

GC BULLETIN



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# N.A.D. ADVENTIST REVIEW

WEEKLY NEWS AND INSPIRATION FOR SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

JUNE 29, 1995



## FIFTY-SIXTH GC Session

Utrecht, the Netherlands

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# Welcome to the Fifty-sixth Session



**By Robert S. Folkenberg**

*President, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists*

Delegates, friends, and visitors, we have gathered here in Utrecht for an important council of the church. I welcome you to the fifty-sixth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

For many of us this will be our first visit to this interesting city, and to the Netherlands itself. You will meet many beautiful people in this land of tulips and windmills; you will take away many unforgettable memories of a friendly country and a gracious host city.

This will be the first experience of a General Conference session for many of us. I welcome you to 10 action-packed days of business, inspiration, and color. You will be amazed at the sheer size and complexity of the session, which in its own way mirrors the amazing growth, variety, and progress of our worldwide work.

However, I hope and pray that this fifty-sixth session will be about much more than great preaching, wonderful music, and the warmest fellowship in the world. I hope it will go much beyond all the items of business, important though they are—the proposed constitutional changes, election of leaders, and so on.

The times demand that we focus on what is most important. It is far too late in the day for this church, which we believe God has called into being and given a message for the end-time, to be preoccupied with matters that are merely good but not the Lord's priority.

Above all else, we need to make this fifty-sixth session one of earnest prayer and seeking to know God's will for us. We must pray for forgiveness and cleansing—on the personal level and on the corporate level. We must pray for wisdom to discern what the Lord would have us do. We must pray for power to do His will.

The Lord's call to us is as pressing as it was more than a century ago: "A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work" (*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 121). And the promise is just as sure: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and

## Greetings From the Netherlands

**By G. W. Mandemaker**

*President, Netherlands Union Conference*

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Netherlands is proud to be host to the General Conference session here in Utrecht.

Who would have thought it: a General Conference session in Europe, and then even in one of the

pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14, NIV).

And so as I welcome you, dear friend, I invite you to join me in earnest prayer for this fifty-sixth session. Pray that the Lord will move among us mightily, that His Spirit will lead and guide. Pray that the message and mission He has entrusted to us will be given priority. Pray that in all our meetings and activities and contacts with the public His name will be glorified.

I am glad you are here. I am grateful the Lord has brought us all safely together. I look forward to a busy but precious time. *Welcome!*



The Oudegracht—one of Utrecht's delightful canals

smallest countries of the world! But here we are, gathered together, friends and fellow-believers from all over the world, to give praise and honor to the Lord of the universe.

Our small Adventist community in the Netherlands hopes and prays that this session will be a unique opportunity to demonstrate that we belong to a worldwide Adventist family.

Utrecht is an ancient cathedral city with a rich religious history. The name *Utrecht* is derived from *ut*, a river flowing downstream, and *trajectum*, a ford, a place one could safely cross the river.

My prayer is that during the General Conference session here in Utrecht we will allow the Holy Spirit to flow through us and that we may soon cross over to meet our Lord on the banks of the heavenly Jordan.

*Thank you for coming to Holland.*



# Will This Session Be a Watershed?



**By William G. Johnsson**  
Editor, *Adventist Review*

Some people measure time by seasons and anniversaries; we Seventh-day Adventists by General Conference sessions.

These events—which started out as annual gatherings, then became biennial, then quadrennial, and now are quinquennial—are unique. I know of no other denomination that attempts to bring together so many delegates from so many different countries to do the business of the church.

But then there's no other church like ours. We are incredibly diverse, but—by the miracle of the Holy Spirit—one people. We are united in Christ, one family drawn together from “every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people” (Rev. 14:6).

From the earliest days of the Adventist pioneers, this movement attracted men and women who thought for themselves, who didn't believe or practice simply because a priest, prelate, or pope said so. That spirit of healthy individualism still characterizes Seventh-day Adventism at its best. Stepping out from the crowd and obeying the fourth commandment still sets one apart as different.

And so the miracle is compounded. Not only 200-plus nations in one family, but rugged individuals from all the world forming one body.

## Firsthand Faith

Because we like to get our faith firsthand—not passed on by ecclesiastical intermediaries—we have developed these unique, expensive, wonderful General Conference sessions. No college of cardinals or council of bishops elects our leaders! We do it ourselves through elected representatives. No gathering of church officials has the authority to change our fundamental beliefs or constitution! Only a General Conference session, when the *world* church comes together.

Not surprisingly, General Conference sessions have shaped the church. Though every one has been important, three stand out.

The first one, in 1863, set the direction for the fledgling Seventh-day Adventist Church. We had adopted a name only three years before, and many

members were wary of—or downright opposed to!—organization. George Storrs, voicing their sentiments, warned that “no church can be organized by man's invention but that it becomes Babylon *the moment it is organized.*”

## The General Conference Begins

But delegates to that first session did organize. They organized the General Conference, adopted a constitution, and elected the first officers of the church—John Byington, president; Uriah Smith, secretary; and E. S. Walker, treasurer.

The second pivotal session convened 25 years later, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. At this gathering God used two young ministers, Ellet J. Waggoner and Alonzo T. Jones, to enlighten the church with the message of righteousness by faith. It was a contentious council, one in which Ellen White—who supported the young preachers against the wishes of the majority—found her own counsel set aside by many seasoned leaders.

Ever since, this precious truth, the very heart of the gospel, has struggled for full expression. The gospel always offends, whether in Jesus' day, in 1888, or in 1995. It offends “sinners,” and it offends “good” people. But its light cannot be smothered, and it will shine ever brighter in the Advent movement until the earth is covered with the Saviour's glory.

The thirty-fourth session, just 13 years later, proved to be the third decisive council. It would be the last one to be held in Battle Creek, Michigan, although no one knew it at the time. But more important, it would see the Lord intervene in a dramatic fashion, scrapping the plans and agendas laid before the session and bringing about reorganization and restructuring.

By 1901 a church that was reaching out to the world was ready to burst free of the patterns that had served it well when it was a small American movement. The session that year released energies, plans, and organization that would make us the unique, global fellowship we have become.



## How Will History Recall It?

And now the fifty-sixth session. How will history recall it? As a watershed? Possibly.

The agenda comes loaded with important items, many involving major constitutional changes. The size and composition of the GC Committee, changes in which leaders should be elected and which appointed, recommendations concerning authority and linkage between the various levels of church organization—all and more will come up for vote.

Consider one item—the number of delegates for a General Conference session. Currently the formula is tied to membership, so with a fast-growing church the number is escalating. If all delegates permitted by the constitution show up in Utrecht, they will total 2,650! In not many more years the sheer size of a session will overwhelm the church's resources.

Thus, a major item on the agenda proposes a new formula that will cap the number of delegates. How will the fifty-sixth session react to the recommenda-

tion? On this and other potentially divisive items—such as the request for each division to decide who may be ordained without reference to gender—how will Adventists from so many different backgrounds relate to one another?

Our unity will be tested as never before at this session. May the fifty-sixth session indeed be a watershed—for good and not for ill. May it show that, despite the amazing diversity of the church today, despite the shifts in membership strength, the miracle is still intact.

## Highlights From Past General Conference Sessions

- |      |   |      |  |
|------|---|------|--|
| 1863 | The General Conference organized in Battle Creek, Michigan, on May 20, with 20 delegates present.   | 1909 | The gathering was the first to have official delegates from each of the world's major continents.  |
| 1863 | Minutes of the first session were published in the <i>Review and Herald</i> . The <i>Adventist Review Bulletins</i> reporting the current General Conference session continue that tradition. | 1909 | Ellen White attended her last General Conference session.  |
| 1866 | A pamphlet containing a summary of the minutes of the 1863 to 1866 General Conference sessions was published, a forerunner of the later <i>General Conference Bulletins</i> .                 | 1918 | The General Conference session met in the San Francisco Municipal Auditorium, the first time the session was not held in an Adventist facility.  |
| 1870 | James Erzberger of Switzerland became the first delegate from outside the United States.  | 1918 | This became the first General Conference session to have departmental exhibits other than a publishing house display.  |
| 1870 | The treasurer indicated a deficit of \$272.90—the first time the General Conference showed a debt.  | 1922 | The meeting welcomed 581 delegates, the first time more than 500 had been present.   |
| 1874 | John N. Andrews became the denomination's first authorized overseas missionary.   | 1926 | A public address system was used for the first time at this session, held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.   |
| 1876 | The General Conference session was held in Lansing, Michigan, the first time it met outside Battle Creek.   | 1930 | Mission reports employed motion pictures for the first time.   |
| 1878 | J. N. Andrews attended the session and reported on his missionary activities in Europe, the first such report given by a credentialed Adventist missionary.                                   | 1936 | The world globe, with lights indicating the work of Adventists around the world, created for the Century of Progress Exposition of 1932 in Chicago, made its first appearance at a General Conference session. |
| 1882 | Delegates gathered in Rome, New York, the first time they had met outside Michigan.   | 1946 | The General Conference session met in the newly completed Sligo church in Takoma Park, Maryland, the last session to convene in an Adventist church.   |
| 1887 | This year saw the first <i>General Conference Daily Bulletin</i> recording session proceedings.   | 1946 | A recording made of much of this session marked another first.   |
| 1888 | O. A. Olsen became the first General Conference president not born in the United States.  | 1950 | The first mission pageant to be so designated was held the first Sabbath afternoon.  |
| 1888 | W. C. White served as acting president of the General Conference for six months until O. A. Olsen could return to the United States to assume the office.                                     | 1954 | A total of 1,109 delegates gathered, the first time more than 1,000 had been present.  |
| 1889 | Delegates numbered 109, the first time more than 100 were present.  | 1970 | The session had 1,782 delegates in attendance, the first time more than 1,500 had come.  |
| 1901 | This was the last General Conference session to meet in Battle Creek, Michigan.   | 1975 | Vienna, Austria, hosted the session, the first time it had met outside the United States.  |
| 1901 | Dr. John Harvey Kellogg gave an illustrated lecture on health, the first use of glass stereopticon  | 1985 | The session took up the role of women in ministry. This topic would appear on the agenda of the following two sessions.  |
|      |   | 1990 | Global Mission was launched.   |



