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## TELLING THE STORY

Archives, Statistics,  
and Research (ASTR)  
Newsletter - Issue #20



### Summer 2024 Greetings from ASTR!

With Issue #20, we're pleased to share that it has been five years since ASTR launched its newsletter, *Telling the Story*, bringing to our readers a diversity of articles, statistical nuggets, and stories from our past! We look forward to sharing many more with you in the coming years.

To celebrate this anniversary, we're highlighting some of the best content in our earliest issues, #2 and #3, which some newer readers may have missed. In particular, don't miss Ashlee Chism's article on the first known teddy bear to go on an Adventist mission trip, our longtime former *Yearbook* editor Rowena Moore's history of the *The Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook*, and the story of the bravery of Amalia Galladzheva-Löbsack who served as a missionary in Armenia and Georgia during the 1920s-30s. In harmony with this, we also highlight the motivations of those who give to foreign mission offerings. Please also note Dragoslava Santrac's update on the progress of the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*, as well as our reminder to Adventist historians to publish their findings in our journal!

### Recent ASTR Staff Changes

ASTR has a new staff member! Jina Bacchus will be joining the Research and Evaluation team. She is a wellness enthusiast. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree at Southern Adventist University and MPH at George Washington University. Before joining ASTR as Research Assistant, she worked for the University of Maryland, Baltimore, as a work-life and wellness manager. She also had experience working for the Church as the wellness coordinator for Adventist



Jina Bacchus

Risk Management. She has a passion for promoting resources related to the Church's mission. She is married to Ricardo Bacchus, who is currently serving at the Columbia Union Conference and, together, they have two sons.

### We Appreciate Your Support of JAA!

One of the many initiatives the office of ASTR has recently undertaken is the development of a journal for scholars and students of Adventist history, the *Journal of Adventist Archives* (JAA). Our first issue came out in 2021, and was well received, as were our second and third volumes. We will soon release our fourth later this summer, and there is still time to submit an article! The JAA is a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal, with its articles focusing on primary source materials related to Adventist history; while we are especially interested in articles focusing on collections located at Church-affiliated institutions (including the GC Archives), we also welcome articles based on sources in government, academic, or private archives and libraries that may have relevant material for Adventist history.

We wish to share a reminder that two different kinds of articles may appear in the JAA: 1) The announcement of relevant new accessions, or newly opened collections, at any location, as well as the announcements of new or extraordinary finds, with brief summaries of their significance. Note that a detailed analysis or interpretation of such materials is not necessary to provide an article. 2) In-depth peer-reviewed articles exploring and detailing the content and significance of research relying on primary source materials. Such articles may take many forms, from topical or thematic studies, to new biographical accounts, to chronological studies of the development of the Church's institutions, policies, and theology, insofar as they rely on primary sources located at archival locations. We warmly invite those engaged in research in Adventist archival material to continue to, or, perhaps for the first time, submit their articles to us!

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## Amalia Galladzheva-Löbsack: Carrying on the Mission in Perilous Times

Adventist history is full of stories of sacrifice and courage. One of them is the little-known story about Amalia Galladzheva-Löbsack, an Adventist worker in the Soviet Union. Amalia and her husband, Aleksei Galladzhev, were pioneer workers in Georgia and Armenia. Amalia Galladzheva-Löbsack represents many women from the Soviet Union who served the church in trying times and whose names are not familiar to many of us today. The following account was adapted from a longer [article](#) written by Daniel Heinz and Dmitry O. Yunak that appeared in the [Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists](#).

Amalia Galladzheva-Löbsack was born May 5, 1891, to Heinrich Johannes and Maria Katharina Löbsack, in the village of Frank in the region of Saratov in southwestern Russia. Heinrich Löbsack was a leading Adventist minister and missionary in Russia and the former Soviet regions. Amalia, the oldest of five siblings, grew up knowing the many hardships common to missionary and pastoral families striving in places that opposed religion. She and her brother, Georg Samuel, studied at the Friedensau Adventist Mission Seminary in Germany. After graduating as a nurse, Amalia worked in Leipzig and in Pforzheim, Germany.

