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TELLING THE STORY

Archives, Statistics,
and Research (ASTR)
Newsletter - Issue #23



Spring 2025 Greetings from ASTR!

In ASTR we wish our readers a wonderful forthcoming spring season in the northern hemisphere. The ASTR family has had a busy winter, with accreditation visits to the Inter-American Division (IAD) and the Center for Adventist Research (CAR) at Andrews University, which you can read more about below. We've also recently updated our archival collections. Late last year, one of our staff also visited the Pakistan Union for a symposium, and in this issue we feature a special focus on the Pakistan field.

Affirming Adventist Identity in the Pakistan Union



The pastors of the Pakistan Union listening to a presentation at the Pakistan Adventist Seminary

Last November I (Michael Younker) had the opportunity to spend a week visiting the Pakistan Union for an Adventist identity and prophetic interpretation conference, hosted by the Pakistan Union leaders. Their president, Dr. Myun Ju Lee, shared about Adventist identity, and was supported by the Northern Asia-Pacific Division's (NSD) director for Adventist Mission department, Pr. Sun Hwan Kim, who presented about Adventism and prophecy.

I presented about the history of Adventist missions and prophetic interpretation, and also talked about the importance of the Pakistan Union, and reached out to local pastors to help

us complete the entries of the online *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists* for their territory. I also preached twice, and gave a devotional with the youth group. I spent time both at the Union headquarters near the city of Lahore, as well as the Pakistan Adventist Seminary and College, in Farooqabad. It was also a pleasure to meet the Pakistan Union secretary, Ashir Khan, who helped arrange for me to tour the Union archives building, as well as meet the Adventist World Radio team, led by Azmat Emmanuel.



Michael Younker with some of the youth at the Pakistan Union

From the United States, I was also joined by pastor Tim Rosenberg, who shared a series on prophetic interpretation.

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Examining the Pakistan Union archives

While there, I was delighted to meet many of the pastors serving from both the northern and southern sections of the Pakistan Union.



Music service by some of the Pakistani pastors

It was a blessing to tour the college campus, and learn about their mission programs and initiatives, and also see the elementary school (which had many students, both Adventist and others from the nearby area) and the new nursing college which was still under construction.



*Michael preparing to speak, and with Tim and Karen
Roosenberg tasting local cuisine*

It was a special time for the pastors, as a ceremony was done to celebrate the baptisms that had taken place the previous year, with motorbikes given to pastors who had been particularly active and successful.



*Pastors receiving affirmation and motorbikes for their
successful service the past year*

During one of the days we visited the countryside and enjoyed the famous Khewra salt mines, one of the largest salt mines in the world which, according to legend, was originally discovered by one of Alexander the Great's horses who was licking the salt. The mine today is a massive underground system of tunnels that stretches several kilometers.



Samuel Nazir with Michael Younger in the Khewra salt mine

The generous hospitality of the members, and yet, at the same time, the many needs of the field there stood out to me—it is a challenging missional context that requires much prayer and support.

Michael Younger, Historical/Educational Specialist

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Church Members' Beliefs in Southern Asia-Pacific Division

From 2011 to 2022, the Pakistan Union Section belonged to Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) before it was transferred to Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) in 2023. When it was still in SSD, Pakistan was among the countries with the largest Muslim populations in that Division. However, although SSD is predominantly made of Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu countries, it also has two predominantly Catholic countries: Timor-Leste and the Philippines. Even though it is in the 10/40 window, SSD has a growing Seventh-day Adventist presence with 1,868,258 members in 8,235 churches led by 3,124 ordained and licensed ministers.

In the recent 2023 Global Church Member Survey (GCMS2023), 7,001 church members shared their opinions and perceptions on various beliefs and practices. The respondents came from all the 13 countries that made up SSD. The survey was translated in 17 languages due to the multilingual reality of that territory. Two of the most amazing findings of the survey in SSD included personal devotional life and application of principles from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

SSD Devotional Life

	Daily or more than once a day	More than once a week	Total
Personal prayer at times other than meals	58.2%	16%	74.2%
Reading of the Bible	37.3%	23.8%	61.1%
Morning and evening family worship	42%	19.4%	61.4%
Study of the Sabbath School lesson	31%	24.1%	55.1%
Reading of the writings of Ellen G. White	17.8%	16.7%	34.5%

Between 7 and 8 out of 10 church members in SSD have personal prayer daily or more than once a week. About 6 in 10 church members read their Bible and have morning and evening family worship every day or more than once a week. That number drops slightly for people who study their Sabbath School lesson (55.1%) and it decreases drastically for

those who read the writings of Ellen G. White (34.5%) daily or more than once a week. Looking at the generational difference, it was found that older church members born before 1981 read the Bible and the writings of Ellen G. White, study the Sabbath School lesson, and have personal prayer significantly more often than all the other age groups.

