



# 52<sup>d</sup> World Congress

10-19 JULY 1975

**THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**



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(Circa 1960)



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# Speak unto the People



A COLUMN FOR THE OFFICERS

*"And the Lord said . . . speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward" (Exodus 14:15).*

As I write these few lines the General Conference is being declared open. I can visualize God's people from all corners of this globe converging into Vienna, the capital of Austria which is sometimes called the "Queen of the Danube." Besides being a great port, trading centre and a manufacturing city, Vienna is also the famous centre of learning. While being the capital of music, it is also the home of many famous composers, writers and scientists. Great composers such as Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms and Strauss had their beginnings in this great city.

To have our General Conference in a city of such repute will have its impact on the scientific, cultural, social, and most of all, the religious world in a very significant way.

In the structure of such illuminating background Vienna needs a convocation of a people whose main theme is the "Coming of Jesus." They would capture the imagination of contemporary men and women all over the world and call attention to the special message that we have for "these times."

The words of Jesus, "Behold, I come quickly" seem to sound more audibly and with an urgency which has no comparison in the past. These words of power are going to penetrate the hearts of men and women all over the world with cognisance because of the definiteness of the warning that will be sounded by the sentinels of God's church.

We used to say every time a General Conference was held that this might be the last conference before the end of time. How grateful we ought to be that another conference could be held under the unrelenting care and burden of the Lord to rally round His people to lay plans for the final touches of the closing work. The lingering mercy of God seems to persist and prolong the Lord's coming.

By the time this paper reaches your hands, the General Conference session will have chosen its leaders, laid plans, the meetings concluded and the delegates returned to their posts of duty.

What is next? We are plunging into the very thick of the battle for the survival of truth in this world—a world which is fraught with violence, fear, tribulation, and suffering. Even the survival of the human race is in danger if left to the powers of darkness.

Let us gird our loins, pray as we have never prayed before for the outpouring of God's spirit that the guiding hand of God may be with His church in these last days.

*I. Kanagarayan Moses*

I. Kanagarayan Moses,  
Acting Secretary

# The General Conference Session—an Overview

BY R. S. LOWRY

On returning to Southern Asia I have been asked to give my impressions of the General Conference Session. Invariably, I have found this a difficult task for the impressions that one received were varied and many. Among the many, however, the following remain vividly with me:

*The Adventists are a world church.* Heretofore, reference to a language other than English meant only a name; but at this meeting *Rumanian* became a reality. In fact, the number speaking English was less than that speaking other languages. This situation did something to those of us who may have thought English had some special relationship to the truth of God. As we heard prayers and views expressed in many languages including Russian and were surrounded by people of many different tongues it dawned upon us that we are truly a world church.

*The church is everywhere.* At the "Mission Pagent" which took place Sabbath afternoon, July 12, we saw people carrying flags and banners from more than a hundred and fifty different nations. The colourful parade was most impressive; so also were the 28 flags which represented countries not yet entered. As the pagent ended, Elder Franz, the General Conference secretary, called for volunteers to take the standard of truth to these lands. What a thrill it was to see people coming from all parts of the auditorium take up these flags and indicate thereby their preparedness to go anywhere and everywhere for Christ.

*God's people support His cause.* Daily offerings were collected. Scores of buckets were used for this purpose. It was a moving sight to see the resulting piles of coins and currency notes. The "Venture In Faith Offering," coming from all over the world and added to by the delegates attending the meetings, amounted to over two and a half million dollars! This proved to be the largest single offering ever presented in the church.

*The focus of the meeting was spiritual.* Despite the business of the session which had to be enacted (nominations, church manual revisions, constitutional changes, etc.), time and again through devotional meetings and Bible studies we were reminded that the chief business of the church was to prepare a people to meet their God. This emphasis was highlighted by the motto of the session which hung above the platform in brilliant letters, several feet high, proclaiming: **NOW IS THE TIME.**

Southern Asia Tidings, August and September 1975

*The challenge of revival and reformation was accepted.* God's people did not meet together only to enjoy fellowship with each other. True, this was a time of many hand shakes and "bear hugs" as comrades in Christ met after years of separation. But more than this, the kindred spirit of the thousands present led them to respond as one man when, in the last meeting, Elder Pierson called for renewal of commitment to finish the work the Master had assigned. What a sight it was to see 10,000 persons stand in acceptance of his challenge to draw near God that He might draw near to them and to press the battle against sin and the devil to a speedy conclusion. Everyone's heart was made solemn with his suggestion that possibly, if we but opened our hearts to the mighty working of the Spirit of God, we might have the next such conference in the city of our God!

*The Adventists have the best of everything.* At least I think so! One could hardly have expected to see a finer group of people gathered anywhere in the world than was present at our conference in Vienna. More than this, the quality of our meetings was also superb. One doesn't want to appear proud, but one was impressed that he had heard the *best* sermons and the *best* music ever in his life. Likewise, the reports of progress of the work coming from various divisions were, without doubt, the best! Even the efficiency with which the meetings were organized and conducted, despite language barriers, left most of us amazed. Surely God's Spirit was present.

*Southern Asia leads the way.* Southern Asia's greeting to the delegates were the first to be read out on the opening meeting. This was the first incident to awaken our delegation to the realization that our field was to lead the way. Later in the meetings it was again notable (and to many a surprise) to hear the General Conference secretary state, while giving his official report, that the Southern Asia Division led the world during the past quinquennium in membership increase. Over the past five-year period our membership has increased 69.4 per cent. (The world average is 29.1 per cent.) Our baptisms during this period exceeded last term by 100 per cent! But, coupled with this outstanding achievement, there is also the sobering fact that in Southern Asia there live more unbelievers for each member of the church than in any other Division in the world. We have only 11 Seventh-day Adventists to each 100,000 unbelievers! (This compares with 600 per 100,000 in the Australasian Division.)

In considering these remarks I am led to wonder: What will be the result of these meetings? Will we have the opportunity for another such session? Naturally, the answer to these questions depends upon not only the delegates who attended the meetings but upon all of us who are members of the church. Once again we have seen the evidence of God's leadership in our midst. Once again we have been invited to measure up to God's expectation — not in our own strength, not by our own plans or human devising — by surrendering our hearts fully to the sweet influence of the Holy Spirit. Once again we have been called upon to give witness to the saving grace of Christ in our lives, as we shed abroad the love of Christ, that the work in the world may be finished.

What is our answer, in Southern Asia, to this challenge? What shall we say in 1980?

# To God Be the Glory

Report of the  
General Conference  
president  
presented Thursday  
evening, July 10, 1975

by Robert H. Pierson



WE ARE GATHERED here in Vienna tonight for the first General Conference session to be held outside the United States of America. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should be here; we have grown under the Lord's blessing until we live and work in most of the countries of earth.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is not an American church. It is a world church. Those who live and serve in New Guinea, or Sweden, in Germany, or Sierra Leone, are just as much a part of this church as those who live and serve in Washington, Los Angeles, in Detroit, or Miami. God's remnant church today is an international church—with some 80 per cent of its membership outside North America.

We are happy to be here in Europe, this great continent that has contributed so much to the advancement of the work in many lands. Your stalwart sons and daughters have served their church well. Some who pioneered the work in faraway lands in unhealthy climates lie buried in honoured graves. Tonight we pay well-merited tribute to these fallen heroes of the cross!

Today the work moves forward around the world, and still the sons and daughters of old Europe serves on all the distant continents of earth, and their brothers and sisters at home give liberally to support them in the field. Tonight on this great occasion I make no apology for singling out Europe — both east and west — to speak a word of appreciation to her committed people for the contribution they have made and are making to the progress of the message.

I would like to express my personal joy in having so many of our believers from the socialist countries with us tonight. It has been my pleasure and privilege to travel and visit our work in most of these great lands. God has greatly blessed His work in the socialist countries. We are glad to welcome you here tonight. We will be blessed by your warm fellowship and counsel.

While we are happy to be together tonight as God's people, our hearts are humbled by the thought that long ere this the work of God should have been finished and His people should have inherited their heavenly home.

What we report tonight is not the result of man's brilliant planning or performing; it is rather what God has done for His people. This report is not ours, but His. Dedicated men and women have been tools in His hands in strengthening some stakes of existing work and lengthening some cords of brave advance on new frontiers. The glory is His, not ours. We gladly give to Him all the credit.

I am thankful tonight for committed colleagues in the General Conference, for dedicated leaders in the great world divisions, the unions, the local conference, and missions, and the churches, our pastors, administrators, office workers, department leaders; medical, educational, publishing workers; and every other category of church labourers and lay members who have made his report possible. They are the ones whom God has used.

May I pay special tribute tonight to some who do not share the lime light and receive the plaudits as frequently as some others? God has used the pastors in our churches, the evangelists in the pulpits, the half-hidden workers in the offices, in the institutions. We hear too little of these men and women of God who, at the grass roots, face the daily tasks courageously, and who under God are responsible for much of the progress of the church.

May I also speak warmly and appreciatively tonight of those silver-haired fathers and mothers in Israel who have laid so well the foundations upon which we have built during the past quinquennium. These retired workers around the world have played well their part. We wish all of them could be here in the auditorium with us tonight. Some who were with us in Atlantic City five years ago have

John Mall, Publishing Secretary, Pakistan Union, with his wife and Twyla Reimche, Malute Hospital, Lesotho.



gone to their rest. We miss them tonight. They shall be remembered further during our session.

The past five years have been problem-filled years. Our people have suffered from warfare, famine, drought, and disasters in many parts of this old world. There have been confrontations with labour unions, and time-consuming negotiations with government agencies. We have faced inflation, currency devaluation, and recession in most parts of the globe in recent months. Satan still sends forth his agents to sow seeds of distrust, to erode faith, and to draw away disciples after him. Change and tumult, violence and protest, are still the order of the day in the world about us.

### **Victory Through Crisis**

Despite the problems, despite the opposition overt and subtle, God's Bible-based, Christ-centred present truth has moved inexorably forward on all fronts. To God be the Glory!

God's people around the world have responded to the call for repentance, revival, and reformation. They long for the return of Jesus. They do not wish their lives to delay that precious event longer. By the thousands they are responding. But there is much—oh, so much—that must yet be done. The forward move is measured in inches when we long to see miles of spiritual advance. But God's Spirit *is* at work, and thousands of God's children around the world *are* moving into line, seeking more diligently than ever before the experience of renewal that alone will prompt the outpouring of the latter rain. Brothers and sisters, pray more earnestly than you have ever prayed before that this small beginning will be nurtured and will leaven the whole church in a spirit of true revival and reformation.

### **Call to Prayer**

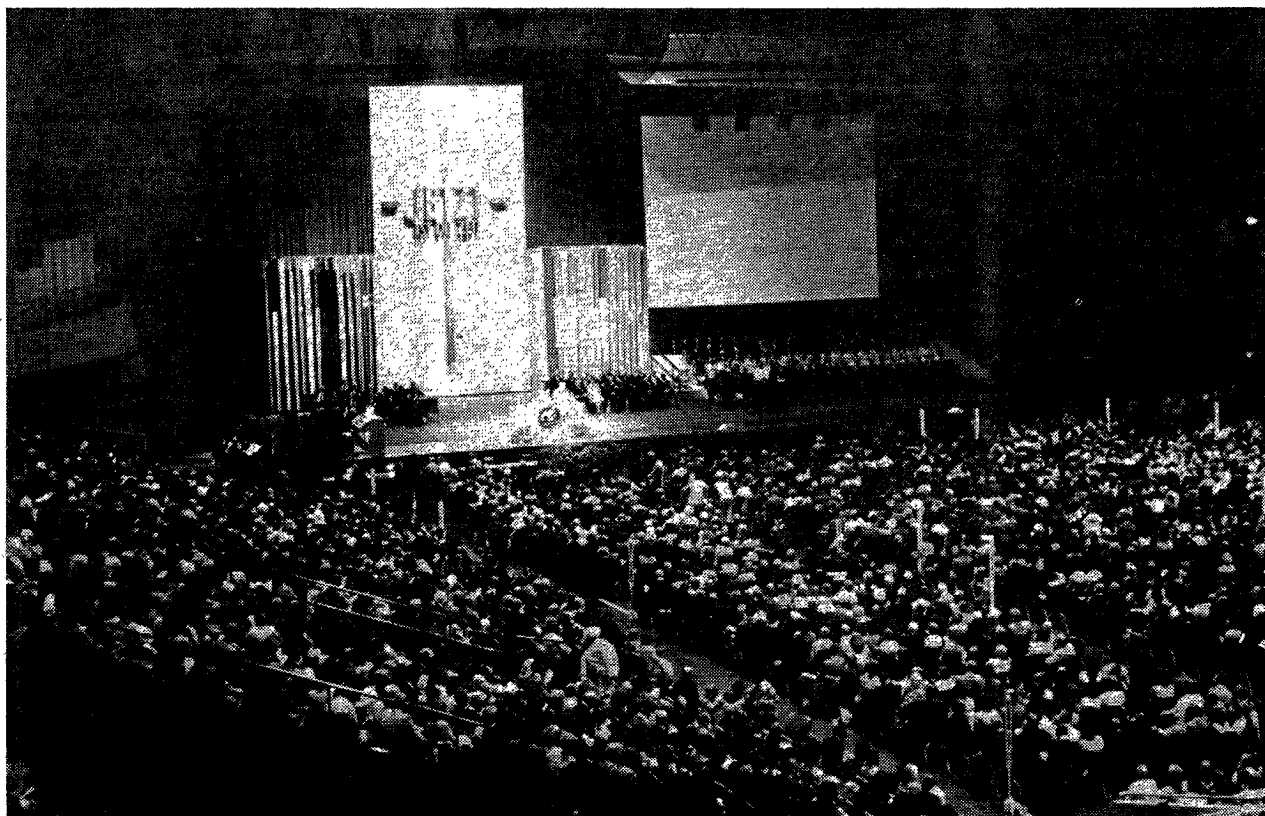
In the General Conference office each morning at eight o'clock we pray for fellow workers and lay members in different lands by name. Hundreds of letters expressing appreciation, some telling of wonderful answers to prayer, have been received in our office. We are glad that many of our church members, institutions, conferences, unions, and division officers are joining us in this worldwide fellowship of prayer. If two and a half million Seventh-day Adventists will come to their knees daily in earnest, intercessory prayer, something is bound to happen in our church and in the world about us.

