluster around ubiquitous TV monitors to hear reports from the Nominating Committee.—*Joel D. Springer/R&H*
3. Young people eagerly participated in a health-walk through Utrecht and stopped to give an interview to an Adventist World Radio.—*Elwyn Platner/ANN*
4. Robert S. Folkenberg, center, met the public press in a conference held on Thursday, July 6, at the Jaarbeurs center.—*Ron Quick/ANN*
5. Communication is a high priority of the fifty-sixth GC session with a center devoted to GCTV. Every day three and a half hours of programming are produced—including news, interviews, and features.—*Stefan Schnüll*
6. Adventist Radio Network (for Adventist stations in North America) and Adventist World Radio had 60 reporters and producers on site during the session. They produced programs in 21 languages and broadcast 35 hours of programs each day.—*Joel D. Springer/R&H*
7. Coanchor of GCTV, Wesley Bailey, did a feature on national anthems on July 4, inviting people from various countries to sing their anthems. Here Dr. Gayle from England sings "God Save the Queen." The feature was aired by Adventist Communication Network (ACN) via satellite.—*Ron Quick/ANN*
8. Scores of people have been involved in producing GCTV. David L. Jones and David Gibbon (foreground) were among those who worked in the studios.—*Joel D. Springer/R&H*





Multi



Media



Fourteenth Business Meeting

Fifty-sixth General Conference session, July 6, 1995, 8:30 a.m.

LARRY PITCHER: [Opening prayer.]

A. C. MC CLURE: Good morning, fellow delegates. I am very pleased to see you present this morning. Although we are fewer in number than on some other mornings, no doubt our attendance will grow during the next few moments. But those present have the privilege of doing the work that we have assembled to do.

We are ready then for a report from the *Church Manual* Committee, but before we proceed with the report, may I remind you that yesterday we agreed by vote to listen to the reports from these committees that have been meeting with referral items. And we agreed that those items that were referred from the floor back to the committees have been considered very carefully, and are now coming back here for our consideration. We agreed yesterday that we would not refer those items again, nor would we amend them. We would discuss them and vote them up or down. And I wonder if we would like to follow a similar procedure this morning. So the chair would entertain such a motion from the point of order microphone and would like to encourage someone to do that if you would be willing to follow that procedure. [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

MARIO VELOSO: The item before us is entitled "The Church Elder, to Cooperate With the Conference." The changes are minor, but one of them relates to a previous discussion.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Just a brief explanation on this point. The way it was worded originally made it appear as though the pastor was included in the group of officers. This recommendation clarifies this matter and makes the distinction that was requested. [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

[The body discussed a series of items from the *Church Manual* Committee that had been referred. These were moved, seconded, and voted.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: There is an item we want to present regarding the Lay Activities Council. There was a request for a name change in place of "handicap ministries coordinator."

MARIO VELOSO: The suggestion is to change the name to "coordinator for ministry to those with disabilities." This name appears in several places, so it is recommended that this change be made every place the name appears. [The motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

We are recommending a few changes in the section dealing with the Department of Family Ministries. You recall that it had been suggested that the proposal be strengthened by some adjustments to the wording. The changes are reflected in the material before you.

A. C. MC CLURE: When this item came to

the floor the other day, Dr. George Reid of the Biblical Research Institute suggested that this could be improved by making the document clearly biblically based. The *Church Manual* Committee has responded to that with the changes now before you. [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.] [The body discussed another series of items from the *Church Manual* Committee that had been referred. These were moved, seconded, and voted.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: The next item deals with a church nominating committee and the list of positions it fills. We tried to take into consideration the wish of the body.

MARIO VELOSO: There are a number of changes I will comment on. [These were mentioned in order. The recommendations were moved and seconded.]

COLLEEN BUXTON: I wish to speak regarding the absence of the children's ministries coordinators on this list and also on the church board. I appreciate your comment on the fact that these were not considered because of the absence of a job description for this position in the church. In actual fact, I think this is an oversight. A couple divisions already have a job description. I am sure that by tomorrow the Department of Church Ministries of the General Conference could forward this to you. If so, would the *Church Manual* Committee consider our request for the addition of a children's ministries coordinator?

K. J. MITTLEIDER: I wasn't quite certain if I understood, but what we've covered here has nothing to do with the board per se. When we dealt with the board, I explained that until we had a full job description, we could not include the new departments on the board.

COLLEEN BUXTON: That does not really answer the question I just asked, because within several divisions there are job descriptions for these positions already. I really think this is an oversight of the Department of Church Ministries to forward these for inclusion at this session. And it concerns me greatly that we may have to wait another five years for these to come through. It will have a big effect on local churches around the world if we can get this in at this session. And it will help make our department stronger.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: I would like to remind the delegation that the *Church Manual* is a world document, but this does not preclude a division moving ahead and doing what it wishes. But until we do have a job description that can be incorporated, I would hesitate to vote for that to be included, because of the confusion it could cause in areas that do not have job descriptions. We did exactly the same with family ministries.

ANDREA LUXTON: On the original list we were given, women's ministries was mentioned as one of the names to be nominated by the local church. Now, I do believe there are world job descriptions on these that have been distributed through the divisions and unions and local church level as well. Many local churches are waiting to see this on the list before they appoint local coordinators. I believe women's ministries has been accepted in virtually every division in the world field. I'd like to know why that does not appear now on this latest list.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Again, we do not have a job description. The same principle has been applied to both. It is not a matter of trying to hold back on anything, but rather that we do not cause confusion. It doesn't prevent it happening in a local area.

ANDREA LUXTON: Could I clarify then what it is we have received from the General Conference that is being called a job description of women's ministries and that has been distributed down to the local level?

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Well, as you noticed today, we voted two job descriptions in the work to two departments. This has not yet happened to these two departments (we're speaking of children's ministries and women's ministries), and until those come into the *Church Manual*, it was felt that they should be held.

NOELENE JOHNSON: I just want a point of clarification from the chair of the *Church Manual* Committee. I thought I heard you say a moment ago that the children's ministries coordinator would not be included on the list for the church board, but that did not preclude its being on the nominating committee list.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Is it missing on the nominating committee list?

NOELENE JOHNSON: Yes, it's not there. I can't see it there.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: We are happy to include it. That is an oversight. Your point is well made. It should be on those that are elected.

ELIZABETH STERNDAL: I heard the plea from Andrea Luxton. I want to underscore the fact that this deters many churches from electing or appointing women's ministries leaders. We thought that there was a job description, and believe there is indeed a job description; but apparently it's not in the *Church Manual*. Is there a way that we can get that in the *Church Manual* at this session, so that we will not be held back with the election or appointment of women's ministries leaders in the local churches, and in the conferences as well?

K. J. MITTLEIDER: We do not see how that would be possible, because of the lack of world input. I would be hesitant to take an item this important without it having gone through the channels. I think, Sister Sterndale, that we will be much stronger in the long run if we fol-

low this procedure.

SAMUEL TELEMACHE: My concern is about a duplication of two offices I've seen here—Community Services director, and Dorcas/welfare leader. I think in most churches these two offices are duplicated. What's the difference between Community Services leader and Dorcas leader? Most churches just elect a Community Services leader, and that person takes care of the entire program.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: In the world church there are some areas that this is not clear. Some use the word "Dorcas" when in reality a better term would be "women's ministries," because that's the function that they are performing. And this is the reason we believe that during the next quinquennium it's very important to work on getting those names and job descriptions totally lined up. We had representation from two different divisions that complained about the confusion. But I think that dropping this without study, without it being processed, would be a mistake. I would hope that we could hold it until we come to the next General Conference session, when that will all be delineated, spelled out clearly. Then we can give the proper job description, as well as a proper title.

SAMUEL TELEMACHE: I'd really like to recommend that in the next session the name "Dorcas" be removed, and let's have Community Services leader and women's ministries leader separate so that there will be no confusion. And one final thing: I notice that there is no finance committee chair on the list. Is that an omission, or is it adopted division by division?

K. J. MITTLEIDER: That has never been part of the *Church Manual*, and since there are differences, our committee was not urged to consider that.

