

A Century of Global Adventist Education, p.10

The Latest News from ESDA 2021 Meeting, p.7

Employee profile: Kathleen Jones p.11

Featured Articles:

Warm Spring 2021 Greetings! p.1

The Notebooks of Robert H. Pierson, p.1

Looking Back on a Year of Accreditations, p.5

The Adventist Yearbook and the Global Adventist Church, p.8

Adventists and Diversity? p.9

Remember to help us Tell the Story! p.14

TELLING THE STORY

Archives, Statistics, and Research (ASTR) Newsletter - Issue #7



Warm Spring 2021 Greetings!

As we emerge from what has surely been a trying year for many all around the world, we are heartened that, though the world may face trials, God's spirit is still with us individually and as a Church. It was in the "spring season when the Israelites arrived at the edge of the Jordan river," anticipating their entry into their promised land. The "melting snows of the mountains had so raised the Jordan that the river overflowed its banks, making it impossible to cross at the usual fording places." But God had so willed "that the passage of Israel over Jordan should be miraculous" (Ellen White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 483). And so may our outlook to this and every spring be the same. It is through God alone that we may appreciate the passage of death to self, only to live again with Christ, as the season of spring so vividly illustrates.

This Spring, we're glad to share several interesting articles with you helping illuminate our past and present. First, Ashlee Chism shares about the notebook collection left to us by former G.C. President Robert H. Pierson, which grant us many insights into the church during his lifetime. We also have an update on the accreditation system that ASTR has created for helping the church's institutions around the world keep better records. Additionally, there are research nuggets addressing our global growth in educational enrollment, and also about the importance of diversity in our world body. We also are pleased to share about the important role of the *Adventist Yearbook* in helping keep our institutions operating smoothly. Last, but not least, we have articles highlighting the recent *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists* meetings and an employee profile for Kathleen Jones, our longtime editor of the *Annual Statistical Report*.

The Notebooks of Robert H. Pierson

During the 1978 Annual Council, a photographer snapped off a shot with a camera, capturing then-General Conference President Pierson in the right corner of the image, getting a picture of Pierson from behind and slightly to his left, keeping the attendees to the 1978 Annual Council in the background. Pierson is speaking into a microphone, his left hand lightly under a page of his speech's outline, held securely in a small three-ring binder (see below).



General Conference President Robert H. Pierson in 1978

While others may have written about that Annual Council, at which, according to the *Review*, Pierson's "dramatic" announcement that he was retiring from his role as GC President took the attendees "by surprise," what we'd like to draw your attention to is the notebook his hand is

The Latest News from ESDA 2021 Meeting, p.7

Employee profile: Kathleen Jones p.11

Featured Articles:

Warm Spring 2021 Greetings! p.1

The Notebooks of Robert H. Pierson, p.1

Looking Back on a Year of Accreditations, p.5

The Adventist Yearbook and the Global Adventist Church, p.8

Adventists and Diversity? p.9

Remember to help us Tell the Story! p.14

touching. The General Conference Archives recently received a donation of twenty-seven of Elder Pierson's notebooks, all containing sermon outlines and notes, spanning from the breadth of his career. These notebooks were graciously donated to the Archives by Robert G. Pierson and are now part of the Robert H. Pierson Collection.

Robert H. Pierson was born January 3, 1911 in Brooklyn, Iowa. He graduated from Southern Junior College (now Southern Adventist University) in 1933, two years after having married Dollis Mae Smith, and commenced with Home Missionary and Sabbath School work in Georgia. Some of the earliest outlines in the collection are clearly from this period of Pierson's work, marked neatly in his handwriting as "Home Missionary" or "Home Missions".

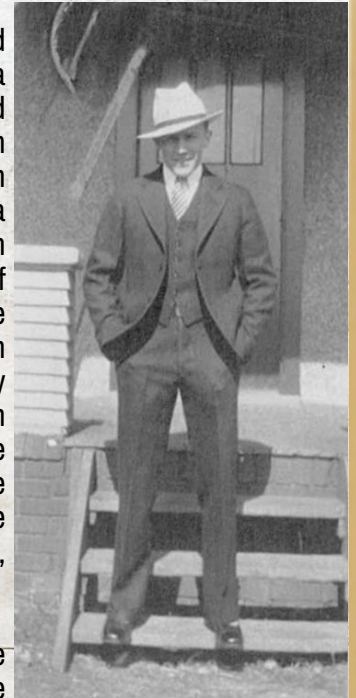


Robert and Dollis Pierson, June 25, 1974

Ordained in 1935, Pierson, with his family, traveled to India for mission service, stopping briefly for language study in England. After arriving in India, Pierson wrote to the General Conference of their experiences there, observing that, "Coming out we saw evidences of war on every hand – British or Italian warships at every port of call nearly – all of these things made us anxious to reach our destination and join our labors with others here to haste the gospel of a very soon-coming Saviour." One of his outlines for an "Armistice Day" sermon, titled "God's

Plan for Peace", mentions both Neville Chamberlain and Adolph Hitler, which indicates that it was drafted during this early period of the Piersons' mission service.

Their first furlough, scheduled for 1942, was delayed by a few months due to the United States joining the war. Pierson and the other foreign Adventist leaders in India created plans for the work in India to continue even if all of them were forced to leave; the Piersons were able to go on furlough, and it was noted by Pierson that their furlough would last either for the regular amount of time furloughs took or for the duration of the war, "whichever is the less".