My appeal this evening is for God's people everywhere to get on their knees and pray, pray, pray, as you have never prayed before. Pray for your own souls. Pray for victory over sin. Pray for your family—for your sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers. Pray for your neighbours, for your community, for your government leaders. Pray! Pray! Pray! God's army moves forward on its knees!

### **Evangelize! Evangelize! Evangelize!**

For the past nine years a clarion call to evangelism has been in the forefront of this evangelistic advance—this wave of soul winning that must sweep across the world. It must involve every church member, every denominational worker. Our pulpits everywhere, in every language, under every conceivable condition, must ring clearly with God's last challenging message. Every language of earth must swell the mighty chorus calling men and women to repentance, to the acceptance of Christ and His last-day message!

A view of the main auditorium at the Stadthalle where the 52nd World Congress was held July 10-19.



No field is to be neglected. We must reach out into the unentered lands, provinces, countries, cities, and communities. The time for an unprecedented worldwide advance is here. A larger soul-winning work must be accomplished in the great cities of the world. Let every church, every conference, every union, and every division launch out by faith in setting baptismal objectives within the framework of fervent prayer and unwavering faith. This call includes every denominational worker on every level of administration, and every church member.

In the soul-winning programme of the church the past five years God has been good. Though we have nothing of which to boast, our hearts are warm with thanksgiving as we read reports from soul-winning fronts. Every division has contributed to the encouraging gains that have been made. In some lands there have been real breakthroughs. Whole denominations have been won for Christ and His last-day message. Countless other communities are calling.

## World Membership Increases

During the past quinquennium (1970-1974) 964,164 have been added to the church by baptism and profession of faith. Our world church membership at the end of the first quarter of 1975 stood at 2,521,429. Our Sabbath school membership was 3,166,723 at the end of 1974. These figures are but a small fraction of what they should be and a small indication of what God desires to do for us, but they are an earnest of greater days ahead when the full power of the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the world.

*General Conference Departments.* The departments of the church have long played an important role in her advancement. Who can estimate the souls won, the backsliders restored, the spiritual help extended, the funds raised, the encouragement of young and old supplied, and the good done by our committed departmental leaders on all levels the world around? I want to pay tribute to their monumental achievements under God tonight.

Our General Conference department leaders will be rendering their reports in detail and will be participating in the other activities of the session, and it would be unfair for me to make inroads on their presentations. I deeply appreciate all that these men and women of God have done in the past five years to advance the cause of God around the world.

*General Conference Institutions.* Our General Conference institutions have continued to play an important role in the church advance. Andrews and Loma Linda Universities and Oakwood College turn out workers for the world field and committed lay members who support the church in their homelands. The Review and Herald, the Pacific Press, and Southern Publishing Association keep an endless flow of truth-filled literature pouring forth in many languages. The Christian Record, Harris Pine Mills, Riverside Hospital, and Loma Linda Foods—each in its own field supports the church, preaches the Advent message, heals the sick, or encourages the blind.

The 1971 Spring Meeting authorized the creation of a new General Conference institution—the Radio, Television, and Film Centre now located at Thousand Oaks, California. Here the Voice of Prophecy, Faith for Today, It Is Written, and the General Conference audio-visual programmes of the church have been brought together in a united centre that will build for strength in the future.

We owe much to these dedicated institutions and the committed personnel who man them. You will hear more from each of these units during the session.

*Lay Involvement.* It is our desire and determination more and more to involve our fine committed laymen, young and old, in the work of their church. Thousands of these stalwart men and women of God already are playing a major role in the advance of the movement. We desire that many more should be involved in the administration, the planning, and the direct action of their church.

Our Adventist Volunteer Service Corps, our student missionary programme, our Sustentation Overseas Service programme have taken hundreds of members old, young, and middle aged to all parts of the world, rendering loving service to peoples everywhere. They go as health and educational workers. They preach, they teach, they build. They are secretaries, maintenance men, technicians—they are most any kind of professional, technical, or skilled workers you might think of. We highly value their committed service.

*Human Relations.* From its very beginnings the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been a church of one blood, one brotherhood, one people. Many of the pioneers of this movement spoke out boldly in support of civil rights and religious liberty. Ours is a church composed of members from “every kindred, tongue, and people.” We must not, dare not, have racial differences to divide and plague us. One in Christ must be much more than a sanctimonious shibboleth. It must be a way of life among us.



Thirteen contemporary oil paintings hung in the main lobby of the Stadthalle, setting the mood for the session. The artist is Bill Read of Miami, Florida, and his paintings illustrate experiences in the life of Christ that parallel the work of the church today.



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**Constitutionally, the associates and assistants are not appointed at the General Conference Session. However, the Southern Asia Division Executive Committee met and appointed them during this time. See the Division Directory for the names.**

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In recent years the church has gone on record officially with actions passed in Annual Councils and General Conference sessions calculated to draw together its heterogeneous membership from every kindred, tongue, and people from around the world into a harmonious and loving relationship regardless of ethnic or cultural background. These church actions must not be merely cold words; the words must become flesh and govern our daily lives as we live and serve together for one great common cause.

In my new book, *We Still Believe*, just recently off the press, I declare, "Seventh-day Adventists, of all people, should be a church bound together by the love of Christ and love for one another. That love, like the love of Christ, should rise above the national, racial, and cultural barriers that so divide and harass the world about us. God calls us to be truly one in Christ Jesus—not only in word but in all walks of our church life. May the love of Christ pull us together!"

In a world of change God's remnant church must keep on course. The change of worldly mores, the slide to a liberal theology more comfortable to the carnal heart on the part of too many Christian churches about us, must not undermine those pillars of truth that have sustained our heaven-built temple of present truth.

Yet, we must not ignore the changing times in which we live. Truth need have no fear of being tested. Hence, in-depth study groups have reviewed again our church positions on such areas of current concern as labour unions, religious liberty, divorce and remarriage, adornment, jewelry, music in the church, recreation, athletics, drama, social activities, and goals and objectives of our institutions. In these matters we have reaffirmed the soundness of our past positions in today's sophisticated world. The principles of truth laid down by inspiration decades ago have not become outmoded. They stand fast.

Other issues current in our modern world have arisen and have been carefully and prayerfully studied or are under continuing study at present. These include the role of women in God's remnant church, the charismatic movement, abortion, reaching and holding the new breed of intellectual, reorganization of areas undergoing political and social change, coping with changing standards, continuing conversations with dissident elements of the church, greater emphasis on Bible research and Spirit of Prophecy research, and many other challenging topics of current interest.

### **On Our Knees and Toes**

The church of God must keep abreast of the time in which we live. Only at our peril dare we bury our heads in the sand and ignore the momentous changes taking

place in the world about us. While we are not of the world, we must not forget that we are still very much in the world. In our determination to remain steadfast to the eternal principles of the faith once delivered to the saints, we dare not become stuck fast in the planning or the technology of another generation. We must be alert. We must be on our knees and on our toes at the same time!

*Ellen G. White—SDA Research Centre, Europe.* During the period under review a new SDA Research Centre has been established at Newbold College in England to make original White manuscripts and other denominational materials more available to the scholars and members in Europe. To further assist our church around the world in sharing the blessings of God's gift to His last-day church, leaders have been appointed in each division to give special emphasis to the Spirit of Prophecy. This, we believe, will prove a great blessing to our workers and members alike.

*SDA Trust Services.* Just prior to the 1970 General Conference session in Atlantic City the SDA Trust Services was inaugurated on the General Conference level. During the intervening time multiplied millions of dollars have flowed into the Lord's treasuries around the world to help get the work of God finished. This programme has been a great blessing.

### **Almost Home!**

Each night during this great session the leaders of our world divisions will bring us reports of God's love and blessing upon their far-flung areas. I am certain our hearts will be warmed and stirred as we listen to the problems, the frustrations, the triumphs, and the advance of God's work around the world. We wish to pay tribute to the thousands of men and women who serve this church outside their homelands. Some have given a veritable lifetime of service away from home and loved ones.

You will be hearing of the opening providence of God in Zaire, the former Congo in Central Africa, where multiplied thousands of inquirers after truth are turning to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. You will hear thrilling stories from the Gibraltar of heathenism, from Inter-America, and many others parts of the world. I must not steal their stories. You will be thrilled to hear what God is doing today.

And so the story goes. God has been good to His people. But there is so much remaining to be done. Great unentered areas still challenge us to bring them the message. Wars, civil commotion, political ideologies, all have posed problems in various parts of the world, but God's Word moves onward.

As we face the last half of the 70's—the decade of decision—we do not know what the future holds, but we know the One who holds the future. Could it not be possible, under the blessing and the guidance of God, that the 70's may be the decade of destiny when the Lord will close accounts with earth and ring down the curtain of time, and His people will see their Lord face to face?

Brothers and sisters, this is what we have been working for, praying for, longing for, these many years. I want to challenge this worldwide church tonight not to delay longer the Saviour's return. You and I may hasten His appearing by personal revival and reformation in our own lives. God grant that this experience may come to each of us quickly, that the latter rain may be poured out in power, the work finished, and we may all "go home." May our good Lord hasten that day!

## Pre-Session Meetings

A continuing effort of the church to keep the ministry focused on its goals and objectives.



## Preview of the Fifty-second World Conference

BY L. B. REYNOLDS

"There must be something important going in Vienna," the woman at the Swissair counter in Boston said to me. "I've been processing tickets to Vienna all day long."

"Certainly there is," I said, "the Seventh-day Adventists are having a conference and delegates are converging on this city from all over the world."

This General Conference session is obviously a far cry from the first session held in Battle Creek, Michigan, May 23, 1863. At that time there were only 20 delegates, representing Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, New York, and Iowa. Today there are 1,732 registered delegates from 193 countries representing a world membership of more than 2,500,000.

There are ten Seventh-day Adventist churches in Vienna with a total membership of more than a thousand. The territory of Austria constitutes the Austrian Union Conference, a part of the Euro-Africa Division. It is divided into two conferences, the Alpine Conference with 19 churches, and the Danube Conference with 22 churches. The total membership of the union is just under 3,000.

Austria is a republic situated in the heart of Europe, bounded by Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Italy, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein. The people have a largely German heritage with various minority groups, such as Croats, Magyars, Czechs, Slovaks, Ruthenians, Romanians, Serbs, and Italians. Ninety-five per cent of the people speak German and approximately 90 per cent are Catholic. Only about six per cent are Protestant.

The Ministerial Association leaders, closing their meetings today, have called for a wide distribution of special editions of **Steps to Christ**, offered by the 18 publishing houses in the Euro-Africa Division. Incidentally, Paul Gordon of the White Estate informs me that **Steps to Christ** is now translated into 102 languages and is thus the most available Ellen G. White book in Europe.

The Stadthalle Room B, which seats 2,500, has been filled to capacity for ministerial pre-session meetings. Above the speaker's platform there is a design resembling three joined portals, and inside near each curve at the top is a symbol painted in circle. The first shows the three angels of Revelation 14, and next depicts a stylized hemisphere with a cross superimposed, and the third is a design of a dove representing the Holy Spirit.

Because of the many language groups attending the ministerial institute, one person translated on the platform and seven did an almost simultaneous translation for people seated in the various language sections.

The ministerial pre-session, for years held in connection with the regular General Conference session, represents the continuing effort of the church to keep the ministry focused on its goals and objectives. They are told how to be correct exponents of doctrine, how to conduct evangelistic campaigns, how to bring people to a decision, and how to organize the work to obtain the best results. Most importantly, they are urged to keep ever in the forefront the sacredness of their calling, to be aware constantly that people look to them and their families as examples of what it means to be an Adventist.

The keynote sermon by N. R. Dower, Ministerial Association secretary, "One Mission, One Movement," pinpointed the high expectations God has for the church and its ministry. His appointed watchmen on the walls of Zion.

Evangelism seems to meet with much greater success in countries of Latin America, the West Indies, the Far East, and Africa, than in Europe and the United States. G. R. Thompson of the Caribbean Union handed me a folder depicting progress in his field, telling me they now have 54,000 members. They baptized about 5,000 members a year. Since Inter-America now has more than 400,000 members, I asked B. L. Archbold, the president, how many he thought they would baptize in the next five years.

