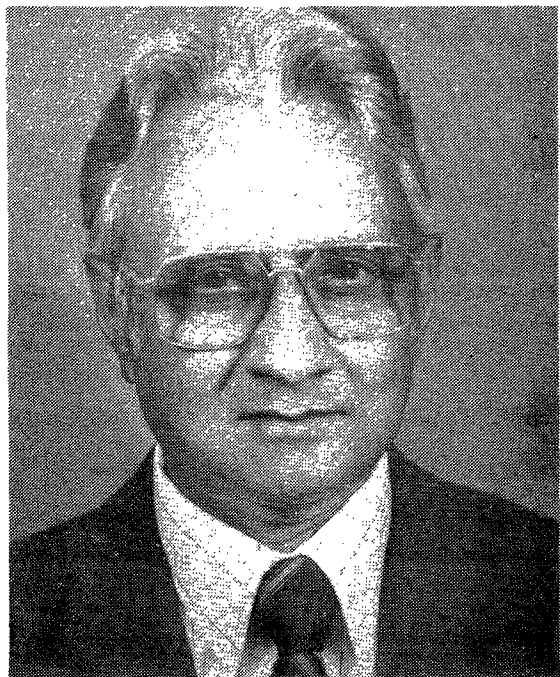


SOUTHERN ASIA TIDINGS

NEAL WILSON REELECTED G. J. CHRISTO RETURNS AS PRESIDENT



NEAL C. WILSON
General Conference President



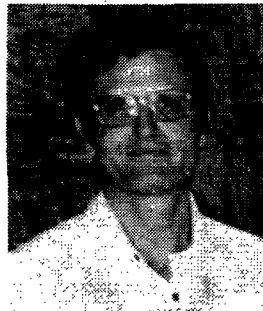
G. J. CHRISTO
Southern Asia Division President



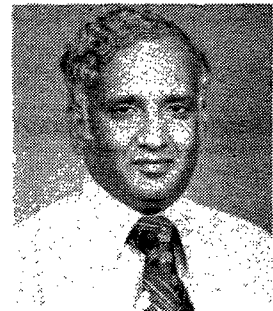
RALPH THOMPSON
GC Secretary



DONALD F. GILBERT
GC Treasurer



R. D. RICHES
Division Secretary



J. KOILPILLAI
Division Treasurer

“HARVEST ’90—MORE, NEVER LESS”

The 1985 New Orleans General Conference Session is now history. The delegates and guests meeting at the Superdome experienced the stirrings of the Holy Spirit and felt the onward march of the remnant church as they responded to the challenges of the devotions, and listened to the reports of growth from the various divisions. The first Sabbath was celebrated as a day of praise and thanksgiving for the way God has led the church, especially in the THOUSAND DAYS OF REAPING campaign. More than a million persons were added to the church during the period September 18, 1982 to June 15, 1985. Many thrilling stories of conversions and God's intervention on behalf of His people were recounted on that memorable Sabbath. We in Southern Asia rejoice to have been a part of this inspirational celebration.

But the work is yet not finished. Millions are still to be warned. Remote tribes and entire language areas have not heard the story of a Saviour. World conditions are a testimony that the coming of Jesus is near, and we do not have too much more time in which to get ready a people to meet God.

Under the leadership of our heavenly Captain, the church is poised to enter into the most decisive and the closing phase of planet earth's history. There must be a renewal of our commitment to let Jesus Christ be Lord of all in our personal lives, in His church, and in all our plans. Every selfish ambition, every cherished sin must be set aside. Pride must give way to humility; love of self must be replaced with love for others.

“Christ has given to His church ample facilities, that He may receive a large revenue of glory from His redeemed purchased possession. The church, endowed with the righteousness of Christ, is His deposit-

ory, in which the riches of His mercy, His grace, and His love, are to appear in full and final display.” *Desire of Ages*, p. 680.

As we enter into a new quinquennium, we do so with a consciousness of the awful responsibility laid upon us when we are adopted in the family of God. Every person in this family must be challenged, recruited, and trained for participation in this full and final display of Christ's grace, mercy and love. Church leaders and ministers must make this their priority task! This demonstration of Christlikeness in the lives of God's people will be a powerful witness of the effectiveness of the gospel. “The minister in the desk announces the theory of the gospel; the practical piety of the church demonstrates its power.” *Test. Vol. 7*, p. 16.

“His servants are constantly to enlarge the circle of their efforts. Constantly they are to do MORE, never less: The Lord's work is to widen and broaden until it encircles the world.” *Test. vol. 7*, p. 15. God has promised the outpouring of His Holy Spirit to empower the church in its witness. Our theme must be “More, never less.”

We must spend MORE time in getting better acquainted with our Creator through a diligent study of His word. We must spend MORE time in sharing our faith. We must practice MORE sacrificial giving. I am confident that the next five years will be a time of more taxing challenges, of more victories gained, of more exploits by God's people. With confidence in God's leading we can look forward to a bountiful harvest for His kingdom by 1990.

At the close of the Sabbath afternoon programme that ended the One Thousand Days of Reaping, Neal C. Wilson, General Conference president, introduced Harvest '90, with its new logo.



SESSION ADOPTS HARVEST '90

On June 30 the General Conference session voted to adopt the following plan for the church's mission during the next five years:

We are in the days of the harvest. The times demand that the church arise and direct her energies to reaching every region and every ethnic, cultural, and social group. A vast multitude waits to be gathered from "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" (Rev. 14:6). Said the Lord Himself, "The harvest is the end of world" (Matt. 13:39).

The final harvest of soul is far beyond our human resources. We need the promised latter rain of God's Spirit (see Joel 2:23) in pentecostal blessing and power to prepare the church for evangelizing the world. To seek this should be our first work. The proclamation of the everlasting gospel and its power demonstrated in the lives of a Spirit-filled people will be used by God to call forth the final events of earth. "If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 189.

During these closing events of the great controversy, we, as leaders of God's people, beseech the Lord of the harvest to pour out His Spirit on the church. We call upon our members to commit themselves to the goal of Adventism: the completion of the gospel commission in the setting of the three angels messages in preparation for the coming of Jesus.

Realizing that the goal of completing the gospel commission will be reached only with revival and reformation, we call the church worldwide to:

Renewal and personal growth through Bible study, intercessory prayer, fellowship, and worship.

Revitalization of family religion, that our homes may become centers of love, care, and witness.

Recognition of the local church as the center of evangelism, nurture, and training of members for ministry.

Renewed proclamation of the Biblical-prophetic message of the Seventh-day Adventists.

Reclamation of inactive members of the church, and emphasis on maximizing church attendance.

Reaffirmation of the principles and

standards of the church, calling for reformation in appearance and lifestyle.

Reaching the large numbers of people who as yet are unreached by the gospel.

In view of our solemn responsibility to this desperate world, we urge each member to seek the "double portion" of the Spirit (2 Kings 2:9), and we prayerfully commit ourselves to doubling the strength of God's worldwide spiritual family during the quinquennium of 1985-1990. By God's grace it is our united desire and decision to:

1. Double, in every division, union, conference, local field, and church, the number of accessions that were achieved during the One Thousand Days of Reaping.