I would hope that the body would not drop the word "Dorcas." This word is used in some divisions that have very effective organizations. If we dropped it here, we would cause nothing but confusion in those divisions until we've worked it through the process again at an Annual Council.

L. D. RAELLY: I would like to endorse the chair of the *Church Manual* Committee. It could be very confusing and disastrous if we were to change from Dorcas to Community Services, because in certain divisions Dorcas is much more than just simply community service. Dorcas is actually evangelistic. We deal with humanitarian things as well as the gospel. Now, to resolve the issue in some people's minds, maybe we should say Dorcas/Community Services. So the divisions that deal with Community Services can elect a Community Services leader, and those that deal with Dorcas can elect a Dorcas leader.

A. C. MC CLURE: Clearly it is in the interest of the world church that we use the kind of

terminology that allows some latitude in these areas. [A number of speakers continued to raise questions in the same vein. Discussion was terminated by a vote to close debate, at which time the chair called for a vote on the recommendations regarding the church nominating committee. The recommendations were voted.]

GC SNAPSHOT



P. D. Chun, the reelected president of the Asia-Pacific Division, listens to the session discussions.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Let's go to the item entitled "Disbanding or Expelling Churches." And I am going to ask our secretary to bring it to us.

MARIO VELOSO: This new item reads as follows: "If the union executive committee's decision is to recommend expulsion, the conference/mission shall call an executive committee meeting and recommend to the conference/mission constituency meeting the expulsion of the church, presenting the reasons for the recommendation." [Motion was moved, seconded, and voted.]

Mr. Chairman, there are three items left, but we're going to defer, with your permission, to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, as I know they still have work to do. And so with your permission we will pick up these three items at a later meeting.

A. C. MC CLURE: I think you have our permission. And we will await those items, but now we will invite Dr. Calvin Rock, the chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, to bring back a report.

C. B. ROCK: We have a number of items that we think are rather noncontroversial, and we will present them first, in the spirit of what we were doing yesterday. These are items that will be heard for the first time. They are straight from the Constitution and Bylaws Committee study prior to the session. So the restriction on referring will not apply to these items.

A. H. TOLHURST: The first recommended amendment is to Article XV of the General Conference Bylaws, titled "Auditors and Audits." We're recommending changing the name of that article to "Audit of the General Conference," and the amendment reads as follows: "The General Conference Executive Committee shall have an audit of the financial statements of the General Conference and of the General Conference Corporation conducted by an external auditor at least once each calendar year. The external auditor shall also conduct an annual policy compliance audit of these organizations, and shall report annually the results of these two audits to the General Conference Executive Committee and to the General Conference at its regular sessions." I move that we approve this recommendation. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

We have a recommended amendment to Article XIX of the General Conference Bylaws entitled "Appropriations." In section 2 there is a small recommended amendment that "in case of a shortage, the distribution of appropriations shall usually be on a pro rata basis to all the interests represented in the budget." We need that word "usually" in there, because of practice and the concerns of the Treasury.

I'll read section 4: "All funds raised in divisions, except the regular funds belonging to the General Conference as indicated under Article XVII, shall be used for the advancement of the work for which they were raised and are to be administered by the respective church entity in harmony with denominational policy." [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

Now we have a recommended amendment to Article XX, "Finance." Section 4 reads this way: "The basis for computing goals and per capita funds shall be the membership on June 30 of the preceding year as officially recorded by the General Conference office of Archives and Statistics." This is a change in the timing and the method of computing the membership for the basis of computing goals and per capita funds. [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

The next item is entitled "Chairmanship of Session Committees." We have here a concept that was voted by the General Conference Executive Committee, and I'd like to read that first. "Recommended, To approve that the chairperson of the Nominating Committees and of the Constitution and Bylaws Committees be specified in the General Conference Bylaws, and in the Model Constitutions of the General Conference

Working Policy as follows:

"1. The General Conference Constitution and Bylaws Committee be chaired by an officer of the General Conference.

"2. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee of other organizations be chaired by the secretary of the organization concerned, and an officer of the next higher organization be a member.

"3. The Nominating Committee be chaired by the president of the next higher organization, or his designee, except in the case of the General Conference session Nominating Committee." And the leadership of that committee is provided for elsewhere. Please go to the next recommendation, entitled "General Conference Session—Nominating Committee." Here is another recommendation from the General Conference Executive Committee that is reflected in the GC Bylaws recommendation that is to follow.

A. C. MC CLURE: We are not voting on these items?

A. H. TOLHURST: No, we are not voting. These are for information as concepts that were voted by the General Conference Committee, and that directed the GC Constitution and Bylaws in its work to prepare the GC Bylaws amendment that follows. So I will read here the recommendation. "To approve the proposal that the General Conference session Nominating Committee be constituted as follows:

"1. Each division and attached union shall be entitled to select 10 percent of its remaining delegation to the session after excluding the additional delegates-at-large allocated by the General Conference, and any delegates-at-large employed by the General Conference. All delegates-at-large, with the exception of those employed by the General Conference or its institutions, shall caucus with their divisions/attached unions.

"2. The delegates-at-large who are excluded under 1 above shall be entitled to select representation on the session Nominating Committee equal to 10 percent of the membership of the Nominating Committee otherwise provided for. These additional members shall be chosen from the delegates-at-large who are not participating in the caucus meetings of the divisions and attached unions."

These recommendations are then incorporated in the bylaw amendment that we are bringing to the floor. And I think we need to read this. "Sec. 2. Constitution and Bylaws Committee: The chairperson of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall be an officer of the General Conference.

"Sec. 3. Nominating Committee: a. The membership of the Nominating Committee shall consist of the following:

"1) Each division and each attached union shall be entitled to select for membership on the Nominating Committee 10 percent of its

remaining delegation to the session, after excluding the number of the additional delegates-at-large allocated by the General Conference and any delegates-at-large employed by the General Conference and its institutions.

"2) Delegates-at-large who are excluded under 1) above shall be entitled to representation on the Nominating Committee equal to 10 percent of the total number of Nominating Committee members appointed by each division and each attached union. These additional members shall be chosen from the delegates-at-large who are not participating in the caucus meetings of each division and each attached union." So the delegates-at-large who are excluded from 1) above will caucus on their own as a group and will choose a number equal to 10 percent of the total number of Nominating Committee members who are appointed by the divisions. This I think will please the North American delegation, because when North America has met to choose its Nominating Committee members, all the General Conference employees have been added to it, and this has somewhat overwhelmed the North American Division with people whom they did not specifically choose themselves. This is a correction to that anomaly. Now we will go to b of section 3: "The members of the Nominating Committee shall be chosen as follows:

"1) Each division delegation and each attached union delegation shall act as a unit in selecting members to which it is entitled. Excluded from this process shall be the additional delegates-at-large allocated by the General Conference, and any delegates-at-large employed by the General Conference and its institutions.

"2) The additional delegates-at-large allocated by the General Conference shall, with any delegates-at-large employed by the General Conference and its institutions, act as a unit in selecting members to which they are entitled.

"3) The election of the above representatives on the Nominating Committee shall be by the method of voting considered by each delegation to be most convenient and efficient, taking into consideration the size of the delegation and other circumstances." We have an amendment in c: "Each division delegation and attached union delegation shall select its representatives on the Nominating Committee to represent, as far as possible, the various geographical areas, organizational segments, and types of activity of the territory." [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

We would now like the delegates to take notice of a whole new section entitled "General Conference Session Delegations." We will call upon our president, Elder Folkenberg, to speak to you about this before we bring you the recommended changes.

ROBERT S. FOLKENBERG: The composition of the General Conference session delegation has over the life of our church been fairly straightforward. There is one delegate per union or General Conference institution, and one delegate for every so many members. As we heard yesterday afternoon, the delegation size has gradually increased over the years, and now we are in the 2,650 range. Our sessions have gone from a simple meeting of delegates to a gathering of huge proportions attended by a number far exceeding even the thousands of delegates who are invited.