# The Utrecht Experience

*We want you to get the best of it!*



**By Reinder Bruinsma**  
*Communication  
Director, Trans-  
European Division*

**Y**ou came to Utrecht to “experience” the General Conference session—of course! But even if you are a delegate, we hope you’ll find some time to discover the city.

In less than 15 minutes you can walk from the Jaarbeurs Complex right to the center of this delightful metropolis that dates back to Roman times. The Romans founded Utrecht in A.D. 48. And exactly, 300 years ago this year, Willibrord, a Benedictine monk, arrived here and made it the center from which to spread the Christian message. Soon Utrecht was the most important ecclesiastical nucleus in the still rather sparsely populated northern Netherlands.

It is fitting that the Dom church, with the highest bell tower in the Netherlands, continues to be the most significant part of the skyline of Utrecht. The city has remained a religious center, but now also functions in many other ways as the “heart of Holland” (not least when it comes to shopping!).

I would suggest that you begin your trek through Utrecht with a visit to the tourist office (VVV), located at Vredenburg No. 90 (see map). A free map of the city and all kinds of brochures in Dutch and other major languages are available.

**H**ere is a brief guide, prepared especially for the busy delegate or anyone seeking a bird’s-eye view of things. Remember that it does not take the place of the much fuller information the VVV provides. I will concentrate on just three areas: museums, restaurants, and shopping.

## Museums

Utrecht has more than a dozen significant museums. I will restrain myself and just mention four that I feel should be on the top of the list.

► *The Centraal Museum* (2) houses a collection of art from the Middle Ages to the present. In addition

to special exhibitions, it has, among many other things, a ship dating from around 1200, a doll’s house from around 1680, and various home interiors of some centuries ago. Address: Agnietenstraat 1. Hours: daily 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Sunday 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Entrance fee: Dfl6.\*

► *Museum Catharijne Convent* (3) offers an unforgettable panoramic view of the history of Christianity and of Christian culture in the Netherlands. To see the convent and the other historic buildings in which the museum is housed is by itself worth the entrance fee of Dfl5. Address: Nieuwegracht, No. 63. Hours: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Sunday 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

► *Museum ‘Van Speelklok tot Pierement’* (4) This museum is somewhat more frivolous in nature. It contains a collection of all kinds of mechanical musical instruments, from tiny music boxes to huge street organs. This museum recently found a new home in the Buurkerk, one of Utrecht’s historic churches. Address: Buurkerkhof No. 10.

Hours 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; closed Mondays. Entrance fee: Dfl7.50.

► *The Nederlands Spoorwegmuseum* (5). This museum is a treat for all who love old trains and everything associated with these historic iron monsters. Take bus 3 from the Central station and get off at the “Maliebaan” stop. Railway enthusiasts will not regret having paid the 10 guilders to get inside. Hours: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Sunday 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.; closed Mondays.

## Eating Out

After you have seen the prices in Dutch restaurants, you’ll praise the General Conference for its foresight in arranging meals in the Jaarbeurs Complex! But if you do want to “eat out,” Utrecht offers a variety of choices, both for vegetarians and nonvegetarians. (Most restaurants have a few vegetarian dishes on the



The tower of the Dom church



# Union College announces a new Physician Assistant program.



The call for PAs is clear: nationally there are 6 jobs for every applicant. From rural North America to the vast plains of China, qualified health care workers are in demand.

Union College is prepared to meet the need. Union is the only SDA college to offer a 4-year, liberal arts Physician Assistant program.

Call for info

1.800.

228.4600

The first class will graduate in 1999 and after a national exam, they will be ready for work. And with projections from the Department of Labor calling for a 44% increase in PA openings, the forecast sounds good.

If a career of service in the medical profession (starting in the mid \$40's) sounds good to you, call Union College.



menu, although we could wish that some cooks were a little more inventive than just using eggs to replace the meat.) The fast-food chains from across the Atlantic are abundantly present. So also are restaurants offering "ethnic" foods: Italian, Greek, Turkish, Chinese, Surinamese, Thai, Indian, etc.

Let me venture, however, to make two specific suggestions: Try one of the many Chinese-Indonesian restaurants (the Borobudur, immediately adjacent to the Jaarbeurs Complex, is the nearest) and order *gado-gado*, a delicious vegetarian dish. I admit it's not totally Dutch, but considering the strong historic ties between Indonesia and the Netherlands, it does qualify as at least partly Dutch! Or go to one of the pancake restaurants. The best known is near the water along the Oudegracht (De Oude Muntkelder-6). I may meet you there—for I plan to eat there at least once.

Restaurant prices vary considerably. In most medium-priced restaurants you must expect to pay 40 to 50 guilders for a two- or three-course meal. Chinese or Indonesian food is a little less expensive. But even a visit to the pancake restaurants will cost you about 25 guilders a person.



The Netherlands is a country with a very high bicycle density.



## Shopping

Coming from the Jaarbeurs Complex, you cross a busy road and take the escalator to the back entrance of the Central Station. A five-minute walk through a walkway over the railway tracks and through the main hall of the station leads you directly to the largest shopping mall in the Netherlands: Hoog Catharijne (7). But don't just stay in this shopping center. Venture out toward La Vie (8), another smaller but more luxurious center, and to the shops along the Oudegracht and the lively narrow streets, with their peculiar ambience, between the Oudegracht and the large shopping center (9). Remember, the Netherlands is not a cheap country, and the low dollar is not a help for those who use the greenback as their

currency. There are, however, bargains around!

Please enjoy your stay in Utrecht! But whether you visit museums, sample a few of the many restaurants, or indulge in some shopping, do also take time just to walk around—either following your own instinct or one of the routes suggested by the tourist office. And take your camera to capture the picturesque wharves or the medieval cloister garden near the Dom (10).

Finally, take a boat trip through the canals, if you can. And if you really want to have a panoramic view of Utrecht, climb the 465 steps of the Dom tower (11). A magnificent view will be your ample reward.

\* As we go to press, the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar in Dutch guilders is: \$1.00=Dfl1.58.



# The Agenda

*A preview of the session's major business*



**By Myron Widmer**  
Associate editor,  
Adventist Review

**W**hat makes up a General Conference *business* session? Elections of leaders. Reports from around the world. Debates on issues. Voting for or against items. And earnest prayer.

This is where the highest authority of the Seventh-day Adventist Church lies, so only decisions of wide import are brought here—including changes to the GC Constitution and Bylaws, the *Church Manual*, and our fundamental beliefs.

And the Utrecht session's business agenda is full! Not since 1901 have so many substantial changes in how we govern ourselves come to a session. In 1901 the session devised critical changes in the church's structure to decentralize authority and create a structure better suited to direct the rapidly expanding church of almost 80,000 members.

Now comes the 1995 Utrecht session and another opportunity to redefine roles and responsibilities in the church's governing structure. All of the proposed governing changes come from the work of a commission appointed by the General Conference in 1991 to see how we might better govern our church—now no longer 80,000 members, but more than 8 million members!

Chaired by GC president Robert S. Folkenberg, the commission reported its findings to the 1994 Annual Council of the GC Executive Committee, which recommended numerous items to this session.

Beyond these items, delegates will elect leaders for the world church and its 11 divisions, vote upon more than 50 changes to the *Church Manual*, and vote upon a request from North America to allow each division to decide for itself the issue of gender-inclusive ordination.

