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## TELLING THE STORY

Archives, Statistics,  
and Research (ASTR)  
Newsletter - Issue #19



### Spring 2024 Greetings from ASTR!

As spring arrives, the ASTR team wishes our readers a warm and productive season welcoming in the many colors of nature! In this issue, we're pleased to highlight several articles relating to our archives collection and the history of Battle Creek Sanitarium. We also have several staff changes to share about below.

### Recent ASTR Staff Changes

In the last eight months, there have been some changes in the staff of the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research. At the end of August 2023, we bade farewell to Patricia Brauer, who was the editorial assistant to Dragoslava Santrac, Managing Editor of the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*. Patricia had been with the *ESDA* project for more than eight years, but was on a limited-term contract, which expired. We were sad at her departure but glad that she found a new position—not far from ASTR. She became the administrative assistant to Merlin Burt, Director of the Ellen G. White Estate—ASTR's sister entity when it comes to church archival collections and Adventist history. Dragoslava is now the sole member of staff working full time on the *ESDA* at ASTR.

On November 1st, 2023, Galina Stele, ASTR's Research and Evaluation Manager, moved to become Associate Director of the General Conference Women's Ministries Department. Galina had been with ASTR for nearly twelve years and we were all very sad to see her go, though we knew that ASTR's loss was Women's Ministries' gain.

The ASTR team is also saddened that Manuela Coppock has left us after over four years working with us, moving to GC Secretariat to work with Claude Richli and Hensley Mooroooven. We're pleased that this is a full-time position for

her, unlike the previous part-time duties she had in ASTR. We have been very fortunate and blessed to have Manuela offer her skills as an active member of the research and evaluation team; she served as the Research Assistant. We wish Patricia, Galina, and Manuela every success and blessing in their new positions.

After a careful search, in January we identified a successor to Galina as Research and Evaluation Manager. We are pleased to say that, on February 20, 2024, Dr. Safary Wa-Mbaleka joined ASTR. Safary has had a distinguished academic career, including service as an associate professor of educational research at Bethel University (MN, USA) for two years. Before that, he served eight years as an associate professor of education at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (Philippines), and later as dean of the School of Postgraduate Studies at the Adventist University of Africa (Kenya), and is a prolific author. Safary is originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but both he and his wife, Gimylin (who works for GC Treasury) are US citizens. We welcome Safary and wish him God's blessing in his new role.



Dr. Safary Wa-Mbaleka



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## Finding Aid for Pierson Collection now Available



and collected by Pierson during his work for the Seventh-day Adventist Church and his career as a pastor, evangelist, and administrator, and covers the years of 1938 to 1989. It is comprised of sermon outlines, typescripts, transcriptions, article drafts, reference cards and materials, photo albums, manuscripts, and bound volumes.

Researchers, historians, and other scholars interested in Pierson's administration, or in events and debates from the 1960s-1980s, or in Pierson as a writer and thinker, will find plenty of valuable material in this collection.

Ashlee Chism

## New Collection Being Processed

In 2020, ASTR acquired the Ethel Roop Collection. Consisting of two albums each measuring 6x8" and one scrapbook measuring 10x13" and featuring over 200 photographs and a variety of letters and postcards, the collection documents part of the life of Ethel Amelia Roop (1895-1994), educator, missionary, and nurse.

In our Spring 2021 issue, we shared about a recent donation of twenty-seven notebooks of sermon outlines created by Robert H. Pierson (1911-1989), General Conference president from 1966 to 1979. But those notebooks became only a small portion of the overall collection. The materials in the collection were donated in four groups (which archivists call accretions)—the first, a manuscript donated by Robert H. Pierson in 1975; the second, the contents of three drawer-card files and photograph albums and scrapbooks donated by Dollis Pierson in 1994 and 1999; the third, twenty-seven of Robert H. Pierson's sermon binders, donated by his son, Robert G. Pierson, in 2019; and the fourth, additional sermon outlines notebooks, manuscripts, and reference material donated by Robert G. Pierson in early 2020. The last accretion greatly increased the size of the collection.

Pierson's prominent role within the Seventh-day Adventist Church and in Adventist history led to the decision to itemize the sermon outlines. Due to that decision and the size of the collection, as well as safety measures taken during the early years of the COVID-19 pandemic, processing of the collection took longer than expected. However, the collection has now been processed and is open for researchers. Its finding aid is now available online at <https://bit.ly/3uiC7fl>.