"We will baptize 250,000 easily," he said. "We should surely have 600,000 members by next General Conference."

This means, of course, that the Inter-American



Division, with its accelerated growth rate, may shortly become the largest division in the world.

A close second to Inter-America is the South American Division. I asked R. A. Wilcox, division president, if his committee had made a projection of the souls they plan to win in the next few years.

"In the next ten years we expect to baptize more than 400,000 people," he told me, "and we'll double our membership."

"You'll baptize perhaps 200,000 then by next General Conference?"

"Yes," he said, "that's what we plan to do! Our ministers are working with great effectiveness and we have many faithful laymen out giving Bible studies. They're serious about this business of soul winning in South America."

Each of the world divisions has an exhibit on the upper floors of the Stadthalle. They give a visual idea of these fields of the world in which great miracles of God's grace are coming to pass.

On Tuesday, July 8 at 8:00 p.m., M. Boettcher gave a moving devotional titled "Except Ye Repent." He is a man gifted with ability to express Biblical certainties in lucid and forceful language. He spoke of the necessity of repentance and earnest searching of heart in the lives of all who minister the Word. When the heart is fully yielded to God, he pointed out, there will be change, constant change, in the life.

Three periods of Tuesday were devoted to a theological study by Raoul Dederen, of Andrews University, who discussed Christ's atoning ministry. Directed particularly to ministers, his message discussed contemporary thought on this subject as contrasted with clear statements from Spirit of Prophecy sources.

There were workshops on "The Minister as Shepherd" that were immensely helpful. Effectively directed by Andrew C. Fearing, men with various language capabilities contributes substantially to the effectiveness



The backdrop for the Ministerial pre-session was designed by Helcio Deslandes, artist, Review and Herald Publishing Association.

of these discussions. Getting ideas across in two or three languages is difficult at best, but here we are confronted with nearly ten languages, and yet the Holy Spirit has blessed our coming together.

On Wednesday, July 9, Charles D. Brooks, a General Conference field secretary and speaker for the new Breath of Life telecast, gave an inspiring devotional on "New Life." He talked of goals some have sought in the high towers of monastic scholarship, above the immediate encounter with souls that have made the ministry of so many sterile and ineffective; for too many, soul winning preaching has almost come to a halt. But there is still that voice from heaven calling us back to our first priorities.

G. F. Hasel, from Andrews University, gave three more presentations on Christ's atoning ministry. Since a large share of modern scholarly discussion is centred on contemporary problems almost too large to grasp, it is refreshing to hear a subject which focuses not only on the present but also on the hereafter, the land where all problems of humanity will cease.

Discussions on "The Pastor As Soul Winner" were moderated by J. R. Spangler, and group workshops again brought into play the numerous gifts of soul winners around the world.

With his message, "Worship Him Who Made," R. H. Brown uniquely linked his scientific knowledge of creationism with the concern for man's desire and need to worship. Here, in an area representing man's personal encounter with his Maker, the person both loses himself and finds himself in God. "I give Thee back the life I owe," the song writer puts it, "that in Thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be." Here was a topic of great challenge and assurance.

Thursday, July 10, the devotional topic, "Wherein Shall We Return?" was given by A. E. Cook, Ministerial Association Secretary of the Trans-Africa Division. He discussed the theme of Malachi and the affront of priests and people who talked as if they knew nothing of God's requirements. But God will "purge the sons of Levi," he said, "that they may offer unto God an offering in righteousness." "Are we comfortable in our mediocrity and our sin?" he said.

E. E. Cleveland was moderator for the subject of "The Pastor As Trainer." Group discussions were followed by the topic, "The Challenge of the Cities." The commitment service, the final meeting of the pre-session meetings, was presided over by Robert H. Pierson, General Conference president.

As the official meeting is about to open additional delegates are streaming into the Stadthalle. Outside the auditorium residents of Vienna rush with business as usual, some in the park opposite our convention hall feed pigeons; others sit transfixed far-eyed, and silent as the great host of God's people prepare for the convocation now almost upon them. Into this 2,000-year-old city have come the people of the covenant, the people of prophecy, a people with absolute certainty regarding the future of this world and a deep conviction that God has called them to fulfil His special mission for this special time.

# Letters From Our G C Correspondents

JULY 11:

"I've been trying to get a typewriter all day—well, several times today, but each time it is 'occupied.' They are all 'occupied' or 'bezeits,' as are the cubicles in the ladies' rooms.

"The Stadthalle is large enough for the crowd at present. There are 41 delegates from India. All arrived safely. Additional delegates were seated this morning as now I'm confused as to the above number.

"The theme is 'The Family of God.' The motto is 'Now Is the Time.'

"They are giving girls (women) prominence. At least one woman on the platform every meeting to announce a song, or some little chore, or just to be there to be introduced and to be present 'all women in our ranks.' Also almost daily women's meetings are lead by Mrs. R. N. Dower.

"Just think how the 'work' has grown! One hundred and twelve years ago, the first General Conference was held in Battle Creek, Michigan, with 20 delegates who came from the states of New York, Michigan, Ohio, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. At the Vienna conference there are about 1,800 voting delegates from nearly 200 countries! As long ago as 1931 Europe had invited the General Conference to be held on their territory, but because of expense of transportation and other difficulties concerning large enough hall and hotel and food facilities, it was not possible. (For instance, even here it is difficult to get a drink of water, though soda pop, and juices flow freely for a price.)

"German is the language we hear. We know what it is to be foreigners who cannot speak or understand the language, but many of the Southern Asia delegates, such as Pastor Muthiah, Pastor P. D. Kujur and his wife already know 'kalt' and 'heiss' and 'ingang' and 'essen'."

JULY 13:

"Sabbath was a real high day. The Stadthalle holds 12,000 people. There

was between 10-11 thousand present. The weather is on the cool side with clouds and sun playing hide and seek.

"New things during the last five years:

1. Student missionaries.
2. Volunteer missionaries.
3. Missionaries called who have special skills to meet particular needs, or who have certain required degrees for teaching posts. (Not just missionaries for evangelism and general service as we had before.)
4. Retired missionaries on volunteer service.

5. Women doing things which used to be tagged 'for men only.'

"Personally, I've been happy to meet Pastor and Mrs. O. W. Lange, Dr. and Mrs. Johannes, Miss Emma Binder and Pastor Jensen from Norway.

"I do wish you could be here to enjoy the music. Right now a male quartet from Iceland is giving a hauntingly beautiful song which sounds like uncompromisingly blue, cold, beautiful ice and water.

"For food arrangements we bought meal tickets . . . for which we get a vegetarian hot meal served on a plastic tray. The meals are bountiful in quantity and cholesterol!"

JULY 14:

"We are kept so busy every day that it is difficult to get time for grooming or care of clothing. Those of us who have come from Indian consistently wake at 3 a.m. as that corresponds to about 5 a.m. in Poona. In spite of little sleep and much awakening, long hours at meetings, little exercise, we do not feel particularly tired nor sleep throughout the day. Is this because of the cool climate? the difference in food? or are we living on reserve energy?

"Those people who thought of buying clothes, shoes or other things here have changed their minds. Everything is very expensive. It costs equal to a U.S. dollar to ride the street car a few miles! It costs to go to the

toilet! Now I know what an Englishman means when he says he's going to 'drop a penny.' Only it costs more than a penny in most W.C.'s here.

"A stroll through the park across from the Stadthalle last evening revealed many of our people, including Dr. K. P. George, the P. D. Kujurs and others eating their supper. Most of them were eating bananas, the *Chiquita* brand from South America. They are about 10 inches long and delicious. Then yogurt, which is the European version of curd was also being enjoyed.

"The Southern Asia booth is very popular. It is located near two stairways to the main hall. Pastor and Mrs. Curnow worked very hard for almost a week in getting it ready.

"The booth shows, in one section, a map of Southern Asia Division with lights shining through pin-holes to indicate every church. A cubicle features slides showing flowers, birds, marine life, animals, people, scenery, schools and hospitals of the division territories. In one cubicle there is an attractive and colourful display of dolls representing different area and people activities of Southern Asia. There are three cubicles representing the departments of education, ministerial and medical. The whole show is very colourful, unified by an overhead shelf on which bright brass trays, bone birds, wood carvings, stone vases and other articles representative of Indian crafts and culture are displayed. Bright Indian silks, scarves and saris form background draperies and soften construction features. Each Southern Asia delegate has a turn of two hours' duty at the booth where visitors ask many questions or merely want to talk to someone from India."

JULY 15:

"This morning Mrs. Hedwig Jamison spoke at the devotional. This is the first woman speaker to the General assembly since Mrs. White last spoke, so it is a real historical event. She is the assistant secretary of the White estate. She related to us a message from Mrs. White concerning the world-wide character of the Seventh-day Adventist message.

"Yesterday in the plans committee, there was some discussion concerning the ordination of women, but it seems people in general are not quite ready for that yet, in our church.

"Later at the business meeting outstanding women were honoured and

were given certificates. Our own Gloria Thomas was amongst these.

"Then there was a hassel again in the plans committee about ordaining women! (Friday: They have finally dropped the matter, but women are having more part in church services.)"

JULY 18:

"In the book store, books, records, tapes and magazines are sold in five languages (English, German, Spanish, Portuguese and French).

"If this G.C. does nothing else, it will make our G.C. brethren more *world* conscious, not merely USA conscious as seems to have been the case hitherto."

JULY 19:

"What a day this has been! It was chucked full from 8:00 a.m. till 7:30 p.m. Elder Franz, secretary of the General Conference, spoke at the 11:00 hour and gave a stirring message calling upon families as a whole to dedicate their lives to the Lord.

"The afternoon's musical hour opened with the Oslo Elementary School Marching Band entering the auditorium playing 'Onward, Christian Soldiers,' as they marched to the platform. The music throughout the congress has been such a treat, especially to us missionaries who get so very little of it in our fields of labour.

"The final programme of the G.C. was certainly the grand finale. It is something I shall never forget and only wish all of you could have seen and heard it too. The title was 'The Great Conflict.' On a large screen was shown pictures depicting the conflict of this world from Adam and Eve's fall to Christ's second coming. The dialogue was interspersed with songs from individuals and choirs. The final song was sung by all choirs combined accompanied by the Vienna Symphony Orchestra.

"When this moving drama came to a close, Elder Pierson called all the division presidents to the platform to present their delegations in commitment to the finishing of the work in this generation. This indeed gave an impressive climax to the 52nd World Congress in Vienna."

—Helen Lowry  
G. C. correspondent

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Southern Asia Tidings, August and September 1975

## Delegates from Southern Asia

### Division

R. S. Lowry, A. J. Johanson, B. H. Stickle, J. M. Curnow, W. H. Mattison, E. M. Stiles, S. James, W. H. McHenry, V. P. Muthiah, D. David, W. L. Sharalaya, Gloria Thomas.

### Oriental Watchman Publishing House

V. Raju, E. A. Hetke, Nora Guild, K. G. George.

### Spicer Memorial College

M. E. Cherian, G. R. Jensen.

### Northern Union

G. J. Christo, Lal Singh, B. M. Shad, L. D. Paul, Dapsingh Nongtdu, P. D. Kujur.

### Central India

R. D. Riches, V. D. Ohal, S. B.

Shinde, G. S. Peterson, S. G. Kamble, R. I. Matthews.

### South India

D. R. Watts, D. S. David, S. M. Moses, John Willmott, M. A. James, M. Dhason, J. Daniels, A. W. Matheson, Dr. K. P. George, T. K. Murthy, John Roberts.

### Pakistan

A. M. Akbar, George C. Johnson, C. H. Hamil, Y. K. Dean, J. Mall.

### Sri Lanka

B. F. Pingho, B. A. Dodd, M. Swishesamuthu, D. I. I. Samara-nayake.

### Bangladesh

R. M. Neish, D. P. Rema, N. D. Roy.



For the first time in 57 years, delegates from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics attended a General Conference session. At the close of the opening meeting of the session on Thursday night, July 10, the six men and one woman making up the delegation caucused to choose their representative on the nominating committee.

# The Second Angel's Message

Bible study presented  
Thursday morning,  
July 17, 1975

BY M. E. CHERIAN

The three angels' messages lie at the heart of Adventism. Historically and doctrinally these messages form a vital part in the origin and development of our church. There would be no Seventh-day Adventist Church without the three angels' message.

Early in our history James White observed, "The truth and work of God in this movement, commencing with the labours of William Miller, and reaching to the close of probation, is illustrated by three angels. . . . These angels illustrate the three great divisions of the genuine movement."—James White, *Life Incidents*, 1868 ed., pp. 306, 307.

Of these three great messages, our meditation this morning is on the second one.

In Revelation 14:8 we read, "And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, the great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

As Seventh-day Adventists applied the prophecies of Babylon in the book of Revelation, they noted that the term *Babylon* is derived from Babel and signifies confusion. In the Old Testament, Babylon is the antithesis of Jerusalem, and stands for the enemies of God's people and for a rival religious system.

In Revelation 17 Babylon is referred to as a woman. Both the Old and New Testaments refer to the church as woman (Isa. 54:5, 6; Eph. 5:25-32). In the Bible a virtuous woman symbolizes the pure church and a vile woman an impure or fallen church.