Application of Learned Lessons

	Strongly agree	Agree	Total
I apply what I learn from the Bible to my daily life.	32.8%	47.4%	80.2%
I apply what I learn from Sabbath School lessons to my daily life.	29.9%	49.5%	79.4%
I apply what I learn from Ellen G. White's writings to my daily life.	23.5%	46.7%	70.2%

It is encouraging to see that 8 in every 10 church members in SSD apply what they learn from the Bible and from the Sabbath School lesson to their daily life. Even if the number of those who read the writings of Ellen G. White daily is low, 7 out of 10 members apply the principles of her writings to their daily life. Further analysis showed that first-generation Adventists are much more likely to apply to their daily life the principles learned from the Sabbath School lesson study and the writings of Ellen G. White than all the subsequent generations.

While these findings are mainly encouraging, there is still more work to be done when we look at the results God desires, who does "not [want] anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). Every church is invited to continuously and prayerfully seek to deepen his or her relationship with God through daily personal prayer, reading of the Bible, Sabbath School lesson, and the writings of Ellen G. White, and most importantly, to apply the lessons learned from all these spiritual activities in their daily personal life.

Safari Wa-Mbaleka, Research and Evaluation Manager

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Inter-American Division's Record Center Accreditation and the Center for Adventist Research Re-Accreditation Success

Between December 2024 and January 2025, ASTR performed two accreditations.

At the beginning of December 2024, the ASTR accreditation team, which included David Trim, Roy Kline, and Elizabeth Henry, inspected the Record Center of the Inter-American Division (IAD) located in Miami, Florida. The accreditation team was impressed with the level of preparedness of the local team, the work that has been done to get the Records Center ready for accreditation, and the collaboration between Secretariat and Treasury teams. The accreditation team recommended an unconditional award of "Approved" status for their Records Center.

In mid-January 2025, David Trim, Ashlee Chism, and Elizabeth Henry undertook the re-evaluation for the Center of Adventist Research (CAR) located on the campus of Andrews University. The accreditation team further commended CAR leadership for their collaborative relationship with the James White Library leadership, their candor about both strengths and weaknesses, adding significantly over the last five years to the manuscript collections, introducing comprehensive emergency and disaster response plans, raising the profile of the University Archives, and applauding Jim Ford for his many years of service. The ASTR team recommended an unconditional award of "Center of Excellence".



At CAR: Inspecting one of the storage locations of the Center for Adventist Research



At the IAD (left to right): Pedro Iglesias, Roy Kline, Leonard Johnson, David Trim, Leticia Leito, Elizabeth Henry, Lourdes Perez



At the IAD (left to right): Janelle Scantlebury, Lourdes Perez, Elizabeth Henry, Leticia Leito, David Trim, Leonard Johnson, Roy Kline, Pedro Iglesias

Elizabeth Henry, Digital Records Manager

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New Material in the Online Archives

The Records team of ASTR continues to add material to the Online Archives website. The team would like to highlight several of the new additions:

- **General Conference Executive Committee (GCC) Minutes** are uploaded each January on a rolling moratorium on the minutes of the preceding ten years. As such, the 2014 GCC Minutes have now been added and are ready to be viewed.

- The **Adventist Review** and **Adventist World** periodicals are also on a rolling moratorium. In January of this year, issues published in 2019 have been added to the Online Archives.

- **Le Messager**, the precursor to **Revue Adventiste**, is available on the Online Archives, courtesy of the **Revue Adventiste**. It consists of 234 issues, printed between January 1st 1900 and December 1921.

- Over 1400 issues of **Revue Adventiste** are also available on the Online Archives.

Take a moment to visit the Online Archives today, and learn more about what our Church members of the past accomplished!

Elizabeth Henry, Digital Records Manager



ANNUAL COUNCIL
October 9 to 15, 2014

ANNUAL COUNCIL OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
October 9, 2014, 6:00 p.m.