The Robert H. Pierson Collection contains materials created



Ethel A. Roop (1895-1994)

Roop was born in the US state of Maryland on November 27, 1895 to her parents William and Annie. William, a well-educated and active Church of the Brethren minister, made sure that his and Annie's children were well educated. Ethel graduated from Western Maryland College in 1916, having taken its Historical course of study as well as taking classes in pedagogy and elocution. The writer for the caption in *The Aloha*, her college yearbook from 1916, noted that Ethel "enjoys laughing as much as she enjoys the joke" and



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described her as “[a]lways pleasant, [and] always studious...quiet and demure”. After graduation, she taught in local Maryland schools and then taught health education, history, and French at Elizabethtown College, run by the Church of the Brethren in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, for at least two school years between 1921 and 1923, as indicated by her presence in the pages of its yearbook, the *Etonian*. One of the albums in the collection pertains to her time at Elizabethtown College.

The second album and the scrapbook are related to her time at the Battle Creek College School of Nursing, run by John H. Kellogg. She worked at Battle Creek Sanitarium as a student nurse and graduated with a degree in nursing in the spring of 1925, a fact noted in the *Battle Creek Enquirer*. You can see her in the photograph on the previous page in her portrait from the School's yearbook, *The Cauldron*. She then briefly attended Bethany Theological School for some training in theology. In 1926, Roop was called by the Church of the Brethren to serve as a missionary in India. She arrived in Bombay (now Mumbai) on September 30, 1926, and remained in India at the Brethren outposts in Bulsar (now Valsad) and Poona (now Pune) and then at the Dahanu Hospital north of Mumbai, working as a nurse and educator.

Illness forced Roop back to the United States late in 1929, arriving back in New York City on January 12, 1930. After a brief stay in a hospital, she returned home and worked as a nurse in the obstetric department of Women's Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland (which closed in the 1960s). She was a member of the Meadow Branch Church of the Brethren from age eleven onward, taught Sunday School, led out in Vacation Bible School, and was keenly interested in children's ministries and personal ministries work. As reported by the *Carroll County Times*, Roop died in Maryland on November 27, 1994, exactly one year short of her 100th birthday.

This collection is significant to Seventh-day Adventist history due to her interactions with Seventh-day Adventist communities. Some of the items in the scrapbook indicate that she interacted with Adventist missionaries working in India and China, and she likely met Adventists who lived, worked, and studied in Battle Creek despite the exit of the Church's headquarters from Battle Creek in 1904. Further processing will shed additional light on such details and will eventually result in a finding aid for the collection to be posted on ASTR's website.

Ashlee Chism

## GC Warehouse Update

Periodically, the Office of Archives, Statistics and Research goes through an inventory process to apply the retention schedule to our holdings. 2023 was such a year. During the first quarter of 2023, Roy Kline and Elizabeth Henry—along with help from folks from In-House Operations—spent several weeks at the new (2022) General Conference Warehouse, applying the retention schedule to 113 pallets.

Each pallet, with around 10 exceptions that contained more or less, holds 40 record boxes measuring 10" x 12". Each box was opened, the content revised and disposed into the following categories, according to the retention schedule: keep, shred or further revision required. Furthermore, the boxes belonging to the same department were grouped onto the same pallets. We then spent the remainder of 2023 reviewing the pallets marked for revision. At the end of the project, the final disposition was as follows: 50 pallets to shred (over 2,000 boxes) as specified by the retention schedule, while 63 pallets (over 2,100 boxes) were kept either because they are not yet eligible to be shredded or were marked to be kept permanently. It will be fascinating to see how the next warehouse Inventory round goes.



The General Conference Warehouse

Elizabeth Henry



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## History of Battle Creek Sanitarium

### Battle Creek Sanitarium (1866–1942)

Battle Creek Sanitarium was a world-renowned Adventist health resort in Battle Creek, Michigan, United States. The following account of its history has been adapted from an [article](#) by Jonathan Gomide in the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists (ESDA)* at [encyclopedia.adventist.org](http://encyclopedia.adventist.org) (all photos are taken from ESDA).