Pierson in 1933

During their furlough, the Piersons took up residence first in Takoma Park, Maryland, and then in New York City, as Pierson worked for the Bible Auditorium of the Air while waiting to return to the mission field. Indeed, Pierson wrote to the General Conference of his preference for field or evangelistic work over pastoral work, and of his desire that any assignment he received, whether he preferred it or not, would give him "a little broader experience for my work in the Mission Field" and an opportunity to promote mission work. Multiple sermons in his notebooks reflect his desire to discourse about the work being done by the Seventh-day Adventist Church—some of the titles include "The Shadow of the Cross in the Land of the Rajahs" and "Our Work in India".

The Piersons were called to the Inter-American Division, where they lived in Trinidad and Pierson served as the Caribbean Union president. On furlough in 1949, Pierson drafted a sermon titled "Paddles Over the Kamarang". The

Featured Articles:

Warm Spring 2021 Greetings! p.1

The Notebooks of Robert H. Pierson, p.1

Looking Back on a Year of Accreditations, p.5

The Adventist Yearbook and the Global Adventist Church, p.8

Adventists and Diversity? p.9

Remember to help us Tell the Story! p.14

Kamarang is a river and a village in Guyana; we know when Pierson drafted this sermon because he dated it as October 1949. In 1950, the Piersons traveled to the Southern Asia Division, where Pierson had been called to serve as division president. Upon their return to the States in 1954, Pierson served at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) and in the Kentucky-Tennessee and Texas Conferences. One of his speeches from this time period, "At Home and Abroad", was delivered January 1, 14, 1956 at the Presidents' Council, which was held January 12-14 in Kansas City, Missouri, and involved the North American union and local conference presidents. This council "recognized the

urgency of this hour in relation to the finishing of the work, and united in urging every evangelist, pastor, and district leader to give first place to soul winning", and it is easy to imagine how a talk with the title Pierson gave it did both of these things. Another outline, dated as November 16, 1957 and titled "Let Us Arise and Finish the Work" also aptly demonstrates Pierson's focus on doing just that.



Robert H. Pierson, Sept. 19, 1950



Pierson at April 1, 1975, dedicatory sermon for North building at GC

The year 1958 saw Robert and Dollis Pierson move to what is now Zimbabwe, where he served as president of the Southern African Division and oversaw it becoming the Trans-Africa Division. When one surveys the titles of outlines dated to this time period, it becomes clear that Pierson had done thinking about how the Adventist Church would be best suited to recognize the urgency of

The Latest News from ESDA 2021 Meeting, p.7

Employee profile: Kathleen Jones p.11

Featured Articles:

Warm Spring 2021 Greetings! p.1

The Notebooks of Robert H. Pierson, p.1

Looking Back on a Year of Accreditations, p.5

The Adventist Yearbook and the Global Adventist Church, p.8

Adventists and Diversity? p.9

Remember to help us Tell the Story! p.14

the hour and unite in soul winning—"Now Is The Accepted Time", initially drafted in 1942, was revised in 1962 and given to the Trans-Africa Division's Council that year; "Organization in God's Church" is dated to February 1966.

Elected as General Conference President in June 1966, Pierson kept both himself and his pen in motion. Though many of his sermons are undated, some are easy to point out as having been written during his presidency (sometimes because he wrote the outlines on the reverse side of his presidential letterhead!). Pierson is probably best remembered today for his emphasis on revival and reformation—and his notebooks do reflect that emphasis; while the sermons were typically alphabetized by Pierson, two of the donated notebooks were specifically labeled "Repentance, Revival, and Reformation" and "Revival and Reformation" and include titles such as "A Call to Worldwide Revival and Reformation", "Women and Revival", "Revival on Adventist Campuses" and "Time for Revival!".



Robert H. Pierson

Yet there is more to Pierson and to his presidency than his emphasis on revival and reformation. First, in addition to his specialized notebooks on revival and reformation, he had two notebooks specialized on Calvary, filled with more sermons than the two notebooks on revival and reformation. Clearly, Christ and the Gospel were central throughout Pierson's ministry, including his presidency.

Second, during his time as GC President, Pierson was active in reshaping administrative and organizational structures of the Church and what that meant for the Church (see, for instance, his outline titled "Unity in the Church - Organizational and Administrative Considerations" or the one titled "Total Mobilization" or the one simply titled "Goals and Objectives, 1970-1975"). He spoke the funeral sermon of Leroy E. Froom ("Life and Hope"), grappled with Adventist history ("The Church -

Past, Present, and Future"; "Certain Triumph of the Advent Movement"), considered how the changing world was affecting the Church ("The Church in a Decade of Decision"), and tackled improving the relationships between Adventists of varying ethnic and national backgrounds. Multiple outlines, usually addressed at those whose attitudes were less than Christ-like, are marked with the note of "Race Relations" and bear titles like "Let Us Reason Together", "What Shall My Attitude Be?", and "Race Relationships". These outlines, the title pages of which you can see here, emphasize how being Christian and Adventist unifies the Church and allows no room for bigotry, and are full of references to experiences Pierson had had in Asia, in Central and South America, in Africa, and in North America.