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The Adventist Church in Pakistan

As of June 30, 2024, Pakistan had 19,876 Adventist members and 135 churches. Key Adventist institutions in this predominantly Muslim country include Pakistan Adventist Seminary and College, Pakistan Adventist Higher Secondary School, and Karachi Adventist Hospital. The growth of Adventist work in Pakistan is the result of the dedication and efforts of many missionaries over time. Among them are [Anna Knight](#) and [Frank and Mary Loasby](#), notable pioneers whose stories are adapted from the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists* (ESDA) and shared below. Also available in the ESDA are the biographies of other missionaries in Pakistan, such as [Charles and Phyllis Bonney](#), [Georgia Burgess](#), [Lal Mookerjee](#), [Ralph and Marjorie Hughes](#), [Roland Fernando](#), [Edwin and Marion Hutchinson](#), [Duane and Shirley Johnson](#), [Ole and Zora Mattison](#), [John and Frieda Steeves](#), [Fred and Laura Schlehuber](#), and [Clarence and Wanda Hamel](#). Before delving into the biographies of Anna Knight and Frank Loasby, let's first provide an overview of the beginnings of Adventist work in Pakistan.

Beginnings of the Adventist Work in Pakistan

Seventh-day Adventist work in Pakistan began in 1901 when colporteurs, among the first of whom was Anna Knight, a Black American missionary, visited the area. In 1913, [S. A. Wellman](#) met S. Samuels, a Christian minister who accepted the seventh-day Sabbath and invited Adventists to begin work in Punjab. Wellman and [H. R. Salisbury](#) sparked interest in the Adventist message through their travels.



Zora and Ole Mattison

In 1914, F. H. Loasby and Dr. V. L. Mann settled in Lahore, beginning itinerant evangelism and medical work in nearby

villages. They faced many hardships, including sleeping under their oxcart for protection. In 1916, Mann purchased land in Chuharkana for a medical training center. The first baptisms took place in 1917, and Sabbath schools were established. Olive Smith, a physician, joined in 1917, followed by E. R. Reynolds, who managed the dispensary until Ima Dowling, a nurse, arrived.



Ralph and Marjorie Hughes



John Steeves (on the far left)

In 1914, the Northwest India Mission was formed, marking the official beginning of the work in Pakistan. By 1919, the Punjab work became a separate mission. After the partition of India in 1947, the West Pakistan Union was formed with three missions: Central Punjab, Northwest Frontier, and Sind. The East Pakistan Section merged with Punjab to form the Pakistan Union. Adventist work progressed in Pakistan thanks to the Adventist educational and medical institutions. By 1929, a girls' school opened at Chichoki Mallian. A hospital operated there from 1930 to 1936, but closed when Dr. R. C. Lindholm left. Medical work was revived in 1946, and a 72-bed hospital was built in Karachi in 1951.



Lal Gopal Mookerjee, his brother N. G. Mookerjee, their father A. C. Mookerjee, and Marcus Mookerjee (son of Lal Gopal Mookerjee), c. 1910

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Charles Bonney



Gerogia and Luther Burgess



Clarence and Wanda Hamel with children

Personal evangelism, the [Voice of Prophecy's](#) Bible correspondence school, and local schools helped spread the Adventist message. In 1972, the Pakistan Union was reorganized, and the East Pakistan Section became the Bangladesh Section. In 1986, Pakistan joined the Trans-European Division, and [Adventist World Radio Bangladesh](#) began broadcasting in 1993, reaching remote areas like Afghanistan. In 2012, Pakistan was transferred from the Trans-European Division to the [Southern Asia-Pacific Division](#). In 2023, the [Pakistan Union Section](#) joined the [Northern Asia-Pacific Division](#).

Rachel "Anna" Knight

Knight was born on March 4, 1874, in Jasper County, Mississippi. Raised in a poor, racially mixed family, Anna developed a thirst for knowledge despite being barred from attending local schools. She taught herself to read and, by 14, was teaching other children in her community. After receiving Adventist literature in 1891, Anna was baptized in 1892. She moved to Tennessee for further education, and eventually graduated in 1898 as a nurse from Battle Creek Sanitarium in Michigan. Returning to Mississippi, she opened a mission school in Gitano, enduring threats and challenges, but remained steadfast in her faith and mission work.



Anna Knight

In 1901, Knight served as an official delegate at the General Conference, representing the self-supporting medical missionary work done by graduates of Battle Creek Sanitarium. While in Battle Creek, she accepted a call to accompany John L. Shaw and his wife Bessie for missionary service in India, along with a second nurse, classmate Donna Humphrey. In the fall of 1901, Knight and her fellow workers set sail for Calcutta. She thus became not only the first African-American female Seventh-day

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Adventist missionary sent anywhere but also the first black woman to be sent to India by a mission board of any denomination. Upon her arrival in India, Knight began work as a nurse at a modestly equipped sanitarium recently established in Calcutta. However, she was soon called to the mission station at Karmatar that, along with a school, operated a small orphanage, a dispensary, and a printing press. Knight served wherever needed — as a bookkeeper, teacher, nurse, and helper at the printing press. After recognizing a lack of fresh vegetables, she taught the students how to plant a garden. Soon the school reaped a bountiful harvest unlike anything they had ever seen.