In 1920, at the request of her father, Amalia left her promising career in Germany and returned to Russia to serve as a secretary and Bible worker, taking the place of her sister Rahel (Rachel) who had died of typhoid that year in Kiev at the age of 20.

In 1928, Amalia married Aleksei Georgievich Galladzhev, an Adventist pastor of Armenian background. They served in the city of Tbilisi, Georgia, that had little Adventist presence. Childless, the Galladzhavs adopted in 1935, five year-old Rosanna. Little is known about the everyday trials of the Galladzhavs in Georgia. Yet there is no doubt that Adventist workers experienced serious challenges in the Soviet regions. *The Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* did not report much on the Adventist Church in USSR from 1931 to 1950 "because of certain conditions," referring to the challenging circumstances



Aleksei and Amalia Galladzheva-Löbsack

in Russia at that time. In 1939 Aleksei Galladzhev was arrested on charges of "religious propaganda." This left Amalia alone with Rosanna. Along with being a caring single mother, Amalia continued to support her arrested husband for almost two years by taking him food. Amalia's mother moved to be with her daughter. Amalia's father was no longer alive, having become a victim of religious persecution.

In the face of such adversity, some people would consider it wise for Amalia to live a secluded life and care for her young child. However, Amalia now cared for the spiritual welfare of the small Tbilisi Adventist congregation. This was typical for that part of the world. During Stalin's persecution in the 1930s, when most of the pastors were arrested, women took care of churches and continued to do what needed to be done to keep a church alive. By doing that, these women risked persecution and imprisonment like their husbands. Yet Amalia and many other women never considered abandoning ministry.

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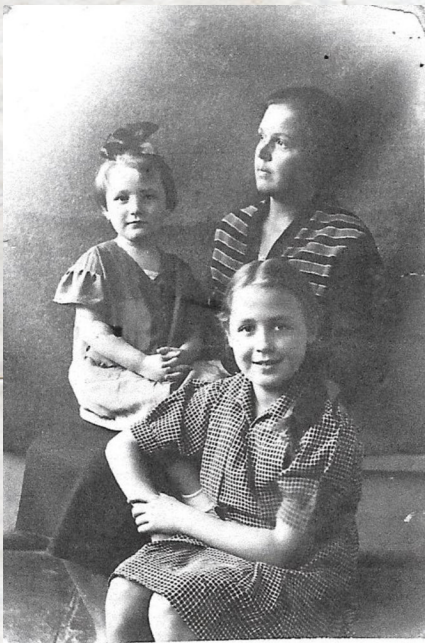
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Possibly because she was an Adventist worker and also due to her family ties to Germany, Amalia became a target of the NKVD (i.e. KGB). The final pretext for her detention was found when in 1941 she got a letter from the German Consulate in Tbilisi regarding the inheritance of her brother (Georg Samuel, a wealthy journalist in Germany). Although Amalia refused her brother's inheritance, she was arrested the same day, accused of being a German spy, and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment in a forced labor camp. Little Rosanna and her grandmother were left behind with little or nothing to live on. Soon after, they were deported to Soviet Central Asia near the city of Tashkent.



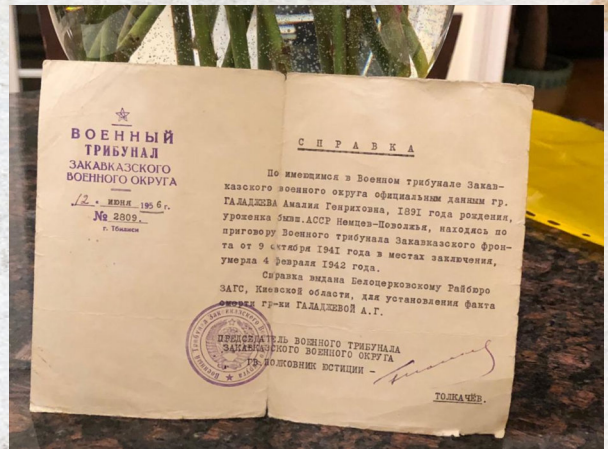
Rosanna, Amalia's sister Martha, and Martha's daughter Ruth