2. Double the number of members equipped for soulwinning activities according to their spiritual gifts, making every Seventh-day Adventist church a center of training for service.

To Jesus, the Lord of the harvest, we give glory as we launch Harvest '90. We pray that every member will join together in prayer, sacrifice, and commitment to doubling the strength of the church between now and 1990.

E. A. Hetke interviews James Astleford and Deep Thapa about the work in Nepal.



GC PRESIDENT ISSUES STATEMENTS

After consultation with the 16 world vice presidents of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, General Conference president Neal C. Wilson issued the following public statements on June 27, 1985.

STATEMENT ON PEACE

One of the great political and ethical issues of our day is the question of war and peace. It is both complicated and convoluted. Despair hovers around hearts and minds, for millions expect a nuclear holocaust without the basic hope of afterlife or eternal life.

Christians believe that war is the result of sin. Since the Fall of man, strife has been a perennial fact of human existence. "Satan delights in war. . . . It is his object to incite nations to war against one another."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 589. It is a diversionary tactic to interfere with the gospel task. While global conflict has been prevented during the past forty years, there have been perhaps 150 wars between nations and within nations, with millions perishing in these conflicts.

It is therefore right and proper for Christians to promote peace. The Seventh-day Adventist Church urges every nation to beat its "swords into plowshares" and its "spears into pruninghooks" (Isa. 2:4). The church's Bible-based Fundamental Belief No. 7 states that men and women were "created for the glory of God" and were "called to love Him and one another, and to care for their environment," not to destroy or hurt one another. Christ Himself said, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matt. 5:9).

While peace cannot be found in official church pronouncements, the authentic Christian church is to work for peace between the first and second advents of Christ. However, hope in the Second Coming must not live in a social vacuum. The Adventist hope must manifest and translate itself into deep concern for the well-being of every member of the human family. True, Christian action today and tomorrow will not of itself usher in the coming kingdom of peace: God alone brings this kingdom by the return of His Son.

In a world filled with hate and struggle, a world of ideological strife and of military conflicts, Seventh-day Adventists desire to be known as peacemakers and work for worldwide justice and peace under Christ as the head of a new humanity.

STATEMENT ON RACISM

One of the odious evils of our day is racism, the belief or practice that views or treats certain racial groups as inferior and therefore justifiably the object of domination, discrimination, and segregation.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church deplores all forms of racism, including the political policy of apartheid with its enforced segregation and legalized discrimination.

Seventh-day Adventists want to be faithful to the reconciling ministry assigned to the Christian church. As a worldwide community of faith, the Seventh-day Adventist Church wishes to witness to and exhibit in her own ranks the unity and love that transcend racial differences and overcome past alienation between races.

Scripture plainly teaches that every person was created in the image of God, who "made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth" (Acts 17:26). Racial discrimination is an offense against our fellow human beings, who were created in God's image. In Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek" (Gal. 3:28).

The standard for Seventh-day Adventist Christians is acknowledged in the church's Bible-based Fundamental Belief No. 13. "Unity in the Body of Christ," Here it is pointed out: "In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation."

Any other approach destroys the heart of the Christian gospel.

STATEMENT ON HOME AND FAMILY

The health and prosperity of society is directly related to the well-being of its constituent parts—the family unit. Today, as probably never before, the family is in trouble. Social commentators decry the disintegration of modern family life. The traditional Christian concept of marriage between one man and one woman is under assault. The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in this time of family crisis, encourages every family member to strengthen his or her spiritual dimension and family relationship through mutual love, honour, respect and responsibility.

The church's Bible-based Fundamental Belief No. 22 states the marital relationship "is to reflect the love, sanctity, closeness, and permanence of the relationship between Christ and His church. . . ."

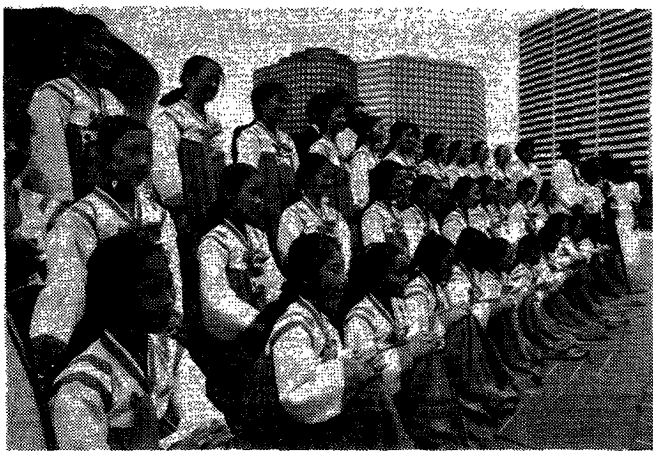
STATEMENT ON DRUGS

The Seventh-day Adventist Church urges every individual and every nation to cooperate in stamping out the worldwide drug epidemic that undermines the social structure of nations and on the individual level often kills its victims or leads them into lives of crime.

Seventh-day Adventists believe the Bible teaches that each human body is a "temple of the living God," which should be cared for intelligently (2 Cor. 6:15-17).

The church's Bible-based Fundamental Belief No. 21 states, "Along with adequate exercise and rest, we are to adopt the most healthful diet possible. . . . Since alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of drugs and narcotics are harmful to our bodies, we are to abstain from them. . . . Instead, we are to engage in whatever brings our thoughts and bodies into the discipline of Christ, who desires our wholesomeness, joy, and goodness."

For vibrant living, Seventh-day Adventists urge everyone to follow a lifestyle that avoids tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, and the misuse of drugs.



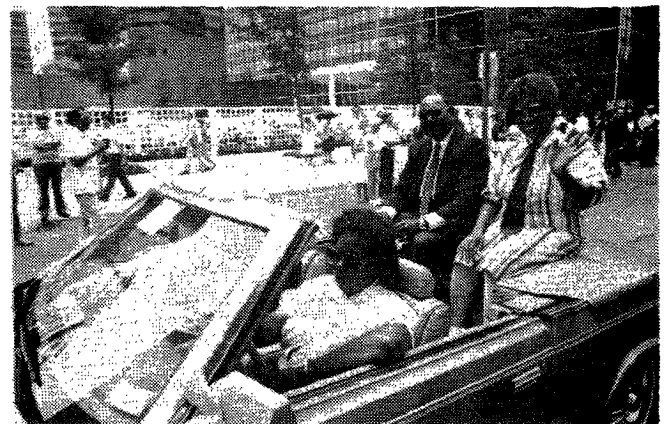
School girls from Korea captivated the audience with their superb musical performance.

The delegates in their colourful costumes during their division's report.

The GC Secretary Elder G. Ralph Thompson and his wife at the mission parade through the main streets of New Orleans.

The North American delegates at the parade with their division's logo.

These charming Japanese delegates participating in the parade.



“THE 20th CENTURY BOOK OF ACTS”

Condensation of the keynote address presented Thursday, June 27, 1985.

