

**YEAR-END MEETING
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION COMMITTEE**

Silver Spring, Maryland
October 28, 2001 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Wilda Acosta, Roy Adams, Kyoshin Ahn, Eradio Alonso, Nilton Amorim, Niels-Erik Andreasen, George T Atiga, Raj Attiken, Delbert W Baker, Rosa T Banks, Harold W Baptiste, Steven R Bascom, Herman Bauman, Matthew A Bediako, Dale J Bidwell, Gordon R Bietz, James Black, Del Blake, Kelly B Bock, Gary Bollinger, Kathy Bollinger, Helen Boskind, Bob Brauer, James Brauer, Debra Brill, George Brill, Herbert H Broeckel,

Walter E Brown, John Brunt, G A Bryant, Beverly Bucknor, Samuel Bulgin, Robert Burnette, Russell C Burrill, Hamlet Canosa, Dennis N Carlson, Selwyn Carrington, R Ernest Castillo, Michael F Cauley, Larry L Caviness, Richard P Center, Rachelle B Chaney, Marshall Chase, Charles L Cheatham, Dowell W Chow, George N Chudleigh Jr, John Collins, Charlotte Conway, Kenneth R Coonley, Donald W Corkum, Kenneth Corkum, Cynthia Coston,

J Wayne Coulter, Ruth Counts, Thaine Creitz, Manuel Cruz, Robert Curren, Orlie Curtis, Jerome Davis, Victor Dingman, Charles W Drake III, Roger L Dudley, Garland Dulan, Mable Dunbar, Elwin Dunn, Melvin Eisele, R Rennae Elliott, G Thomas Evans, Larry R Evans, Mumtaz A Fargo, Clayton R Farwell, Robert Fawke, Odette R Ferreira, LeRoy Finck, Gary Fogelquist, Philip S Follett, Brad Forbes, James Ford, Judy Fowler,

Jay Gallimore, Reo E Ganson, Larry Garrett, Lawrence T Geraty, Marianne Gilbert, James W Gilley, Dan Goddard, Frank M Gonzalez, Malcolm D Gordon, Ricardo B Graham, Samuel L Green, David E Greenlaw, Buford Griffith, Rodney Grove, Janet Hall, Richard Hall, Richard R Hallock, J Neville Harcombe, Stewart Harty, Lewis Hendertshot, Eric Hepburn, Dan Herzel, Don R Hevener, Dwight L Hilderbrandt Jr, Gary Hodder, Clarence E Hodges,

Paul Hopkins, Jim Hoehn, Luc Homicile, Dean Horinouchi, Pat Horst, Roscoe J Howard III, Timothy Hullquist, Alan Hurlbert, Van Hurst, Denise Isaac, Ruth Izquierdo, Daniel R Jackson, Delbert Johnson, Kurt W Johnson, Russell L Johnson, Noelene M Johnsson, William G Johnsson, Bruce Juhl, Artemas Julien, Clarence Kegler, Alvin M Kibble, Donald G King, Norman W Klam, Lorinda Knowlton, J Deryl Knutson,

Gerald Kovalski, Sung Kwon, Robert Kyte, Alice Laabs, Sylvan A Lashley, Dale Leamon, Erma J Lee, Harold L Lee, Mike Lekic, Robert Lemon, James L Lewis, Sharon Lewis, Don Livesay, Calvin Lloyd, John Loor Jr, Abel Lopez, David Lopez, Julihana Madison, F Lynn Mallery, Allen Martin, Gerald Martin, Mary H Maxson, Alphonso McCarthy, Joseph W McCoy, Vanessa KcKnight, Stephen L McPherson,

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John K McVay, Lonnie E Melashenko, Ezra J Mendinghall, Norman K Miles, William K Miller, Robert Moon, W Benny Moore, Larry R Moore, Patrick Morrison, Thomas J Mostert Jr, Edward Motschieder, Nahor Muchiutti, Kermit L Netteburg, Derrick Nichols, Lyn Nicolay, John S Nixon, Dennis Nooner, Gerald M Northam, Willie Oliver, Dionisio Olivo, Naomi Olson, Ralph Orduno, Priscilla Orozco, Kenneth W Osborn,