After several years of imprisonment, Aleksei Galladzhiev was released while the fate of Amalia, at first, remained unknown. He took Rosanna in while Maria Katharina Löbsack moved to live with her youngest daughter Martha. In 1946, Aleksei requested information about his wife from the KGB headquarters in Lubyanka. He was informed that his wife Amalia had been executed; she was shot near the city of Tbilisi on February 4, 1942.



Amalia and her brother Georg Samuel

It can be safely said that Amalia Galladzheva-Löbsack became a martyr whose unyielding faith and dedication served as a valuable encouragement for church members during the times of severe religious repression in the Soviet Union. She is an example of God's faithful children who chose service and sacrifice over safety and complacency.



Amalia's death certificate

Adapted by Dragoslava Santrac, ESDA Managing Editor

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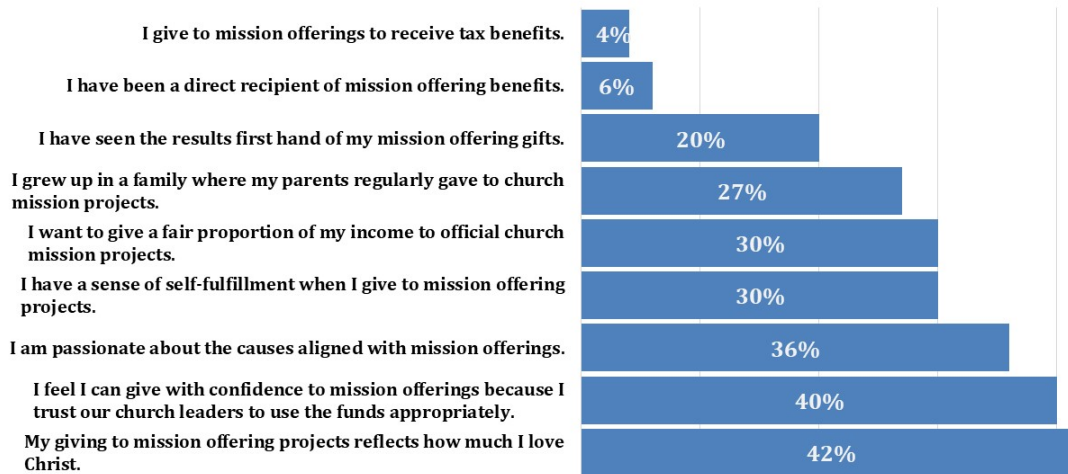
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## What Motivates Giving to Church Mission Offering Projects?

From 1874, Adventists have had a keen interest in foreign mission projects. And, traditionally, many of them also share special offerings and donations at the end of the year. Have you ever wondered what factors influence people giving toward official church mission offering projects? The Mission Offering Study conducted in 2015 in the North American Division by Drs. Petr Cincala, Rene Drumm, and Duane McBride, under ASTR supervision, identified several important personal factors that impact people's decisions (see graph below). Interestingly, the researchers also found that higher givers have two personal characteristics: they are more generous in general and they grew up in families where parents used to give to Church mission offerings.

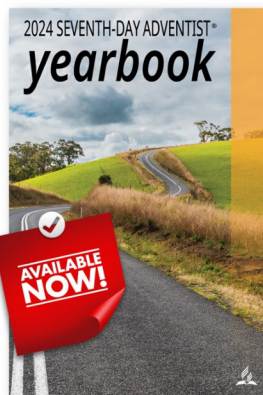
Galina Steele

### Personal Factors that Motivate Giving



N=872, NAD, 2015

Find a list of all Adventist organizations and institutions  
around the world in the  
*Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook*



From General Conference divisions, unions, conferences and missions, to educational institutions (excluding primary schools), food industries, healthcare institutions, and more!