When Pierson made the announcement in 1978 that he was retiring due to ill health, he noted, "We have a work to finish, a work of preparation to be effected in every life in preparation for the return of our Lord—in our day! Yes, brethren and sisters, it must be in our day! My pen, my voice, as long as God gives me strength, will be dedicated to this one all-consuming passion!" From his retirement until his death in 1989, he worked as he was able, much as he had in the 1940s, to promote mission work, and used the lessons learned and taught during his career to broaden the experiences of other workers in the field.

These outlines allow light to be shed on a pivotal figure in Adventist history, and only their donation has made that possible. The General Conference Archives is absolutely thrilled to have received these materials, and, as with all donations, are taking the utmost care to preserve them for the future.

Ashlee Chism

¹ "General Conference president announces retirement", *Review and Herald* 155:43, 1.
² Robert H. Pierson to H. T. Elliott, 8 Dec 1935, Secretariat Missionary Appointee Files, Record Group 21, Box WH 2568. General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Archives, Silver Spring, Maryland.
³ "Information on Returning Missionaries", 14 Jul 1942, Secretariat Missionary Appointee Files, Record Group 21, Box WH 2568. General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Archives, Silver Spring, Maryland.
⁴ Robert H. Pierson to E. D. Dick, 17 Jan 1943, Secretariat Missionary Appointee Files, Record Group 21, Box WH 2568. General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Archives, Silver Spring, Maryland.
⁵ W. R. Beach, "From the Secretary's Desk", *Review and Herald* 133:9, 7.
⁶ "General Conference president announces retirement", *Review and Herald* 155:43, 1.

Featured Articles:

Warm Spring 2021 Greetings! p.1

The Notebooks of Robert H. Pierson, p.1

Looking Back on a Year of Accreditations, p.5

The Adventist Yearbook and the Global Adventist Church, p.8

Adventists and Diversity? p.9

Remember to help us Tell the Story! p.14

Looking Back on a Year of Accreditations with ASTR

From November 2019 through December 2020, the Archives team within the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research (ASTR) has undertaken three accreditations of church archives on three continents.

In early November 2019, ASTR director David Trim and the South American Division's ASTR director, Dr. Thadeu de Silva Filho, visited Universidad Adventista del Plata (River Plate Adventist University), in Libertador San Martin, Entre Rios Province, Argentina. The third member of the accreditation panel was Elder Roberto Gullon, executive secretary of the Argentine Union Conference. River Plate University is the oldest Adventist higher education institution in Latin America. They inspected the Centro de Investigación White and the Centro Histórico Adventista, twin archives and research centers.

brings to their work, and the way they maximize limited resources to communicate widely about Adventist history and to preserve the sources of Argentinian Adventist history. Going beyond purely archival matters, the leadership team has a regular research publication program, which includes publishing a series of articles in church papers, and it conducts regular public lecture/seminar program (which Dr. Trim contributed to, with a lecture on Ferdinand and Ana Stahl and their socially conscious mission work in Peru).

The inspection team recommended a conditional award of Recognized status, the conditions being installation of appropriate fire suppression, ladders, and a dehumidification system (include monitoring); and creation of more thorough and locally applicable policies regarding a) external researchers, including institution-specific application forms and agreements; b) Collection Management; c) Disaster Recovery.

In February, Roy Kline, ASTR's Assistant Director for Archives and Records Management, inspected the division records center and archives at the headquarters of the Southern Asia Division in Hosur, India. This culminated a four-year process in which Dr. Trim had visited India once and Elder Kline twice, carrying out training and advising on what was needed to be accredited. As a result, a dedicated archivist has been appointed and there is a robust oversight system by appropriate committees. The division has invested considerably in personnel, systems, and hardware. The result was that both the archives and records center were unconditionally accredited at the "Emerging" level. The division executive secretary, Elder Measopogu Wilson, is committed to achieving higher levels of accreditation before the current level expires in 2025.



River Plate Adventist University, Centro de Investigación White and the Centro Histórico Adventista

The inspection team was impressed by the very clear desire of what is a very experienced leadership team at the twin centros, to improve the way they manage collections with which they already have considerable familiarity; the ingenuity and passion the Center team



Southern Asia Division records center

Featured Articles:

Warm Spring 2021 Greetings! p.1

The Notebooks of Robert H. Pierson, p.1

Looking Back on a Year of Accreditations, p.5

The Adventist Yearbook and the Global Adventist Church, p.8

Adventists and Diversity? p.9

Remember to help us Tell the Story! p.14

In late February 2020, just before pandemic-related lockdowns were imposed in Maryland and California, Dr. Trim led a three-person ASTR evaluation team, composed of Kline and Ashlee Chism, ASTR's Archives and Research Center Manager, to California, for an inspection of the Nelson Memorial Library and Walter C. Utt Center for Adventist History (WUCAH) at Pacific Union College, north of San Francisco. The professionalism and dedication of the WUCAH and library special collections team was very marked. It was evident both in the collections themselves and in the outreach done by the team, to raise awareness not only among college faculty and students but also in the local community, of PUC's history and how the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on the US West Coast intersects with local Californian history. A great deal of work had been done in preparation for the visit; in the end, the inspection team recommended a conditional award of Approved. The conditions were met by the end of the year and so, in



Nelson Memorial Library and Walter C. Utt Center for Adventist History (WUCAH) at Pacific Union College

December 2020, the award was made unconditional for the full five years.