Richard C Osborn, David D Osborne, Jerry N Page, James Palmer, Orville D Parchment, Bryce Pascoe, Clifford Patterson, Robert Patterson, Jere D Patzer, Jan Paulsen, David Peay, Frank J Perez, Gerson Perla, Larry Pitcher, Juan R Prestol, Gary Randolph, G Edward Reid, George W Reid, Rick Remmers, Darold J Retzer, Gordon L Retzer, Roberto Reyna, Delores Richardson, Paul Richardson, Marcellus Robinson, Dan Rochford, Astor Rogers,

Jose V Rojas, Monte C Sahlin, Charles Sandefur, Charles Sanders, Leon F Sanders, Carol Schneider, Don C Schneider, Marti Schneider, Duane M Schoonard, Benjamin D Schoun, Orthniel Scott, Charles Scriven, Dan Serns, E Wayne Shepperd, Manford Simcock, Carlyle C Simmons, Lionel Simmons, Hepsiba S Singh, David C Smith, Robert S Smith, Ron C Smith, Clifford Sorensen, Jorge Soria, Aaron Spencer, Ardis Stenbakken, Richard Stenbakken, James L Stevens, Patricia Stock,

Ron Stone, Verlon Strauss, Ward D Sumpter, Robert L Swezey, Fred Thomas, Leon D Thomassian, Gerry E Thompson, Halvard B Thomsen, Gary Thurber, Mic Thurber, Frank Tochtermann, Max C Torkelsen II, Max A Trevino, Arnold Trujillo, Mike S Tucker, Kenneth M Turpen, Rosemary Tyrrell, Ulrich Unruh, Douglas Walker, Thea Walker,

Jere Wallack, Carlyle Walton, Linda P Walton, Kenneth Weibe, David Weigley, Rita Weisz, Thomas L Werner, DeWitt S Williams, Lynn Williams, Walton Williams, Edward E Wines, Randal R Wisbey, Robert Woolford, Jack Woosley, Billy E Wright, Ed Wright, Walter L Wright, Naomi Yamashiro, Lillian Yarosh, F Martin Ytreberg

OPENING

Don C Schneider, President of the North American Division, welcomed the committee members to the opening night of the 2001 North American Division Year-end Meeting.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Gaspar and May-Ellen Colon sang a duet, "Come Holy Spirit."

DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Don Schneider, President of the North American Division, presented the devotional message in which he highlighted three aspects of the work of the Church in the North American Division: "Work for the World, Work for the Division, and Work for New York City."

The work for the world began many years ago when J N Andrews, the first Seventh-day Adventist missionary, left the United States of America with his two children. It was a step that needed to be taken and even today it is something that we have to do. The interest and the spirit of missions continue in the division. Large sums of money are being expended for the work in the mission fields and the church members in the division are very interested and are going on short term mission assignments in record numbers.

Schneider himself joined a group that had gone to India to do evangelism. What happened there was unbelievable except that he saw it for himself. Forty-five thousand people were sitting on the ground in the open air listening to the Gospel being preached to them. In consulting with those who were running the campaign, he learned that Adventists from North America were responsible for 15,000 baptisms as a result of those meetings. The vision of mission is still alive. Schneider said, "we are here to tell people everywhere that Jesus is coming".

At the conclusion of the meeting one evening, Schneider decided to join the other members of the team to greet the people. He soon experienced what he had been told beforehand, he was caught up in a throng of people all trying to reach him to be touched and prayed for. They came with their deepest desires and asked for prayer. They guided his hand to their heads so that they could be blessed. Scripture tells us that we must preach the Gospel in all the world. "We are at it" said Schneider "we are telling them, and we must be at it more than ever."