The Scriptures clearly teach a close relationship between the church and the Lord Jesus Christ. The symbol used is that of marriage (Jer. 3:14). Paul said, "I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (2 Cor. 11:2; cf. Rev. 21:2).

Commenting on this relationship, Ellen White says: "The unfaithfulness of the church to Christ in permitting her confidence and affection to be turned from Him, and allowing the love of worldly things to occupy the soul, is likened to the violation of the marriage vow."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 381.

A further description of Babylon is given in Revelation 17:4-6. "And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: and upon her forehead was a name written, *Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.*"

Babylon is a mother and therefore has daughters. Ellen White comments thus: "By her *daughters* must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and

traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world."—*Ibid.*, pp. 382, 383.

Babylon, therefore, is a designation given to apostate organizations in opposition to Christ and His people on earth, especially during the closing phase of the age-long conflict between good and evil. "Many of the Protestant churches are following Rome's example of iniquitous connection with 'the kings of the earth'—the state churches, by their relation to secular governments; and other denominations, by seeking the favour of the world."—*Ibid.*, p. 383.

Why is Babylon fallen? The Bible says "because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" (Rev. 14:8). She has been the "mother of harlots and abominations of the earth" (chap. 17:5), and because she was "drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus" (verse 6), and "is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit" (chap. 18:2).

The commentary of the Spirit of Prophecy on this point is striking. "This cup of intoxication which she presents to the world represents the false doctrines that she has accepted as the result of her unlawful connection with the great ones of the earth."—*Ibid.*, p. 388.

What kind of fall did Babylon suffer?

1. It is a spiritual fall. If the fall is owing to spiritual and moral corruption, then naturally the fall has to be first of all a spiritual fall.

2. We must consider the fall also as a moral one "caused by rejecting the vivifying truths of the first message, or the great Advent proclamation" (Uriah Smith, *Thoughts on Revelation*, 1865 ed., p. 233).

3. It is a doctrinal fall, also. The message is that the Christian churches have "fallen away from great cardinal truths that distinguish the followers of Christ" (*Our Firm Foundation*, vol. 1, p.560).

4. The fall also implies fall from God's favour. When the church forsakes God, then it shall fall from His love and favour.

5. A fall from being God's instrument of Grace. When a church rejects God's truth and His messages, that church is rejected by God in turn. Therefore, the fall of Babylon implies its rejection by God as His chosen instrument.

6. The moral fall also implies the damnation of Babylon. The elaboration of the second angel's message in Revelation 18 brings this out clearly. "For her sins have reached into heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: . . . Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire" (verses 5-8).

## The fall and the Message Are Progressive

Our spiritual forefathers first preached the second angel's message in the summer of 1844. It was applied by the Millerites to the churches of that day that rejected the first angel's message. However, this message "will have increasing relevance as the end draws near, and will meet its complete fulfilment with the union of the various religious elements under the leadership of Satan."—*SDA Bible Commentary*, on Rev. 14:8.

"But the message of the second angel did not reach its complete fulfilment in 1844. . . . As they have continued

to reject the special truths for this time they have fallen lower and lower. Not yet, however, can it be said that 'Babylon is fallen, . . . because she made *all nations* drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.'—*The Great Controversy*, p. 389.

There is another dimension to the second angel's message. This is found in the 18th chapter of Revelation, "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (verse 4). After declaring her moral fall, there is the call to the honest in heart to come out of her.

Ellen G. White says, "Notwithstanding the spiritual darkness and alienation from God that exist in the churches which constitute Babylon, the great body of Christ's true followers are still to be found in their communion. . . . As these bodies depart further and further from the truth, and ally themselves more closely with the world, the difference between the two classes will widen, and it will finally result in separation." *Ibid.*, p. 390.

As repeated in Revelation 18, the announcement of Babylon's fall is not passive merely. It is accompanied by a message of hope and redemption. "Come out of her," God says. Come out from the degenerated spiritual condition of Babylon; come out from the impending destruction; come out into God's fold—a new church that has not fallen and that has God's love and favour.

It is evident that when Babylon has reached its utter degeneration it will join hands with the world and the devil in the last great conflict. The message calling out the honest in heart will have been given. Then God will save His people from this wicked and sinful world, and Babylon will meet her damnation. This then is the last message. We read in Revelation 18:9, 10, "And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning." And immediately after this, God's people cry out rejoicing. "And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God" (chap. 19:1). Ellen White says, "Revelation 18 points to the time when, as the result of rejecting the threefold warning of Revelation 14:6-12, the church will have fully reached the condition foretold by the second angel, and the people of God still in Babylon will be called upon to separate from her communion. This message is the last that will ever be given to the world"—*Ibid.* Thus the message of Revelation 18:1-4 is the last clarion call of God to His people, and God's announcement of the final judgment upon the apostate churches.

## The Adventist Church and the Message

There is an important sidelight to the second angel's message. The second angel's message by its very nature and logic calls for the coming into existence of a church that will meet the demands of the message. I submit the following points for your consideration,

### 1. The first angel's message:

a. Brings into universal focus the gospel of Jesus Christ, salvation only through the merits of our Lord and Saviour.

b. Calls on all the world to fear God and give glory to Him.

c. Calls the world's attention to the judgment

of God and, therefore, to His law, which is the standard of judgment.

d. Calls all men to worship God, to worship Him as the Creator of the universe, and, therefore, to worship Him on the Sabbath day, which is the memorial of Creation.

2. When the message of the first angel is rejected by the churches, they are fallen. In place of the churches from whom He withdraws His favour, it is necessary that God have a church upon which He can continue to bestow His favour.

3. The logic of the second angel's message calls for the development of a church to take the place of the ones fallen. If so, naturally it must come into existence at the time the other churches are rejected.

4. If the popular churches fell because they rejected the first angel's message, then naturally the church that God raises this time must prominently and definitely uphold the first angel's message.

The question now is Has such a church arisen that meets all the specifications referred to above? The answer is an emphatic Yes. And, it is the Seventh-day Adventist Church. But let us note more evidences of this.

5. In Revelation 18 God calls His people out of Babylon. Then He must call them, *into* something, into a church, a church that upholds the doctrinal position of the message of the first angel.

6. By the very nature of the circumstances, it must be a church that holds the three angels' messages as a major doctrinal and evangelical platform. Further, it must be a church that fulfils the points raised in the messages that follow in chapters 14, 17, and 18 as an extension of the three angels' messages, and a church that fits the description, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Rev. 14:12).

7. It must be a church with a worldwide, universal missionary concern and evangelistic programme. The three angels' messages themselves are a worldwide endeavour. My friends, it is not an accident that the Seventh-day Adventist movement is one that envelops the whole world.

8. It must be a church in opposition to Babylon. It must be a church that will expose Babylon, its condition, and its end.

9. It must be a church that stoutly opposes the union of church and state. The apostasy was the result of such a union. Therefore, this church, if it is to be true, must oppose such a development.

10. It must be a church that extols apostolic purity, and accepts Bible-and-Bible-alone-based theology. It must be a church that highlights Bible prophecies of the Lord's return as the major point of its emphasis in all aspects of its life and mission.

Beyond the shadow of doubt there is only one church that meets all these conditions—and that is the church in which you and I have the blessed and unique privilege of having our fellowship.

## The Message's Relevance

Why is the message of the second angel and our fellowship in the Seventh-day Adventist Church so important, so relevant, and so pertinent NOW?

First of all, if ever there were a time to tell the world of the fall of Babylon, *now* is that time. Events around us clearly indicate the utter degenerate condition of the world.

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## 52nd World

Thursday, 10 July

### CONGRESS OPENS

Nearly 20,000 people from more than 150 countries are converging on Vienna tonight for the 52nd World Congress of the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Held every five years, the Congress will hear business reports, elect administrators, consider constitutional changes, and reaffirm tenets of faith for the 112-year-old church.

All sessions will be conducted in two major languages—German and English, but 2,500 portable receivers will provide delegates with simultaneous translations in French, Spanish, Portuguese, Polish, and a Scandinavian language.

Church President Robert H. Pierson will deliver the keynote address, giving "God the glory for what He has accomplished for the church during the past five years."

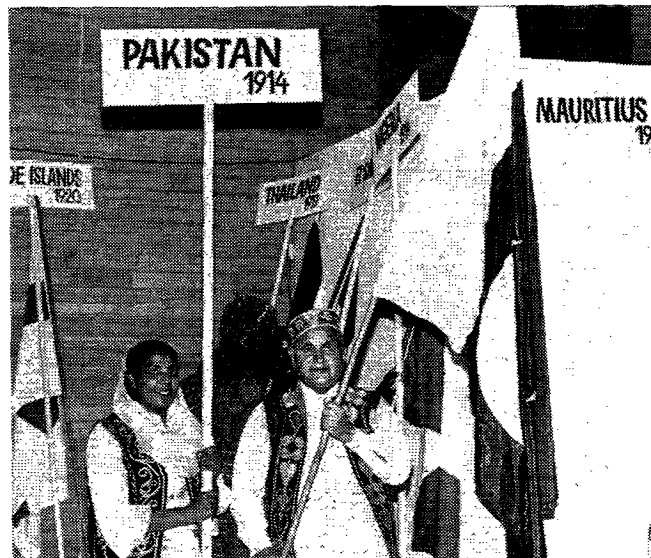
Reports of denominational growth to be heard each night will emphasize Pierson's statement that "we are a world church, not an American

church." Pierson says, "From its very beginnings the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been a church of one blood, one brotherhood, one people."

Of the 2.5 million church adherents, 80% are outside of North America where the church is headquartered. However, this is the first time such a session has been held outside the United States.

"Now Is the Time," theme of the ten-day congress, points up the urgency Adventists feel to share their faith in a soon-coming Saviour. A major point of doctrine is belief in the second coming of Christ and the imminence of that global event.

Exhibits from the ten geographical divisions of the church stretch across the main lobby and line the hallways of the Stadthalle. A 90-foot display depicts the medical, educational, and publishing work of the church. Contemporary art in 13 panels portrays the life of Christ as He demonstrated what man's relationship to his fellowmen should be. The paintings were done by the well-known Miami, Florida artist Bill Read. All displays are open to the public.





# ts of the ongress

Special meetings for youth are programmed for smaller rooms of the Stadthalle. Musical groups from a dozen countries and in their traditional dress are scheduled for Vienna plazas, as the youth add their voices to this music capital of the world.

Friday, 11 July

## ONE LANGUAGE—ONE RACE

"Rising out of all the news today is the good news that our King is coming with a new kingdom where there'll be one language and one race."

Reaffirming the church's belief in the second coming of Christ was Curtis E. Bradford, an associate executive secretary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, at the close of the first full day of the World Congress, convening through July 19 at the Stadthalle.

"We are not ashamed to admit that we accept the Bible's prophetic descriptions just as they read," he said. "We are happy in the contemplation of the on-going redemptive activity of God as revealed in Jesus Christ His Son as He will climax in decisive victory."

Referring to the Bible's signs of the end of time, the pastor explained, "To the secular mind time is an unending continuum represented by a circle.

"But to those who stand in the tradition of John and all of the Hebrew prophets, the most appropriate visual symbol of time is a line with definite points of beginning and ending."

Seventh-day Adventists believe they are not playing some kind of celestial numbers game nor dealing in astrology. "The Word of God is not silent in regard to this momentous time," Bradford reminded the 12,000 delegates in the main auditorium.

Though not time setters, Adventists believe the Bible is full of signs in the commercial, social, political, and religious worlds.

Considering the presentation of the major discourses and reports of the Congress in both German and English and by transistor receiver in five others for the representatives from 150 nations of the world, a kingdom of one language and nationality seemed a happy prospect to the delegates already knit together by the common language of love.

Delegates to the Congress are especially pleased that representatives from Russia and Bulgaria are present for the first time in many years.

Saturday, 12 July

## \$2.5 MILLION OFFERING AT STADTHALLE

Receipt of \$2.5 million was announced at the Seventh-day Adventist World Congress here Saturday for its Adventure in Faith offering.

It is anticipated that the total figure will swell to nearer \$3 million when offerings of Adventist churches taken at the same time around the world are tallied.

The Adventure in Faith offering is slated to fund new work of the church in its medical, educational and evangelistic outreach. Many members gave a full week's wage to the offering.

The Stadthalle audience swelled to 10,000 this weekend with the scheduling of the special programme such as the colourful missions pageant, held only once at each world congress of the church.

Participating in the pageant were nationals and missionaries from 193 countries, dressed in the traditional costumes of their countries and carrying large flags.

Especially honoured were long-time missionaries who had served in foreign lands 40 or 50 years. Each year an average of 350 new missionaries leave their homelands for overseas service.

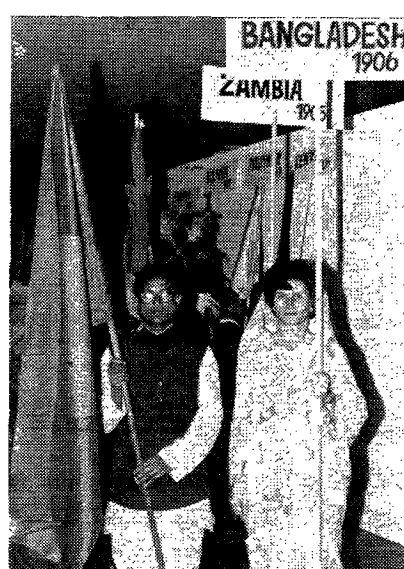
Sunday, 13 July

## ADVENTIST WORLD WORK

The treasurer of the Seventh-day Adventist Church told delegates to the World Congress meeting here that appropriations for the world work of the church in 1975 total \$65,776,000.