*The Indian Union, Calcutta,
Anna Knight is standing in the 3rd row, near the center*

Knight branched out to acquire new skills as a nurse and teacher and to take on new roles as a colporteur and as Bible worker among the people of the northwestern part of India (today Pakistan). The latter work became her top priority. Knight's six-and-a-half years on the Indian subcontinent would take her to the cities of Calcutta, Allahabad, Simla, Amritsar, Ambala, Ludhiana, Jullundur, and Lahore, as well as to small villages. After the tragic death of her friend Donna Humphrey in 1903, Anna Knight faced further challenges when moonshiners burned her school in Gitano, Mississippi. In 1907, she returned home to rebuild the school with help from her family and community. She resumed teaching and also worked as a Bible worker for the Mississippi Conference.

In 1909, Anna Knight was called to work in Atlanta, Georgia, where she operated a sanitarium, served as a Bible worker, and organized the first YWCA in Atlanta, offering health and education programs. In 1913, she took on leadership roles in the Southeastern Union Conference and later in the Southern

Union. Knight retired in 1945 after overseeing 34 schools and achieving significant success in ministry. She died on June 3, 1972 at age 98, leaving a lasting legacy, including organizing the National Colored Teachers Association.



Anna Knight and Donna Humphrey

Frank and Mary Loasby

Frank Herbert Loasby was born in England on April 8, 1887. He moved to the U.S. for Adventist education at the Foreign Missionary Seminary in Takoma Park, Maryland. After canvassing in New Jersey in 1908, the General Conference helped fund his studies in 1910. In 1911, he married Mary Jane Barritt, and they had two children. Loasby showed a strong interest in foreign missions. He wrote a poem, published in *The Youth's Instructor* in 1910, titled "Ilala," the place where the renowned medical missionary David Livingstone died in Africa. *The Youth's Instructor* also published three articles by Loasby in 1911 and 1912 on religion, culture, and mission history in East Asia.



*Frank and Mary Loasby with children and two unknown gentlemen, Chickoki
Mission, Pakistan, 1918*

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In 1913, Frank and Mary Jane Loasby were called to serve as pioneer missionaries in India, arriving in Bombay in July before relocating to the Punjab (modern-day eastern Pakistan and northwestern India), which was part of the newly-independent India. Alongside Dr. Victor L. Mann and his wife, the Loasbys were the first Adventist missionaries in the region. They spent 13 years establishing Adventist work across various mission stations. Frank learned Urdu, allowing him to communicate more effectively with locals, and together with Dr. Mann traveled from village to village, conducting meetings and distributing medicines. Despite limited conversions, they baptized the first Sikh Adventist, Bhagwan Singh, in 1925.

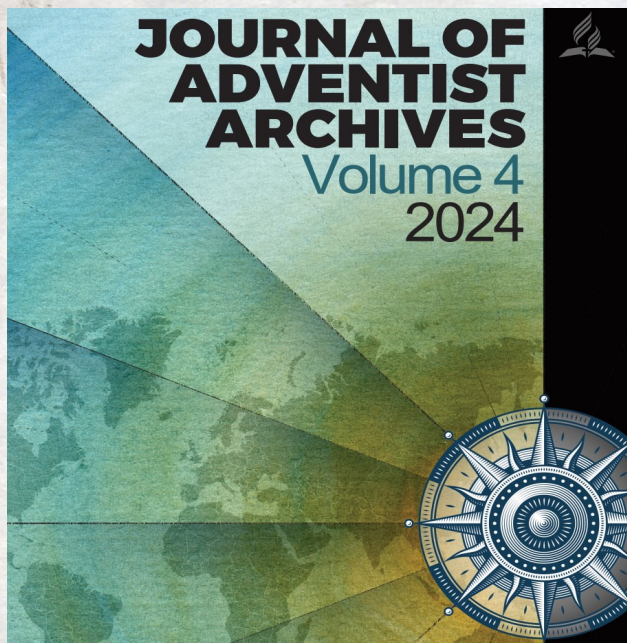
The Loasbys helped establish a mission station and school in Chuharkana (today Farooqabad, Pakistan), which later became a full-fledged elementary school that continued operating long after they left. In 1927, Frank oversaw the relocation of an Adventist school in Lucknow, India, to Roorkee, focusing on combining education with industrial training. After a furlough, the Loasbys returned to Lahore in the Punjab region and, in 1937, Frank became superintendent of the Northeast India Union Mission, overseeing the work in Northeast India and Nepal. Despite challenges such as limited missionary presence and World War II, the Loasbys' efforts led to growth in the tribal territories and other regions.