By NEAL C. WILSON
President General Conference

This afternoon I stood on the corner of Poydras Street watching people come into the Superdome. I walked down the halls and looked into the faces of individuals and groups. I stopped briefly to take in some of the attractive exhibits, and within my soul I said to the Lord, “Lord, 140 years ago You called into existence a prophetic movement, a people to whom You gave a world mission. Is it possible that all that I behold in 1985 at this fifty-fourth general Conference session started from a small, insignificant group of men and women who had no bank accounts, no literature, no radio or television programmes, no educational, medical, or publishing institutions, no headquarters, no church buildings, no international activities, and virtually no organization? To this little group You gave a special messenger, Ellen White; and, Lord, You gave to this unpromising body of feeble human beings an organizational philosophy and structure designed to carry out the mission and to teach and proclaim the message.”

But, my fellow delegates and dear friends, this movement of prophecy was not of man’s doing. It was God’s plan, and it came in fulfillment of His timetable and as a part of the culmination of the final events in the great controversy between Christ and Satan. This drama of the ages will climax in the glorious second coming of Jesus and the triumph of God’s love. I confirm to you this evening what I said to myself this afternoon: “This is all the fruitage of the work of the Holy Spirit, and it is all a result of the grace of our Lord and Saviour.”

Let the Holy Spirit do this work

We could spend all evening reviewing the past, and certainly things have happened during the past five years that we regret. Leadership at times has failed to realize its sacred responsibility. We perhaps have failed to give the right emphasis. We have failed to exhibit the faith that we should have in the promises of God. We may have failed in calling for repentance and revival. Certainly we wish we could do some things over again. On behalf of my fellow leaders, we seek your understanding and your forgiveness.

While all of this may be true, God’s servant Ellen White makes it clear that we should not constantly dwell on mistakes and failures, but rather we should speak words of courage and joy in the Lord. We should claim His promises: we should look ahead with vision and with eyes that are set upon our Lord and Saviour and the glorious culmination of the gospel.

I realize, my brothers and sisters, that even some here this evening entertain thoughts of uneasiness and suspicion. There is urgent need to restore trust, confidence, healing, and unity. To accomplish this it is essential that we follow the counsel and design of our Lord as found in 1 Corinthians 1:10: “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in

the same mind and in the same judgment.” Frankly, this is the whole purpose of the General Conference session.

This can be our experience while we are here together. We can put first things first. There can be within our midst a spirit of prayer, confession of sins and mistakes—both public and secret—a humbling of hearts, and an appeal to our Lord to renew a right spirit within us. Many have been praying and fasting that this would be the result of the fifty-fourth General Conference session.

In looking ahead to the significant 1901 General Conference Session (the thirty-fourth), Ellen White who had just returned from spending nine years in Australia, had the following to say: “I feel an intense desire that this shall be a meeting where God can preside. This is an important time, a very important time. There is a great work to do. But whether the meeting shall be a success depends on us individually. . . . He (God) wants us to do a great deal more praying and a great deal less talking. He wants us to keep the windows of the soul opened heavenward. . . . Some have said that they thought that at this meeting several days ought to be spent in prayer to God!

The Indian delegates were led by Pastor Dennis Marang. Behind him is Pastor W. G. Jenson posing as a Buddhist monk.



for the Holy Spirit, as at the day of Pentecost. I wish to say to you that the business which may be carried on at this meeting is just as much a part of the service of God as is prayer. The business meeting is to be just as much under the dictation of the Spirit as the prayer meeting. . . . God wants you to stand in position where He can breathe upon you the Holy Spirit, where Christ can abide in the heart. He wants you at the beginning of this meeting to lay off whatever of controversy, of strife, of dissension, of murmuring, you have been carrying. What we need is a great deal more of Christ and none of self. The Saviour says, "Without me ye can do nothing". . . . We have come to see the point where God is going to work for His people. . . . Do not disappoint the Lord."—*Selected Messages*, book 3, pp. 336, 337.

If this counsel was of such critical importance to the church in 1901, how much more so in 1985!

I fully understand that different people expect different things of the General Conference president tonight. The question that is uppermost in my mind and heart, however, is What does the Lord expect? He has commissioned us to be foremost in exalting Christ and the cross; to preach the everlasting gospel; to explain the mysteries of His love and the plan of salvation by using the unique message of the sanctuary services; to be faithful in placing the three angels' messages in the framework of the saving grace of Christ. We have also been commissioned to explain and to live the true message of righteousness by faith, including justification, sanctification, and glorification; and to declare the hour of God's judgement and His imminent and personal second coming.

As we review the past five years it is with a deep sense of gratitude that I acknowledge God's leading, blessing, and deliverance. Much has been done in the ten areas that I emphasized in my opening address at the 1980 General Conference session. There have been some disappointments, but many more encouraging experiences and thousands and thousands of remarkable victories and evidence of divine grace.

One of the targets that I emphasized at the last session had to do with appropriate church management principles that would guarantee that every hour worked and every dollar spent and every plan conceived would be cost effective. We have looked at the matter of the delegation of authority and requirements of accountability, and also have sought to streamline some of our decision-making processes.

You will hear more at this session about proposals that we believe will help to reduce overhead, increase efficiency, eliminate duplication and overlapping, and assure us of adherence to good fiscal policy.

12 Stones from the Jordan

After 40 years of wandering in the desert, God's children reached the Promised Land. The Lord parted the river Jordan as a divine and spectacular indication of His continuing care and power. Repeatedly He had shown that the Exodus movement was called into existence to show forth His glory to the world.

To commemorate the great event of crossing the Jordan and to establish the fact that God had led every step of the way, Joshua set up 12 stones, taken from the Jordan (Joshua 4:20-24). They were to serve as reminders to each generation of God's mighty acts in the Exodus from Egypt—the parting of the Red Sea, the pillar of cloud by day, the column of fire by night,

the crossing of the Red Sea, and the provision of manna that covered the earth every day except on the Sabbath.

We also need to remind our children and ourselves the stones—the memorials, the indicators that have been erected in the travels of the Advent Movement to heavenly Canaan during the past 140 years, the great witnesses that the Lord has been leading a people and that all His promises are sure.

You will recall that when the Olympic games took place just one year ago in Los Angeles, the organizers took noticeable pride in the fact that 140 nations were represented. But those who are here at this fifty-fourth General Conference session represent God's work that is being carried on in 190 countries! At this very time we are in the process of entering three new countries.

And speaking of anniversaries—did you know that Adventist nurses are commemorating their hundredth anniversary? what a debt of appreciation we owe to them for the worldwide reputation they have established owing to selfless loving service. We honour them for the influence they have earned.

Recently I was in one of the Socialist countries of Europe and was speaking with a high official. He indicated to me that the most recent census revealed 150,000 Seventh-day Adventist believers. I was overjoyed with this information, but I was also aware of the fact that our records show only about 12,000 members in that country. I conclude that in many countries of Europe and in other parts of the world there are many believers in this message who in God's own time will identify themselves with God's commandment-keeping people.

Let me tell you about some of the other stones that have been erected along the way during the past few years, all giving evidence of God's saving grace and power. I am so anxious to tell you about the results of the One Thousand Days of Reaping. I can hardly restrain myself. Let me simply tell you here that there has been a 30 percent increase in our membership since we were together five years ago. Truly this is a marvelous indicator of answered prayer and diligent witnessing. God says, tell your children!