These three archival centers are added to the ranks of those already accredited: the special collections of the Roy Graham Library at Newbold College; the West-Central Africa Division headquarters archives and records center; and the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University. The GC Archives team looks forward, when travel is again possible, to carrying out postponed inspection visits to the headquarters of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, the East Indonesia Union Conference, and the East-Central Africa Division, each of which has a records center (the Southern Asia-Pacific Division also has an archive). The team is also eager to engage with other Adventist archives and records centers to help them raise their standards; if interested, please contact ASTR's [Roy Kline: kliner@gc.adventist.org](mailto:kliner@gc.adventist.org).



Nelson Memorial Library and Walter C. Utt Center for Adventist History (WUCAH) at Pacific Union College

Featured Articles:

Warm Spring 2021 Greetings! p.1

The Notebooks of Robert H. Pierson, p.1

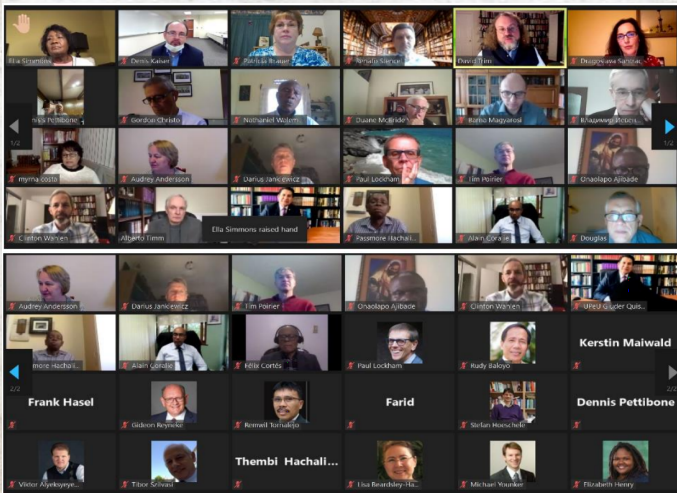
Looking Back on a Year of Accreditations, p.5

The Adventist Yearbook and the Global Adventist Church, p.8

Adventists and Diversity? p.9

Remember to help us Tell the Story! p.14

The Latest News from the Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists (ESDA)



ESDA Meeting via Zoom, February 2-4, 2021

Nearly 50 ESDA Editorial Committee (ESDA EDCOM) members met on February 2-4, 2021 for another successful annual meeting. The editors from the Adventist Church's 13 world divisions, the Middle East and North Africa Union, and the General Conference discussed the ESDA post-launch goals and plans. The committee agreed that the ESDA launch on July 1, 2020 was by no means the end of the project but rather the beginning of another stage of growth and development. New articles and images continue to be published and the ESDA currently has over 2,600 articles and 6,000 images. The ESDA EDCOM's main goals for the upcoming period include publishing additional 2,000 or more articles by June 2022 and making the ESDA articles available in several languages other than English. The plan is to provide quality translations so that church members and others can read articles on their local Adventist history in their language. These are important goals because the ESDA seeks to represent the diversity and richness of Adventism and reflect the global nature of the worldwide

Seventh-day Adventist Church today, both in subject matter and in the team of writers and editors who contribute to the ESDA as well as the ESDA readership. One of the major strengths and advantages of the ESDA project is having worldwide contributions and a global involvement.

The ESDA is already proving to be an invaluable resource, not only for doing research on Adventist history, but also for mission work and preparing devotionals, sermons, mission stories, youth and children's programs, study materials for classes, prayer meetings, and other events. The many pictures and videos help users visualize the people and places that the entries explore and bring a personal touch to the historical information.

The following new members joined the ESDA EDCOM this year: Kyoshin Ahn, Consultant Editor, North American Division; Darius Jankiewicz, Assistant Editor, South Pacific Division; Michel Sunhae Lee, Subeditor, North American Division; Clinton Wahlen, Disciplinary Consultant, Biblical Research Institute; Michael Younker, Assistant Editor, North American Division.

Please continue to pray for the ESDA to be a source of blessing with far-reaching impact for Christ and the ESDA team to be able to complete the work successfully.

Please check the Encyclopedia at <https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/> for new articles on Adventist history. Watch some of ESDA editors share inspiring stories from around the world in the video podcasts [here](#). To contribute to the Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists, please contact the ESDA main office at encyclopedia@gc.adventist.org.

Dragoslava Santrac, ESDA Managing Editor

The Latest News from ESDA 2021 Meeting, p.7

Employee profile: Kathleen Jones p.11

Featured Articles:

Warm Spring 2021 Greetings! p.1

The Notebooks of Robert H. Pierson, p.1

Looking Back on a Year of Accreditations, p.5

The Adventist Yearbook and the Global Adventist Church, p.8

Adventists and Diversity? p.9

Remember to help us Tell the Story! p.14

The Relationship of the Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook and the Organizations and Institutions of the Global Adventist Church

The creation of a publication such as the Yearbook was originally planned, discussed and voted at the General Conference Session of December 1882. As the result of that resolution, in 1883 the first *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* was published.

"The first Seventh-day Adventist Year Book was issued in 1883. From that time to 1894 a yearly publication was issued, constantly increasing in size with the growth of the denomination. Since 1894, instead of issuing a Year Book, the denominational statistics and directories of Conferences, organizations, institutions, and laborers have been published in the General Conference Bulletin. It has been thought advisable to issue the directory in year-book form, as being more convenient in use. These directories have become almost a necessity with many, and are a great convenience to all who desire reliable information regarding the features of our work which are covered by the reports". - 1894 Yearbook, page 9.