Making his quinquennial report before the delegates from nearly 200 countries, Treasurer Kenneth H. Emerson said that last year members throughout the world gave more than \$347,979,373.

The Adventists follow the practice of giving a tithe or a tenth of their



income to the church, according to Bible teaching.

The major portion of the funds, Emmerson pointed out, came from North America, though the largest portion of the membership lives in other countries. Church membership at the end of 1974 totalled 2,521,000 with some 800,000 living in North America.

Emmerson commented that "The past five years have been extremely difficult for all investment and money managers as world markets have been severely buffeted by unusual political and economic conditions."

With schools, hospitals and churches in 189 countries, The Adventist church pools its world funds for united support of the church's work rather than individual churches supporting specific missions or projects. Member giving is heavy, as high as \$500 per capita in the United States.

Seventh-day Adventists, the treasurer said, contribute heavily to disaster relief in many areas of the world. "This quinquennium shows a tremendous increase in the amount of disaster and famine relief given. In the five years stretching from 1970 to 1974 the Seventh-day Adventist World Services (SAWS) performed services valued at \$18,244,864."

The aid given by SAWS went to 75 different countries and to people of all religions.

Monday, 14 July

## ONE CHURCH EVERY 24 HOURS

In Central America a new Seventh-day Adventist Church with an average membership of 125 is formed every 24 hours according to President B. L. Archbold of the Adventist Inter-American Division. Archbold addressed the 52nd World Congress of his church in session here.

In a colourful report here last night Archbold said membership in his division has nearly doubled during the last five years and will soon reach half a million. A total of 399 new churches were organized and 412 new church homes dedicated, reported Archbold, and three new church organizational units were formed to cope with increasing membership.

In earlier business Charles D. Watson (Washington, D.C.), associate director of the Temperance Department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, was elected president of the denomination's Afro-Mideast Division

today, the only change in a slate of officers brought before the Congress to date.

Watson will be directing the Adventist work in eastern Africa, where he was born (Kanyadoto, Kenya, 1923), and the middle east countries of Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Turkey. Membership in the Afro-Mideast Division totals slightly over 150,000 in a heavily Moslem population of some 212 million.

Other officials of the church returned to office in today's elections were M. E. Kemmerer, undertreasurer; H. D. Johnson, B. J. Kohler, J. C. Kozel, R. E. Osborn, W. L. Pascoe, and R. M. Reinhard, assistant treasurers, all of Washington, D.C.

Continuing under special assignment as field secretaries are J. J. Aitken, C. D. Brooks, G. M. Hyde, Walter Ost, and C. J. Nagele.

Auditors re-elected were R. M. Davidson with associates R. B. Caldwell, R. E. Green, M. J. McCulloch, T. P. Miller, R. N. Rey, and K. W. Whitney.

Among the early elections to departmental leadership were N. R. Dower, secretary of the church's Ministerial Association; A. C. McKee, director of Trust Services; and E. W. Howse, head of the denomination's world foods services. Adventists have pioneered in the manufacture of textured vegetable protein products in 23 countries.

Spontaneous applause from the Central American delegation filled the auditorium when B. L. Archbold was asked to continue as head in that Latin American division. R. R. Frame of Sydney will continue in Australia and islands of the South Pacific.

At least 50 more positions for a variety of leadership posts are yet to be filled for the Washington office as well as headquarters in the ten geographical divisions of the church.

Tuesday, 15 July

## A TRIBUTE TO EVANGELICAL CHURCHES OF GER-MANY

Dr. Klaus Poser, representing the Protestant Central Agency for Special Aid Projects, received tribute from the World Congress of Seventh-day Adventists this week for the cooperation experienced between the two organizations in welfare work.

Field Secretary of the Adventists' General Conference James J. Aitken told of the relief work made possible

especially in South America and North Africa by the church as a result of funds provided by the Evangelical Churches of Germany.

The Evangelical Churches have contributed assistance worth approximately \$4,000,000.

In responding to the thanks expressed by the Congress Dr. Poser said, "I am conscious that this type of partnership is only possible because you are there and are engaged in the kind of work we feel is necessary to the betterment of mankind."

The Adventists have been active in providing relief for victims of the Sahel famine. A programme of more permanent benefit is currently under way. The relief programme of the denomination is directed by Seventh-day Adventist World Service Inc. (SAWS), which in the past year provided aid to nearly 10 million people in 52 countries without regard to race or religion.

In business session of the Congress yesterday a slate of seven vice-presidents was elected, two of them new to the office and from countries outside the United States.

The newcomers are G. Ralph Thompson, president of the Caribbean Union Conference of the church, with headquarters in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, West Indies, and Alf Lohne, president of the Northern Europe-West Africa Division, with headquarters in St. Albans, England.

Vice-president Thompson is the second black man on the vice presidential level. Successors have not yet been named to the vacancies left by Thompson and Lohne.

Division posts to date remain without change, with the exception of the election of Charles D. Watson to the presidency of Afro-Mideast.

Wednesday, 16 July

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

Women who have made outstanding contributions to the work of Seventh-day Adventist Church were honoured here today as the church recognized International Women's Year.

Delegates of the 52nd World Congress acknowledged the years of service given by 26 women now deceased and 47 living. Fourteen were present to receive their awards.

Speaking for the special year set aside by the United Nations Neal Wilson, a vice-president of the church, said, "An organization is strong to the extent that it utilizes the abilities of all its members."

Wilson singled out first of all Ellen G. White, a leading church pioneer of the Adventists consider her to have been inspired. Her counsels led the church to establish medical and educational systems now stretching around the world. She set forth health principles practised by church adherents and shared through community service programmes.

A resolution from the floor was adopted by the entire delegation as a tribute on women's day. In part it reaffirmed the purpose of the church "to further implement ways in which qualified women can participate more fully in the church and its programmes." A discussion is expected later on the ordination of women as pastors and lay leaders in the church.

Three European women were listed among those honoured. Hannelore Witzig of Stuttgart, Germany, was recognized for her leadership in developing nursing programmes.

Among the educators named was Margaret Pieringer, a German teacher in Adventist schools at both Friedensau, Germany, and Collonges, France. Olga Monnier of Switzerland was honoured for her years of teaching in many countries of the world.

Thursday, 17 July

## **ADVENTIST GROWTH IN AFRICA, AUSTRALIA**

Growth on two continents first entered by the Seventh-day Adventist church in the late 19th century was reviewed last night by nearly 8,000 delegates and guests at the church's 52nd World Congress meeting in the Stadthalle through July 19.

In both Africa and Australia, Adventist schools and medical facilities are burgeoning, according to reports. "Desire for education seems to be a disease sweeping the country," says a principal from Tanzania. For example, at his school, which can accommodate 80 students in grade 8, he received 2,000 applications.

More than 500,000 nationals have become Seventh-day Adventists in Africa since the church established its first mission there in 1894, and nearly that many more are in study classes.

Membership in Australia and the islands of the South Pacific has doubled in the past 14 years resulting in the highest density of Adventist population. One person in every 179 throughout the territory is a Seventh-

day Adventist. In the Solomons and surrounding islands combined, ratio of membership is one for every 33.

Nine aircraft serve the scattered field of 24 million miles, including the 305 schools and more than 22,000 students. Both vocational and professional classwork are offered in the seven colleges.

Modern hospitals are maintained in Auckland, New Zealand, and Sydney, Australia, the latter operating a nursing school of 250 students. In the islands of the South Pacific are five hospitals and 43 clinics.

Both countries have established food factories in a continuing education of the Bible's injunction for a diet based on fruits, grains and nuts. All manufacture textured vegetable protein and cereals.

Previous reports, from the Far East and South America, also emphasized the strength of the church's education and medical programmes. Eight colleges and 500 primary and secondary schools are operated for 47,000 students in Indonesia, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and the Philippines. In the same area are 22 Adventist hospitals, 11 of them established by Dr. Harry Miller who first went to China in 1903.

Tomorrow's report will feature the work of Northern Europe and portions of West Africa administered from the Watford, England, headquarters.

Seventh-day Adventists from their inception 112 years ago have had strong education, medical, and publishing departments. There are 50 printing plants around the world.

Contemporary religious art continues on display at the entrance to the main auditorium until Saturday night.

Friday, 18 July

## **PEACE RESOLUTION BY ADVENTIST CONGRESS**

Expressing grief over deteriorating world conditions, the Seventh-day Adventist World Congress in session here voted a resolution of peace.

The resolution stated, "We are convinced that resort to violence can never bring lasting peace . . . It is in an atmosphere of peace that many of the world's ills are alleviated."

The resolution mentioned the humanitarian service of the church, which concentrates much of its world mission work on medical and disaster assistance. It expressed the determination to use all its resources "to

promote goodwill and understanding" and "to preserve life and improve its quality."

Seventh-day Adventist members endeavour to serve their country with loyalty in a capacity of life-saving, as in the medical branch of a country's armed forces rather than in an arms-bearing capacity. They operate some 390 hospitals and dispensaries whose outreach is expanded by more than 50 mission planes and medical launches. Increasing natural and manmade disasters have stepped up the cost of the church's disaster-aid programme to a total of \$6,745,083 for 1974.

Saturday, 19 July

## **THE ARTS AT ADVENTIST WORLD CONGRESS**

Music and art in keeping with the Viennese tradition dominated the World Congress of the Seventh-day Adventist Church meeting here this week.

Delegates from 193 countries participated in the business sessions of the Congress, which saw election of more than 100 church officials for the next five years.

Among the musicians performing at the Congress were choirs from Czechoslovakia, Poland, Italy, France, Germany, Austria, and the United States. The U. S. musicians included two groups which are currently on concert tour in Poland under the sponsorship of Friendship Ambassadors. They are the New England Youth Ensemble and the Takoma Chorale. Both groups were selected from among some 4,000 competing high schools and colleges in the U.S.

Many of the choirs and other musical groups performed in the traditional dress of their countries, taking their music to the plazas of Vienna.

Dr. Ingrid Leodolter, Austrian Minister of Health, addressed the women in separate session on Wednesday. The Adventist Church emphasizes healthful living as one of its teachings. Its chain of more than 390 hospitals and dispensaries stretches around the world. The church also teaches abstinence from smoking and alcoholic beverages as a principle of health.

The final programme of the Congress told the story of the great conflict between Christ and Satan, climaxing in the second coming of the Lord.

# Measuring the Church's Progress

Report of the  
General Conference  
Statistical Secretary  
presented Friday, July 11, 1975

BY JESSE O. GIBSON

Our hearts go out today with gratitude and thanks to God for the manifold blessings He has bestowed on His people during the past quinquennium. Especially are we thankful for the 982,623 persons who have been received into fellowship through baptism and profession of faith. The net membership increase in the overseas divisions amounted to 490,957 and in North America to 77,394, with a total net membership increase of 568,351. This membership increase was 123,329 greater than the increase in the previous five-year period.

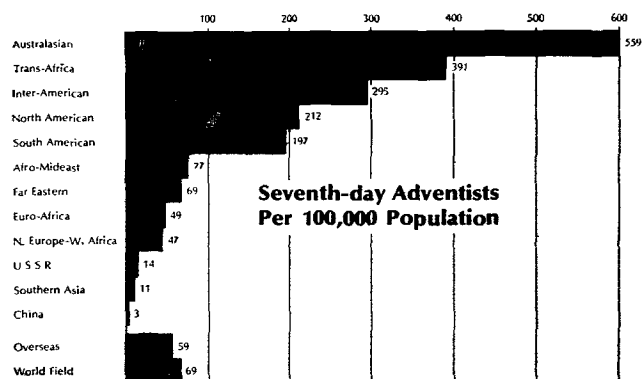
At the end of 1974 our world membership stood at 2,521,429.

## Membership Growth

At the time of the last session our official membership was less than 2,000,000. Now we *estimate* we have approximately 2,587,000 as of June 30. Table 1 shows membership growth for designated periods.

The accompanying chart shows the time spent to increase our membership by one half million. The first period was 96 years. The latest increase of a half million took 4 years.

Our latest estimate of the world population is 3,860,000,000. We now have 65 Seventh-day Adventists to each 100,000 world population. At the time of our last session we reported 56 per 100,000 population. But we still have a long way to go, and time is short. We still have 28 unentered countries and these and vast areas in countries where we have been working for years are still waiting to hear the message entrusted to us to proclaim. (See Graph).