From the involvement of his son in Sopas Hospital in the highlands of Papua New Guinea, who braved many hardships to render medical services to the people; to Fred Thomas, present at the meeting, who had given a life time of service as a missionary, to Jere Patzer, the President of the North Pacific Union, under whose leadership members in that union are involved in establishing downlink sites in Romania and in countries across Africa, he recounted thrilling stories of bishops, and pastors and members of other denominations who are choosing to become members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Across the division more and more members are getting involved in evangelistic outreach and in order to facilitate this, the division has developed a five-year strategic evangelistic calendar. This has been published in the NAD issue of the *Adventist Review* and will be the

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evangelistic focus for this quinquennium. Schneider said, "for one hundred and forty years we were a little church with a big vision, we must never become a big church with a little vision".

Carol, Schneider's daughter who is a teacher in Green Bay Junior Academy, was invited to attend the meeting with two of her students. Under her guidance, these young people, with others from the class, conducted an evangelistic campaign. Their prayer goal was to baptize fifteen. At this point fourteen youth have been baptized.

Among the more innovative efforts in evangelism is the urban church planting project undertaken by Greg Nelson in downtown Seattle, Washington. He moved into a neighborhood with no members and no prior interests with the intention of establishing a church. The Lord is blessing the efforts that are nurtured by prayer and faith. Next Sabbath a church group will begin to meet in downtown Seattle. The Nelsons are making a sacrifice but we can be assured that God will bless their efforts.

The sign on a wall read, "Faith without risk is a contradiction." We are taking some risks in New York City. Many people do not think that anything will work there. But right now New Yorkers are searching. That is why one of the Protestant churches moved into the city within days of September 11. Already a church has been established with over a hundred members meeting every Sunday. Why weren't we there that quickly? Perhaps it is because we have emphasized Mrs. White's message to come out of the cities in an unbalanced way. George Knight has written an article on the subject that will be published in the December issue of the *Adventist Review*. The balanced message from Mrs. White about the cities may be stated as follows: "Don't establish a publishing house in the city but move into the city to reach people with the Gospel." That is why S N Haskell at the age of 69 moved in with his wife on the sixth floor of an apartment building in New York. The borough of Manhattan is a particular challenge. The ratio of Adventists to population is very low in Manhattan. If you want to be a missionary, move to Manhattan. We need to meet the people where they are in order to reach them with the Gospel.

James Gilley and his wife, Camille, visited New York City recently. They met a woman on the street who asked them if they were from Carolina. In the conversation that followed she said to them, "I am from Carolina and I have been here for twenty-six years and I am homesick for somebody from Carolina." They visited together for a while and the woman poured out the burden in her heart. She had seen the towers fall and was greatly affected by what she saw. She will never forget that day. To look at the place where the two towers stood only to realize that they are no longer there has a powerful effect on one's psyche. This is an opportunity like no other to work in New York City.

To take advantage of this opportunity a number of individuals and groups are committing themselves to work in New York City. Mark Regazzi from Andrews University is going back to

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New York City to work among the people. Two Andrews University Board members contributed a total of \$25,000 towards the cost of his moving to and living in New York City, and members of the faculty volunteered to teach Regazzi's classes while he is away.

Edward Schmidt and Donald James who work at the Seminary and the North American Division Evangelism Institute are also going to New York City. They will use their skills to communicate the Gospel to the hurting people of that city. Students from the university will pay their own expenses for an opportunity to go to New York City to be involved with ministering to those who are in need. The city has been divided into grids each consisting of several blocks. Conferences, colleges, unions and other entities will take the responsibility of providing ministry for the people within their selected grid. In some cases individuals will be rotating in and out to ensure that there is always a group of volunteers or church employees who are available to serve. When all of this is done some people will be accepting Jesus, churches will be established and the Kingdom of God will be extended.

What would happen if we all got really serious about New York City? What would happen if all across the North American Division we had a twenty-four hour, seven days a week prayer chain? What would happen if we had 50,000 trained and active lay-members? What would happen if we felt Jesus' compassion for cultures other than our own? What would happen if every home in North America received an evangelistic journal like *Signs, Message, El Centinella* or *La Sentinel*? What if every conference sent a missionary to New York City? What if the members of the North American Division Committee gave careful consideration and full support to this grand evangelistic endeavor?

Adjourned.

Don C Schneider, Chair
Harold W Baptiste, Secretary
Marialyce Gibson, Devotional Secretary
Esther Jones, Recording Secretary