Thus, the *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* has been a year book publication since 1904 even during the Depression period and both World Wars, except for years 1965-1966 and 1973-1974 when it was published in two-year compendiums.

The *Adventist Yearbook* is more than just a directory of organizations and institutions with denominational status. While the contact information is an important aspect of all the entities included within, the *Yearbook* include, in a clear and detailed style, all the levels of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organization, along with the ministries and services that organizational unit is able to offer in its territory.

However, beyond the organizational units, the *Adventist Yearbook* offers a detailed list of all the institutions, around the world, that provide a service to members and non-members.

Each Adventist institution is carefully planned and administered, in such way that it may provide ample opportunity to its employees of sharing the Gospel and God's love to each person that benefits from its services.

It is in the *Yearbook* system where all organizations and

institutions are officially created and given their unique ID that will identify each throughout the intricacy of electronic reporting and financial systems that the Church operate.

Moreover, the *Yearbook* provides a legal standpoint to institutions, globally, affirming their denominational status. The largest group of institutions that benefit particularly of this is the NAD Healthcare Corporations, for which the information is directly handled at the General Conference.

The NAD Healthcare Corporations are the largest healthcare sector within the church organization, grouped in the following:

1. AdventHealth, comprised of 38 hospitals distributed within the Lake, Mid-America, Southern, and Southwestern Unions;
2. Adventist Health, with 17 hospitals in the North Pacific, and Pacific Unions;
3. Adventist HealthCare, with 4 hospitals in the Columbia Union;
4. Kettering Health Network, with 5 hospitals and one college in the Columbia Union as well; and
5. Adventist Healthcare Retirement Plan.

They all depend on the accuracy of the information in the *Adventist Yearbook*, which is the document that qualifies them to their tax-exempt status in the U.S.A. Currently, it takes from six to nine months to collect, enter to the *Yearbook* database, organize, proof, layout and print the data for the *Yearbook*. The world church divisions, unions, and institutions are all contacted by mid-year prior to the year of publication; and, while all attempt is to have the most updated information printed, as it was in 1883, there is a cut-off date so that the information can be duly organized for publication. Regardless of the cut-off date to receive the information for the annually printed *Yearbook*, the information on the online version of the *Yearbook* is continuously updated as received from official channels around the world.

In conclusion, the *Adventist Yearbook* is more than just a source of information, from addresses and telephone numbers to URLs to websites and social media, but the foundation where all entities under the church's denominational umbrella stand.

Visit the *Adventist Yearbook website*, research [past publications](#), and/or [purchase](#) your own copy in print or PDF!

Maggy Neyra, Yearbook Editor

Featured Articles:

Warm Spring 2021 Greetings! p.1

The Notebooks of Robert H. Pierson, p.1

Looking Back on a Year of Accreditations, p.5

The Adventist Yearbook and the Global Adventist Church, p.8

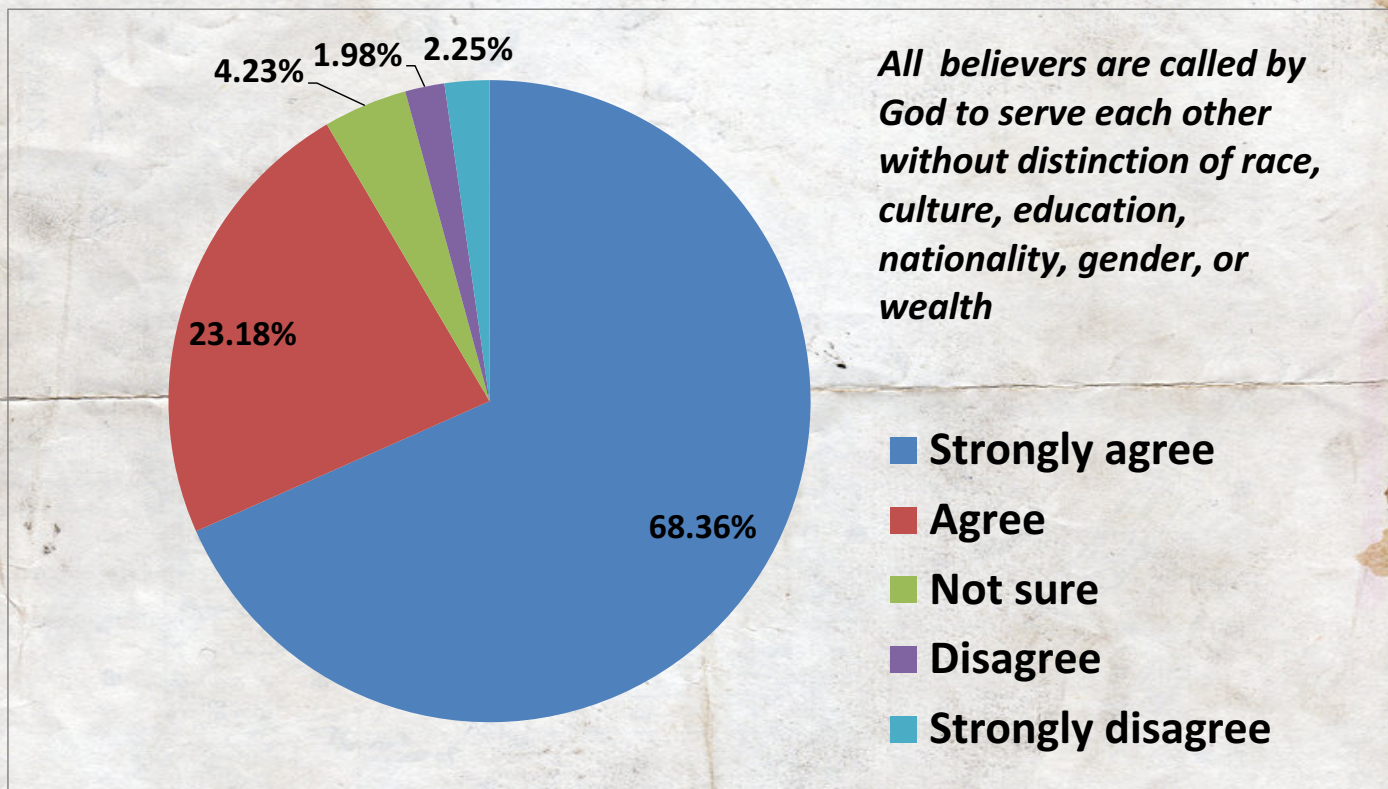
Adventists and Diversity? p.9

Remember to help us Tell the Story! p.14

The 2017-2018 Global Survey: What Adventists Think about Diversity?

In the book of Revelation, the apostle John saw “a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues.” The redeemed “stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb” (Rev. 7:9 KJV).

In the 2017-2018 Global Church Member Survey (GCMS), Adventists around the world were asked to respond to some statements, one of which was: “All believers are called by God to serve each other without distinction of race, culture, education, nationality, gender, or wealth.” Overall, 92% of the respondents answered affirmatively.



All believers are called by God to serve each other without distinction of race, culture, education, nationality, gender, or wealth

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a diverse international Church. Following Christ's command, it reaches out to all people groups with a message of hope and salvation. Adventists embrace God's vision that the church “shall be called an house of prayer for all people” (Is. 56:7 KJV). They work towards making it a blessed reality even before Jesus' return.

Visit our webpage to know more about the [GCMS](#) results and our [Blog](#) page to see the specific analysis of some survey questions from this global study.

Galina Stele

Featured Articles:

Warm Spring 2021 Greetings! p.1

The Notebooks of Robert H. Pierson, p.1

Looking Back on a Year of Accreditations, p.5

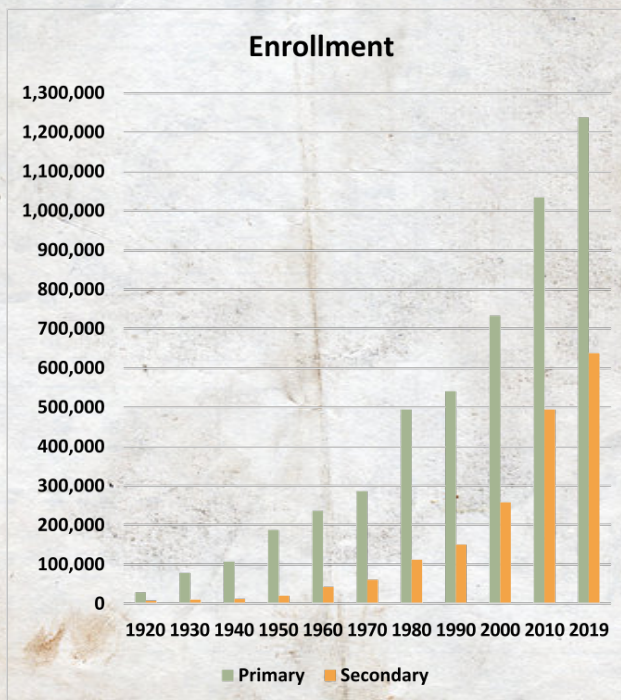
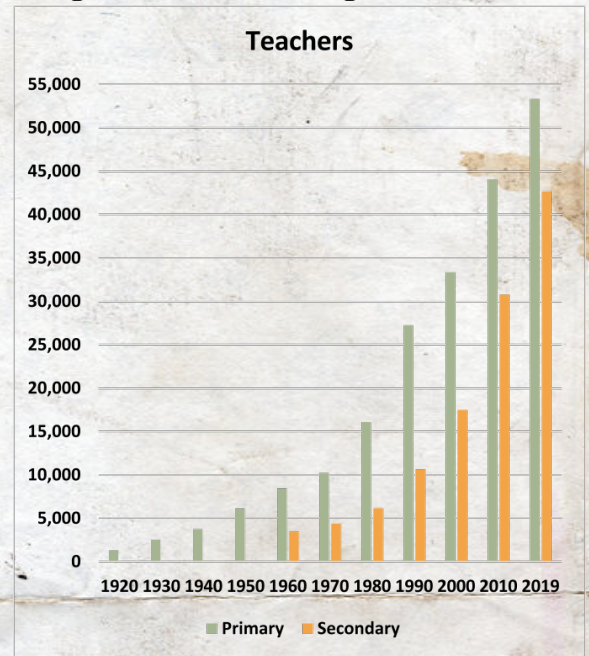
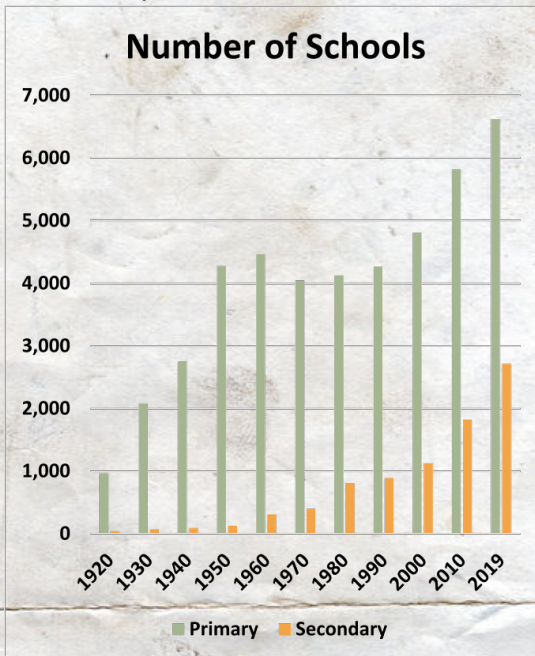
The Latest News from ESDA 2021 Meeting, p.7