We have opened a new center of Christian higher education in Rwanda. This is a fulfillment of a dream to have a training center for our youth from countries in Africa that use French as their official language. The Adventist University of Central Africa has just completed its first year of instruction. Another marker, another monument, along the way!

Every member a literature evangelist

My appeal is that the whole church—every member, every young person, every denominational employee, and every leader—will become a literature evangelist. We must believe in the power of the print ministry—magazines, tracts, books. If a leader does not believe in literature as a mighty evangelizing agency, he or she should either be converted or removed. This is our day of opportunity. Let us break the bands that seem to bind and tie us to traditional approaches. Pray for our full-time and part-time literature evangelists, and pray that more will join these front-line troops who are armed only with faith and gospel literature. I appeal also that we all dedicate a pocket or purse to carry literature with us everywhere we go.

I thank God that every other month about 300,000 non-Adventist religious leaders are getting Ministry magazine. This outreach is having tremendous impact.

I wish I could tell you about the tremendous prison ministry that is being carried on in scores of major cities, such as Manila in the Philippines. The correspondence that comes to our Voice of Prophecy office in Thousand Oaks, California, from prisoners scattered in many places tells of lives that have been changed, marvelously transformed by the grace of God right here in the United States.

All of these I say are the stones along the way to tell us how our Lord has dried up the waters so that His people can cross over.

Contributions of retired persons

I must not overlook the tremendous contribution that is being made by our retired persons. They are a blessing in their own communities and in their own churches. In addition, many of them have accepted SOS (Sustentation Overseas Service) calls and are making an invaluable contribution in many countries.

Truly God has placed stones all along the way as memorials of His truth and power.

What a story we could tell about our health and temperance programme and the unusual opportunities for witnessing to people whom we would never otherwise meet. So many healthcare institutions—stones if you please—are telling of the Great Physician and His power to heal physically and spiritually. From the remote jungle reaches of the Upper Amazon in South America to Nepal, “the top of the world,” amid the eternal snows of the majestic Himalayas, lives have been influenced, hearts have been changed, and many have joined this spiritual family as a result of this kind of witness.

“Why don’t you double your efforts?”

On May 10 the United Nations recognized the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as a nongovernmental organization (NGO) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. As the United Nations Security Council looks after matters of war and peace, so ECOSOC deals with worldwide social, economic, humanita-

rian, and cultural questions, including human rights and religious liberty.

The General Conference now has the right to be represented at all ECOSOC meeting in New York and those of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland. This new NGO status includes the right to speak and submit written statements regarding issues of importance to the church.

We believe that the new status will provide the Seventh-day Adventist Church with another opportunity to establish a presence and exert a positive Christian outreach among civic, religious, and government leaders of all the nations of the world.

The last memorial—the last stone—I want you to notice this evening has to do with our outreach through the media of radio and television. We are painfully aware that although we are ministering in 190 countries there are still nearly 2.5 billion people in our world who know little or nothing about the gospel, the Bible, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, His love for them, and His soon coming.

For several years in different countries we tried to purchase land, but without success. Finally—we believe as a result of providence and by the direct intervention of our Lord—He dried up the waters, and we crossed over. We have been able to purchase about 25 acres of land on the island of Guam, two thirds of the way south, a couple of hundred feet above sea level, and on the west coast, giving us a clear water channels to the west and to the south.

We have seen a series of events take place that convince us the Lord wants us there, and approves of a powerful radio station. As He kept opening the doors we kept going through. It is probably the boldest and largest single evangelistic outreach that this church has ever attempted. We will have the potential of reaching about one half of the world’s population by using about 20 different languages and broadcasting 24 hours a day.

Story of a station’s establishment

This gives us another story to tell our children—how God dried up the waters and took us through on dry land and helped us to get this station established.

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN A

NAME OF UNIONS	MEMBERS ADDED DURING THE PERIOD				MEMBERS DROPPED DURING THE PERIOD				SABBATH SCHOOLS		PRIMARY SCHOOLS	
	Number of churches	Church Membership at Beginning of Year	By Baptism and by Profession of Faith	By Letter	By Letter	By Death	By Apostasy and Missing	Church Membership at Close of Year	No. of Sabbath Schools	Sabbath School Membership	No. of Primary Schools	Primary School Enrollment
SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION												
Bangladesh Union	45	4,906	449	36	37	39	737	4,578	112	7,287	95	3,553
Burma Union	114	9,522	874	125	115	59	347	10,000	173	12,697	11	461
Central India Union	177	38,883	4,744	18	47	98	85	43,435	357	64,165	54	15,822
Northeast India Union	93		531	10,015	12	1	319	10,214	209	17,600	25	2,627
Northern Union	101	25,554	1,474	2	10,166	4	5	16,855	200	18,515	55	9,454
Pakistan Union	45	4,834	203	25	1	11	6	5,044	82	9,531	12	832
South India Union	378	54,293	2,082	85	58	56	583	55,763	723	52,363	72	20,643
Sri Lanka Union	23	1,522	50	4	15	4	95	1,462	29	1,105	6	637
TOTALS	976	139,514	10,407	10,310	10,451	272	2,157	147,351	1,885	183,263	330	54,029



The Pakistani delegation at the General Conference.

In the past three months God has also worked in a way that we have never seen before. I made several approaches to certain of our brothers and sisters to whom we knew God had entrusted material wealth and assets. We placed before them the need of an endowment of \$5 or 6 million so that the earnings of this dedicated sum of money would give us a financial base for the annual operating budget for this radio station.

The operation of a great station like this is costly. Just the energy, the electricity, needed for those great transmitters will cost us in the neighborhood of US \$400,000 per year. When you consider the importance of continuity and quality programming, it is a staggering responsibility.

But again God provided a way. We have approximately US\$4 million now committed toward this endowment fund from fewer than ten persons whose hearts have been touched by the Holy Spirit.

Ellen White's agenda in 1909

First, a call for deeper spirituality and personal consecration and a belief that God gave Christ to the world to reveal that humanity united with divinity could overcome the temptations

that are in this world through lust. This union, she said, we must experience.

Second, health reform and personal lifestyle. In earnest tones she developed the theme that obedience to health principles is a part of the sanctification process.

Third, the challenge of the cities. She said, "When I think of the many cities yet unwarned, I cannot rest. It is distressing to think that they have been neglected so long." She asked, "Where is your faith, my brethren? Where are the workmen? . . . Shall not the ministers of God go into these crowded centers and there lift up their voices in warning the multitudes? . . . O, that we might see the needs of these great cities as God sees them!"

My brothers and sisters, this would constitute a good agenda for the 1985 General Conference session. When Ellen White attended the 1909 General Conference session, there were fewer than 100,000 Adventists in all the world. Now, 75 years later, the church membership stands in excess of 4.5 million. In 1909 the tithe totaled approximately \$1 million. Today it exceeds \$400 million.