Artistic Rendering of the Battle Creek Sanitarium

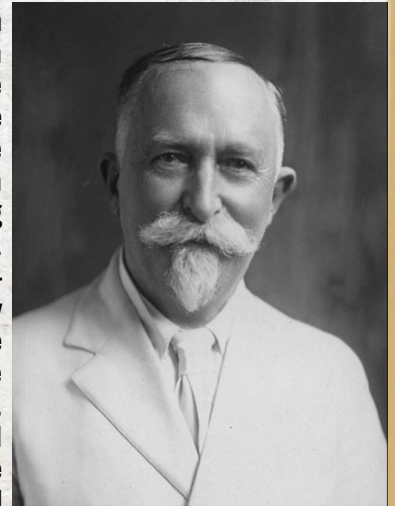
### Western Health Reform Institute (1866-1876)

On May 19, 1866, Ellen White addressed the General Conference delegates gathered in a 50-foot tent erected on the location where the Dime Tabernacle would later stand. For the first time, she read aloud the contents of the vision she had seen on Christmas Day, 1865, regarding health reform. White urged that Adventists “should have an institution of their own, under their own control, for the benefit of the diseased and suffering.” If rightly conducted, the institution would “be the means of bringing our [Adventism’s] views before many whom it would be impossible for us to reach by the common course of advocating the truth.” Even though White acknowledged that many in the Church needed treatment in such an institution, she argued that the main purpose of a health center was to convert patients to the Church.<sup>1</sup>

Since James White was ill, the responsibility for creating a health institution fell on John Loughborough, president of the Michigan Conference. Loughborough succeeded in raising \$11,000 in all. A farm in Battle Creek was purchased for \$6,000, and on this site was developed the Western Health Reform Institute. On September 5, 1866, the institute was formally opened, with two doctors, two bath attendants, one nurse, three or four helpers, and one patient. There was room

available for 12 patients, and before the month ended all rooms were occupied and the staff had to scramble to provide more rooms and assistants.

Despite such a good start, the institution went through many financial difficulties in its attempt to expand. More patients meant more medical professionals were needed. James and Ellen White sent four promising young men to study at Dr. Trall’s famous Hygieo-Therapeutic College in New Jersey. After attending the college for a time, one of the lads, [John Harvey Kellogg](#), left New Jersey and received his M.D. from the Bellevue Hospital Medical College in New York City in 1875.



John Harvey Kellogg

### Battle Creek Sanitarium (1876-1902)

When the young Kellogg took over management of the Western Health Reform Institute in July 1876, it was in a sad condition. Few of the patients paid their bills, many took baths in dirty water, and meals were awful. Kellogg and his team immediately began working to turn the situation around. New procedures were adopted and updated equipment was installed. Kellogg also changed the name of the institution to the *Medical and Surgical Sanitarium*. Kellogg did not see himself as a mere doctor—his role also included that of an educator. He decided to establish a hygienic school where young people could learn how to care for the sick. The School of Hygiene was opened on January 14, 1878, with 75 students.

Coinciding with the opening of the school was the opening of a new building for the sanitarium in 1878. Even though the new building reflected the sanitarium’s growing success, church leaders soon found to their dismay that Kellogg had an insatiable appetite for expansion and innovation—and that this was just the beginning. As the 1870s gave way to the 1880s, Kellogg’s spats with Adventist leaders grew more frequent and more intense. In Kellogg’s opinion, these were



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Battle Creek nursing class of 1898

men who were supposed to be preaching Bible truth—not giving unsolicited opinions on how a medical institution should be run. Even so, Kellogg persuaded church leaders to oppose any separation of the sanitarium's assets when its charter expired in April 1897. With the holdings intact, he was able to purchase the sanitarium's physical structure back at an auction upon the expiration of the charter.

Kellogg took painstaking efforts to write the new charter in a way that would reflect his views on the institution's status. In the new *Declaration of Principles* for the sanitarium, Kellogg eliminated the requisite that "shareholders" be Adventist members. When the *Declaration* was first read publicly in a meeting in March 1899, many members asked Kellogg the meaning of *undenominational* and *unsectarian*. "It means simply that it is to be conducted as a medical institution," explained Kellogg.<sup>2</sup> The members unanimously consented to his new nomenclature. However, he was able to mask his real intentions. In 1905 he admitted to a close friend that he had been expecting to leave the Church for more than a decade, which is why he insisted that the sanitarium be run as a separate corporation.