Here's a preview of the more significant items:

## **Constitution and Bylaws Proposals**

► **Nominating Committee Makeup.** This proposal would allow all delegates at large who are appointed or employed by the GC or its institutions and not standing for reelection to choose their own representatives on the Nominating Committee. They currently join division caucuses to choose the division's representatives.

► **Limiting the Delegation's Size.** Two proposals seek to limit the number of delegates at future sessions. One option caps the delegation size at 2,000, the other at 2,650—about the size for this

session. Neither proposal changes the ratio of delegates from around the world field. The smaller delegations would cost the church less, make discussion of issues easier, and increase the options for host sites.

► **Elections at the GC Session.** Under this proposal, elections at the GC session would be limited to GC officers, departmental and association directors, the Auditing Service director, and the three executive officers of the 11 divisions. All associates and a few others traditionally elected at the session would be *appointed* by the respective executive committees within several months. This would reduce the number elected at the sessions from about 200 to about 70—three for each division and about 35 for the GC.


► A recommendation to reorganize the GC Executive Committee will *increase* attendance of committee members from around the world by having the world church and its divisions pay for almost everyone's travel and accommodations. The proposal would also downsize the committee from about 362 to 240 members (plus invitees).

► **Reorganization of GC Departments.** Under this proposal the GC's Department of Church Ministries would be dismantled and returned to essentially the same separate departments prior to 1985. The new departments would include Family Ministries, Personal Ministries and Sabbath School, Stewardship, and Youth (which incorporates Children's Ministries).

## **A Request From North America**

In response to a request from North America, the 1994 Annual Council voted to send on the following "request" for action to this GC session for consideration: "The General Conference vests in each division the right to authorize the ordination of individuals within its territory in harmony with established policies. In addition, where circumstances do not render it inadvisable, a division may authorize the ordination of qualified individuals without regard to gender. In divisions where the division executive committees take specific actions approving the ordination of women to the gospel ministry, women may be ordained to serve in those divisions."

## **Church Manual Changes**

More than 50 proposed changes range from counsels on courtship to discipline. 



# OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

## P R E S I D E N T ' S   R E P O R T

*By Robert S. Folkenberg*

**D**elegates, guests, and friends, my brothers and sisters:

Even as I stand before you this evening, the world is changing. Some changes are global and dramatic, like the change of governments in Eastern Europe, or the catastrophe that enveloped Rwanda last year. Most are small and go unreported—they happen to us individually, and are below the radar screen of the media. But the changes are real, and when the world changes, our lives change.

Our church has changed too. The changes are big and global—like the 3,064,612 new members added since 1990, or the increase of 8,105 in congregations. But they are also small and unreported—like the millions of times that Adventist believers have shared their faith with a neighbor or friend in the past five years. But there is one thing that has not changed. We still live our lives in the grace of Christ.

Five years ago, as the new president of the General Conference, I sought God's guidance in identifying the major themes or topics to be addressed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the first half of the nineties. Those themes have never been far from my mind or heart, and they continue to mark our daily work at the General Conference. It seems appropriate that this report of the president to the membership focus again on these four themes: Assurance in Christ, Global Mission, Church Governance, and Youth. These themes permeate our life in Christ and mission as a church.

I am often reminded of something that happened to me a long time ago—it was one of those unreported incidents that end up helping us understand the big issues more clearly. It happened when our family was serving in Panama. One pitch-black, starless night my 5-year-old son, Bobby, and I stepped out of a thatched house on the tiny San Blas island of Pidertupo to walk the narrow trail to our little hut for the night. He said, "Daddy, I'm scared. I can't see." Then he reached up and put his lit-



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tle hand into mine. After holding on to my hand for a few moments, I heard him say to himself, "There, now I can see."

Time after time during the past five years I have seen Adventist Christians place their hands in the hand of their Master and, in doing so, bring light into their own lives, and life into their communities. I have been humbled by individuals and congregations, marked by great sacrifice and faithfulness, and challenged by the extraordinary capacity for good that marks the Christian who chooses to live a life in Christ. These sacrifices can be found in every corner of our work, all over our globe. This desire to do God's will can be found in the lives of Adventist Christians living in any of the 208

countries in which our church has work.

The report that follows focuses us once again on our four themes, and tells a few of the stories that have marked our life together and that illustrate these important themes.

Some of the stories you may have heard before. Some have been, until now, unreported. They are witnesses to our life in Christ.



## ASSURANCE IN CHRIST

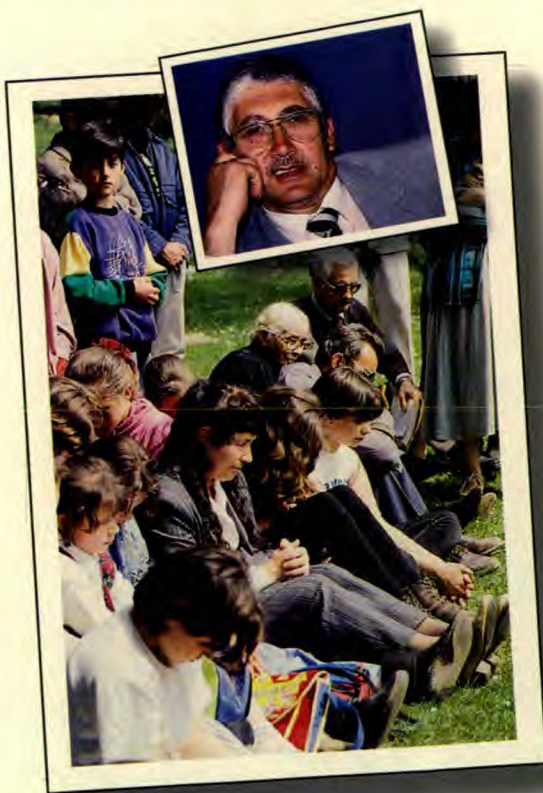
**H**ebrews 12:1, 2 reads: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (NIV).

These are heaven's marching orders. This is God's "management plan." Paul says, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus." Paul establishes a priority; he draws attention to that which is most important—Jesus. People should know the Seventh-day Adventist Church by the fact that it has its eyes fixed on Jesus. All that we do in our institutions, hospitals, schools, and offices should draw the world's attention to the fact that this remnant movement uplifts Jesus.

Imagine that you live in a country in which belief in God and the practice of religion are discouraged by your government. In fact, your nation is officially atheistic. What do you do? How do you feel? No, this is not an exercise in stretching your imagination. Several nations like this did indeed exist. One of these was Albania.

For about 25 years Albania, a small country on the Balkan Peninsula, was officially an atheistic nation. In 1967 the government closed down more than 2,100 mosques, churches, monasteries, and other places of worship, declaring the country an atheist state.

But through those dark years, private observance of religion continued. As the 1990s began, Albania, like its Eastern



European neighbors, rejected Communism. Eventually official opposition to religious activities ended, and select churches and mosques were allowed to reopen their doors.

It was into this setting that Ron and Sandy Edwards came about two years ago. Their job was to develop and facilitate the establishment of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Albania. A tough assignment filled with challenges.

"Because of the uniqueness of Albania's history, sharing the gospel has been a challenge filled both with tears and joy," Ron says. "As I struggled to find a way to commu-



# OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

nicate the gospel to people with no personal understanding of the concept of God's love or grace, I came down to preaching just one thing—assurance of salvation in Christ. And for Sandy and me, it is this matter of God's love and the assurance of salvation that has kept us going, that has helped us make it from one day to the next, knowing that we're serving Him."

What a testimony! And does it work? It sure does! Following many months of prayer, the believers in Albania were able to acquire a plot of land in Tiranë, the capital of Albania. The land is in the center of the city, in an elite section of town, and the church members are very proud of it. On this site they will soon build a 300-seat Adventist church. It will be a testimony to the mighty hand of our God!

This story is an example of what can happen to God's people when we truly depend on Him, when we accept His gift of grace, and when we take seriously His life of service. I am more convicted than ever that when we know that we have eternal life (1 John 5:13), good things start to happen for us and for our churches:

Our churches become communities that share with one another the joy of God's grace;  
Our believers have something wonderful

to share and are eager to reach out to the world around them;

Our institutions become the embodiment of the gospel and are better able to achieve their mission;

Our lives are more firmly grounded in God's love; we become more confident in our faith and more joyous in our everyday experience;

People see the way God is living in our lives, and come to us for "the peace of God, which transcends all understanding" (Phil. 4:7, NIV).

To the church at Galatia Paul wrote: "It is for freedom that Christ has set you free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery" (Gal. 5:1, NIV). What a promise and a calling! We are free from the yoke of slavery to sin, slavery to doubt, slavery to uncertainty. We are able, through His grace, to stand firm, and to live our life in His grace—confidently and boldly!



## HOPE

### IN CHRIST

#### Renewing Church Organization

**R**emember hearing little children sing a song based on a story Jesus told about a wise man building his house upon a rock? When the rains came tumbling down and the floods came up, the house—the structure—stood fast because it was built on a rock. A solid rock.