From night to night you will be hearing the expanded story. You will be reading chapters from the modern book of Chronicles and the twentieth-century book of Acts. When you hear these reports and see these stones, you should tell your children and everyone you meet how the Lord has led His people during these past five years, and how He has dried up turbulent waters and helped us to overcome the obstacles put in the way by Satan. The greatest days of soul winning are just ahead. I believe this fifty-fourth General Conference session will place us in a relationship with our Lord and with one another so that the Holy Spirit working through can fill the earth with the glory of God.

My challenge, therefore, to you tonight is best expressed in the words of Joshua as he gave directions regarding the preparation needed for crossing the Jordan into the Promised Land: "And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves (Consecrate yourselves): for to morrow (yes, tomorrow) the Lord will do wonders (will work miracles) among you" (Joshua 3:5).

DIVISION FOR THE YEAR 1984

YOUTH SOCIETIES		DENOMINATIONAL WORKERS							CHURCH PROPERTIES		
No. of Youth Societies	Youth Society Membership	Ordained Ministers	Credentialed Missionaries	Licensed Ministers	Licensed Missionaries	Cred. and Licensed Literature Evangelists	All Other Regular workers	Total Active Workers	Total Honorary Cred. Workers	No. of Church Buildings	Approximate Seating Capacity of Church Buildings
86	3,635	45	76	3	216		130	470	1	22	1,300
111	4,915	18	32	14	122		138	324	2	106	10,555
204	7,672	59	9	102	62	8	18	258	27	177	38,200
110	4,253	65	27	46	288	39	289	754	27	75	13,000
44	4,182	33	7	8	74	9	40	171	7	84	27,852
13	560	53	32	29	417	31	246	808	27	52	17,500
231	21,818	21	18	5	109	6	366	525	8	427	42,400
5	500	120	51	93	949	61	567	1,841	35	21	2,000
		16	5	10	63	23	31	148	8		
804	47,535	430	257	310	2,300	177	1,825	5,299	142	964	152,807



P.D. KUJUR
Associate, Church Ministry

All the reports and news items of the 54th General Conference held at New Orleans were taken from the "Adventist Review"

WE'RE A GREAT FAMILY

By SHIRLEY BURTON

Excitement has been building round the world for this occasion. Anticipation, naturally, has been growing for a variety of reasons: a first trip to the United States, a first time at the General Conference session, another good look at the Adventist family worldwide.

If we're official delegates and because of our great numbers and since we have to do some business besides learning more about one another, we're all wearing clip-on badges much like airport or plant employees. Such identification will admit us to the main arena and allow us to speak on issues which may come before the group.

If all who were eligible had come, there would be 2,359 of us—according to Roy F. Williams, an associate secretary of General Conference administration. However, travel restrictions in some areas and currency controls in others have made the total delegation 2,110.

Deciphering the legalese, I've discovered that while there are no real guidelines as to the variety of people who should represent the family, there are guidelines for numbering us.

Two classifications are given: delegate at large and regular delegate. The constitution stipulates that delegates at large shall be all members of the General Conference Executive Committee (which takes care of church business between the quinquennial world sessions); representatives of missions, institutions, and departments of work who are credentialed by the General Conference (although this number may not exceed 25 percent of the total); and then each division may send four delegates plus one for each 200,000 or major fraction thereof in membership.

Regular delegates are accredited by unions on the basis of one person in addition to their presidents, an additional delegate for each local conference or organized mission in their territories, plus an additional person for each 4,300 members or major fraction of that figure. All calculations are made on the basis of membership on December 31 before each session.

Beyond the mechanics, though, it's the people I'm finding so interesting. Two countries, the Soviet Union and Japan, have sent their first laywomen delegates. Mrs. Galiana Gritshuk is a former English teacher in a U. S. S. R. Public school; Sonoko Mimura is a professional flutist in Tokyo. Ivan I. Kosovan, a professional singer before he joined the Adventist family, is the U. S. S. R.'s first layman to come as well.

The Rwanda Union appears to have the largest percentage of women in their delegation, though East Africa is close behind, and one U. S. union seems not to have any women at all.

Digressing from past patterns, most of the overseas delegates are nationals. "No longer do they send large numbers of furloughing missionaries to represent their countries," says Elder Williams. "Nationals are now given the preference."

Some American unions have sent youth observers; many brought a few guests.

We are factory superintendents and mission pilots; nurserymen and hospital presidents; publishing house managers and outback physicians; electricians and nurses; businessmen and secretaries.



Little ones livened up the session with their special music and songs of praise.

We're dressed in bunads and barongs, kimonos and kebayas, sarongs and suits, au dais and cheong sams.

When we're at home we attend churches constructed of bamboo, thatch, and cement. We go by caribou or canoe, bicycle or dogsled, snow machine or subway. We sit on the ground or planks or pews and sing a cappella or with guitars and organs. We bring our gifts in dollars and drachmas, pounds and pesos, baht and birr, rupee and ringgit, kwacha and krona, and shilling and sucre. We print in 189 languages and use 428 orally, as many as eight in a single congregation, in our 184 countries.

But we are family, children of the heavenly Father, brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ who is our hope.

MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION PRESESSION

By James Coffin

As last-minute preparations were being made for the opening the fifty-fourth General Conference session, what one minister described as a "symphony with three movements"

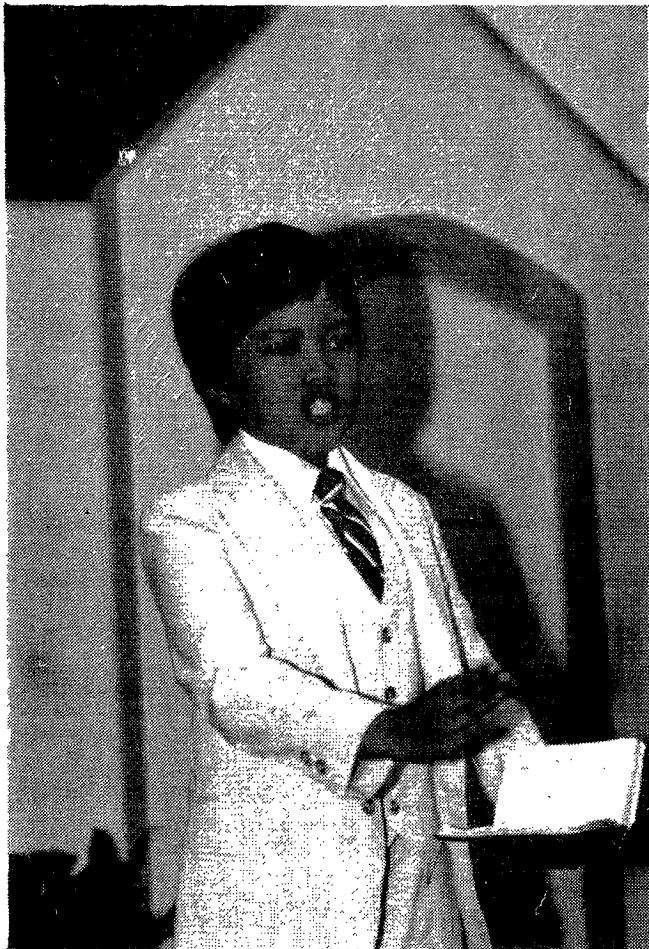
was drawing to a close. And many participants wished they could have called for an encore.