Kellogg and his brother Will were on the lookout for ways to improve the food menu for his patients, which led to the development of foods such as corn flakes, meat substitutes, nut butters, and other eatables that became international best-sellers. As the twentieth century dawned, the sanitarium had been transformed into an internationally renowned medical establishment that even beckoned to the rich and famous throughout the years. To outsiders, Kellogg would state the sanitarium had no more connection with the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.

### Fire, Fortune, and Failure (1902-1954)

Ever since becoming physician-in-chief, Kellogg had gradually been adding on to the sanitarium's structure, standing, and success—until tragedy struck.



Battle Creek Sanitarium fire, February 18, 1902

The sanitarium was hushed on the night of February 18, 1902. By daybreak, the fire had burned down Dr. Kellogg's entire, magnificent "San." Thankfully, all the 407 people in the burning sanitarium were rescued.



Battle Creek Sanitarium, the Fieldstone Building, 1900s

Kellogg was determined to rebuild a greater sanitarium. The new building ended up costing more than \$1 million (around \$30 million in 2020) and was opened on May 31, 1903. By 1906 Kellogg succeeded in his plan to extricate the sanitarium entirely from the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Kellogg did a remarkable job at promoting his "university of health." He would send numerous handwritten letters to celebrities, politicians, and famous authors, inviting them to stay at the sanitarium free of charge. His plan worked, and many notables began streaming into "the San," including the Rockefellers, Fords, Thomas Edison, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, the Roosevelts, and others.



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During the winter of 1918-1919, the aging Kellogg came down with a severe bout of pneumonia and tuberculosis. This forced him to begin relinquishing control of his beloved medical



Battle Creek Sanitarium occupational therapy, 1910s

empire. The new physician-in-chief, Dr. Charles Stewart, embarked on the erection of a luxurious tower that stood



Battle Creek Sanitarium patient and two nurses, 1911

unchallenged as the tallest building from Chicago to Detroit. By the time the stock market crashed in 1929 and the Great Depression hit, the sanitarium was in no condition to endure the strain and headed toward bankruptcy. Debts were only settled after August 1942, when the United States government



Guests from Kansas, 1911

purchased the main buildings of the sanitarium. During World War II, wounded soldiers were treated in what became known as the Percy Jones Hospital until its conversion into a federal office building in 1954. Although the sanitarium no longer exists, its legacy survives in the history of Seventh-day Adventism as well as the history of medicine.



Battle Creek Sanitarium and Rock Gardens, 1930s

Adapted by Dragoslava Santrac, ESDA Managing Editor

<sup>1</sup> Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1 (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1948), 485.

<sup>2</sup> Does Robinson, *The Battle Creek Sanitarium* (Takoma Park, Washington D.C.: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 1943), 41.



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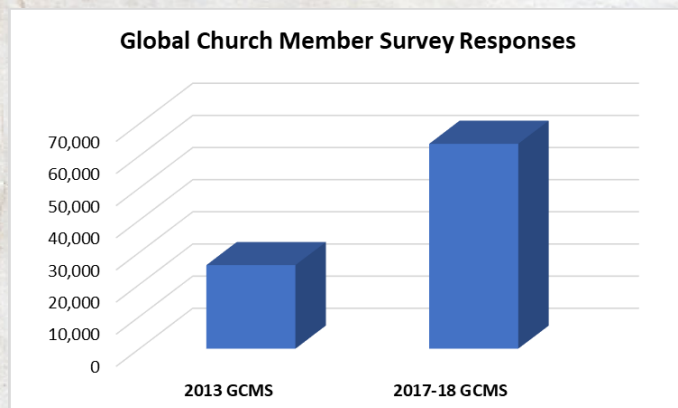
## Participation in the Global Church-member Survey

The 2022-23 Global Church-Member Survey (2022-23-GCMS) is one of twelve worldwide surveys conducted in the last twelve years for the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research with the help of research teams worldwide. This survey is the largest data set collected since the beginning of global research in 2011.

The first Global Church-Member Survey commissioned by the General Conference was conducted in 2013 by research teams from around the world. Nearly 26,000 Adventist Church members participated in this survey from nine divisions on six continents.