But it wasn't the structure that kept the house from washing away beneath the pounding rain and rising floods. It wasn't the one who built the house who kept it from falling. It was the rock that the house was built upon that gave it the stability to remain standing despite the elements that assaulted it.

It is the Rock that our church is built upon that supports the structure of our church. That structure has undergone some

unique and extraordinary changes, during the century and a half since it was organized, that have strengthened it and made it a more effective platform from which to witness to the gospel and the urgent judgment-hour message we have been commissioned to carry throughout the world.

During this General Conference session we are again dealing with a wide variety of issues related to structure. As we consider these propositions, two questions must constantly guide our discussion: 1. Is this the most effective way in which we can fulfill our mission? 2. Does our organization reflect and help His people to become more united in Christ?

These questions are not theoretical; they are practical and have answers that impact our everyday world. Take the church in South Africa as an example.



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After years of differences and separation caused by apartheid, South African Adventists have come together to join in worship as one people.

"Apartheid" is an Afrikaans word. It is the name that South Africa's government applied to its policy of discrimination—racial, political, and economic—against the country's non-white majority. South Africans were divided into three major groups—White, Black, and Coloured (people of mixed descent). Seventh-day Adventist organizational structure in South Africa was also previously separated into White, Black, and Coloured.

But in 1992 a dramatic change took place. The largely White South African Union and the primarily Black and Coloured Southern Union merged. Douglas Chalale, president of the Southern Union, was elected the president, and James Bradfield, who is White and was the president of the South African Union, became the vice president. Together they work out of an office in Bloemfontein, cultivating a warm spirit of fellowship and professionalism that is conducive to integration.

"As soon as the two unions merged, I believe that the outside world could see that the Adventist Church is now together," says Elder Chalale, president of the Southern African Union Conference. "I have felt like an instrument in the hands of God to be involved in the integration process."

Now this new union, with the support of the General Conference, is searching for ways in which the various conferences in South Africa can also merge. A task force was

appointed to address the concerns and questions expressed by the leadership and members. They are also guided by the same two questions: Is this the most effective way in which we can fulfill our mission? Does our organization reflect and help His people to become more united in Christ?

So far, the members of two conferences have voted to merge—the Natal Field and the Orange-Natal Conference. Through the power of Christ this unification will continue there until there is only one people, celebrating the diversity that makes each of us a unique child of God.

South Africa gives us courage. It helps us to see what can happen when the members decide to organize themselves in ways that are both effective and exemplary.



## GLOBAL MISSION IN CHRIST

In 1990 we learned a new term—*Global Mission*. In the five years that have passed since then, Global Mission has become an important part of the vocabulary of our congregations and organization. After five years, what does Global Mission mean?

Above all else, it means *focus*. In Global Mission we have refocused our efforts and resources on that which is most important: reaching out to the millions who do not know Jesus Christ with the message of His grace and soon return. We have focused our conversation and dialogue on mission.

It also means *intentionality*. In Global Mission we have tried to reevaluate our endeavors in the light of their effectiveness—how well is this activity accomplishing our

primary task? Is there something we can do to be more effective?

It means taking *responsibility*. Some of the things we have done through the years have needed to be reconsidered, to be looked at more closely. Within the framework of Global Mission we have been able to take a closer look, and to act on the changes that needed to be made. For example, some of the funds the General Conference has appropriated to Global Mission during the past five years was made possible by reducing 98 people from our headquarters staff.

And finally, it means *possibility*. Global Mission means be ready to respond to the providential leading of our Lord, to be able and willing to accept new challenges and



# OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

new responsibilities.

Has it worked? Once again, let me recount a story, one of thousands that could be told to illustrate the effectiveness of this new framework for our thinking.

In 1990 Cambodia was an unentered country. There was not one Seventh-day Adventist in all of that country. A couple years ago I visited Tim and Wendy Maddocks, who are from Australia. They have been Global Mission missionaries, working for ADRA, in Siem Reap, Cambodia, since 1992. Tim's salary is paid from a grant received from the Australian government. The everyday work in Siem Reap is not easy. While I was there Tim told me of the time, shortly before my visit, that they hid under the mattresses in their bathroom during a Khmer Rouge attack. He looked out the window and saw the soldiers under the house next door.

When the Maddockses moved to Siem Reap, they were the only Christians in the entire province. After they arrived, Wendy began conducting free English language classes. Encouraged by the response, Tim began conducting three Sabbath programs. Tim and Wendy weren't in Siem Reap to teach English or offer Sabbath programs, but did so because they saw an opportunity to witness to their faith.

Their faith was blessed by the Lord. Now there is a small church where about 40 people attend services each week. Fifteen of those have been baptized.

The Maddockses demonstrate the importance of reaching out locally while thinking globally. Rather than

consisting of simply words or clichés, their ministry is active and local, reaching and touching people around them in a way that no one else is able to. In each corner of this world, including the corner you call home, Adventists unite in beliefs, principles, and worship. This is what makes ours a world church and gives us our unique identity.

The Maddockses' story offers each one of us encouragement, no matter which part of the globe we find ourselves on. The Holy Spirit is present in each place, in each heart. Our Partner in ministry, He will touch the hearts of those around us as we obey the call to mission by reaching out in our home, our neighborhood, or in our jobs.



## FUTURE

## IN CHRIST

### Youth

How would you like to be watching a sports game in which many of the players are sitting in the stands? On the field below, playing the game, a handful of the available team members wear themselves out returning to the field again and again. They exhaust themselves trying to play without rest or substitution. And yet the recruits in the stands are willing to play!

Sound impossible? Next Sabbath take a look around the pews. What do you see? Are there young people in the stands who are willing to play? who are willing to take the ball and run if they are given the chance? Surrounding us is an army of untapped talent and potential. When you look into the faces of our young people, do you consider them one with us in the vision?

In 1992, 600 young people, along with church administrators, met in Prague,



UTRECHT '95



Czechoslovakia, to discuss the direction of youth evangelism. These young people attended seminars on the different aspects of youth evangelism.

"They determined what to do and how to do it," says Richard Barron, associate director for youth ministries for the General Conference. "They had a very spiritual time and realized the nearness of the end and how they wanted to be involved."

These young people declared 1993 the Year of Youth Evangelism and set a goal to reach 400,000 youth with the gospel message.

These dedicated youth exceeded their goal!

Do you consider the youth of our church fit players in God's work? In your congregation, are they forced to remain spectators rather than partners in the mission? Most important, how long can we remain spiritually vibrant without the initiative of our youth? Who will carry on when we are too old or too tired?

Consider the hundreds of young people who serve their church as volunteers. In church or school groups, or working through their college or youth department, these young people are eager to find ways to bring their faith into the world around them. Whether they build a Maranatha church or school, or help with evangelism or outreach, or work in community service or ADRA projects, these young people are the expression of the gospel.

They are the young people in Sudan, Global Mission Pioneers, who as volunteers have worked under extremely difficult conditions, preaching the gospel. During the past four years they have baptized more than 2,300 new believers and established 39 new congregations. They want to be part of the work of God, and when they are involved, they realize they are at the very core of the gospel.

"The core of the gospel." That is what youth want to be about—and it's important that we find ways for it to be possible, because youth are at the core of our church. In areas in which the youth are most active, the church is vital. These young people are a great blessing to God's work! Believing that their time will come is a grave error. The time for young people to get involved is now. Right now they are responsible for carrying God's work into the future.

In order for the gospel to be carried to every "nation, tribe, language, and people" we must have the help of our young people, whose enthusiasm, energy, talent, and vibrancy will infuse our work with vitality.

## In Conclusion

I began with a story about my 5-year-old son.

Permit me to conclude with another personal anecdote about Bob, who is today a pastor in Florida. One Friday in May

1992 I sat with him for several hours in a hotel room in Orlando. Anita and I had just arrived for weekend speaking appointments. There were so many things that we could have talked about—but didn't. Tears came to my eyes as I listened to my young son, just beginning his ministry, spend several hours talking about nothing but his new experience and love relationship with his friend and Saviour, Jesus. My heart was so filled that it almost burst with joy.

During our discussion he told me of the elderly lady he'd recently heard about who had through her life memorized major portions of the Scriptures. But as the years passed her memory failed and she began to lose those cherished texts. As the end approached and she was taken to the hospital, she repeated out loud the one text that she didn't want to forget: "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (2 Tim. 1:12). Soon most of that text was gone and she could only recall the phrase "that which I have committed unto him." As the family gathered around her deathbed, her grandson noticed that her lips were moving. He put his ear just in front of her lips and heard her repeating, "Him," "Him." She had lost all the texts she had memorized, but retained the one thing that is most important—"Him."