The "symphony" was the General Conference pre-session, a four-day spiritual, educational, and motivational gathering sponsored by the General Conference Ministerial/Stewardship Association. The "three movements" were the gathering's emphases—The Minister: The Person; The Minister: The Message; and The Minister: The Mission.

According to association secretary J. R. Spangler, the primary objective of the gathering was to help ministers realize the need for, and develop, a deeper spiritual experience. "I know this has been said many times before," said Spangler, "but I firmly believe that unless the individual pastor, as a role model, has a vibrant relationship with Christ, his influence will be counterproductive to the church. The pastor is the single greatest factor in the attitude adopted by church members. He is closest to the sheep, and when the sheep look at the shepherd, they judge the whole church accordingly."

A second objective was to show the importance of, and to help ministers gain crystal-clear convictions regarding, the truths taught by Adventists. Morning presentations and panel discussions focused on "The Sanctuary and Adventism"; "The Certainty of the Advent: The Crisis of Delay"; "The Timeliness of the Three Angels' Messages"; The Remnant Church in Prophecy"; and "The Seventh-day Sabbath: Origin and Eschatology."

Child preachers from Philippines brightened up the Sabbath programme.



36 seminars to choose from

A choice of 36 professional seminars (each participant could attend only four) kept participants busy each afternoon. Seminars were offered in five basic areas—evangelism, management and administration, pastoral, personal life, and theology—and all afforded continuing-education credit for those participating. "Undoubtedly," said Floyd Bresee, the association's coordinator of continuing education, "this gathering was the biggest and most dramatic continuing-education programme the SDA Church has ever attempted. Being able to offer 36 seminars to thousands of ministers seeking to update their knowledge and skill and offering seminars specifically designed to include wives have put continuing education on the map."

Bresee said that seven of the courses had been planned with women in mind, and a discount was given to couples who registered together—which was a majority of those attending. He said the pre-session's planners also had tried to make the courses more useful to those from overseas.

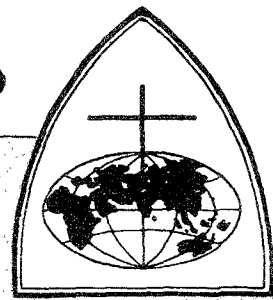
The evening meetings featured effective methods of outreach that are being employed successfully in various places around the world, presented under the title "Evangelism That

Christ Our Hope Forever

Words and Music by Brad Braley

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The theme song for the General Conference session was composed by Brad Braley, veteran Adventist organist. This piece by the well-known 80-year-old musician was chosen from among more than a dozen submissions. He was invited to help introduce the song at this session.



AFRICA TERRITORIAL REORGANIZATION

The fifty-third General Conference session voted on April 17, 1980, to reorganize the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on the African continent. In harmony with that mandate, the General Conference Committee on October 9, 1983, took an action to reorganize the East African, Ethiopian, and Tanzania unions, now administered by the Eastern Africa Division, and the South-East Africa, Zambesi, and Zambia unions, and the Botswana Field, now administered by the Trans-Africa Division, into a new division of the General Conference.

The new division will be known as the Eastern Africa Division with Harare, Zimbabwe, and the present Trans-Africa Division facilities as the location and headquarters facility for the new division and it will retain the present Eastern Africa Division facilities in Nairobi, Kenya, as a branch division office.

SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION REORGANIZATION— TERRITORIAL ASSIGNMENT (SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION HEADQUARTERS)

To reorganize the territory of the Southern Asia Division to include India, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives.

SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION/FAR EASTERN DIVISION REORGANIZATION

To organize a new division comprising the Burma Union Section, the Bangladesh Union Section, and the Sri Lanka Union of Churches, all in the territory of the Southern Asia Divisions; and the Japan and Korean union conferences, the Central Philippine, East Indonesia, North Philippine, South China Island, South Philippine, Southeast Asia, West Indonesia union missions, and the Guam-Micronesia Mission, presently in the territory of the Far Eastern Division. (Nomenclature for the new division is to be determined).

Missionary to Botswana Receives High Honour

The government of Botswana recently awarded Karl Seligmann the Order of Meritorious Service, an award given only to those whose contribution to the people of Botswana has been outstanding.

SDA Holds 100th Cooking School

Cooking school specialist Kathryn E. Boyd, of Gaston, Oregon, recently conducted her one hundredth cooking school in Tracy, California.

Inspired by classes conducted by Henry and Marion Vollmer in Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1957, Boyd says she felt as if "someone had laid something on my shoulders and whispered, 'This is for you.'"

SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION REORGANIZATION TRANSFER OF PAKISTAN UNION TO NED

To transfer the territory of the Pakistan Union Mission from the Southern Asia Division to the North European Division.

EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL REALIGNMENT

Much time and study has been given to the matter of realignment the division territories in the European area in order to balance the responsibilities of the Northern European and the Euro-Africa divisions.

It was voted to transfer the territory of the Hungarian Union Conference, the Yugoslavia Union Conference, the Greek Mission, and the Israel Field from the Euro-Africa Division to the Northern European Division.

Last Manuscript of Ellen White Biography Completed

Arthur White, author of the six-volume Ellen G. White biography, recently presented the last chapter of the final manuscript to the White Estate. White, Ellen G. White's grandson, and secretary of the White Estate

from 1938 to 1978, began the project in the early 1970s. But he did very little on it until his retirement in 1978.

SDA Books Used by College Students in Portugal

Bras Sotero, a literature evangelist in Setubal, Portugal, recently had better success than he would have even dreamed of when he canvassed a group of college professors.

"Do you have something about the Reformation?" a history professor asked him. "We have only a few resource books on this period."

"Sir, I have exactly what you want," Sotero replied, and handed him a copy of *The Great Controversy*.

"Please come back tomorrow," the professor said, "and I will give you my response after I have looked at the book more carefully."

The next day Sotero was surprised to hear that the professor wanted the book and 40 more copies—because "I will also recommend it to my history students."

NORTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION NEW NOMENCLATURE

To approve the request of the Northern European Division that its name be changed to Trans-European Division subject to approval by the 1985 General Conference session of the European Territorial Realignment plan recommended by the 1985 Spring Meeting.

AUSTRALASIAN DIVISION-NAME CHANGE TO SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

To approve the request of the Australasian Division that the name of the division be changed to South Pacific Division.

Works." These presentations were not simply reports of what was being done, but provided the rationale behind—the what, the how, and the why.

For the GC Ministerial/Stewardship Association, the New Orleans pre-session was a landmark event, although pre-sessions have been held for decades, never has anything been done on such a grand scale. "The Superdome and Hyatt Regency Hotel provided us with the most fantastic display of meeting rooms we've ever had," said W. B. Quingley, an associate secretary of the association, and the pre-session's chief organizer. "We had up to 40 meeting rooms available to us, allowing us to attract the largest attendance ever at such a council."