The Adventist Yearbook and the Global Adventist Church, p.8

Adventists and Diversity? p.9

A Century of Global Adventist Education

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has taken great strides in advancing its vision of education over the past century—for those of all ages, but especially the young. The formal educational system created by the Adventist Church has seen steady growth as it has expanded its reach around the world. For a snapshot of this growth, see the following charts:



Featured Articles:

Warm Spring 2021 Greetings! p.1

The Notebooks of Robert H. Pierson, p.1

Looking Back on a Year of Accreditations, p.5

The Adventist Yearbook and the Global Adventist Church, p.8

Adventists and Diversity? p.9

Remember to help us Tell the Story! p.14

Employee Profile: Kathleen Jones



This spring, we're glad to learn more about our longtime editor for the *Annual Statistical Report*, Kathleen Jones. But don't let her title mislead you, her life has been far from simply "numbers"! Thank you to Kathleen for allowing us all to learn more about the person behind how we understand our Church's membership.

Q: Tell us a bit about your background and childhood, Kathleen.

A: Born in Lagrange, Ohio, I am the second of four children. I arrived 16 months after my sister, Linda, who was born in Takoma Park. Patricia arrived 18 months later, and after our move to Dayton, my brother Billy arrived 22 months after Pat. We moved to Worthington, Ohio just before Linda started first grade. We lived two houses down from the Worthington SDA Church and the elementary school.

My father taught us to love nature! He was an avid birder

and gardener. He knew the names of most wildflowers and trees. He could identify a bird as it was flying above or by its call/song. We spent many a Sabbath out on hikes and picnics when the weather was nice. I give him credit for my love of flower gardens, house plants, and attracting songbirds to our yard.

Before the end of my third grade, it was discovered that my Mother had Tuberculosis and had to go into a hospital for about six months. Until school was out, church families helped to take care of the four of us each afternoon while my father was at work. When summer came my grandparents took us to their farmhouse in Hamburg, Pennsylvania. My grandmother was the SDA elementary school teacher in a one-room schoolhouse, on the campus of Blue Mountain Academy. When school started in the fall, we remained there, going to school for a couple of months. My grandmother left a big impression on me as to what a Christian looks like. During the summer, not only did my grandparents maintain a very large 'truck patch' (garden), canning or freezing the produce, my grandmother also tutored a couple of children who needed the extra help. Then whenever a 'hobo,' as they were called back then, came to the door asking for something to eat, she would stop doing whatever, and make a nice plate of food and feed him on the porch and give him a 'church' paper to read. Every morning and evening we had worship. All this and take care of four young children (Billy was only five). Nearly everything we ate was from the garden. We had fresh homemade bread, wild berries from nearby that went into jam, and fresh milk from the Academy dairy. Even though we missed our parents, I have wonderful memories living there. My grandmother died of cancer one year later.

My father wanted to keep us in the SDA schools, but my parents could not afford Mount Vernon Academy, a

Featured Articles:

Warm Spring 2021 Greetings! p.1

The Notebooks of Robert H. Pierson, p.1

Looking Back on a Year of Accreditations, p.5

The Adventist Yearbook and the Global Adventist Church, p.8

Adventists and Diversity? p.9

Remember to help us Tell the Story! p.14

boarding school over an hour away. So, when Linda graduated from the eighth grade, we moved to Maryland. We all four eventually went to Takoma Academy.

Q: Thanks Kathleen. What about your own education, family life, and early career?

I met my future husband at TA as a freshman. During our senior year we began to date regularly and throughout college. I went on to attend Columbia Union College, taking courses toward the goal of teaching but later changed to the two-year Medical Secretarial degree. My main goal was to get married and be a mother. During my college years, I worked part time at the *Review and Herald* in Takoma Park, and part time at Malin Medical Group (group of SDA doctors), as cashier/receptionist.

In the Spring of 1974, I graduated with an AS degree in Medical Secretarial and two weeks later Jay and I were married at Beltsville Church. I then began working full time at the Malin Medical Group.