There is also another dynamic. At the previous General Conference session in Indianapolis, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee brought in a recommendation to change the ratio of delegates to members. With a church that is adding now 3.5 million members per quinquennium (and that growth rate is tending to explode), we must honestly come to grips with the fact that we soon will have a hard time paying for a General Conference session. The best estimate we have been able to get from the Treasury Department is that this General Conference session is costing the world church US\$15 million. And that is a lot of money. It is very hard to look at the thousands of churches in Africa that do not have roofs and realize that the amount it takes to send a delegate who comes here from Africa could finish a church. And that's just Africa.

Brothers and sisters, in this servant's opinion, the time has come to address this problem. If you compare the Seventh-day Adventist decision-making process to that of all other church communions, ours is a monster by comparison. The Anglican Church, when it meets, has a delegation of 350. The Roman Catholic Church is the only one that is close to ours. However, that church is approaching 1 billion members, and it meets only once a century. There is something incongruous about how we do business. At the last session there was an attempt to change the ratio. The floor rejected it. It's tempting to say that if we vote a change in ratio I may not be able to come. It certainly is not because we do not have adequate numbers to do business. It can be interpreted only as self-serving. And it's time for us to put the morality of our expenses alongside our self-interests and have it be driven by the mission of this church. Now, it will be this body that decides between the three options before us. And I would like to submit to you that we have two good options.

Let me recount just a little of what has happened. The Commission on World Church Organization addressed the issue of the delegation's size and the length of time we spend on a General Conference session agenda. It felt that we could address the length of time only if we addressed the function. The ideas discussed led to initiatives like the one we will participate in this afternoon, the break-out group pro-



Calvin Rock (third from left), a General Conference general vice president, chaired the three-and-a-half-hour discussion on the request of North America to allow divisions the right to decide for themselves whether or not they should ordain women to the gospel ministry.

cess, so that this body could accomplish more than the traditional triumvirate of election, constitution and bylaws, and *Church Manual*. It certainly can do more than that. Delegates can give strategic direction to the church.

It also addressed the morality of the size of our delegation and concluded that we needed to do something. The traditional solutions we've employed have become outmoded. The relationship between our world divisions is changing dramatically.

Let me give you an example. One division today is 1.5 million members in size, and another is 70,000, and the one that's 1.5 million will probably be 3 million by the next General Conference session. If the membership on the Nominating Committee remains in strict proportion to the division membership, by the year 2005 there will be two divisions that will not be entitled to any membership on the Nominating Committee. I hope you heard what I just said. While it is vital for the rapidly expanding division to have a fair proportion of the representation of this delegation, at the same time something needs to be done to keep other representations from dwindling to zero.

The commission, in addressing this problem, decided to take a two-step approach. The first step was to advocate a cap, the concept being that a delegation of 2,650 is adequate to direct the issues of a church regardless of its size, no matter how long it is until the Lord comes.

However, questions arose immediately.

Would the representation within that cap be balanced? How would it be made fair? The Commission on World Church Organization decided that those questions needed accurate answers—that the 2,650 delegates in Toronto in the year 2000 should be able to look around and see a balance between divisions.

The second objective was to ensure that the representation of small divisions would not disappear. Using computer technology, the commission projected membership growth for the next 20 years for different sizes of divisions. We wanted to see what would happen. We took the best case, the worst case, all the cases we could imagine. We came up with the concept based on 2,650 delegates.

Starting with 2,650, subtract the delegates-at-large. All the rest are regular delegates. Now, how are those allocated? This is where the two-phase approach comes in. [Delegates were asked to study the spreadsheet in the agenda book.] You can see that the delegates-at-large add up to 846, almost all of which are coming from the world divisions.

Now we move to regular delegates, and you'll see that it's proposed that there be 40 delegates assigned to a division simply for being a division. This would never change regardless of size. Also, there would be two per union, plus one for each union of churches, conference, or mission. For example, the Trans-European Division would be entitled to 40 because it is a division. It would have 18 because there are nine unions in this division.

It would have 29 because it has 29 unions of churches or local missions or conferences. And it would have one because it has one division institution. That makes a total of 88 [as of December 31, 1993].

This first category of regular delegates is based on simple numerical calculations. Now, those add up to a total of 1,119 regular delegates allocated around the world. So, starting with 2,650, subtracting 846 from that, and then subtracting 1,119 leaves 685. Now, to whom are those 685 allocated? Well, the figure is in direct proportion to the membership. For example, the Trans-European Division had, as of December 31, 1993, 71,389 members, representing .9 percent of the world membership. Therefore, the Trans-European Division would receive .9 percent of that 685, or six additional delegates, because of their membership. Adding these six to the previous 88 now totals 94.

Some have tried to read into this a sinister attempt by the largely Anglo divisions in the industrialized world to protect themselves from the explosive growth of the rest of the world. They believe there is some kind of racial bias. Brothers and sisters, this is categorically and patently untrue. Neither is it designed to happen, nor will it actually happen. The real numbers show that the ratios between divisions are designed to have the same balance that we have now, and as divisions grow and add unions and conferences and members, they do receive a higher proportion of the total delegation, but they do not do

GC SNAPSHOT



The members of the Gloria Chamber Choir sang a glorious song in the Russian style. Their group is made up of trained voices from churches in St. Petersburg, Moscow, Zaokski, and other cities.

it at the dramatic expense of the little group of delegates of those few divisions who aren't growing as rapidly.

Now, that which I have just presented to you in a much briefer format was recommended to this body by the 1993 Annual Council. The floor asked that this be explained well in advance of the session, and so at the request of the floor, the General Conference prepared a video and sent it to every division so that this could be duplicated and sent to every union and conference around the world. So that was done, and I presume that the leadership was responsible and showed this video to every division, union, conference, and mission committee.

In a subsequent meeting the Commission on World Organization reflected that while this cap would stem the tide of uncontrolled explosive expense to the future church, it in fact would have very little therapeutic effect on current expenses. And so the commission recommended a second option to the Annual Council, which was approved and forwarded to the session.

Before I take up this option, let me identify a third option: Do nothing and keep the current constitution in place.

Now, option 2 is precisely the same as option 1, with one significant difference—the cap is reduced from 2,650 to 2,000. In Utrecht, for this session, if option 2 had been in place and we had had 2,000 delegates here instead of 2,650, the church would have saved US\$3 million. That's no small amount. Furthermore, if we don't vote something, you will have to set aside even more money around the world to pay for the next General Conference session. The reasoning for 2,000 is good. Thus the commission and the General Conference Committee are referring the second option to this body, hoping that you will accept the second one as better than the first. Option 2 is just like option 1, except that the numbers are slightly lower. The ratios are the same.

Some have said, "We like the cap idea. We must vote that. But we don't like the formula." Well, if you don't like the formula, be careful, because the effect of tinkering with the formula too much is to disenfranchise somebody. That's the effect.

And so, as we begin the discussion on this matter, which I hope will not be another version of the everlasting gospel, I hope that we will deal with this conceptually. I hope that we can make a series of decisions such as the following: Do we want to have a cap or not? If we choose not to have a cap, we stay with the current constitution and go home. This is not a General Conference proposal to achieve some sinister end. If you vote it that way we are going to be happy. We'll just have to pay the bill. And it will be out of your pocket. We don't have a pocket. All we have is your pocket.

Second, if we make the decision to have a cap, I hope we also decide how large we want

it. Do we want 2,650 or 2,000 or something else? The only thing I would beg is that we resist the temptation to do too much in the way of tinkering with that carefully crafted relationship. It will be tempting. Let's make a decision and let's ask the Lord to bless us, do the best we can, and go home and praise the Lord.

A. C. MC CLURE: Thank you, Elder Folkenberg. You have heard a very clear, detailed explanation of the rationale for that which you have before you.

A. H. TOLHURST: Brother Chairman, I would like to move that we do have a cap.

A. C. MC CLURE: The motion is before us to cap, not stating the number. That will be a subsequent decision. [Motion was seconded.]

Now, the chair should point out that despite the considerable number of delegates at the microphones, we have a very limited time this morning in which to debate the issue.