## MEMBERSHIP, 1863-1974

Year	Baptisms and Professions of faith	Net Increase	World Membership End of Period
1863	—	—	3,500
1864-1870	—	1,940	5,440
1871-1880	—	10,130	15,570
1881-1890	—	14,141	29,711
1891-1900	—	46,056	75,767
1901-1910	—	28,759	104,526
1911-1920	—	80,924	185,450
1921-1930	247,736	128,803	314,253
1931-1940*	387,930	190,499	504,752
1941-1950	503,721	251,960	756,712
1951-1960	836,196	488,413	1,245,125
1961-1970	1,327,922	806,739	2,051,864
1971	175,271	93,197	2,145,061
1972	191,883	116,342	2,261,403
1973	215,354	128,721	2,390,124
1974	223,890	131,305	2,521,429

\*Baptisms only until 1931

## PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN WORLD MEMBERSHIP, TITHES, AND OFFERINGS

Year	Membership Increase	Tithe Increase	Offerings Increase
1970	5.1%	7.4%	9.4%
1971	4.5%	9.8%	9.4%
1972	5.4%	13.1%	9.9%
1973	5.7%	17.0%	17.7%
1974	5.5%	13.9%	10.7%

## SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENTAL STATISTICS

### Educational Institutions

Elementary	1970	1974
No. of Schools	4,045	3,797
No. of Teachers	10,235	11,313
No. of Students	282,645	325,013

### Advanced, Secondary, and Professional

No. of Schools	512	502
No. of Teachers	6,309	8,145
No. of Students	88,930	110,474

### Lay Activities

No. of Pieces of Literature Distributed	40,781,301	45,895,783
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### Ingathering

Overseas Division	\$3,421,713	\$8,178,537
N. American Division	7,176,439	13,430,189
<b>World Field</b>	<b>\$10,598,152</b>	<b>\$21,608,726</b>

### Medical Institutions

Sanitariums and Hospitals	139	141
Clinics and Dispensaries	152	221
Launches and Airplanes	20	24
Physicians and Nurses	5,628	7,569
Other Employees	19,837	29,544
House Patients	424,255	477,702
Outpatient Visits	3,814,707	4,890,890

MV Societies	1970	1974
No. of MV Societies	19,107	21,963
No. of Members	630,827	810,849
<b>Publishing Houses</b>		
No. of Pub. Houses	48	50
No. of Employees	2,379	2,396
No. of Lit. Evang.	3,501	4,985
Value of Literature Sold	\$46,882,360	\$74,355,569
<b>Radio and Television</b>		
No. of Radio Stations Used	1,928	2,879
No. of TV Stations Used	280	315
Bible School Enrolments	468,235	622,474
No. of B.C.S. Graduated	161,467	219,515
Baptisms Reported	14,704	21,633
<b>Sabbath Schools</b>		
No. of Sabbath Schools	30,601	34,418
No. of Members	2,607,713	3,196,153
S. S. Offerings	\$14,420,872	\$23,095,516
<b>Association of Privately Owned SDA Services Industries</b>		
No. of Memberships	225	328
No. of Workers (Approx.)	10,101	12,301

The emblem of the 52nd World Congress was a white stylized dove with wings of flame over the waves of the ocean, embraced in a blue sphere representing the earth. Designed by Heikko Jokinen, an artist at the Finnish Publishing House, the emblem depicts (1) the peace of God's love abiding in the Christian's heart and (2) the flaming tongues of the latter rain. These are to be compared with the tongues of fire that descended upon the followers of Christ who, after His death and resurrection, tarried in Jerusalem until the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit. The waves of the ocean, of course, represent the people upon whom God's Spirit will be poured out.

## SECOND ANGEL'S MESSAGE

*From page 13*

and of the popular churches. When men in clerical robes, ordained to lead the world to the throne of grace, shout from the housetops of God-is-dead philosophy, and a new morality and a situation ethics theology, a fear-no-one and do-as-you-please way of life, and when the world has come to moral bankruptcy and is on the brink of utter spiritual chaos, is not NOW the time for you and me to tell all the world that Babylon is fallen, is fallen?

Second, is not NOW the time to call God's people out of the fallen Babylon? The climactic events of the last days are upon us *now*. Those who are to be saved must be called out *now*. Therefore, *now* is the only time left to us to go into all the world "to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" and call them out, "come out of her my people." There is a world to warn, and millions to be called out. And is not NOW the time, before it is too late and before these souls are forever lost?

Third, NOW is the time to search our own hearts to see that we are not in our own personal lives and experiences a party to the ways of Babylon. *Now* is the time to examine our own faith, our own works, and to make sure we are not found wanting. Mere membership in the Adventist church is no magic formula for salvation. Mere intellectual assent to truth will not save us. Saving grace is a dynamic personal experience with the Master. That is our only safeguard, and NOW is the time for that experience.

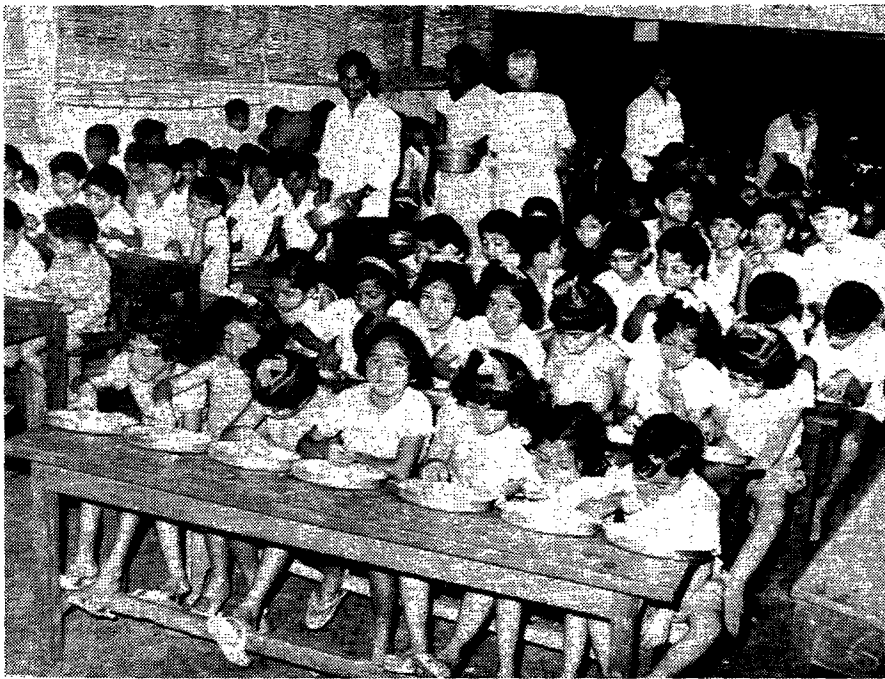
Fourth, NOW is the time for revival and reformation

in the church. If we are to face the challenge of the gospel message we must revive our spirits and reform our lives. The church must return to apostolic purity, simplicity, and godliness. *Now* is that time. We cannot and we dare not put this off.

How pertinent is that message to us as a church today? The church as a corporate body of Christ's mission on this earth must be ever on guard that it does not fall prey to the allurements of the evil one and lose its spirit, its mission, and its life!

Fifth, NOW is the time when the church must move forward like a mighty army in its God-appointed task of preaching the gospel around the circle of this world. "He that shall come will come, and will not tarry" (Heb. 10: 37). We have been raised for the grand purpose of preaching the Advent message. Adventism must envelop the entire world—every land and every man. *Now* is the time to "arise, shine; for the light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee" (Isa. 60:1). Worldwide evangelism and the proclamation of the Advent must become *now* our consuming passion, the cry of every Adventist heart and tongue. God's church is a universal church with a worldwide commission, with a commitment to evangelize the whole world. If the church loses that call it will lose its soul, and then this church will have lost its very right to exist. The dynamism of the soul of this church shall be in direct proportion to its commitment and involvement in a worldwide ministry of reconciliation.

O that God would grant us the grace *now* to give ourselves completely and wholly to live and preach to all the world this message of faith and confidence, and of His soon return.



The crowded conditions at the Kuttapuzha Elementary School are especially felt during lunch time. The morning and evening meals, which are brought twice a day from the school kitchen, are served the boarders on the verandahs of their living quarters.

north of Tiruvella and a church building was erected.

In 1966, Pastor K. P. Philip and his wife were transferred to Kuttapuzha to shepherd the newly formed church. It was their plan to start an English medium nursery school, and they opened up their home as a classroom for the first class of 13 students. The local people were impressed by Mrs. Philip's training of these young minds. Soon more and more students were admitted. In 1967 one more class was opened and residential students were also enrolled and accommodated in the pastor's home.

The enrolment has increased each year and it now stands at 407 students with a staff of 14 teachers, seven of whom are professionally trained. The school has six standards. Standards I to IV have two divisions each and are recognized by the government.

Due to this rapid growth, the

## Mission Extension Offering

September 13, 1975

Tiruvella Taluk, which lies in the central part of the old princely state of Travancore, is reputed for her cultural, educational and economical advancement. Bordered by the beautiful rivers of Manimala and Pampa on one side and the low-lying paddy fields on the other, Tiruvella provides a picturesque scenery for residents and visitors alike.

Tradition says that St. Thomas established one of his seven churches at Niranum, a part of Tiruvella. The Advent message penetrated into this challenging area in 1928 and a few young people attended Kottarakara High School. Unfortunately, the work was not taken up actively again until 1965 when an evangelistic campaign was launched. Due to the tireless efforts of the workers involved, a company of believers was organized at Kuttapuzha, two miles



After the evening meal, the verandah serves as a study hall.

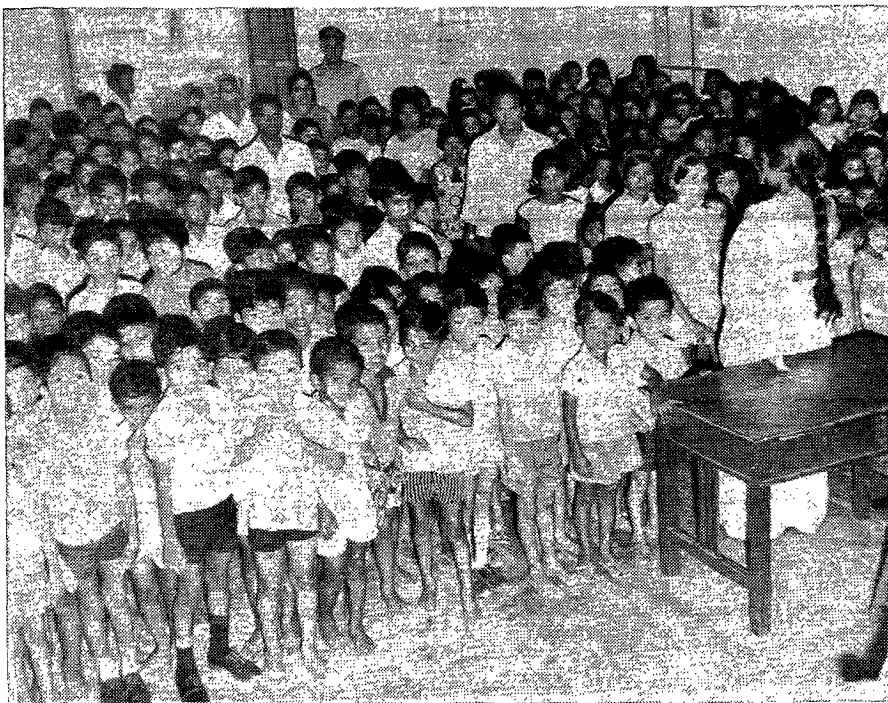


existing classrooms and living quarters are not sufficient to meet the needs. The 100 boarders are housed in three rented houses: 40 with one of the teachers; 20 with the principal, Mr. P. I. Thomas; and 40 students plus five teachers and the matron are living in another rented house. Forty of the 120 CCF students are boarders.

The South India Union has granted the school a Rs. 50,000 loan to build a two-storey building and the corner stone has been laid by President Lowry. Construction work is now in progress. With the help of the Mission Extension offering that will be taken on September 13, 1975, a hostel, dining-hall and kitchen will be built.

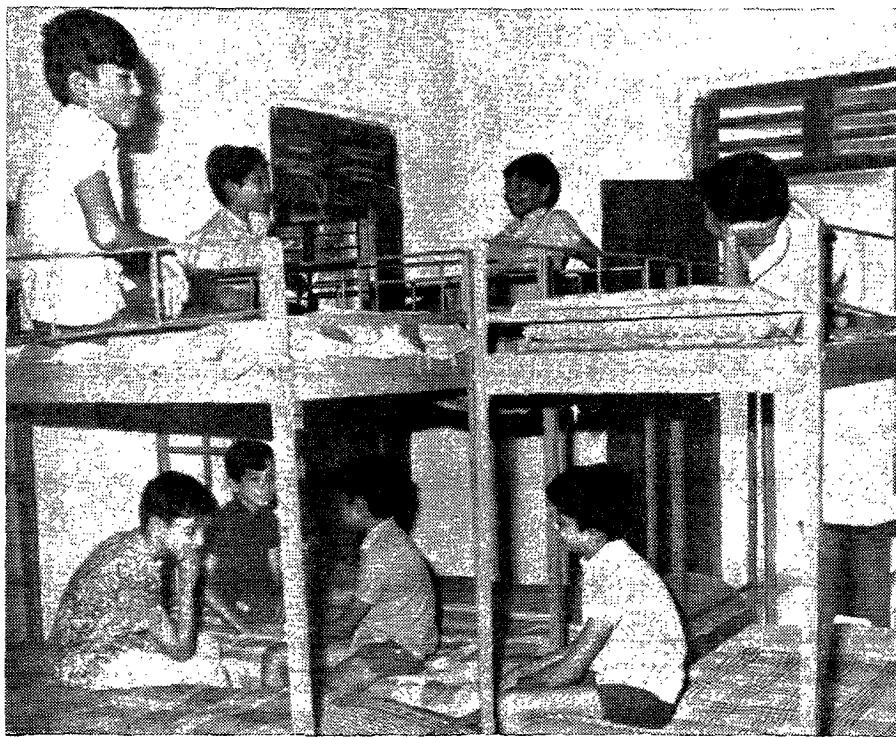
The need is great—our faith is greater. We are counting on your generous offering to help us in our hour of need.