Find in the *Adventist Yearbook* mid-year statistics, contact information, and social media links, among other interesting facts.

To order the 2024 *Adventist Yearbook*, in printed form or electronic file, go to <https://www.pacificpress.com/SDAYearbook>

Don't miss out on this extraordinary source of information!

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## The Teddy Bear on a Mission: The Story of the Field Family's Teddy Bear

When people are asked to describe a *missionary*, their answer usually depicts a man, alone with a Bible roll tucked under his arm, trekking on foot through various landscapes. Such a picture of Adventist missionaries, however, is woefully incomplete, as many missionaries sent by the Adventist Church were often *families*—young couples, sometimes childless, sometimes not, and all subject to the privations and privileges of mission life.

In the photograph below from July 12, 1908, we see the Field family in Tokyo, Japan. The young boy on the left is eight-year-old Clarence Field, and he's holding a teddy bear which appears to be a prized possession. Teddy bears like his weren't invented until around 1902 or 1903 (the date depends on which of the first two stuffed toy bears one thinks is *the* first stuffed toy bear), so we know that Clarence did not bring his bear along with him on his first ship voyage across the Pacific Ocean before then in 1901. Teddy bears got their name from the American president, Theodore Roosevelt, who was commonly called 'Teddy,' after he refused to shoot a bear chained to a tree during a bear-hunting trip in the southern United States.

We do not know how Clarence got his teddy bear—perhaps his parents ordered it for him, or supportive Adventists back in the States sent one to him, or, it is possible, his father, Frank W. Field, had purchased a teddy bear while in Washington, D.C. for the 1905 General Conference Session and brought it back with him to Japan.

Frank Field had been appointed superintendent of the Japan Mission (a position equivalent today to a mission president) on July 21, 1901 by the Foreign Mission Board, called from his position as science teacher at Mount Vernon Academy. By early August, the Fields had put their seven-room cottage in Mount Vernon, Ohio, up for sale, and they sailed for Japan on October 29, 1901. Clarence was not quite two years old and Ethel, his older sister, was nearly seven when the Fields arrived in Japan in the fall of 1901. By July 1902, Frank reported to the readers of the *Review* that they were "becoming quite accustomed to our new surroundings." They returned to the States in 1909, sailing aboard the *Chiyo Maru*, a new Japanese passenger liner, leaving from Hong Kong on March 13, 1909 and arriving in San Francisco, California on April 7, 1909.

The Fields lived in California thereafter for a while, with Frank working as the preceptor and teaching biological sciences



Eight-year-old Clarence Field with his family in Tokyo, Japan (July 12, 1908)

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and chemistry at Pacific Union College. From there, the family moved to Tennessee, where Clarence was part of the first graduating class of Southern Missionary College (today's Southern Adventist University). Later, Clarence and his wife Veva were both educators, teaching at various academies in New York, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Clarence went on to be a professor of history at Emmanuel Missionary College (today's Andrews University).

Clarence's sister, Ethel, was also an educator (though her husband, Leonard Allen, was a church administrator) and worked at Oakwood College (today's Oakwood University) and Mt. Pisgah Academy. However, for most of their career, starting in the mid-1920s, the Allens were missionaries in India, where all four of their children—Ruth, June, Elsie, and Ralph—were born over the course of Ethel and Leonard's thirty-five years of service there.

Think of all the stories packed into this one photograph—stories of Adventist missionaries and mission stations, of Adventist educators and schools, stretching from one continent to another and back again across the years. The Fields' stories are a part of our Adventist history, and now they're a part of your story, too.