M. A. FARGO: I am against the cap. While I am sympathetic to the cap, I feel it is more important to have a representation here to represent our fellow believers. I feel that if we are interested in solving the problem and addressing the issue we should cut the expenses and the size by sending and paying for only delegates, not spouses as well.

O. L. SIAGO: I move that we end debate on this issue. [The motion to end debate was seconded and voted.]

A. C. MC CLURE: The motion now before us is to have a cap on the number of delegates to future General Conference sessions. No number has been specified, no composition has been specified. Only that we vote the concept of the cap. [Motion was voted.]

R. DABROWSKI: Dear fellow delegates and participants of the session, there are many firsts at this session, and one of them is the *Images of Mission* book. For the first time in our history we have been able to produce an album of this kind. There have been other publications before, but this time we wanted to produce something that can be an extension of our witness, of our session, and of our mission. The delegates have yellow coupons in their packs that entitles them to a copy. They can pick them up from the Adventist Book Center. However, at this time I would like to present one of the first copies, which was printed by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, to our world president, Elder Folkenberg. [Applause.]

A. C. MC CLURE: Is there a motion to adjourn this business session? It's been moved and supported. All of those who favor the motion please stand for the benediction. [Benediction was offered by A. C. MC CLURE.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER, *Chair*
M. T. BATTLE, *Secretary*
FRED G. THOMAS and L. R. COLBURN,
Proceedings Editors

Trust Services



By G. Tom Carter
Director

Trust Services is a unique service provided to our church members whereby they can give their continuing support to God's work through wills, trusts, annuities, and other special gifts during their lifetime, as well as at death.

Thousands of faithful members have, through careful planning, demonstrated their faithful stewardship in their accumulated assets. During the past five years approximately \$200 million have been made available to the Lord's cause worldwide through Trust Services.

During the past five years \$6,578,203 in maturities has come in for the world work through the General Conference Trust Services office. In addition, \$3,855,667 has come to the General Conference from other Trust Services offices.

The General Conference Trust Services associate directors, Alan W. White and David E. Johnston, are both involved in trust management. They also coordinate

the worldwide work of trust services.

Division Reports

North America has continued to expand its strong trust services program with record maturities and special gifts during the past quinquennium. In addition, the majority of trust services organizations are now accredited. Three national seminars were held during this period.

The *South Pacific Division* is continuing to make strides in the trust services area. Full-time individuals serve the constituency under the directorship of James L. Lansdown.

The *Trans-European Division* and the *Euro-Africa Division* have had outstanding maturities during the past five years. The respective division treasurers, Graham Barham and Erich Amelung, coordinate trust services at the division level.

Special emphasis is being placed in *Africa* for the expanding of the concepts

of trust services to the local situation. Plans are under way to cooperate with other departments of the church to enable these divisions to be more self-reliant. It is hoped that with the blessing of the Lord, the membership can be leveraged up economically, while at the same time the Lord can use the members to leverage up the work of the church. Trust services can be a real tool to help this become a reality.

There are scores of Adventist attorneys in Africa who are lending their talents to the trust services area. Priscille Metonou, an attorney, is the acting director of trust services for the *Africa-Indian Ocean Division*. Gary DeBoer, treasurer of the *Eastern Africa Division*, coordinates trust services for EAD.

The *Southern Asia Division*, under the leadership of the treasurer, I. N. Rao, is planning to initiate a broader trust services program.

The *Euro-Asia Division* has appointed Bogdan F. Kachmar as trust services director, and initial meetings have already been held to promote trust services in that division.

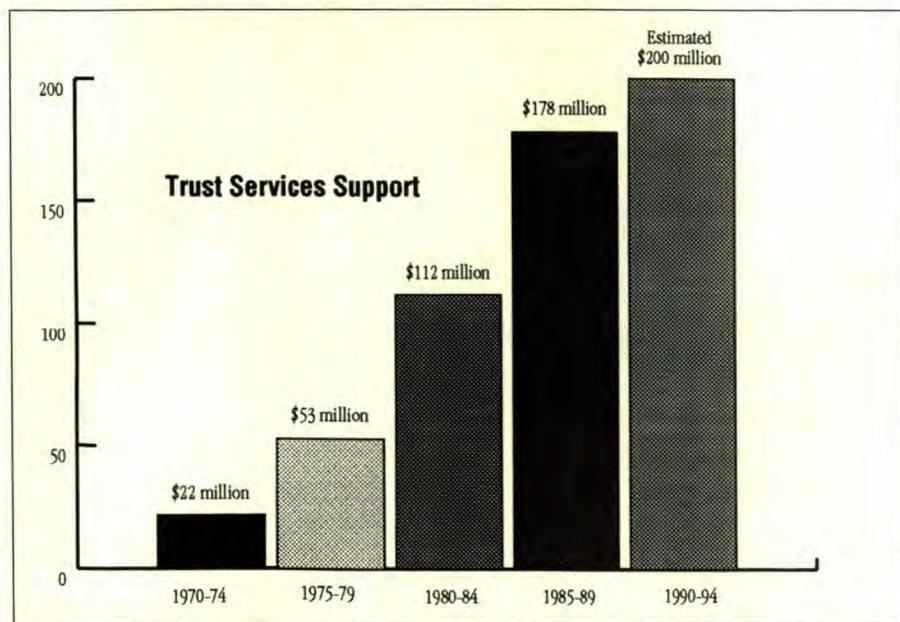
Inter-American Division trust services director Leslie McMillan has led out in seminars in Mexico and Jamaica during the quinquennium.

The *Asia-Pacific Division*, under the trust services leadership of Peter Foo, has held a number of training seminars during the past five years to expand the work of trust services in that division.

Osmundo G. dos Santos is the director of trust services for the *South American Division*, and is laying plans to expand the work there.

Spiritual Impact

While money has great value because it can do great good, Trust Services has another objective. By dedicating our accumulated assets, we also dedicate our lives to the Lord so that He may pour out His richest blessings on us. Ellen White emphasized this point: "What we give does, in time of need, often come back to us in fourfold measure in the coin of the realm. But, besides this, all gifts are repaid, even in this life, in the fuller inflowing of His love, which is the sum of all heaven's glory and its treasure" (*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 136).



Oakwood College



By Benjamin Reaves
President

As we hurtle along the trajectory toward the centennial of Oakwood College in 1996, and on toward the year 2000, I am reminded of an incisive quote by John Naisbitt and Patricia Auburdene in their book *Megatrends 2000*: "For centuries the monumental, symbolic date, 2000, has stood for the future and what we shall make of it. In a few short years that future will be here."

At Oakwood College over the past quinquennium the operative words have been "the future and what we shall make of it." We have embraced the solemn thought that the future of our institution and the young people we serve will be, by God's grace, what we shall make of it.

Today, according to a study reported in the twelfth annual status report on minorities in higher education, minority students are enrolling in colleges and universities in greater numbers than ever. At Oakwood College we have had a strong enrollment trend.

School year	Enrollment
1990-1991	1,268
1991-1992	1,245
1992-1993	1,334
1993-1994	1,467
1994-1995	1,534

The years 1993-1994 and 1994-1995 were, successively, record enrollments in the history of the college. The impressive growth has been the result of unrelenting effort by the enrollment management team and our dedicated faculty and staff. Such growth means that more young people than ever before have an opportunity to obtain a quality Christian education.

During the past five years more than 926 degrees have been awarded. Our faculty numbers 80, and 54 percent of them have terminal or doctor's degrees.

This faculty has exercised both the vision to recognize changes in society and the creativity to turn change into advantages by shaping a cutting-edge academic curriculum.

During this quinquennium Oakwood College's accreditation was reaffirmed for another 10 years by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, as well as the Seventh-day Adventist Board of Regents.

In addition, the Bachelor of Social Work program received reaffirmation of national accreditation from the Council on Social Work. The teacher education program also received reaffirmation of national accreditation from the National Council on Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Also, the department of Family and Consumer Sciences received accreditation of its Home Economics Plan V in

dietetics by the American Dietetic Association for a period of 10 years. During this same quinquennium, Oakwood College has also been strengthened by program grants of more than US\$6.5 million.