"Some people have criticized the General Conference for using the Superdome," added Bresee, "but it was the immense facility that made such a programme viable." Because there were few space constraints, laypeople were invited to participate as well, although it was made clear that the seminars were geared for ministers.

Lining up lecturers, working out schedules, coordinating with General Conference session planners, and organizing the programme in general had kept Quingley busy for months before the gathering. Since the Superdome was not available until the wee hours of the morning on Sunday, June 23, Quingley had to have everything poised and ready so that things could be set up in a matter of hours.

Having put so much work into the pre-session, the Ministerial/Stewardship Association is determined that it benefit as many ministers as possible. All seminars have been taped, and many will be made into continuing-education courses. In this way the strains of the "symphony" will linger long after the General Conference session is over.



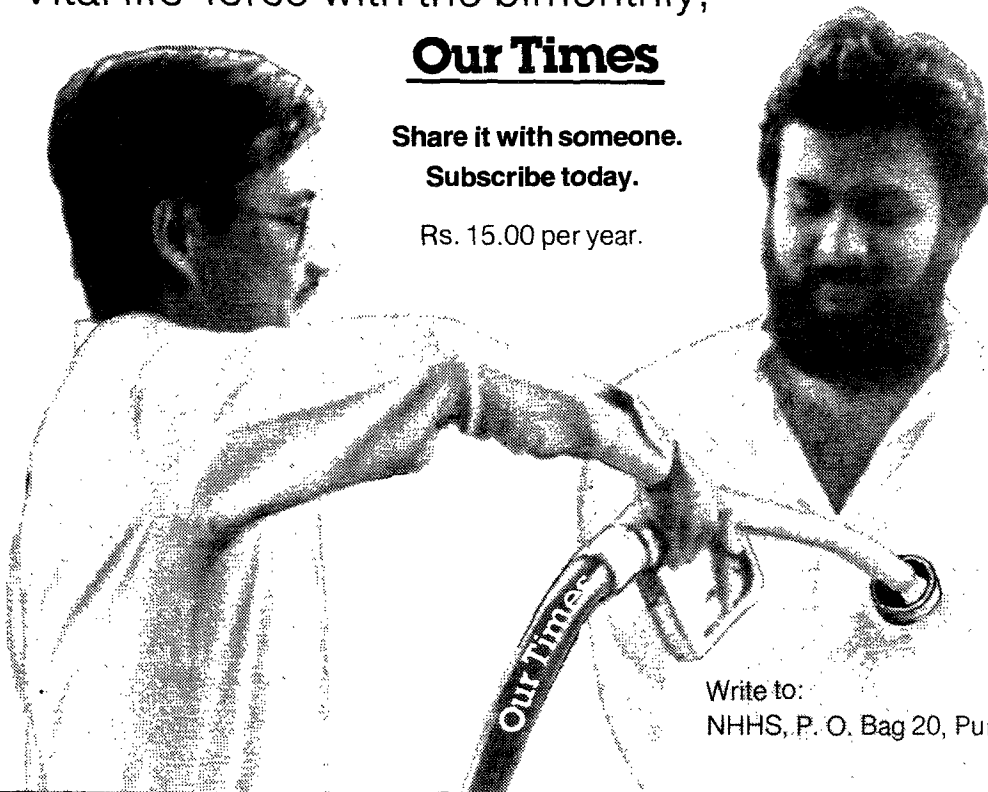
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MOST RICHLY BLESSED

The June, 1985 issue on Adventist Youth had an article on Johnny Philip's testimony on being told that he had a malignant brain tumour. The neurologists at Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore gave him eleven months to live. "Because of His love and mercy," Johnny felt, 'He has given me time to 'set my house in order' "

An advertisement for a popular English play that was staged recently at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Bombay, reads thus:

"How do you tell someone that the next few days are his last?"

My neurosurgeon had a similar problem. On the 27th of December, 1984 I experienced seizures for the first time in my life. I had a brain scan on the 31st of the month. According to the CT scan report, the lesion that caused the seizures was either a tuberculoma or a glioma.

The neurosurgeon was convinced to 99% certainly that the lesion was a glioma—a terminal cancer. There was one way of being absolutely sure—have a biopsy of the lesion. After carefully considering the issue and praying about it, my family and I decided against a biopsy.

After being discharged from the hospital, we sent the details of my disease to two different hospitals in U.S.A. Eminent neurologists of the National Cancer Institute, University of Maryland Hospital, advised me to have surgery immediately. After surgery, which would cost a minimum of US\$ 30,000, I could expect to live for about two years.

I had to continue symptomatic treatment under the supervision of a local neurologist. A physician who believes that a patient should be given the benefit of the doubt directed me to a neurophysician whom he knew. On February 25, the neurologist noted and prescribed the following treatment:

"CT scan is showing a mass lesion;—mostly a glioma. However, as patient is unwilling for biopsy/surgery at the moment, *Empirical ATT*. In between, if he becomes symptomatic, to repeat CT scan or withdraw ATT. Otherwise, CT scan to be done after 3 months period."

When I asked him of his personal opinion he said, "You and I know where we

stand. But if the lesion is a tuberculoma it is 100% curable. So let us take a chance."

On the 29th of May—3 months after I started the new treatment, I had a repeat scan. The report states, "Follow up CT scan shows *total disappearance* of the enhancing multiple nodular lesions and cerebral oedema which were seen in the previous scans."

The radiologist remarked, "It is an interesting case". Over the phone, he told a doctor friend, "He has made a dramatic recovery". The physician who sent me to the neurologist said, "It is a miracle." My neurologist exclaimed, "It's time to celebrate!"

I know next to nothing about the medical sciences. I entrusted my life into the hands of professionals knowing that they could make a mistake. But God knew what was best for me.

Did I really walk "the valley of the shadow of death"? I'm thankful to God that it was just the shadow of death and not death itself. Like the blind man I can only say, "One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see." John 9:25.

While I was in the neurology ward of the hospital, I noticed that some of the patients' heads were shaven. I'm told that before a biopsy or surgery of the brain, the first thing that is done is to shave the head. I met a photographer recently who told me that one of his friends had a biopsy of some part of the brain, and that he still hasn't returned to normal life. I hear that excision of even a benign brain tumour may cause paralysis or blindness. Jesus said, "The very hairs

of your head are all numbered". Matthew 10:30. Isn't it true!

I thank God for keeping the promise, he made to me on December 29, 1984: "When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God. . . I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life. Fear not: for I am with thee." Isaiah 43:2-5.

According to the neurologist, everything that has been done so far has been necessary. Not even one step has been a waste. God keeps adding people for my LIFE. I thank Him.

"Thou shalt die, and not live." 2 Kings 20:1. Was this a hoax? In answer, we are directed to John 3:16.

The following prayer of an unknown soldier has become true in my life:

"I asked God for strength, that I might achieve;

I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health, that I might do greater things;

I was given infirmity, that I might do better things. I asked for riches, that I might be happy;

I was given poverty, that I might be wise. I asked for power, that I may have the praise of men;

I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life;

I was given life that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I asked for—but everything I had hoped for.

Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.

I am among all men, most richly blessed."