Let's never lose our sense of priorities. This week we will discuss many important issues, make many significant decisions, and determine priorities and strategies for the future. But all of these will be meaningless, futile, and possibly counterproductive unless we remember that we are called not only to be united, but to be united in Jesus. He must always be in deed, not simply in word, the center of our reason for existence.

*The report of the General Conference president to the 1995 General Conference session, given on the opening night of the session, June 29, was presented in a multimedia format. This report is here adapted for print use by the world church.*





# Together in Christ's Mission



By Alfred C. McClure  
President

**T**he Adventist movement has been "running the race" longer in North America than in any other world division. And in this quinquennium the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America seems to have found a "second wind."

New excitement about evangelism and outreach has spread among pastors and members as the result of projects like NET '95. This is evident in the surprising growth of small group Bible studies, prayer conferences, youth volunteerism, and ministries of compassion.

NAD is truly the world church in microcosm. Every culture on the globe has its neighborhood in the large cities such as New York, Toronto, and Los Angeles. There are 50 socioeconomic categories in the mainstream culture. Yet God has blessed with an unexpected degree of unity.

Five years ago North America's membership stood at 743,023. As of December 31, 1994, the membership reached 822,150. This is a gain of 11 percent—a larger gain than in the previous quinquennium. During this period 172,339 members were added to the church.

The faithfulness of God's blessings is reflected in the five-year tithe total of \$2.2 billion. Of this, \$443,865,325 was shared with the General Conference to meet the needs of the world field. After years of decline, nontithe giving to world missions has increased in this quinquennium. For example, although in 1993 mission offerings were almost \$2 million less than in 1992, the combined donations from NAD to special projects in other divisions, Global Mission and other world agencies, and trust and will maturities that went to the General Conference increased by \$7.2 million—from \$14.2 million to \$21.4 million.

## Let's Put Faces on the Facts

"It changed my own life," evangelist

Mark Finley says of NET '95. He has preached the Adventist message to massive crowds in Russia, Poland, and other places around the world, but the largest audience ever to come out for his meetings was in 676 locations across the NAD linked by satellite: 66,000 people on opening night. "It helped me to see that the Holy Spirit desires to do something more through us than we can ever imagine."

The members of the Thomasville, North Carolina, church know what Finley means. The 30 members had just about given up hope. NET '95 became a test of whether to continue work in the city of 35,000 or sell the building.

On opening night 107 nonmembers crowded into the small, rented meeting room. While Finley preached, an elder prepared directions to the church, where there would be room for the crowd. Ninety interested nonmembers showed up the next evening. "God has answered the prayers of this congregation," says the pastor, C. L. White.

Hundreds of other pastors across the NAD share White's excitement and praise. Nearly 5,000 men and women have joined the church through NET '95, and there is a change in attitude. Pastors and church members see renewed possibilities for evangelism.

Mikel Moore is the pastor of the New Life church in Dayton, Ohio. It was organized about a year ago when 117 people were baptized during an Ebony Evangelism crusade (part of the NAD strategy to reach African-Americans) with NAD ministerial secretary William C. Scales, Jr.

Nyasha Morris is a teenager who believes that "youth can make a difference when you give us a chance." Low membership closed the Michigan Conference's Carson City church in

1988. In 1991 students at nearby Great Lakes Adventist Academy brought the church back to life. The teens are preachers, elders, and Sabbath school teachers.

When an earthquake destroyed thousands of homes in Los Angeles in 1994, Dr. Ebenezer Chambi provided medical attention to the tent cities. CNN interviewed him, and when a wire service picked someone to symbolize the large number of volunteers, they featured Chambi—inner-city physician, grandson of the Peruvian teacher who guided missionary Fernando Stahl a century earlier.

Verdie Culpepper is a volunteer NAD disaster consultant. While organizing flood relief operations in Alabama last fall, she found herself face-to-face with the powerful U.S. senator Howell Heflin. Culpepper introduced herself as a relief worker from Adventist Community Services, and the senator responded warmly.

Chad McComas is a pastor with a vision for innovative evangelism. With his Medford, Oregon, church, he organized "Jesus in the Park." With music, drama, and testimonials the love of Jesus is presented in a nonthreatening way in a popular community location. Oregon has the largest percentage of "unchurched" Americans. Yet these secular crowds responded when Adventists tried something new and different. More than 1,000 people showed up for "Jesus in the Park."

Raymond Giguere is a literature evangelist who trekked into the unreached territory of New Brunswick to share the Adventist message with the Acadians and Quebecois. This people group of 7 million has about one thousand Adventists among them. Hundreds of towns do not have one Adventist resident. Last year the Madawaska church was organized as a result of the Global Mission project begun five years earlier.

## Planning for Growth and Change

The past quinquennium has been the first in which the NAD operated fully as a division, in the same way that other world divisions operate. This has provided the opportunity for coordinated, comprehensive planning among the nine union conferences, 58 local conferences, and major institutions. In 1993 the presidents of these entities adopted a statement of



seven outcomes to be achieved by the end of the decade. This provides a framework for goals, programs, and budgets at all levels.

**Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries:** ASI is an association of "supporting" ministries; church members who see their businesses and professional practices as part of the world-wide Adventist mission. Attendance at the ASI conventions each August has pushed beyond 1,200. Training is offered for "sharing Christ in the marketplace," and more than \$1 million is raised in each year's offering.

**Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries:** This office oversees the work of some 250 Adventist pastors who are employed by the military, prisons, hospitals, universities, and other nondenominational organizations. During the quinquennium several military chaplains in the U.S. attained the rank of colonel for the first time. One serves as supervisor of a quarter of the U.S. Navy's chaplains. Adventist chaplains working in prisons have gone from two to 23.

**Adventist Communication Network:** A new entity organized during the quinquennium, ACN delivers to local churches via satellite live, interactive training events, outreach seminars, evangelistic meetings, world mission reports, and special events such as the 150th anniversary of October 22, 1844. About 1,000 churches have installed satellite dishes to receive these programs. Some 50 local TV stations and cable companies also carry ACN releases. This service made possible the NET '95 evangelistic initiative and has had a positive response in the field.

**Adventist Community Services:** ACS is the relief and public service agency of the NAD in the same way that other divisions have ADRA offices. Its value in the eyes of civic leaders is demonstrated by the Outstanding Public Service Award given to the director by the U.S. government in 1994. In addition to disaster response projects, ACS has 216 accredited local centers and funds about 25 inner-city projects each

year to combat entrenched poverty.

In the last year of record, ACS units served the needs of 1,024,680 people and received \$16 million in donations, including \$3.6 million in cash and \$10.4 million in foodstuffs.

ACS signed an agreement of cooperation with the government of Bermuda in 1993 as the first agency to do so in that island nation. ADRA/Canada has



Net '95 became the division's largest-ever evangelistic thrust.

recently taken on responsibility for its domestic program. It has raised more than \$15 million for relief and development projects in 70 countries over the past five years.

**Adult Ministries:** An emphasis on "friendship evangelism" training has resulted in an increase in the percentage of church members giving Bible studies. It rose from 16 percent in 1990 to 20 percent in 1993. An evaluation of adult Sabbath school brought the creation of teacher training videos. Both the Adventist Prison Ministries Association—a coalition of some 40 organizations—and the Association of Adventist Family Life Professionals, which certifies denominationally recognized specialists, were organized in the past five years. Adventist Singles Ministries reaches tens of thousands of single adults through a lay-based network. To further pastor-member teamwork for church growth, the Vision for Mission process was created in 1992; 60 facilitators have been trained.

**Children's Ministries:** An evaluation of children's curriculum materials has been initiated, and new Vacation Bible School materials published. A quarterly journal for those who work with children was begun, and major

training events offered via satellite linkage. New Sabbath school program helps that use active learning methods have been introduced at several age levels in an ongoing process to improve all children's materials.

**Church Resources Consortium:** CRC is a new entity created by the NAD as a partnership with its union conferences to coordinate all departmental materials and conduct market research among pastors and lay leaders. It addresses the longstanding concern that too many manuals, journals, and books are published by too many levels and departments without any coordination or regard to the real needs of the local church. The NAD Distribution Center, the Pacific Union Church Resource Center, the Baby Boomer Ministries Resource Center, the Revelation Seminar Resource Center, and a score of other recognized resource centers are in the network.

Each year the unions match the NAD in providing \$100,000 for new product development. Every two years a wide-ranging needs assessment is conducted to set priorities. Local church leaders can dial 800-SDA-PLUS to get help in finding materials, information, and training. How-to information is also disseminated through 800-FAX-PLUS and SDAs On-line on CompuServe.

**Communication Department:** On Christmas Eve 1994 hundreds of ABC-TV affiliates carried a North American Division-sponsored worship service from Pioneer Memorial church in Berrien Springs, Michigan. A weekly fax news service goes to union and conference offices, Adventist Radio Network continues to grow, and an Adventist Broadcasters Association has been formed because of the expanding number of locally produced radio and TV programs.