Ashlee Chism, ASTR Research Center Manager

## The Story behind The Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook

Our Church has a long and complex history as an organization, and the documentation of this history can be found in the *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook*, the publication which has been the source for finding information about the Church's leaders, institutions, and employees since 1883. The idea for the *Yearbook* started in December 1882, at the General Conference annual session when it was decided to publish a book entitled, "The *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook*, which shall contain such portions of the proceedings of the General Conference, and such other matters as the Committee may think best to insert there" (*Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, December 26, 1882, Vol 59, No. 50, p. 787). The *Yearbook* was considered so important that the General Conference president, then George I. Butler, oversaw its publication.

The 1883 *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* was published a few months later and was so well received that the General Conference Committee determined it should become an annual publication. There have been a few interruptions over the years in publishing a *Yearbook*, including the period from 1895-1903 when the publication ceased to be printed due to financial losses.

In late 1903 W. A. Spicer, then secretary of the General Conference, announced that the *Yearbook* would be published again, and the

*Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* thereafter became a permanent publication of the Church. In 1905 H. E. Rogers was appointed as the General Conference Statistical Secretary, and he took over the responsibility of producing an annual *Yearbook*. The *Yearbook* continued to be the responsibility of the Statistical Secretary until 1975. In 1975 F. Donald Yost was appointed as director of the new Office of Archives and Statistics, and the *Yearbook* became part of this entity.

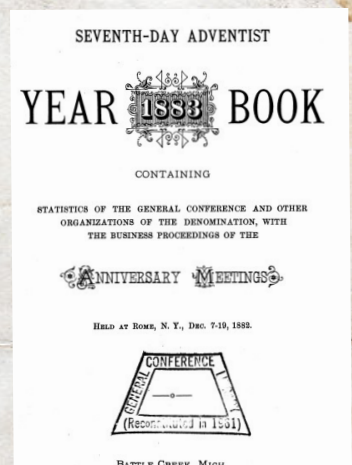
The 2024 *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* is the 131st edition of this publication, and will have more than 900 pages of information, statistics, institutions, leadership, and maps, covering 13 world-wide divisions, and three fields attached to the General Conference.

During its long history changes have been made in the *Yearbook*. The 1883 *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* listed the administrators of the various conference offices. More and more workers were listed each year until the *Yearbook* included more than 53,000 credentialed employee names and locations. Due to staffing and budgetary challenges, since 2018 the *Yearbook* has only published the names of General Conference credentialed employees, but still includes the full list of institutional workers.

In 1997 a *Yearbook on Disk* was added, and since 1999 a *Yearbook website* has been available, accessible at <https://adventistyearbook.org>. The *Yearbook on Disk* was discontinued in 2018, replaced by a *Yearbook app*. From 2020, a PDF version of the *Yearbook* has been offered to the world Church.

Despite the digital revolution, the *Yearbook* still appears in print for now. It may become a strictly digital publication in the future, but it will continue to gather and publish information in fulfillment of its purpose, defined by *General Conference Working Policy* "to identify the many and varied organizations, other than local churches/congregations, through which the Church advances its mission." *General Conference Working Policy BA 80 05 and BA 80 10*.

Adapted from former ASTR staff members Rowena J. Moore and Lisa Rasmussen's article in the Spring 2020 ASTR Newsletter #3



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## Update on the Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists (ESDA)

Thank you to all the *Encyclopedia* contributors and readers for making the *ESDA* a sought-after resource on Adventist history, including articles about crucial events, people, organizations, institutions, and distinctive teachings. Much progress has been made since the *ESDA* launch in July 2020, with 2,000 articles and 3,700 photographs. As of April 2024, the *ESDA* website, [encyclopedia.adventist.org](https://encyclopedia.adventist.org), featured over 4,000 articles, 12,000 images, and hundreds of videos. The number of unique visitors has more than quadrupled since 2020, averaging 40,000 visitors monthly in 2023. In addition to having its content and readership considerably increased, the *ESDA* website has been enriched with several new features, including 1) additional language options (Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, French, and Korean; new languages will be added as translated articles become available), 2) options to sort articles by publishing date, and 3) an "Audio" option that plays text-to-speech in compatible browsers. The first two features are available through [Advanced](#) search, and an Audio button is found on each article's page. To be added soon are the new searching options for Biographies in Advanced search for easy access to subcategories such as "Women," "Educators," "Medical Missionaries," and "Died in Mission Field."