The strong enrollment trend has had an impact on our bottom line. That, combined with a strong team effort to achieve fiscal accountability in all areas, has enabled Oakwood to come to a momentous moment.

That is the complete elimination of a long-standing fund balance deficit that in 1985 had reached \$1.5 million. Now, in its place, a strong reserve fund has been started. It is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Other actions have improved the quality of life for our students. These include the refurbishing of residential facilities, securing of new furniture for Edwards Hall, the renovation of Moran Hall, and the construction of the Anna B. Knight education building.

The strong missionary outreach of the college continues with programs in a nearby jail, hospitals, and nursing homes. Oakwood's Volunteer Action League (OVAL) ministers to people's physical needs and quality of life by putting the gospel in action. Oakwood students continue to serve overseas in the Student Missionary program.

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Stewardship
in action,
because you
care



The college is justifiably proud of its cosmopolitan campus family. Students have come to us from 37 states and 28 foreign countries. Here they find a nurturing environment that encourages appreciation of one's heritage, and affirmation of cultural diversity.

In development, the board has authorized the launching of Oakwood's first national capital campaign. Encouraging progress has been made, with nonalumni contributions increasing by 26.8 percent, an 87.7 percent increase in corporate gifts, and a 40 percent increase in planned giving documents.

The college relations office has expanded its outreach to achieve more community support and public awareness. Strong relationships have been cultivated with the media; this has facilitated positive coverage of college events, activities, and community involvement. The Oakwood College magazine has been hailed for providing outstanding coverage and communication of college



activities to our varied publics.

While we rejoice over the blessings of the past, the future confronts us with an all too familiar reality of fiscal challenges. We must respond in a disciplined way to make difficult decisions that face the Seventh-day Adventist system of higher education. As a system of colleges we can no longer compete among ourselves. We must focus on cooperating wisely, for we are, as David Brenneman expressed it, "on a collision course with new realities."

The campus-wide planning that has

taken place during this quinquennium has enabled us to target linkages between our opportunities and our strengths.

As architects of the future, under God, we begin this new quinquennium with a divinely prioritized agenda of opportunity, one that is filled with challenge yet bright with promise, potential, and possibility.

We seek the wisdom that God offers, as well as the tools we believe God will provide with which to shape the

future.

As we approach our centennial in 1996 and the twenty-first century beyond, we remain vision-focused, mission-driven, and God-dependent. We welcome the challenge of preparing our graduates with an education that looks beyond preparation for this world, to preparation for the world to come.

"For centuries the monumental, symbolic date 2000 has stood for the future and what we shall make of it. In a few short years that future will be here." ≡

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Session Actions

*Fifty-sixth General Conference session,
July 4, 1995, 2:00 p.m. [continued]*

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION SUPPLEMENT, DEACONS AND USHERS—CHURCH MANUAL DELETION

Voted, To delete a section from the *Church Manual* page 188, North American Division Supplement, Deacons and Ushers, which reads as follows:

Dacons and Ushers

In some churches in North America there has developed the practice of appointing or electing a head usher and ushers who are specifically charged with the responsibility of caring for members and visitors at the principal church services. Ushers care for some duties that are elsewhere assigned to deacons: their services are therefore complementary to and not in conflict with those performed by deacons. The head usher is elected by the church and may be elected as a member of the church board. Additional ushers are appointed by the church board as needed.

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION SUPPLEMENT, YOUTH COUNCIL—CHURCH MANUAL DELETION

Voted, To delete a section from the *Church Manual* pages 188 and 189, North American Division Supplement, Youth Council, which reads as follows:

Youth Council

The Adventist Youth Society organization as listed in the *Church Manual* is the official world plan of organization for youth ministry in the local church. However, in the North American Division an alternate organizational plan known as the Youth Council has been adopted and is followed in some churches. This plan differs from the Adventist Youth Society plan of organization mainly in its concept that all activities involving senior youth in the local church are planned and executed by one organization under the leadership of one person, known as the church youth leader. This organization includes the youth Sabbath School, youth temperance activities, Adventist Youth Society meetings, youth witnessing, and youth recreational activities.

The youth leader, an adult who has demonstrated mature abilities to relate to youth, is elected by the church and is chairperson of the Youth Council. In larger churches he or she will be assisted by one or more church-elected associate youth leaders, one of whom would serve as secretary/treasurer of the Youth Council. One associate youth leader would serve as youth Sabbath School leader. In small churches, the church youth leader may not only be the youth leader for the church but may serve as leader of the youth Sabbath School or class.

The Youth Council is to be made up of these church-elected officers and young people selected by these officers and the youth themselves to serve on the council. The size of the Youth Council is adaptable according to the size of the church.

The responsibility for the youth Sabbath School in this organizational plan is with the Youth Council. The youth Sabbath School will, however, use the resource materials and foster the objectives and program of the General Conference Sabbath School Department. It also will receive guidance from the local Sabbath School Council.

The detailed organizational plan of the Youth Council which was adopted by the 1974 Annual Council is printed in a special leaflet available from the local conference youth director. Further information and helps are available in *Youth Ministry Accent*, a quarterly journal published by the General Conference Youth Department which is sent free to each conference for distribution to the churches in North America.

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION SUPPLEMENT, ADVENTIST JUNIOR YOUTH SOCIETY— CHURCH MANUAL DELETION

Voted, To delete a section from the *Church Manual* pages 189 and 190, North American Division Supplement, Adventist Junior Youth Society, which reads as follows:

Adventist Junior Youth Society

In the North American Division the Pathfinder Club has replaced the Adventist Junior Youth Society (formerly JMV Society) in the local church. However, an Adventist Junior Youth Society is a part of the devotional and witnessing activities of each church school. Each classroom is considered a society, with the teacher as the leader and the students serving as society officers.

Pupils in grades one to four are designed as Adventurers, while students in grades five to eight are listed as regular members of the Adventist Junior Youth Society. In larger schools where each grade is in a separate room, students in grades five and six would be members of the Adventist Junior Youth Society, while those in grades seven and eight would be listed as members of an Adventist Earliteen Youth Society. This harmonizes with the divisions of the Sabbath School.

Society meetings are usually held the first period on Wednesday or Friday mornings and include not only programs which the students develop, but also the study of the Adventist Junior Youth Classes (formerly JMV Classes) and Adventist Youth Honors (formerly MV Honors). An Investiture service is scheduled each year in the church school, with the conference youth director awarding the insignia and Adventist Youth Honors.

The General Conference Youth Department twice each year publishes a small journal, *Church School Focus*, which is sent free to

church school teachers to help them with their leadership of the Adventist Junior Youth Society. Other resource materials, including an audio-visual program on the Adventist Junior Youth Society, are available from the local conference youth department.

SUPPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

Voted, To affirm the support of the chairman of this business session.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT— APPROVAL

Voted, To approve the addition of Children's Ministries as a department of the Church.

DEPARTMENTS—DIRECTORS/SECRETARIES, ASSOCIATES AND ASSISTANTS—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Voted, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article X—Departments—Directors/Secretaries, Associates and Assistants, to read as follows:

ARTICLE X—DEPARTMENTS AND ASSOCIATIONS—DIRECTORS/ SECRETARIES, ASSOCIATES, AND ASSISTANTS

Sec. 1. Departmental and association directors/secretaries and associate directors/secretaries shall be elected by the General Conference session, and assistants shall be appointed as determined by the General Conference Executive Committee to serve the World Church through the Ministerial Association and the following departments: Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, Children's Ministries, Communication, Education, Family Ministries, Health and Temperance, Personal Ministries and Sabbath School, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, Publishing, Stewardship, Trust Services, Women's Ministries, and Youth.

Should changes to the departmental structure of the General Conference be deemed necessary, such changes may be approved by action of the General Conference Executive Committee in Annual Council, subject to ratification at the next General Conference session.

Sec. 2. The departmental, association, agency, and service directors/secretaries shall work under the direction of the president and the Executive Committee. Departmental, association, agency, and service personnel shall occupy an advisory relation to the field.