**Education:** A historic achievement in 1994—the Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities was officially recognized in the U.S. as an accrediting body. It accredits more schools than any



of the other 15 organizations that make up the National Council for Private School Accreditation. The Office of K-12 Education oversees 1,050 elementary and 95 secondary schools, and enrollment is the highest it has been in five years, at 67,343.

The NAD Board of Higher Education provides oversight for 14 church-affiliated colleges and universities; nine union institutions; three GC institutions; and two sponsored by Adventist hospitals. During the quinquennium La Sierra University became the first university operated by a NAD union, and Florida Hospital opened a College of Health Sciences.

**Health-Temperance:** AIDS is the fastest-growing health problem in NAD, and a committee of professionals is helping guide the Adventist response. A manual for local churches, observance of AIDS Sabbath, and educational conferences have been implemented. The Youth-to-Youth program mobilizes peer support for abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.

**Human Relations Office:** Because the NAD is committed to unity in diversity, OHR has the task of educating for cross-cultural respect and sensitivity. During the quinquennium OHR has developed guidelines on sexual misconduct and harassment, begun a program to encourage churches to make their facilities accessible to people with disabilities, and worked with a commission that has conceptualized a new model for multicultural relations. Testimony to the often-unsung professionalism of OHR is a plaque handcrafted from Indiana limestone and presented to the director in 1994 by Indiana governor Evan Bayh.

**Ministerial Association:** The ministerial office has joined with other departments in sponsoring a biennial ministries convention for conference departmental staff, and a major evangelism council in 1991. Public evangelism is a major priority. In 1993 the Ebony Evangelism strategy had baptized 1,000 in 20 crusades in Central States Conference and 570 in six efforts in Allegheny West Conference in 1994. In 1995 the focus is Southwest Region Conference. The addition of an associate director has increased evangelism. Creation of the Adventist Evangelistic

Association at the Media Center provides more full-time, professional evangelists for North America.

**Multilingual Ministries:** The 29 language groups in the NAD each requires unique evangelism and church planting. This office coordinates these specialized ministries, provides literature in each language, and works with five advisory councils—Hispanic, Asian, Francophone, Korean, and Portuguese.

**Pathfinder Clubs and Camp Ministries:** Worldwide recognition of the church was increased by an Adventist float in the Tournament of Roses parade sponsored by the NAD Pathfinder Clubs in 1991-1993. Two new programs were launched this quinquennium—Adventurer Clubs for grades 1-4, and Eager Beavers for preschoolers. The Association of Adventist Camp Professionals has become the avenue for accreditation of our nearly 60 youth camps.

**Philanthropic Service for Institutions:** PSI has helped NAD schools and hospitals raise up to \$71 million a year. Giving to education increased from \$24 million in 1990 to \$37 million in 1994. Giving to hospitals rose from \$15 million in 1990 to \$28 million in 1994. Milton Murray, who founded PSI, retired during the quinquennium and has been widely honored by professional organizations.

**Public Affairs and Religious Liberty:** Challenges to religious freedom have been many during the quinquennium. A major supreme court decision in Canada won by an Adventist attorney protects Sabbath observance rights. In the U.S., the Adventist Church helped get passage of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. There has been positive media exposure for Adventist spokespersons regarding the "school prayer" issue.

**Reclaiming:** In 1993 NAD launched an outreach to the many former and inactive Adventists. Names of 100,000 were collected and personal invitations mailed for "Homecoming Sabbath" November 20. An ad was placed in *USA Today*, and 28,000 former members returned! A survey of pastors indicates that this is only a beginning, so a long-term effort has been launched. A resource center was desig-

nated, a newsletter is being sent to pastors, and quarterly training seminars are provided by satellite.

**Stewardship:** The growth in giving during the quinquennium has been supported with new tools for stewardship education, including a new curriculum for family finance seminars on video. A certification process has been initiated to supply skilled stewardship specialists.

**Volunteerism:** ASI leaders launched a new emphasis on volunteer service with grants that established ARMS—Adventist Resource Management Service. In the past three years three churches have been planted in the NAD by teams of volunteers, and last summer 700 lay evangelists were trained to assist in NET '95. This spring 45 volunteers from the NAD coordinated 39 lay congresses in Russia, Moldova, Belarus, and the Ukraine; 6,000 Bible studies were started. To expand the program, ASI leaders have made a commitment to division administration, and the GC president has agreed to the creation of a Center for Volunteerism.

**Women's Ministries:** Perhaps the largest movement in the NAD this quinquennium has been the retreats and prayer groups to meet the needs of women. In 1994 this had grown to 116 weekend retreats, with a total attendance of nearly 20,000. About 1,300 nonmembers were among the participants, and 84 made decisions for baptism. In addition, women's ministries conducted 1,201 other events, including 200 training seminars. The Review and Herald Publishing Association has begun to publish an Adventist journal for women.

**Youth Ministries:** A task force has been working for the past two years to put hands and feet on the "piece of the pie" that was proposed for Adventist youth during the 1990 GC session. The new Adventist Youth Service Corps, unveiled in early 1995, combines the former Student Missionary, Taskforce, and other programs with the growing number of service learning programs at Adventist schools. There is also a commitment to rebuilding local church teen ministry. At the first division-wide youth training event in a decade, at historic Mount Vernon Academy, more than 400 pastors and lay leaders participated. ➤



# Here's How to Get News of the Session!

The best way to experience a General Conference session is in person. Every day is filled with heartwarming stories, soul-stirring devotional messages, and reports of God's work around the world. See the colors in the Parade of Nations! Hear the music of voices and instruments raised in praise to God! It's an experience you'll never forget.

But if you can't be here in person, you can still experience it through one of these sources.

## Through the *Adventist Review* . . .

BY STEPHEN CHAVEZ

Thanks to computer and satellite technology, thousands of Adventists around the world will have almost instant access to the events of this year's General Conference session.

But a more permanent record of the proceedings will be available from the *Adventist Review*, which will be published daily during the session. Here's how to receive all 10 *Bulletins*.

### ► AT THE SESSION ◀

**Delegates** to the session will receive the daily *Bulletins* on the floor of the convention center each morning. Each *Bulletin* will be a record of most of the previous day's proceedings. A marriage of journalism and high technology will see the *Bulletins* published overnight in Utrecht for distribution and sale in the morning. *Bulletins* 8, 9, and 10 will be mailed to the delegates *after* the GC session concludes.

**Non-delegates** (and those who want extra copies) can purchase the bulletins at the *Adventist Review* booth—number 215 in Margriet Hall 2.

Single copies of the *Bulletins* cost US\$1.50. All 10 *Bulletins* can be obtained for US\$13.95. (All transactions will be in Dutch guilders. The exchange rate is *approximately* 1.5 guilders to one U.S. dollar.)

*Bulletins* 2-7 will become available each day throughout the session. *Bulletins* 8-10 will be mailed to those who buy them at the *Adventist Review* booth.

### ► AT HOME ◀

**Subscribers** to the *Adventist Review* will receive each of the 10 *GC Bulletins* by mail. These *Bulletins* will be published and mailed daily from the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Maryland. They should arrive in the homes of subscribers within seven to ten days of publication.

**Non-Subscribers** who wish to order the 10 *Bulletins* can call 1-800-765-6955.

### ► VISIT OUR BOOTH ◀

The daily *Bulletins* of the *Adventist Review* are one way to capture the sights, the excitement, and the inspiration of the General Conference session. The *Adventist Review* booth is where the *Bulletins* can be obtained.

Periodically throughout the day our editors will be at the booth to meet and visit with Adventists from around the world and take a break from publishing a "daily." (When you visit the booth, be sure to ask about the special offer for new subscribers to the *Adventist Review*.)

Whether you can be in Utrecht or not, be sure to read all about it in the *Adventist Review*.

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*Stephen Chavez is an assistant editor of the Adventist Review.*



# ... Or the Electronic Media

BY CARLOS MEDLEY

Yes, the 1995 General Conference session is coming live to countries around the world via radio, satellite downlinks, and your home computer.

Through a cooperative effort of the General Conference Communication Department, Adventist Communication Network, Adventist News Network, Adventist Radio Network, and Adventist World Radio, church members around the world can get daily, up-to-the-minute reports direct from the Jaarbeurs Convention Center in Utrecht.

## Adventist Communication Network

The Adventist Communication Network (ACN) in North America begins its coverage on June 29 with a live telecast of the opening session at 7:00 p.m. Eastern time, reports Celeste Ryan, ACN marketing and communication coordinator.

From June 29 to July 8, ACN will provide three and a half hours of daily coverage starting every weekday at 6:00 p.m., including the morning devotional service; an hour of news, interviews, and panel discussions; and 90 minutes from every evening's International Festival of Mission, featuring reports from the church's 11 world divisions.