—M. A. James, president  
South Kerala Section



The church benches have been removed and the children have to sit on the floor at morning worship.

## KUTTAPUZHA SCHOOL

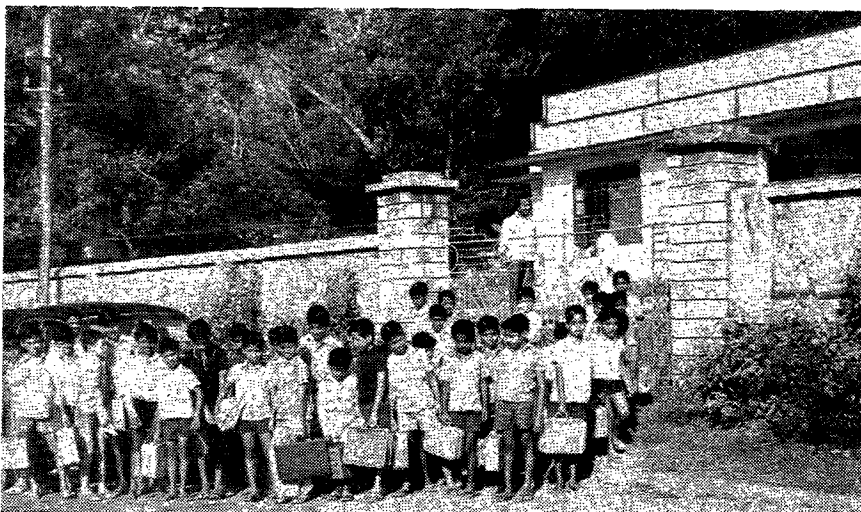
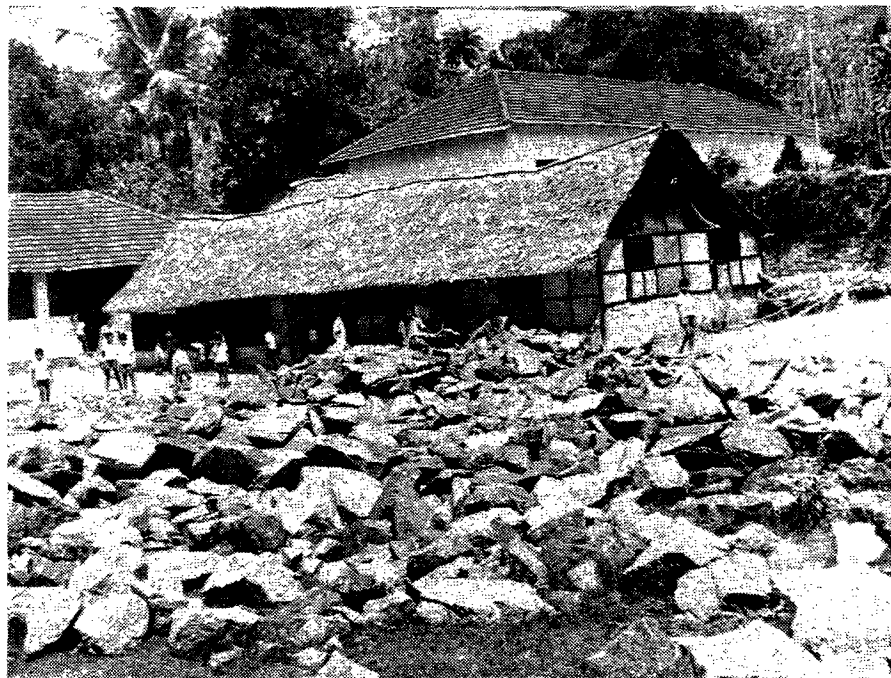


The boys at the Kuttapuzha School have to share crowded sleeping quarters.



Brother J. Abraham, the believer whose land was bought to build the Kuttapuzha church, is building supervisor for the new school building.

The original Kuttapuzha school building is seen behind the thatched temporary building which is now serving as four classrooms. The building at the extreme left is only partially finished and is used as a classroom-cum-dining hall for the noon meals. The pile of stones are to be used in the foundation of the new two-storey building that is now under construction.



Children living in one of the rented homes are lined up and ready for the taxi that will take them to school, one and a half miles away.

# Graduation at Nuzvid

by D. R. Bankhead

The graduation exercises of the Gifford Memorial Hospital were held on the weekend of June 27-29. Five students completed the nurses course, and nine the midwifery course.

Pastor Judson Moses, the speaker for the consecration service, Friday evening, challenged the



Catherine P. T., Shital Bazroy, Susan Abraham, Manosha Mawrie and Poorna Ranjitham, graduates of Giffard Memorial Hospital, Nuzvid.

graduates to "Go preach Christ." "Our life is like clay that the Master Potter can make into a thing of beauty," he said. He pointed out that though we are free to choose, happiness comes only as we submit our will to Jesus.

Pastor D. R. Watts, spoke Sabbath morning at the Baccalaureate service about the different kinds of fire. The destructive kind of fire is jealousy, anger hatred, etc. There are four aspects of fire that can be found in the followers of Christ—fire that is lit by Christ, not for personal ambition nor the desire of wealth and power—there is a steady supply of fuel, which is the daily study of the Bible—the flame must be protected so it will not be extinguished by



D. R. Watts, speaking at the Sabbath morning baccalaureate service.

the love of the world—and this flame is valuable only if it brings light and warmth to other people. Jesus not only gave the healing touch to the body but also imparted spiritual healing to the soul. Pastor Watts concluded with the appeal that these graduates go out and work as Jesus worked.

Miss Alice Zachariah, secretary of the Christian Medical Association of India, Nagpur, presented the address at the Sunday evening Commencement service. She reminded the graduates that Christians, in following the example of Jesus, are providing an unique service to India. There are unlimited opportunities for everyone who will work to bring health and healing in the Spirit of Christ.

She expressed her appreciation for what the Seventh-day Adventists are doing in the country to maintain the high standard of excellence in the medical field, and challenged the graduates to live lives worthy of their calling.



Miss Alice Zacariah, secretary of the Christian Medical Association, Nagpur, presenting the address at the commencement exercise, July 29.

# Our Unions Report



## NORTHERN UNION

### Special Meetings in North India Section.

• W. F. Storz spent the weekend of July 11-14 in the North India section. The main purpose of the visit was the dedication of the Ghogra church. Following the dedication service—which has been written up in a separate article—he, accompanied by section president S. Chand and secretary-treasurer, N. Swansi, conducted meetings in other churches.

On July 13 noon, from 75 to 80 people gathered under a small shamiana in the village of Shang-la. The people were admonished to live true to the message as presented in Heb. 12:1, 2 and illustrated in Heb. 11.

In contrast to this the evening meeting was held in a large church building in Asmanshahid capable of holding 250 people or more seated on the floor. The congregation was very attentive to a message that showed that God regarded his people as precious—as His jewels.

The morning of the 14th was spent with a congregation of about 35 in Khanpur. This group will probably be the next in line for a new building provided by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Neumann. They were admonished to remain true to their ties as the family of God and be faithful until Jesus' coming.

That same morning at 11 o'clock the last congregational meeting of the series was held under an umbrella tree in Umarpur with about 35 people present. These people came in from their work in the fields to participate.

The number of congregations in the North India Section has now grown to seventy-two of which fifty-two have no church in which to meet.

### Ghogra Church Dedication

July 12, 1975, was a very special day in the experience of 14 baptised Seventh-day Adventists when they saw their hopes fulfilled in a small but permanent church building just recently erected in their village of Ghogra a few miles off the main highway from Jullundur to Pathankot. This church was made possible by a generous donation given by Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Abernathy.

It was the year 1974 that in a modestly sized room of humble and walled home with a cow dung floor, Pastor Hakim Din started a series of meetings in the village of Ghogra. He was assisted by Makhani Chand, Gulam Masih, Davis Massey, and S. Chand who was a student at Roorkee. A layman, Munshi Ram was also appointed as helper. Pastor Faquir Chand, president of the Section, hoped for abundant success, but such was not apparent when the meetings were finished and there was no one baptized.

Various workers faithfully kept up contacts in Ghogra for 21 years. In 1968 Pastor P. H. Dass again held meetings in the same place. This time the very modest number of four people presented themselves for baptism.

Again in 1970, Pastor B. M. Mall made another attack upon this village in yet another attempt to break through the self-righteous attitude of the villagers. This time five more were added to the small beginning made two years previously.

Four years passed and then again in 1974 Pastor C. M. Dass and A. M. Malick were able to glean another five from this frugal harvest field, who determined to follow their Master.

It was this series of events under the direction of God that led up to the dedication of the new church building, the fifth church building to be dedicated in the North India Section.



At 9:15 a.m. a large group of about 150 people gathered at the front gate of the little church compound. They marched in as a group to the front door of the church singing their "Zabur," Ps. 24. After a few introductory remarks by section president, S. Chand (the same as the student helper in the original meetings in 1947), the ribbon was cut by W. F. Storz, Southern Asia Division Sabbath School Director, and the church officially opened for worship.

Though this raises to five the number of dedicated churches in the North India Section, they still have fifteen other church buildings that are not yet dedicated, and a further 52 companies that have no church hall in which to meet.

—W. F. Storz, director  
Sabbath School Department

## BURMA UNION

### Burma Temperance Campaigns

Section presidents, secretaries, evangelists and lay members of the Burma Union Mission have recently assisted the temperance department in temperance campaigns in Rangoon, Bassein, Myaungmya, Toungoo, Moulmein,



Lashio and other villages.

Temperance films and lectures were presented to high schools, teachers and students from the State Teachers' Training Institute and Agricultural Institute, national sportsmen, and various Christian churches. These films and lectures were also presented at our city efforts and annual meetings.

A total of 46,740 persons attended the 101 lectures, and 6,500 temperance pamphlets and 10,985 health pledge cards were distributed.

#### A Star For Kachin State

U Shwe Win is a Burman Buddhist. He is the proprietor of a hair cutting shop in Myintkyina, Kachin State. He is a family man.

One day, he received an enrolment card from the Voice of Prophecy in Rangoon. Prompted by the desire to know what it was all about, he filled in the card and mailed it to our Rangoon office. He soon started receiving the VOP lessons. During the course of his study, he was impressed by the truths presented and decided to abandon his hereditary religion and accept Christianity.

He called on a Christian mission in Myintkyina and told the minister in charge of his decision to become a Christian. He was therefore sprinkled by the minister and became a member of that Christian church.

As U Shwe Win continued studying the VOP lessons he learned that the Biblical method of baptism is by immersion. He made his way to another Christian mission that practises this method of baptism, and was baptized and accepted into this church with open arms. Now he was satisfied, as he was under the impression that all Christians belonged to one church.

U Shwe Win was in for another surprise as he continued to study his VOP lessons. He now learned that Saturday was the true Sabbath and not Sunday. The elders of his church could not explain their reasons for keeping Sunday instead of Saturday.

Not long afterward, a friend told him of a Christian mission

somewhere in Myintkyina that keeps Saturday instead of Sunday and also baptizes by immersion. He lost no time in calling on the Seventh-day Adventist pastor, Pastor Thangliana. They discussed the various differences at some length, whereupon U Shwe Win accepted the doctrines of the Adventist church, and he, along with the other members of his family, were baptized.

U Shwe Win is a faithful witness to those who patronize his hair cutting shop and signs many up for the VOP Bible course. He is truly a bright star for God in Kachin State.

—Aung Win  
Temperance Secretary  
Burma Union

• Seven students from the Myaungmya Seminary conducted Voice of Youth meetings and Vacation Bible Schools at Shwekanyinbin, Wadaw, Shwetaungaung and Sarbyuwa during the months of March, April and May.

A total of 195 youth attended the Voice of Youth meetings, resulting in 14 baptisms; and 199 children registered and completed the Vacation Bible School. Pastor Soe Mg, Delta Section departmental secretary acted as advisor in these youth meetings.

• On the Sabbath of May 3 and 31, the church buildings at Shwetaungaung and Adalauk were dedicated into the fellowship of churches in Burma. Pastor U Kyaw Balay and U Thein Shwe presided over the dedication services.

• On May 7 and 8, a cyclone with wind velocity of 90 m.p.h. struck 20 townships in the Delta region, causing widespread destruction of properties, food grains and live stock, amounting to nearly 400 million kyats. Most of the roofs of the churches and workers' houses were blown off and three churches were completely demolished.

Many of the church members suffered loss of not only homes, but of the coconut trees which is their means of income, but with God's protection, no lives were lost.