In 1975 I was asked to apply for a job as Secretary/Purchaser at Columbia Welders and Iron Works in Silver Spring. The owner of the company, and my boss, was an Adventist. It was a great job and I worked there for seven years, taking off a year when Jeremy was born. When our daughter Amy was born in 1984, they asked me if I would be interested in bringing her to work with me each day. It was a little challenging each morning to get an infant, my school age son and myself ready and out the door, driving from Takoma Park to Beltsville SDA Elementary School to drop Jeremy off, and then up to Elkridge where Columbia Welders was now located. After six months of this Jay said I could quit and stay at home. During my years as a stay-at-home mom, I set-up and maintained the book-keeping system for my husband's

company (American Homes Masonry, Inc.) which included paying the bills and doing payroll, payroll quarterly reports, etc. Several years later I also worked for a friend organizing her office and files and helping her set-up her bookkeeping system. I also volunteered at Beltsville School and then at Hadley Acres SDA Elementary when Jeremy began attending there.

In 1987 we left Takoma Park and moved to the country into a home that Jay built. By then Jeremy was in the fifth grade at Beltsville School. In September 1988 it was noticed that one side of Amy's face looked a bit swollen. Over the next four months, after several appointments with her pediatrician, two blood tests, and a misdiagnosis from another doctor, on January 17, 1989 Amy was admitted to National Institute of Health (NIH) in Bethesda with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, and she was high risk. After more than a year of tough treatments and one set-back near the beginning, Amy finished the treatments and remained in remission. We felt that it was a "God thing" getting us into NIH. God was with us throughout and healed Amy. She has been in remission for 32 years and is a mother of two beautiful children.

Q: So how did you come to join us at ASTR, and how have you enjoyed it here?

A: In 1994 I began working as the Administrative Secretary at Hadley Acres where Amy was then attending. And then in August 1996 I began my 25 years at the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research, first as the Administrative Assistant and a few years later as the Assistant for General Statistics and *Annual Statistical Report* Editor.

During my years in ASTR I have worked with four directors. Even though Donald Yost was retired before I

A Century of Global Adventist Education, p.10

The Latest News from ESDA 2021 Meeting, p.7

Employee profile: Kathleen Jones p.11

Featured Articles:

Warm Spring 2021 Greetings! p.1

The Notebooks of Robert H. Pierson, p.1

Looking Back on a Year of Accreditations, p.5

The Adventist Yearbook and the Global Adventist Church, p.8

Remember to help us Tell the Story! p.14

Adventists and Diversity? p.9

arrived, I was able to work with him when he continued to help us with the Global Mission table in the ASR. William cash was the director who hired me. In 1999, when Bert Haloviak was the director, he asked me if I would be interested in applying for the position I now have since Sylvia Ytreberg, the former ASR editor, was retiring. Since 2010 I have worked for David Trim, the current director.

Working in ASTR has given me the opportunity to learn so much more about our Church, how it is organized, the different departments, and especially how big it is! I have met so many people from all parts of the world. And there are those I may never meet face to face but have worked with in the world divisions, through emails, and I consider many of them as friends.

During my life, and especially through life events, God has been very near to us. He is with us through the difficult, scary times. I learned how important having a church family is, a gift God knew His children would need! Our church family in Worthington, Beltsville, and Damascus loved us, prayed for us, and supported us in so many ways through some very difficult times.

And now in our empty nest years, we are enjoying five grandchildren!

Thank you, Kathleen, for sharing more about yourself and your time with us at ASTR!



Kathleen Jones (4th from left) with former ASTR director Bert Haloviak (6th from left) at his retirement in 2010

Featured Articles:

Warm Spring 2021 Greetings! p.1

The Notebooks of Robert H. Pierson, p.1

Looking Back on a Year of Accreditations, p.5

The Adventist Yearbook and the Global Adventist Church, p.8

Adventists and Diversity? p.9

Remember to help us Tell the Story! p.14

As always, remember to help us Tell the Story!

As a reminder, our purpose here at ASTR is to tell the Adventist story. We want to inform and inspire church members toward a renewed commitment to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church by sharing our history.

You can help us to tell the story in two ways:

First, help us to preserve the story: your stories and the Church's story! Letters and other documents, memoirs, photographs, tape recordings, audio and video cassettes, films, and historic books and magazines: all enable us to recover the story of how, in the words of Ellen White, "the Lord has led us . . . in our past history" and of how God has worked in the lives of individual church members. They are the raw materials from which Adventist history can be researched by scholars and without which parts of that history will be lost. So please, [contact us](#) about sending your family's documents, photographs, and other historic materials to us so that they can be preserved and used to help the great Second Advent Movement fulfill its prophetic mission.

Second, help us to conserve and to share the story—to pass it on to the next generation. Historic Adventist photographs and movies allow us to connect with our past in a way nothing else can, because we look into the eyes of those who sacrificed to make this Church. We want to digitize those precious resources, scanning them electronically so they can be accessed by everyone. We especially want to connect with young people. By digitizing photos and movies, we can help them to understand "the way the Lord has led us and His teaching in our past history"—we can help them to connect with our pioneers and be inspired to service.

Haven't received your Newsletter? Sign up [HERE](#). For previous issues visit our [website](#).



Your gift of at least \$25 could:

- Digitize 100 feet of film = five minutes viewing time, or
- Conserve, digitize, and publicize one historic Adventist photograph from our collection of thousands, or
- Contribute to our continuing effort to preserve and digitize rare Adventist books, pamphlets, and magazines

Two ways to Donate:

- 1) Mail your remittance to:
GC Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research
12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD
20904
- 2) Donate Online by visiting:
www.adventistarchives.org/tellthestory
and click the "Donate" link.