When the results of this study were shared during Annual Council in the fall of 2013, many leaders worldwide realized that such research was essential to assess how the Adventist church was doing and that strategic planning was needed to improve the mission of the Church. Reports on the survey in each division were published on the Research website ([adventistresearch.info](http://adventistresearch.info)). Additionally, starting in May 2016, the findings of this study were shared in research newsletters and blogs online to raise awareness.

When the second Global Church-Member Survey was carried out in 2017 and 2018, church members from all 13 divisions participated in it with 63,756 total valid responses. The number of survey participants had more than doubled.

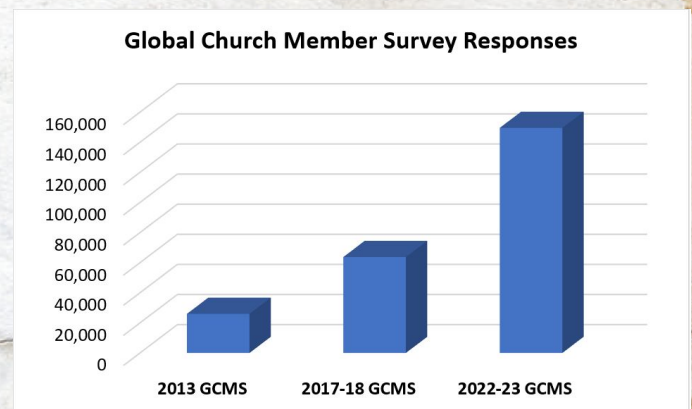


The data was published online as individual division reports and as an overall "Meta-Analysis Report" that looked at research findings from the global perspective and the focus on the objectives of the strategic plan "Reach the World."

Church leaders, pastors, and lay members appreciated the global data set, the findings, the additional crosstabulations, and the correlations available to anyone on our [website](#). The survey results were published also in church magazines, books, research blogs, and via social media.

The third Global Church-Member Survey was completed in 2022 and 2023. Researchers worked very hard and faced many challenges in the data collection due to the lingering pandemic.

Finally, after the global data set was completed, 149,556 valid responses were counted. This number of respondents was more than double that of the previous global study.



It is very encouraging that so many Adventist Church members participated in this survey. Members from all 13 divisions and from two attached unions took the time to complete this extensive and vital survey.

Our sincere gratitude goes to all survey respondents and researchers for your hard work in this essential research project.

The final division reports and the Meta-Analysis Report are available on the Research website.

May the insights received from this study help you in your spiritual journey with Jesus Christ.

*Manuela Coppock*



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## Accession Statistics

In the recent 2023 *Annual Statistical Report* (ASR) we published data on how the Covid-19 pandemic affected the Adventist Church accession numbers from the years 2019 to 2022. Charts 1-13 (see next page) show individual bar graphs for each division, which show accessions from 2019 to 2022. In looking at the charts you will see that, in most divisions, accessions decreased sharply in 2020, during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. In most cases accessions began to rebound in 2021 and even more so in 2022. However, in the South Pacific Division (SPD) you see a rare 25% increase in accessions in 2020 and yet a decline in accessions in the two years following. Also, in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) accessions remained steady from 2019 thru 2020 and rebounded significantly thereafter. It is also noteworthy that some divisions have made a slower comeback to pre-Covid accession numbers, such as the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) and the Southern Asia Division (SUD). It is clear that in every division the Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on accessions in the worldwide Church.

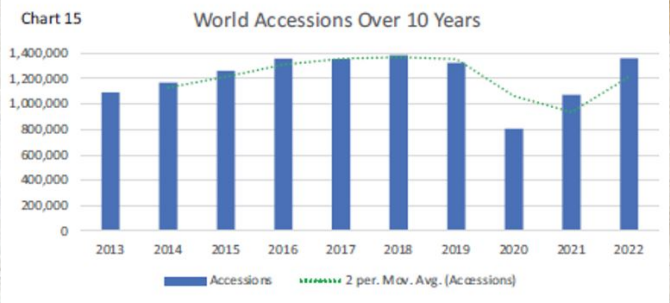
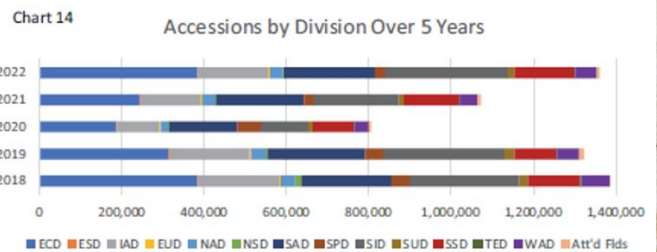
Charts 14 and 15 in the ASR demonstrate that 2022 accessions rebounded considerably after the dramatic drop in accessions in 2020. This shows that despite the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, net global accessions in 2022 were back over the 1 million mark, where they have been for 19 of the last 23 years. In 2020, accessions dropped to 803,430 but in 2022 they grew to 1,358,309, a remarkable 69% increase. In Chart 14 you will see that nearly every division's accessions increased from 2020 to 2022, in fact, accessions in East-Central Africa Division (ECD) increased by 108% and those in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID) by 159%. See a more detailed breakdown on the next page. Our church continues to grow, thanks be to God!