Frank Loasby preaching in a village in the Punjab, 1923

By 1943, they moved to Salisbury Park in Pune, where Frank worked as an editor at the Oriental Watchmen Press. The Loasbys retired in 1946 after 33 years of service in India. They later lived in various parts of the U.S. and Canada, where Frank passed away in 1966 and Mary Jane in 1975. Their legacy includes the Roorkee school in India that has grown to become today's Roorkee Adventist College.

Prepared by Dragoslava Santrac, ESDA Managing Editor



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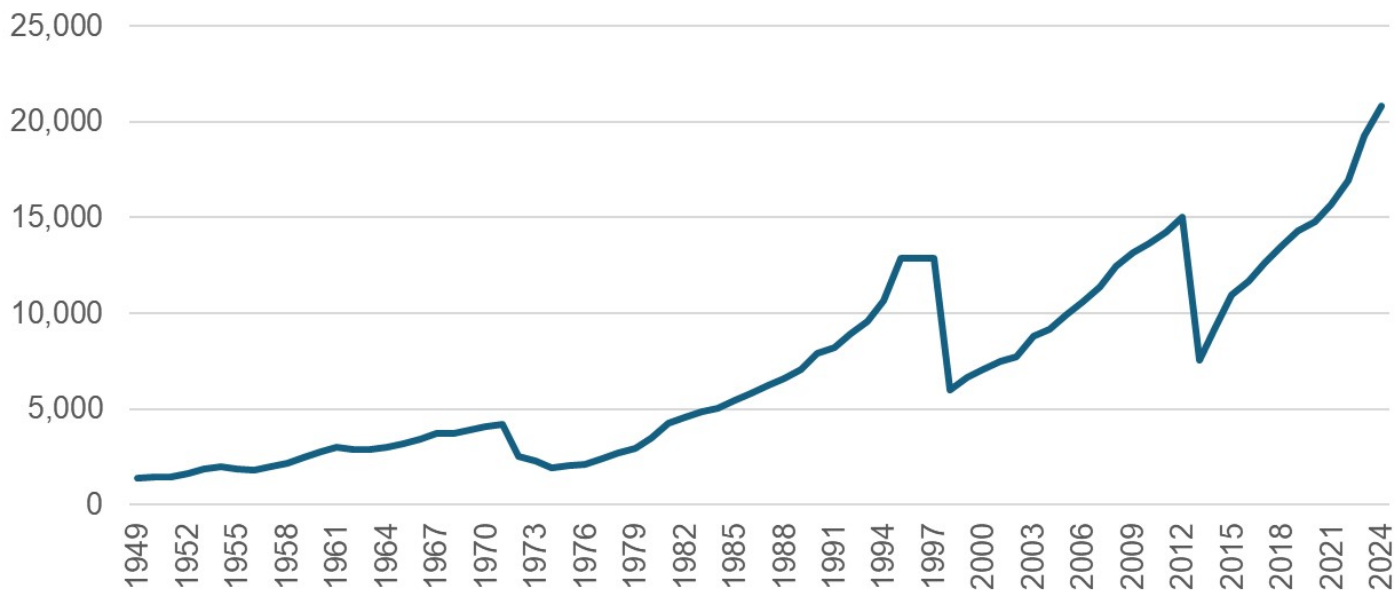
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Growth in the Pakistan Union Section

Last year, in 2024, the Adventist Church celebrated 75 years of the Pakistan Union Section! A part of the Southern-Asia Division in 1949, Pakistan was divided into two mission fields, the Northeast India Union Mission and the West Pakistan Union Mission. In 1956, the previous missions were merged into the Pakistan Union Section. At the beginning of 1986, the Trans-European Division assumed the territory of the Pakistan Union Section due to administrative considerations and world economic and political situations. In 1998 and again in 2013, when the Pakistan Union Section became part of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, membership audits were conducted, hence the drops in membership in the graph below. Most recently, in 2023, the Pakistan Union Section was reorganized again as part of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. Despite its numerous reorganizations, the Pakistan Union Section has grown from its original membership of 990 in 1949 to 20,842 members as of the end of 2024, a 2005% increase!

Pakistan Union Section 75-Year Membership



Meredith Carter, ASR Editor

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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.

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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

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20904**
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and click the "Donate" link.