Sec. 3. The term "associate director/secretary" shall be used to designate those persons who may be elected to associate with the director/secretary of any General Conference department, association, agency, or service in carrying the responsibilities of the office. Such persons, who shall work under the direction of their respective departmental, association, agency, or service directors/secretaries, shall have the requisite experience, background, and expertise to facilitate the work of the department, associa-

tion, agency, or service in carrying out the functions assigned to it not only at the General Conference headquarters but also throughout the world field. Certain specialized activities may be largely accomplished without extensive field activity.

Sec. 4. The term "assistant director/secretary" shall be used to designate those persons who are appointed as determined by the General Conference Executive Committee to assist the director/secretary and associates in any department, association, agency, or service in carrying out the work of the General Conference, usually in one or more special procedures or functions. Such persons, who shall work under the direction of the departmental, association, agency, or service directors/secretaries, shall fulfill these special assignments largely in the office and serve to expedite the work of the departmental, association, agency, or service staff. Field appointments for assistants shall be of a very limited nature.

Sec. 5. Departmental and association directors/secretaries, associates, and assistants shall assist the executive officers of the General Conference in their leadership and nurture of the Church, by promoting the plans and programs of the Church as approved by the General Conference Executive Committee, and by facilitating the involvement of the membership in the mission of the Church. This will be accomplished through the production of resources and through promotion, consultation, coordination, and leadership development. Departmental plans and programs shall be developed and coordinated by the departments under the direction of an administrative officer, be processed through administration, and receive Executive Committee approval, whenever deemed advisable, before implementation and promotion in the field.

LEGAL MEETING

The following legal meeting was held beginning at 4:00 p.m.
General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Voted, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article XIII, Executive Committee, to read as follows:

ARTICLE XIII—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sec. 1. a. During the intervals between sessions of the General Conference, the Executive Committee is delegated the authority to act on behalf of the General Conference in session including the authority to elect or remove, for cause,* officers, directors and associate directors of departments/associations/services, and committee members; and to fill for the current term any vacancies that may occur in its offices, boards, committees or agents by death, resigna-

tion or otherwise.

b. The Executive Committee—No change

c. The Executive Committee shall have power to effect the retirement, before the expiration of the term for which they have been elected, of persons elected under Article V, Sec. 1., of the Constitution who may develop a health condition that prevents them from properly discharging their duties.

d. The removal from office by the Executive Committee of any person elected under Article V, Sec. 1., of the Constitution or its withdrawal of credentials or licenses shall be by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any regular meeting.

e. The Executive Committee—No change

Sec. 2. a. A meeting of the Executive Committee, known as the Annual Council, shall be held annually for the purpose of considering budget requests and making appropriations, for the transaction of other business, and the adoption of policies that may be necessary in the operation of the worldwide work.

b. A meeting of the Executive Committee, known as the Spring Meeting, shall be held annually for the purpose of receiving the audited financial report of the General Conference and for transacting regular Executive Committee business as provided for in the General Conference *Working Policy* relating to Spring Meetings.

Sec. 3. A majority of the full membership of the Executive Committee, including the president or a general vice president, is empowered to transact denominational business of any nature at any time and place.

Sec. 4. Any fifteen members of the Executive Committee, including an officer of the General Conference, shall, after due notice to available members, constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee for the disposition of routine items, and shall be empowered to transact business that is in harmony with the general plans outlined by the Executive Committee at the designated place of meeting of the Executive Committee as hereinafter provided. A quorum of 40 members is required for the disposition of nonroutine items such as major financial decisions, and dismissal of elected and appointed employees.

Sec. 5. All meetings of the Executive Committee—No change

Sec. 6. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called at any time by the ranking officer of the General Conference who may be present at headquarters, and this officer, or any member of the committee appointed by him, shall act as chairperson of the meeting.

Sec. 7. Local conference/mission presidents shall be invited to attend Annual Council meetings of the General Conference Executive Committee when it is held within the territory of their division. Such invitees shall be extended the privileges of full participation in all discussion and decision-making processes of the meeting.

*The phrase "for cause" when used in connection

with removal from an elected or appointed position, shall include but not be limited to 1) incompetence; 2) persistent failure to cooperate with duly constituted authority in substantive matters and with relevant employment and denominational policies; and 3) actions which may be subject of discipline under the *Church Manual*.

Adjourned.

Robert J Kloosterhuis and
Kenneth J Mittleider, *Chairs*
Maurice T Battle, *Secretary*
Rowena J Moore, *Recording Secretary*

Session Actions

*Fifty-sixth General Conference session,
July 4, 1995, 4:45 p.m.*

BERT B BEACH—APPRECIATION

Voted, To express appreciation to Bert B Beach for his 46 years of active service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including 35 years as a member of the General Conference Executive Committee.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT #7

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

Euro-Asia Division

Secretary, Michael F Kaminsky
Treasurer, Juan R Prestol

North American Division

Secretary, Harold W Baptiste
Treasurer, George H Crumley

GENERAL CONFERENCE

Director, Department of Family Ministries,
Ronald M Flowers

Director, Department of Youth Ministry,
Baraka G Muganda

Director, Department of Stewardship,
Benjamin C Maxson

General Field Secretary, Gary B. Patterson

General Field Secretary, Charles D Brooks

General Field Secretary, Ralph S Watts, Jr

Adjourned.

Kenneth J Mittleider, *Chair*
Maurice T Battle, *Secretary*
Rowena J Moore, *Recording Secretary*

Session Actions

*Fifty-sixth General Conference session,
July 5, 1995, 8:30 a.m.*

VOTING PROCEDURES FOR ITEMS THAT WERE REFERRED TO CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Voted, To provide reasonable time for discussion of items that were previously referred to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and then to

vote on the issues without referring them back to the committee.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Voted, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution, Article VI—Executive Committee, to read as follows:

ARTICLE VII—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sec. 1. The Executive Committee of the General Conference shall consist of:

a. Ex officio members—1) Those elected as provided for in Article V, Sec. 1. except the director of the General Conference Auditing Service and the associate directors/secretaries of General Conference departments and associations.

2) Presidents of union conferences, presidents of union missions, presidents of attached unions, past presidents of the General Conference holding credentials from the General Conference, the president-executive director of Adventist Development and Relief Agency International, the president of Adventist Media Center Incorporated, the editor of *Adventist Review*, the president of Adventist Risk Management Incorporated, the president-executive director of Adventist World Radio, the president of Andrews University, the director of Archives and Statistics, the director of Biblical Research Institute, the president of Christian Record Services Incorporated, the president and the secretary of Ellen G White Estate, the director of Geoscience Research Institute, the president of Home Study International, the director of International Health Food Association, the president of Loma Linda University, the president of Loma Linda University Medical Center, the president of Oakwood College, the president of Pacific Press Publishing Association, and the president of Review and Herald Publishing Association.

b. Elected Members—1) Three laypersons and one church pastor from each division without regard to membership and one additional church pastor or other frontline denominational employee for each 500,000 members or major portion thereof, beyond the first 500,000 members. The above laypersons, pastors, and other denominational employees shall be selected by each division executive committee from individuals recommended by the union executive committees.

2) Thirty additional members selected by the General Conference Executive Committee.

DIVISION DEPARTMENTS—DIRECTORS/SECRETARIES, ASSOCIATES, AND ASSISTANTS—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Voted, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article XI—Division Departments—Directors/Secretaries,

Associates, and Assistants, to read as follows:

ARTICLE XI—DIVISION DEPARTMENTS—DIRECTORS/SECRETARIES, ASSOCIATES, AND ASSISTANTS

Divisions shall appoint departmental, association, agency, and service directors/secretaries who shall serve under the direction of their respective division presidents and executive committees. They shall also appoint associate and assistant directors/secretaries as may be needed to serve in special capacities under the direction of their respective directors/secretaries.

These appointments shall normally be made at the time of the regular General Conference session, but in no event later than December 31 in the year of the regular General Conference session.