## 2023 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT New Series, Volume 5

Report of the  
General Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists'  
2022 Statistics

Seventh-day  
Adventist® Church



(Continued on next page)



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Chart 1 ECD Accessions

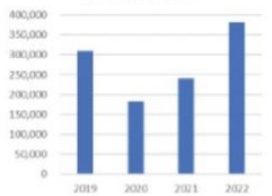


Chart 2 ESD Accessions

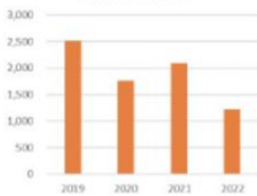


Chart 7 SAD Accessions

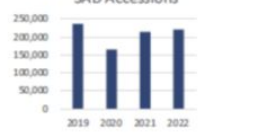


Chart 8 SPD Accessions

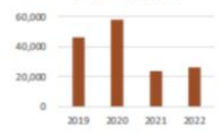


Chart 3 IAD Accessions

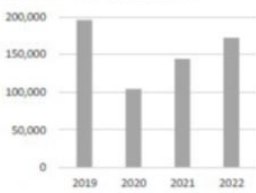


Chart 4 EUD Accessions

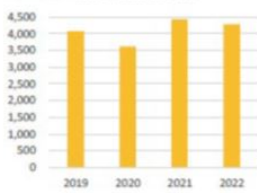


Chart 9 SID Accessions

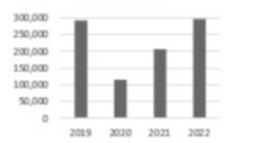


Chart 10 SJD Accessions

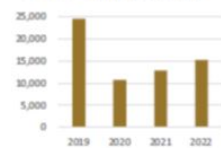


Chart 11 SSD Accessions

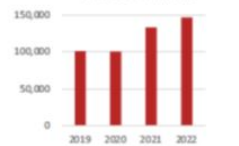


Chart 12 TED Accessions

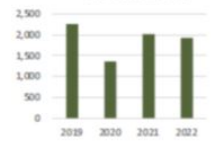


Chart 5 NAD Accessions

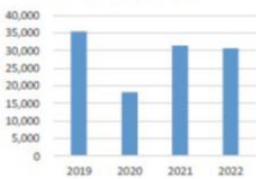


Chart 6 NSD Accessions

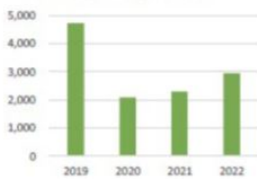
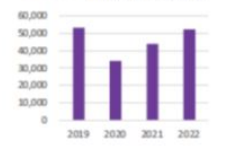


Chart 13 WAD Accessions



Meredith Carter

Don't forget, the 2024 Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook is now available!

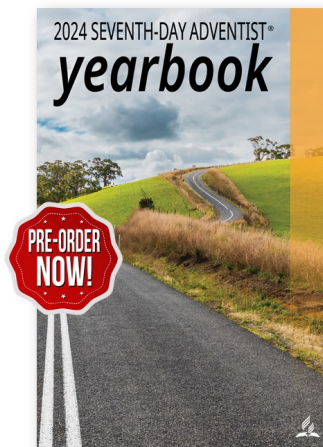
## Find a list of all Adventist organizations and institutions around the world in the Adventist Yearbook

From General Conference Divisions, Unions, and Conferences 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.

Pre-Ordering the 2024 *Adventist Yearbook*, in printed form or electronic file, is available NOW at <https://www.pacificpress.com/SDAyearbook>.

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





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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.