—Pe Yee, reporter  
Burma Union Mission



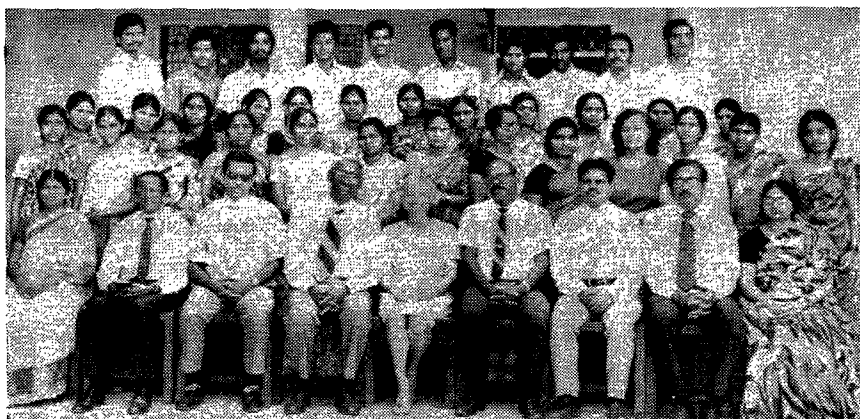
#### CENTRAL INDIA

#### Andhra Section Teacher's Institute

A Teacher's Institute for the English Medium School teachers was held in Secunderabad, May 25-30. It was conducted by Mrs. Helen Lowry, division associate director of education. It was the first of its kind for the Andhra Section. Forty-six teachers from Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Nuzvid, Chirala, Narsapur and Secunderabad attended.

The two main topics for discussion was "Healthful living according to the instruction from the Spirit of Prophecy," and "Adventist schools and the role of their teachers."

Besides the lectures, the institute held a painting workshop and took the group on an educational tour of various points of interest.



Forty-six Andhra Section teachers attended the Teacher's Institute conducted by Mrs. Helen Lowry, May 25-30.

The institute was brought to a conclusion with an impressive Communion Service during the Friday night vespers.



## SOUTH INDIA

### Win One to Christ

When C. E. Guentner from the General Conference and V. P. Muthiah, Lay Activities Secretary for the Division held a Lay Institute about 6 months ago in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, a unique experiment was set in action. One hundred and twenty laymen signed pledges that they would work for one soul and bring them to the Lay Camp at their own expense.

The South Tamil Section EACH ONE, REACH ONE, TEACH ONE camp was held at Courtalam from May 15 to 18 and the laymen brought 106 souls to be baptized. The harvest would have been greater but for financial problems which many members faced.

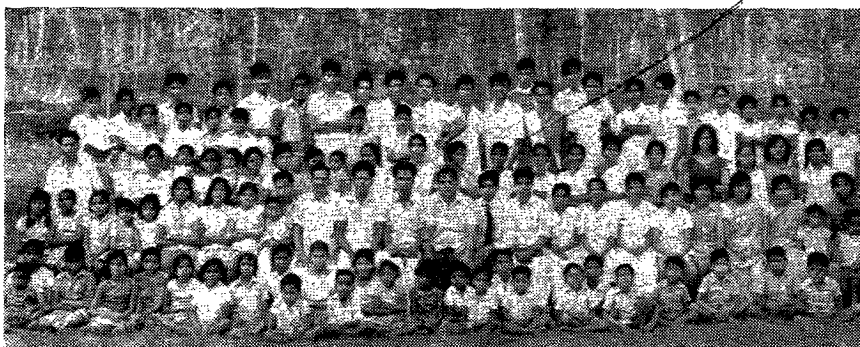
S. James and D. David represented the Division and D. S. David and P. Cooper represented the South India Union.

—M. Sundaram, director  
Lay Activities Department  
South Tamil Section

**"The greatest want of the world is the want of men,—men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall."—E. G. White, EDUCATION, p. 57.**



Pastors S. James, A. Devadas, S. M. Pandian and V. Joseph conducting the baptism of 106 souls at the Courtalam camp, Tamil Nadu.



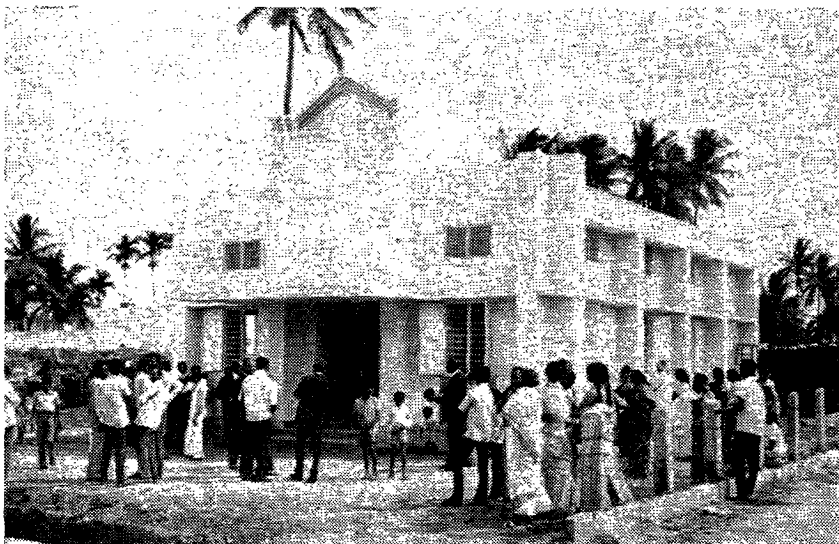
The 60 baptized members and the interested ones and their families during a 1975 effort conducted in Pampady, Kottayam District, North Kerala Section.

### Karnataka Church Dedication

Four hundred members were present to witness the dedication of the first Karnataka church building in Bangalore, Sabbath, May 24, 1975.

A large part of the cost was met by T. V. Moorthy, a business man in Bangalore, and by Mrs. Gordon Maxwell, of Loma Linda, California. The church was dedicated in the memory of Dr. Gordon Maxwell.

The Dedicatory sermon was given by Pastor W. H. Mattison, division ministerial secretary, and the ribbon was cut by South India Union's president, D. R. Watts.



The newly dedicated Karnataka church, Bangalore.





B. I. Masih and his wife attending a patient at the newly opened "Better Health Clinic," Gangtok, Sikkim. The "doctors" are a laboratory technician and nurse, and are meeting the health needs of the community.

The session was a time when Pakistani Punjabi's and Indian Punjabi's were able to renew old acquaintances. They roamed around as buddies as if they could not see enough of each other (after all they had not seen each other for 15 or 20 years). Pastor Akbar, president of the Pakistan Union, was able to meet with the Division Committee for the first time in 11 years.

The international flavours of the congress is unusual with prayers and announcements made in scores of languages and speakers from many lands. Dr. M. E. Cherian took the 11:00 Bible Study on July 17 and gave an excellent talk on the Second Angel's Message.

Pastor W. G. Lowry, being one of the main photographers for the session, was one of the busiest men at the session. He spent probably 12 hours a day taking colour and black and white pictures. (Some of which you are enjoying in this issue. Ed.)

W. H. Mattison  
G. C. Correspondent

**Tholath Varghese Zachariah, died in Salisbury Park, Poona on July 22 at the age of 72. Born in an orthodox Christian family in Kunnamkulam, Trichur, Mr. Zachariah attended the South India Training School, where, against the wishes of his parents he was baptized by the principal, the late Pastor O. A. Skau.**

On graduating, Mr. Zachariah entered denominational service as a teacher in Padarathara school, Travancore. It was while he was teaching in Kottarakara School that he met and married Miss Jemima, who was the matron and a teacher there.

After serving a number of important posts in Kerala, Mr. Zachariah was called to direct the Malayalam Voice of Prophecy in Bangalore. It was from there that he came to Poona as the Malayalam health magazine editor in 1954 from which post he retired in 1963.

## LETTERS FROM G C

*From page 11*

During the statistical report the General Conference statistical secretary made quite a bit of the fact that Southern Asia is the fastest growing Division in the world, and this is one of the hardest areas of the world field.

There was a dinner of all Southern Asia Division delegates on July 18, where in typical fashion conversation was very lively and a good time was had by all. The only difference—no curry and rice. At the dinner Dr. Lowry bade farewell to the Johanson's and the Stiles, and welcomed Pastor Christo to the division as secretary. He also welcomed in absentia, B. J. Williams, the new Secretary of Finance. In response, Pastor Johanson gave Pastor Christo his file of business and a large pen for the work. Pastor Christo responded by expressing his desire to do his best and assuring the Pakistani delegates that he would have their interest at heart even though he could not visit them. He pointed out that he had spent his boyhood years in what is now Pakistan and reminded them that his father's grave was in Chuharkana and his sister's in Lahore.

The Division now has a fuller staff than ever before. Five departments are covered by more than one man. Also the representation is much wider than before.

## SDA PERIODICAL INDEX

Ministers, teachers, students, laymen, historians and church officers will find ready access to needed information in the SDA Periodical Index. The Index covers more than 4,000 articles, book reviews, children stories, editorials, inspirational short stories, sermons and items of church interest appearing annually in more than forty denominational publications.

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# S.M.C.

## Listener

by K. J. MOSES



• "For Their Sake" was the theme of this year's one-day Faculty Pre-session of the 1975-76 Academic year held, June 24, at Spicer. Speaking at the morning devotional, Pr. W. H. Mattison, division ministerial secretary, emphasized that as found in John 13:16, "The teacher is sent" of God to be an example to the students. President M. E. Cherian urged his faculty to remember that they stay at Spicer for the sake of the students. G. M. Kurian, S. Jesudass, K. J. Moses, W. G. Jensen and R. H. Jones served as chairman of different discussion sessions. R. H. Jones chaired the Pre-session Committee while Mrs. M. E. Cherian and her committee looked after the entertainment.

• "To Learn, To Grow, To Serve" was the theme of the Orientation and Registration programme, June 26 to 30. During this period various teachers spoke on different topics stressing the importance of learning and serving the church and the community. Among the faculty who spoke were: M. E. Cherian on "You and Your Education"; B. C. Johnson, K. J. Moses, R. H. Jones, Brian de Alvis, W. G. Jensen, Justin Singh and G. M. Kurian.

• The total enrolment of students this year is 813 as against 748 registered for the first semester of last year. However, this year's enrolment is a little less than the final enrolment of last school year.

• Pr. Lloyd from Kansas and evangelist Ralph Ringer from Georgia-Cumberland Conference

of the U.S.A. visited Spicer, July 12. They spoke to the college family during the M.V. programme.

• A rare get-together of business graduates, managers, treasurers and accountants of Poona took place, June 22, at Spicer. Chief guest, Dr. R. S. Lowry, division president, spoke on the Role of Business Graduates in the Denominational Service. Following the inaugural session, Dr. M.E. Cherian emphasized the need of professional growth in Southern Asia. He then conducted the proceedings of the official session.

Business Graduates Association—the name chosen—appointed an ad-hoc committee of officers and the Constitution Drafting Committee. S. J. Edwards and Solomon David were the conveners of this get-together.

• A number of new teachers joined this year as members of Spicer's faculty. Pr. W. Gordon Jensen, who holds an M.A. in Systematic Theology from Andrews University is joining the Religious Philosophy department as its Acting Dean. Mrs. Betty Jensen is the Acting Head of the Occidental Music Department. The Jensons were serving in Northern India Union before joining Spicer.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Job, with their two children rejoined Spicer for this school year. The Jobs were teaching in Somalia in the North-Eastern part of Africa. Mr. Alex Job joined the Geography department while Leela Job joined the Home Economics department.

Pr. Lalmama and Than Zawmi Sailo, with their three children

came to Spicer from Assam Training School. He joins the Religious Philosophy department and also serves as assistant Dean of Men.

Mr. and Mrs. P. G. Cherian, with their son came from the Ethiopian Adventist College where they both were teaching for some time. Both of them are teaching in the department of mathematics and physics.

The other new teachers to join the college faculty are Mr. and Mrs. Sanjeeva Rao in the department of agriculture and sociology; Mr. and Mrs. E. Ramana Rao in the Business Administration Department; Mr. James Bird as Director of Food Services; Mr. Richard Johnson as the Attendance Officer; Mr. P. R. Solomon as the Secretary to the Faculty and Auditor, Academic Records; Miss Prelatha Hutton as a high school mathematics teacher; Miss Lally Jenny John in the president's office as a secretary; Pappachen Kenny in the bakery and George Verghese in the estate.

• For the first time, the history of Spicer Memorial College has been accepted as part of documented academic research of an American university. The study on "Spicer as a Working Model of Seventh-day Adventist Philosophy of Education" was accepted May 10, 1975 by Howard University. It was submitted by D. P. David as his Master's thesis, and the university has since conferred on him the M.A. degree in religion.

• On March 30th Pastor Loyd Willis left for a private study-tour of the Bible-lands. He returned in the middle of June after visiting archaeological sites and museums in most of the Middle East. Of outstanding interest was the time spent in Israel, Egypt and the old Hittite areas of Turkey. A number of former graduates of Spicer Memorial College and also Pastor R. M. Massey in Iran gave encouragement and assistance along the way.

Pastor Willis returned with many pictures and books collected along the way and better equipped to teach the class in "Ancient Near East" at S.M.C.