DIRECTOR OF ARCHIVES AND STATISTICS—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Voted, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article XII—Director of Archives and Statistics, to read as follows:

ARTICLE XII—DIRECTOR OF ARCHIVES AND STATISTICS

At the first Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee following a regular session, the General Conference shall appoint a director of Archives and Statistics whose duties shall be to administer the General Conference Archives and to compile and report the statistics of the world work, and who shall serve under the direction of the General Conference secretary and the Executive Committee.

TERM OF OFFICE—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Voted, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution, Article VIII—Term of Office, to read as follows:

ARTICLE IX—TERM OF OFFICE

Sec. 1. All officers of the General Conference and those whose election is provided for in Article V, Sec. 1. shall hold office from the time they take up their duties until the next regular session or until their successors are elected and take up their duties. Their term of office, unless government requirements dictate otherwise, is not subject to division retirement policies, which may determine specific ages for mandatory retirements.

Sec. 2. Members of the Executive Committee provided for in Article VII shall serve from the time of their election until the next regular session.

Sec. 3. All those who are appointed to serve the General Conference as provided for in Article VI, shall serve from the time they take up their appointment until their successors are appointed and take up their duties, or until the position is terminated. The appointments provided for in Article VI shall be reviewed at the first annual meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee following the General Conference session.

Sec. 4. Service as outlined in Sec. 1. to 3. above may be terminated for cause as provided for in General Conference Bylaws, Article XIII, Sec. 1.

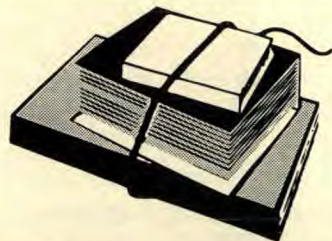
VICE PRESIDENTS—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Voted, To amend the General Conference

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Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article III—Vice Presidents, to read as follows:

ARTICLE III—GENERAL CONFERENCE VICE PRESIDENTS AND DIVISION VICE PRESIDENTS

Sec. 1. General vice presidents of the General Conference shall be elected to assist the president with the general administrative work of the General Conference. In addition a vice president shall be elected to serve as president of each division of the General Conference.

Sec. 2. A general vice president of the General Conference or the president of the North American Division shall, in the absence of the president, chair meetings of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 3. The role of the general vice presidents of the General Conference, in relationship to the divisions, is as follows:

- a. To serve as liaisons between the General Conference president and the divisions.
- b. To serve as administrative resource counselors.
- c. To strengthen the bond of the World Church.

Sec. 4. The vice presidents of the General Conference elected for the divisions shall serve as chairmen of the division executive committees operating in their respective territories; shall have oversight of the work in those territories under the direction of the division executive committees; and shall be designated within their respective division territories as presidents of the divisions over which they preside.

Sec. 5. Vice presidents of the divisions may be appointed by the division executive committees, as necessary, to assist the division presidents in their administrative responsibilities.

UNDERSECRETARY AND ASSOCIATE SECRETARIES—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Voted. To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article IV—Undersecretary and Associate Secretaries, to read as follows:

ARTICLE IV—UNDERSECRETARY AND ASSOCIATE SECRETARIES

Sec. 1. An undersecretary and associate secretaries shall be elected to share with the secretary the responsibilities of the office. They shall perform such duties connected with the Secretariat as may be assigned to them by the secretary or by the Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. The role of the General Conference undersecretary and associate secretaries, in relationship to the divisions, includes the following:

- a. To serve as liaisons with division secretaries as assigned by the General Conference secretary.
- b. To facilitate the processing of calls for interdivision employees.
- c. To recruit interdivision employees to fill the needs of the divisions.
- d. To assist the divisions with personnel

and policy matters.

UNDERTREASURER AND ASSOCIATE TREASURERS—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Voted. To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article VI—Undertreasurer and Associate Treasurers, to read as follows:

ARTICLE VI—UNDERTREASURER AND ASSOCIATE TREASURERS

Sec. 1. An undertreasurer and associate treasurers shall be elected to share with the treasurer the work of the office. They shall perform such duties connected with the Treasury as may be assigned to them by the treasurer or by the Executive Committee. They may be authorized by the Executive Committee to sign checks under the instruction of the treasurer.

Sec. 2. The role of the General Conference undertreasurer and associate treasurers, in relationship with the divisions, includes the following:

- a. To provide financial counsel, information, and analysis.
- b. To assist in conducting financial surveys as requested.
- c. To respond to special requests submitted by the division treasurers.
- d. To invest the assets of the divisions as requested by the divisions.
- e. To assist in international banking arrangements.

GENERAL AND DIVISION FIELD SECRETARIES—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Voted. To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article IX—General and Division Field Secretaries, to read as follows:

ARTICLE IX—GENERAL AND DIVISION FIELD SECRETARIES

Sec. 1. The term "general field secretary" shall be used to designate general field leaders elected to assist the officers in carrying the field responsibilities of the General Conference.

Sec. 2. The general field secretaries shall work under the direction of the Executive Committee and the president, and be assigned either to field service or to special projects or responsibilities that are approved by the Executive Committee.

Sec. 3. The term "division field secretary" shall be used to designate field leaders appointed by divisions. They may be appointed as necessary to serve in the divisions under the direction of the president and the respective division executive committee.

DIVISION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES— GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Voted. To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article

XIV—Division Executive Committees, to read as follows:

ARTICLE XIV—DIVISION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

Sec. 1. In each division, a division executive committee shall be constituted, as hereinafter provided, for the transaction of business pertaining to the division. The division executive committee functions on behalf of the General Conference Executive Committee in the division, and its authority shall be recognized by union and local organizations in matters of division administration and counsel.

Sec. 2. The members of a division executive committee shall be the president, the secretary, the treasurer, other division officers, the vice presidents, and the field secretaries of the division; the heads of division institutions; the presidents of union conferences; the presidents of union missions; the presidents of unions of churches; the presidents of attached conferences/missions; the division departmental, Ministerial Association, and service directors/secretaries; and any members of the General Conference Executive Committee present. Other members shall include nonemployees of the church and additional representation from pastoral and educational personnel.

Sec. 3. The actions taken—No change

Sec. 4. Five members of a division executive committee, including the chairman, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. When the chairman is unable to be present, the secretary may convene such a meeting at division headquarters and shall serve as chairperson unless otherwise determined by the president. Minority meetings of fewer than five members of the division executive committee may be held for the transaction of necessary routine business, but actions taken at such meetings shall not be final until the minutes of such meetings have been approved in a meeting with a quorum present.

DIVISION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES— GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS REVISION REQUESTED

Voted. To refer General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article XIV—Division Executive Committees, Sections 2 and 4 to the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws Committee for restudy during the coming quinquennium, as follows:

ARTICLE XIV—DIVISION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

Sec. 1. In each division—No change

Sec. 2. The members of a division executive committee shall be the president, the secretary, the treasurer, other division officers, the vice presidents, and the field secretaries of the division; the heads of division institutions; the presidents of union conferences; the presidents of union missions; the presidents of unions of churches; the presidents of attached conferences/missions; the division departmental,

Ministerial Association, and service directors/secretaries; and any members of the General Conference Executive Committee present. Other members shall include nonemployees of the church and additional representation from pastoral and educational personnel.

Sec. 3. The actions taken—No change

Sec. 4. Five members of a division executive committee, including the chairman, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. When the chairman is unable to be present, the secretary may convene such a meeting at division headquarters and shall serve as chairperson unless otherwise determined by the president. Minority meetings of fewer than five members of the division executive committee may be held for the transaction of necessary routine business, but actions taken at such meetings shall not be final until the minutes of such meetings have been approved in a meeting with a quorum present.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT #8

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

Africa-Indian Ocean Division

President, Luka T Daniel

Secretary, Charles Montille

Asia-Pacific Division

Secretary, Violeta F Bocala

Treasurer, Steve A Rose

Southern Asia Division

Secretary, James M Campbell

Eastern Africa Division

Secretary, Bekele Biri

Treasurer, Jose R Lizardo

General Conference Services and Departments

Trust Services

Associate Director, David E Johnston

Associate Director, Alan W White

Health and Temperance

Associate Director, James M Crawford

Associate Director, Thomas R Neslund

Associate Director, Stoy E Proctor

Children's Ministries

Director, Virginia L Smith

Family Ministries

Associate Director, Karen M Flowers

Education

Associate Director, Enrique Becerra

Associate Director, John M Fowler

Associate Director, Reo E Ganson

Ministerial Association

Associate Director, Joel Sarli

Associate Director, Walter L Pearson, Jr

Associate Director, Dwight K Nelson

Adjourned.