On July 1 and 8, Sabbath morning worship services will be linked via satellite at 11:00 a.m. Eastern time. On July 8 special programs on youth and evangelism will air at 12:30 p.m. At 6:00 p.m. (ET) ACN will give a special program with a missions emphasis. On Wednesday, July 5, ACN will transmit a special edition of *First Wednesday*, produced in eight-minute segments to show on Sabbath or when most convenient.

For channel information and schedule updates, call (800) ACN-1119 and press 2, or check the church resources library on the SDAs On-line forum on CompuServe. For technical assistance and to speak with ACN field representative Doug Janssen, press 4. Satellite dishes capable of receiving C-band signals can pick up the GC session coverage.

## Three Angels Broadcasting Network

The Adventist Communication Network programming also will be available through Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) affiliates. Danny Shelton, 3ABN president, says their film crews will be on location in Utrecht for additional features. Call your local 3ABN station for times and channels. To find the 3ABN outlet in your area, call (618) 627-4651.

## Adventist World Radio

Adventist World Radio (AWR) will broadcast daily one-hour shortwave radio programs in North America in English and Spanish from Utrecht. Each broadcast will include news of the business meetings, interviews with church officers, human-interest stories, and music, reports Andrea Steele, AWR public relations and development director.

Programs also will be beamed in numerous languages from

shortwave facilities in Slovakia, Guam, and Costa Rica. The one-hour shortwave broadcasts in North America will be heard daily at:

8:00 a.m.	9725 kHz (English)
10:00 a.m.	9725 kHz (Spanish)
5:00 p.m.	6055 kHz (English)
8:00 p.m.	9725 kHz (English)
9:00 p.m.	9725 kHz (Spanish)

A two-hour live broadcast of the July 8 Sabbath morning service will air at 4:30 a.m. on 5940 kHz. All listed times are Eastern time. Many local stations operated by Adventists throughout the world will also carry reports. Check your local station for times and frequencies.

## Adventist Radio Network

The 18 member stations of the Adventist Radio Network (ARN) will broadcast daily news and information programs in the United States and Canada beginning Friday June 30. One-hour programs will be released on the two Sabbaths, July 1 and 8, and 30-minute programs will air on all other days.

Sponsored by the General Conference and Home Study International, the magazine-style programs will include business reports, evangelism reports, devotional messages, music, and special features. Call your local station (listed below) for broadcast times.

### ARN Member Stations

<b>KACS</b> , Chehalis, Washington	<b>KADV</b> , Modesto, California
<b>KARM</b> , Visalia, California	<b>KCDS</b> , Angwin, California
<b>KEEH</b> , Spokane, Washington	<b>KGTS</b> , College Place, Washington
<b>KJCR</b> , Keene, Texas	<b>KSDA</b> , Agana Heights, Guam
<b>KSGN</b> , Riverside, California	<b>KSOH</b> , Yakima, Washington
<b>KTSY</b> , Caldwell, Idaho	<b>VOAR</b> , Mount Pearl, Newfnd.
<b>WAUS</b> , Berrien Springs, Michigan	<b>WDX</b> , Savannah, Tennessee
<b>WGTs</b> , Takoma Park, Maryland	<b>WOCG</b> , Huntsville, Alabama
<b>WSGM</b> , Tracy City, Tennessee	<b>WSMC</b> , Collegedale, Tennessee

## Adventist News Network

If you don't have access to a satellite dish or shortwave radio and don't live within the coverage area of an ARN station, you can still receive reports from the GC session through your home computer. The Adventist News Network, part of the General Conference Communication Department, will provide daily bulletins, news releases, and other documents from the session on the SDAs On-line forum on CompuServe and on the World Wide Web on Internet at <http://www.cuc.edu/sdaorgGC/>.

On-line forum sysop Ralph Blodgett recently started a new section in the forum for news from Utrecht. The *Adventist Review* also will contribute a daily feature to SDAs On-line. CompuServe members not on SDAs On-line can get further details about the forum at GO SDA.

*Carlos Medley is news editor of the Adventist Review.*



# Hands Across the World

*Everything you ever wanted to know about the GC session offering  
and starting 2,000 new congregations in  
targeted areas by the year 2000!*

## **W**hat is Hands Across the World?

It is one of the most visionary missionary outreach projects ever proposed for Seventh-day Adventists. It calls upon all members to help establish 2,000 new congregations in target communities by the year 2000, plus other outreach opportunities.

Every one of these congregations will be strategically placed as the opening wedge in a community without an Adventist presence—and each one will become the center for further proclamation of the three angels' messages.

## **How will all this be funded?**

By Adventists around the world! Money received for the GC session's special offering on Sabbath, July 8, will go entirely for Hands Across the World. And every Adventist congregation around the world will be accepting offerings on that same Sabbath for Hands Across the World.

Every GC session traditionally takes up a special offering to fund a creative project that would be impossible without the combined help of all members. Do you remember how Adventist World

Radio got its start? Through the 1985 GC session offering! And it got the 1990 offering, too. Now the focus has shifted to placing new congregations in strategic locales throughout the world.

## **How much money needs to be raised?**

US\$15 million total. North America is expected to raise \$7 million; the other 10 divisions, \$3 million; and the GC Office of Global Mission, \$5 million.

## **Do we have to raise *all* the money here at the session?**

No. Unlike past GC session offerings, *four* dates have been scheduled for this Hands Across the World offering, including the one at the GC session on Sabbath, July 8. Two of these offerings already have been received by congregations, and the fourth offering will be received on April 27, 1996.

## **Where will all the new congregations be started?**

Everywhere! Well, almost everywhere. *Every* division of the church will receive money to start new congregations. Even the "richer" divisions will get some of the funds. Why? Because

they too have large communities and people groups without a Seventh-day Adventist presence.

## **Who will coordinate the overall project?**

The Office of Global Mission at the General Conference will be the overall coordinator, working closely with the divisions in the choice of projects.

## **How can I be involved?**

In numerous ways! You can give money. You may adopt an unreached territory and pray for it and raise money for it. You may volunteer to personally start a new congregation in an unentered area or help someone else do it. You can sponsor someone else.

And that's just the start! There are hundreds of other things you might do, all with the Holy Spirit's blessing, to help God's end-time message come to communities without an Adventist presence. For further information, just ask your church leaders.

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*By Myron Widmer, an associate editor of the Adventist Review.*



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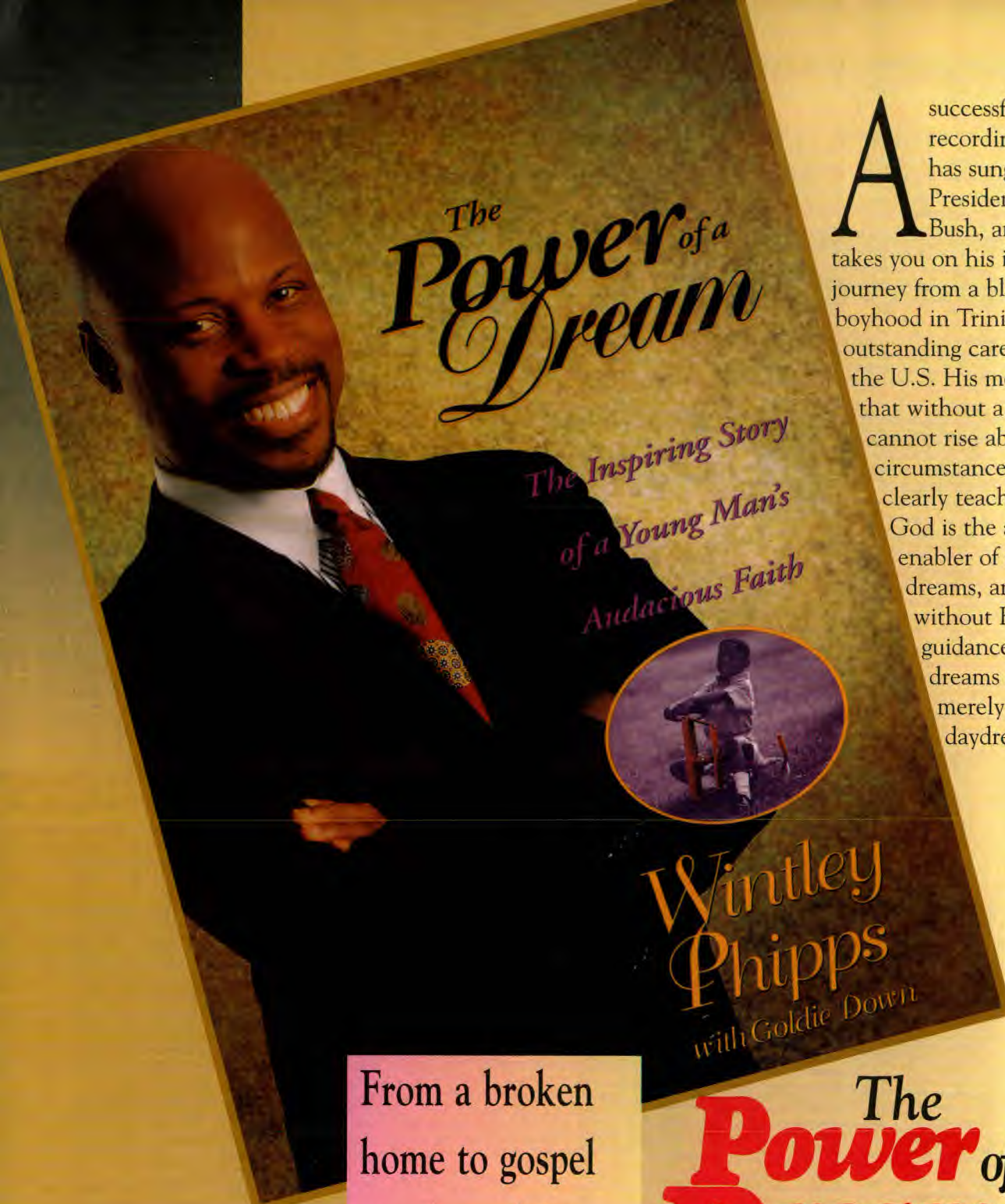
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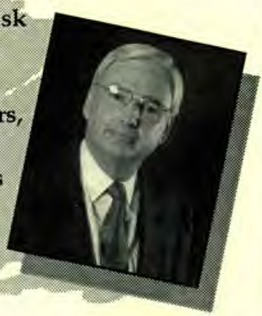
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**THE****LOMA LINDA REPORT**