One of the highlights of this *Encyclopedia* is its international perspective. Many *ESDA* articles are from world regions that previously were left out of the earlier *SDA Encyclopedia* and draw on the expertise of hundreds of authors and editors worldwide. However, hundreds of articles remain to be written, and we still need your help. Your unique perspective and knowledge are crucial to our mission. Please consider joining the wonderful community of *ESDA* authors and peer reviewers if you have not already done so. If you are an *ESDA* writer, consider taking on some new entries. The *ESDA* needs writers from all parts of the world to write articles on people and events in their territories. Some topics have little or no written documentation. But here is the exciting part: many *ESDA* articles will become foundational sources for future researchers. We also welcome qualified volunteers to assist us with translations and make the *ESDA* articles available to more people worldwide. Your contribution can make a significant difference. For more information about how you can contribute to the *ESDA*, please contact the *ESDA* main office at [encyclopedia@gc.adventist.org](mailto:encyclopedia@gc.adventist.org). Finally, we invite you to enjoy historical nuggets from the *ESDA* articles on Twitter/X @EncyclopediaSDA, Facebook at [AdventistArchives](#), and Instagram at [AdventistArchives](#).

Dragoslava Santrac, *ESDA* Managing Editor



More than 4,000 articles and 11,000 photographs featuring Adventist missionaries, evangelists, institutions, events, and beliefs.

[encyclopedia.adventist.org](https://encyclopedia.adventist.org)

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## ASTR Attends Laserfiche Conference

The Office of Archives, Statistics and Research (ASTR) uses a software called Laserfiche, an enterprise content management software, to store much of its digitized material. This software is also used in various Divisions and other entities around the world. Laserfiche hosts a conference, called Empower, once a year, where it typically unveils part of its roadmap, presents new features or versions, offers hands-on labs, courses and panel sessions, and attendees are able to interact directly with members of the development teams with feedback or questions on the software.

This year, over 2,000 attendees participated at Empower, which took place on April 22–25 in Las Vegas, Nevada. This conference was the first for Laserfiche since February 2020. Participating at this Empower Conference were Timothy Wade from the General Conference, Roger Bello and Elizabeth Henry from ASTR, Mike Jones from the North American Division, and Keith Chant from the SDA Church in Canada. Each participant had varying schedules depending on their interest and experience with Laserfiche.

From ASTR, the staff participating and the value they gleaned from the conference were:

- Roger, a new user: "Laserfiche Empower allowed me to learn from experts and other users what I could do with this software and apply this information to my current work (and potentially to new tasks) within ASTR and the Yearbook/Statistics team."

- Elizabeth, experienced user: "Laserfiche enabled me to connect with experts and open other avenues of exploration when troubleshooting current processes and creating new ones. It allowed one to see what the new features are on the horizon and address concerns from past releases."

Some of the exciting features proposed are the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to summarize lengthy documents, the ability to streamline the version upgrade process, an update to the way one can make use/group metadata, new testing features and ability to further customize forms using the native form designer. While some features may not be available yet, it is exciting to see what is on the roadmap for the next few years.

*Elizabeth Henry, Digital Records Manager*



From left to right: Roger Bello (ASTR), Keith Chant (Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada), Timothy Wade (GC), Elizabeth Henry (ASTR), not pictured Mike Jones (NAD).



Contact us at [archives@gc.adventist.org](mailto:archives@gc.adventist.org)

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## 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](http://www.adventistarchives.org/tellthestory)  
and click the "Donate" link.