Alfred C McClure, *Chair*

Mario Veloso, *Secretary*

Athal H Tolhurst, *Actions Editor*

Larry R Colburn, *Proceedings Editor*

Carol E Rasmussen, *Recording Secretary*

Session Actions

Fifty-sixth General Conference session, July 5, 1995, 2:00 p.m.

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION REQUEST—ORDINATION

The chairman, Calvin B Rock, outlined the program for this business session dedicated to the request of the North American Division regarding ordination:

The president of the North American Division, Alfred C McClure, will make a 20-minute presentation giving the background and rationale of the North American Division's request. Then P Gerard Damsteegt from the SDA Theological Seminary of Andrews University will give a 20-minute presentation on why he cannot support this request. Raoul Dederen, also of Andrews University, will then present the opposite viewpoint of why he is in favor of the request. It is hoped that with these presentations, the delegates will have a good overview of both sides of the issue. The floor will then be opened for discussion by the delegates and at approximately 4:45 p.m., the chairman will call an end to the debate and Robert S Folkenberg, president of the General Conference, will make a few remarks prior to a secret ballot being taken.

Voted, 1. To limit the individual speeches of the delegates to two minutes if spoken in English, and three minutes if a translation is given.

2. To support the program for the afternoon business session as outlined by the chairman.

Prayer was then offered by Calvin B Rock.

Following the presentation by Alfred C McClure, Charles E Bradford, former president of the North American Division, was asked by the chairman to make a few comments. After the presentations by P Gerard Damsteegt and Raoul Dederen, the floor was opened to debate by the delegates with the chairman alternating between delegates standing at the for and against microphones.

Shortly after 5 p.m. an action was voted to cease debate of the motion and Robert S Folkenberg spoke for a few moments, closing with prayer in which he asked the Holy Spirit to be present and to guide in the decision of the delegates. The motion before the floor was read for clarity as follows:

"Voted, To refer to the 1995 General Conference Session the North American Division request that the General Conference in Session adopt provisions on ordination as outlined below:

"The General Conference vests in each division the right to authorize the ordination of individuals within its territory in harmony with established policies. In addition, where circumstances do not render it inadvisable, a division may authorize the ordination of qualified indi-

viduals without regard to gender. In divisions where the division executive committees take specific actions approving the ordination of women to the gospel ministry, women may be ordained to serve in those divisions."

Delegates were then instructed to turn in their secret ballot cards to their division representatives. A count of the secret ballots was made with the following results:

In favor of the recommendation: 673

In opposition to the recommendation: 1,481

Total number of votes: 2,154

By this vote, the request of the North American Division was denied.

Adjourned.

Calvin B Rock, *Chair*

Lowell C Cooper, *Secretary*

Athal H Tolhurst, *Actions Editor*

Rowena J Moore, *Recording Secretary*

GC SNAPSHOT



ADVENTIST REVIEW

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Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Risk Management Services



By Robert L. Sweezey
President

For 60 years the risk management service of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been one of the success stories of a business-related function in the church. The service has evolved over those years from a simple insurance-buying function to its current complete professional risk management operations. This development has been necessitated by the increasingly complex corporate and societal environment in which the church exists.

Risk Management Is a Process

As with any organization, the church is exposed to a variety of risks that threaten its resources. These risks can be grouped in four broad categories—property, liability, employee, and net income exposures to risk.

The risk management process begins with the identification and analysis of the exposures to risk in each of these categories. Once identified, alternative methods of controlling either the frequency or severity of potential losses are evaluated, resulting in recommendations for prudent risk-control methods. Finally, the inevitable losses are anticipated and planned for through internal funding solutions or transferred to external organizations through the purchase of insurance policies.

A Service-based Mission

Simply stated, the mission of Adventist Risk Management is to assist the Seventh-day Adventist Church in identifying and analyzing its exposures to risk to maximize protection of its resources from loss, and to recommend or provide where possible, appropriate

risk management methods on a cost-effective business basis within the objectives and mission of the church. Adventist Risk Management is a partner in service and prevention providing risk management solutions to the church.

Knowledgeable, Professional Staff

The professional, technical, and sup-



port functions associated with providing a complete risk management service to the church currently require the dedicated skills of 120 employees of Adventist Risk Management. The staff includes a variety of occupations including risk managers, lawyers, accountants, insurance and claims specialists, employee benefit specialists, and others.

The service is based at the world headquarters of the church in Silver Spring, Maryland, and it also places staff in offices in California, Georgia, and Michigan in the United States, and St. Albans, England.

Emphasis on Awareness and Education

A large portion of the work of Adventist Risk Management involves the risk identification and risk control steps of the risk management process. Emphasis is placed on training local leaders in effective risk management methods, as well as increasing the awareness of church administrators about evolving risk management issues.

Losses Do Occur

When losses occur in spite of the best efforts of everyone, foresight and prudent preplanning allow for rapid recovery and minimum interruption to the work of the church. Adventist Risk Management currently administers approximately \$50 million of systematically allocated assets to satisfy the regulatory and business prudence requirements resulting from the risk exposures of the world church.

Annually approximately 3,000 property and liability claims are processed, resulting in ultimate related claim settlements of approximately \$20 million. Currently property losses are predominantly the result of fire and storm damage. Liability claims include defense and indemnification costs, and currently result primarily from slips, trips, and falls, improper supervision, and faulty premises. Emerging areas of liability concern are employment practices liability and sexual misconduct. Also of rising concern is the incidence of internal net income losses involving issues such as offering shrinkage.

Losses also occur in the area of employees' exposures to risk.

These include health care, supplemental retirement planning, disability management, and survivors' assistance. Annually approximately 200,000 employee benefit claims are processed, resulting in payments of approximately \$35 million. Worse than the fact that losses do occur is the fact that many of the losses are preventable or controllable. Adventist Risk Management has the expertise to assist all levels of the church in their efforts to minimize the impact of these losses. However, a partnership of cooperative efforts is required—partners in service and prevention.

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ENTERTAINING
INTO A REAL MINISTRY



NANCY VAN PELT

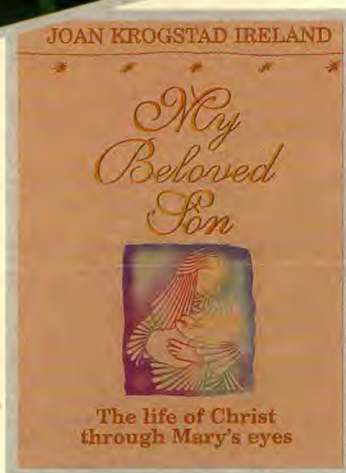
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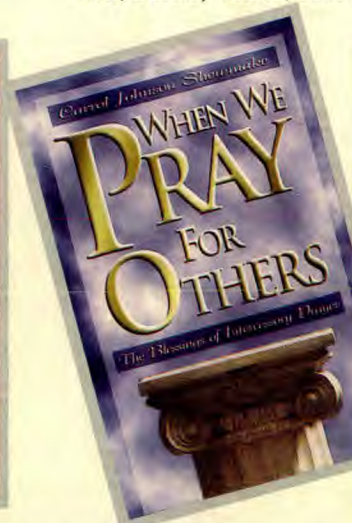
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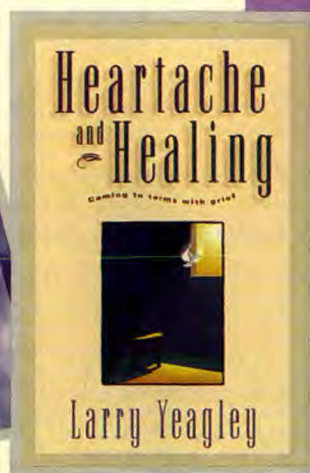
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