## LLU Medical Center treats whole person

It's October 15, 1994. She is crying tears of joy as she is being swept off her feet by Brian Robertson, #55 on Riverside (California) Baptist Christian School's football team. You see, Mary Van Dyke has just been crowned homecoming queen.

Born July 12, 1977, with 23 physical and neurological anomalies, Mary was not supposed to survive infancy. Then, it was thought she would never be able to do more than lift her head. Mary was born with the Mary Van Dyke syndrome, a condition so rare that her doctors at Loma Linda University Medical Center later named it after her. But Mary was born a fighter. With encouragement from her big sister, Alice, and her parents, Pete and Pat Van Dyke, Mary learned to crawl and climb stairs and eventually to walk with the help of a tiny aluminum walker.

When Mary was just three-years-old, her mother made a T-shirt with a message emblazoned over the chest, "REBUILT BY THE LORD AND LLUMC." When she was eight-years-old, her medical records weighed more than she did. Mary has had heart surgery to repair a hole in her heart. She has undergone hip construction, hand surgeries, and ear surgeries. She has undergone facial reconstruction, including cleft palate repair, extensive dental surgery, and orthodontia.

*Information for this section supplied by the Loma Linda University Medical Center office of public affairs.*



Mary Van Dyke, who will turn 18 years of age on July 12, poses with her mother, Pat Van Dyke at the Riverside Baptist Christian School. Mary has undergone more than 30 surgeries at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

Just before her 31st operation, and as the crowd cheered, 17-year-old Mary Van Dyke walked onto the field to be named homecoming queen of Riverside Christian School. The determined teenager has earned an "A" average and the admiration of an entire school. Many fought to maintain their

composure as an astonished Mary was crowned and handed a bouquet of red roses. That's when her escort, Brian, scooped her into his arms and carried her off the field as her family and the whole school watched.

*"After everything she's gone*

*Please turn to next page*

***"FULFILLING THE VISION"***



## "FULFILLING THE VISION"

through," said school administrator, Vance Nichols, "I just can't stop crying." In a feature published the next day in the *Riverside Press-Enterprise*, Nichols said, "Our school is a better place because of her. Our kids are better kids because of her. My faith is a stronger one because of her."

According to her mother, Mary faces a lifetime of periodic surgery for various problems. For strength, Mary will continue to rely on her faith in God. Mary Van Dyke is a royal inspiration.

In recent years the medical profession and other university medical centers have followed Loma Linda University Medical Center's lead and have become more concerned about the necessity of ministry not only to the physical but also to the emotional and spiritual needs of patients. The profound effect that a spiritual atmosphere of love, compassion, faith, and hope can have on a patient's physical recovery is coming to be understood more fully. Patients appreciate such concern for their well-being, as is evidenced by excerpts from letters received by the Medical Center:

"I would like to say how much I appreciated the early morning worship singing by the staff and the prayers of the nurses in the evening."

"The Christian attitudes and atmosphere are very precious and surely must contribute to the splendid overall quality of the hospital."

"Seems as if everyone really cares about you and your health as well as your future health."

"The extra comfort of all who prayed for me made me feel like someone special. God bless you all. The



When Mary Van Dyke was three years old, her mother, Pat Van Dyke, made a T-shirt for Mary that reads "Rebuilt by the Lord and LLUMC."

chaplain was a very special comfort."

In one instance, the words of appreciation came over a Southern California radio station in an editorial commentary by the station president. He said, "I recently had reason to be at the Loma Linda University Medical Center. Sunshine and I had a baby girl born there. There were some initial

***"It is part of a medical missionary to minister to the needs of the soul as well as to the needs of the body. The precious truth of Christ's power to save, spoken in season, will give hope and courage, and may save both soul and body."***

***— Ellen G. White***

complications, but everything is fine now—thanks to some fantastic people at the hospital, in the neonatal intensive care unit. From a purely technical standpoint it is like something out of a science fiction movie. The equipment is fantastic—but money can buy any kind of equipment. What makes this unit and this incredible hospital stand out is the people. They are the kindest, gentlest, most courteous group of dedicated medical professionals I have ever run across.

"Everyone—from the gentleman who greets you at the front door to the top doctors and administrators in the hospital—exudes friendship and genuine concern for patients and relatives and friends there to visit. The doctors are humble, dedicated medical men. We in the Inland Empire should feel secure and proud that we are fortunate enough to have such an outstanding medical facility with such an outstanding staff."



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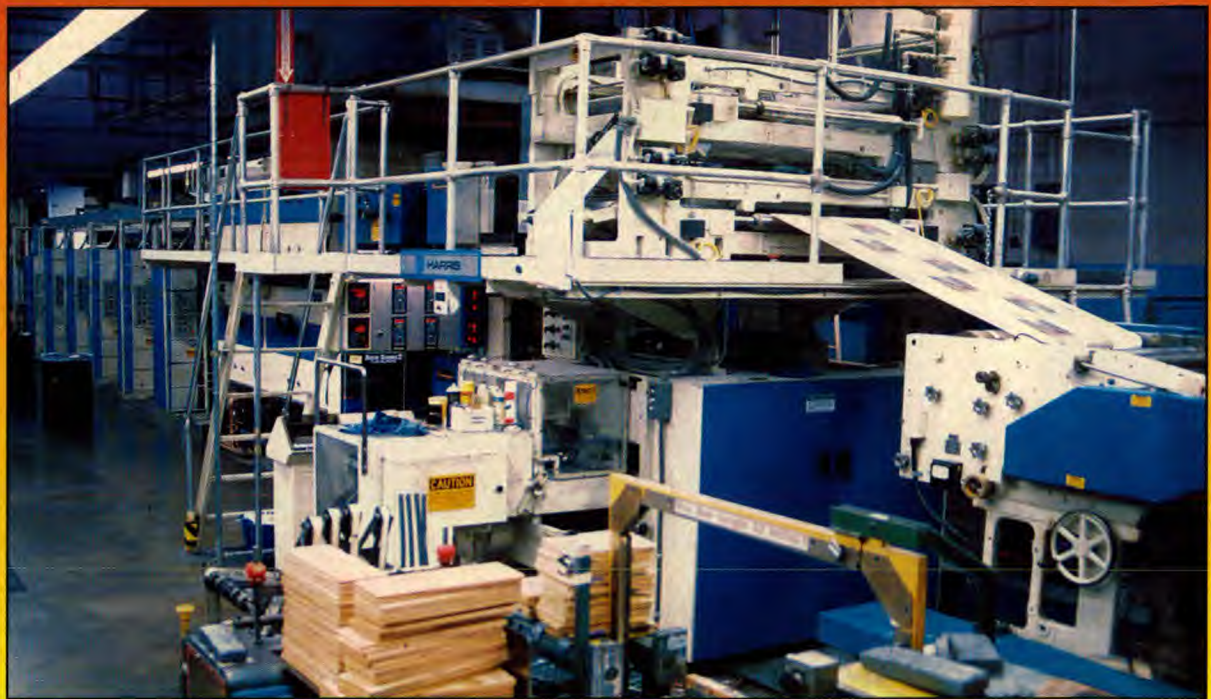
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