—Johnny K. Philip

On July 3, in a meeting outside the General Conference session venue the Association of Adventist Women honoured Mrs. Eleanor Hetke with the 1985 International Woman of the Year Home/Community Life Award. This award was given her for the unselfish work that she did for the community in Salisbury Park, Poona. Two other women honoured with her were Rose Lee Jones and Kathleen K. Zolber.



TILL HE COMES

PUNJAB PIONEER PASSES AWAY



One of the last pioneers of Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Punjab Pastor Earl R. Reynolds, died in California, on May 3, 1985, less than two months before his 92nd birthday.

Pastor Reynolds served in Southern Asia for ten years. He always very dearly loved her people, languages, and land. When he could not return to India himself, he demonstrated his great love by generously supporting the Lord's work in Southern Asia; by providing from personal funds for the complete care and education to adulthood of a little blind Indian girl named Bessie; when circumstances prohibited his return, Pastor Reynolds' children and a grandson in a sense represented him in his love for India. His son Elder E. Robert Reynolds, with his family, worked for and with the people of India and Pakistan, and later Earl's grandson Gerald returned for a time also. Though Earl's son Glenn, born at Najibabad, never worked in Southern Asia, he, too, represented his father; he made the contact that resulted in the establishment of the Scheer Memorial Hospital in Nepal.

Pastor Reynolds married Maude Evelyn Lower Nov. 1, 1918, and the next October, the young couple sailed for India. Earl Reynolds began working in 1919 at Chuharkana in Pakistan, combining supervision of the dispensary there with medical evangelistic work in the villages around it. He always felt that God had called him to be a minister, and although because of his dispensary work some people called him "Dr. Sahib," it made him happy to be ordained to ministry in 1923. From 1924-26 he did the same kind of medical evangelism he had been doing in the Punjab in and around Najibabad in the U. P.

While still at Chuharkana, Earl Reynolds observed the paucity of quality Adventist village preachers, and initiated a short-lived training programme for such. Except for a nine-month attempt at a similar effort in 1951-52, nothing further along this line was done. It remained for his son, Bob, to re-start the training for ministers at the school at Chuharkana which has since become a senior college now called Pakistan Adventist Seminary and College.

Earl's first term in India was followed by ministerial work in Southern California, the Hawaiian Islands—where Maude died after two years—and another period of service in California. On May 22, 1933, he married Opal Haworth-Groomer. He is now a widower, but she is still living. They enjoyed almost 52 years of married life together, a good, long time for a second marriage.

In the late Spring of 1937, Earl returned to India with Opal and their three sons, two of whom had been born during Earl's first term in India.

Bob developed a health problem that forced the family to return to the U. S. A. in the summer of 1940. Pastor E. Robert Reynolds returned in 1951 to carry for 15 years the evangelistic torch his father could no longer carry in Southern Asia.

Interestingly enough, the first church Bob pastored after coming to Pakistan in the late summer of 1951 was Lahore and his second church was Rawalpindi, both places tied closely to his father's work. It is also interesting to note that when Bob's service was cut short in 1966 at the time he was shot and permanently disabled, he lived in the same house in Chuharkana that Earl had lived in when Bob was born. Also, during the school year of 1970-71, Gerald R. Reynolds taught at Chuharkana as a volunteer (AVSC) missionary. This made the third generation to have worked on the same mission station—unique for Seventh-day Adventists!

Elder Earl Reynolds continued his ministry in various conferences in the United States until his retirement in July of 1959. He continued work for the Lord in one way or another as his health permitted until, following an injury in 1981, he was no longer able to carry on.

Earl Robert Reynolds (Sr.) who was born on June 27, 1893, at Dubuque, Iowa (U. S. A.), passed to his long sleep in Loma Linda California, early Friday morning, May 3, 1985. Two of Earl's former close friends and colleagues from Southern Asia, Elders Arthur E. Nelson and O. O. Mattison, took part in the funeral service. His wife, Opal, his three sons, Bob, Glenn, and Gerald, and their families, plus a host of friends and relatives look forward to the grand reunion at Jesus' soon return.

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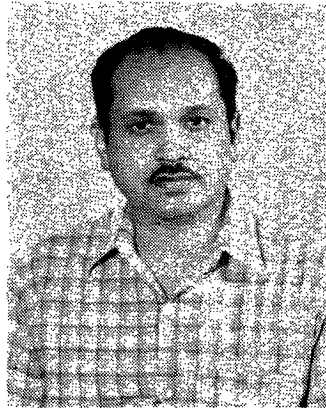
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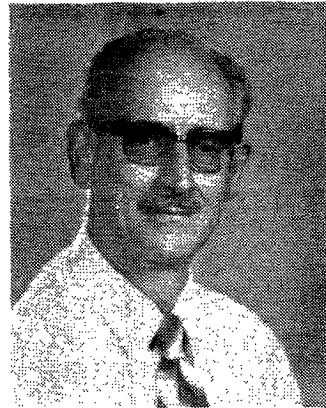
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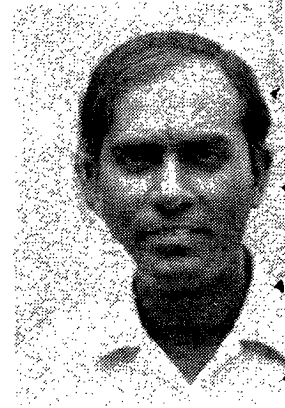
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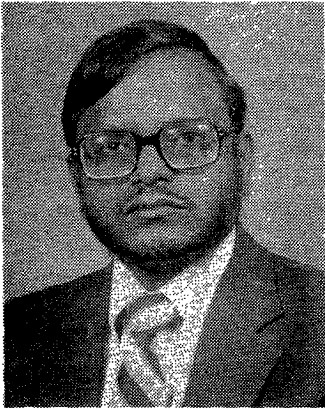
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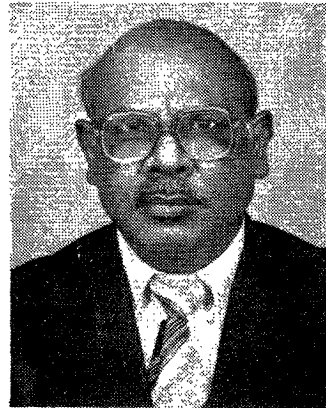
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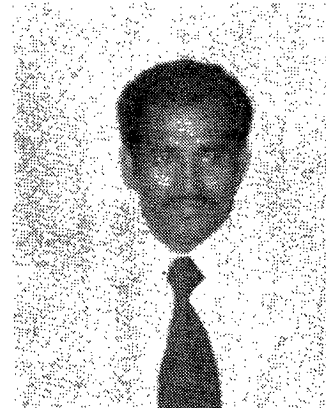
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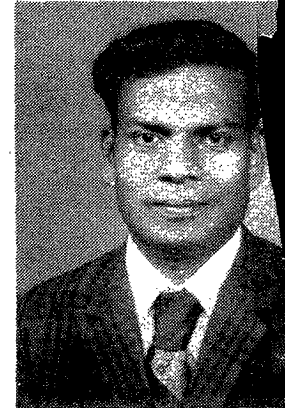
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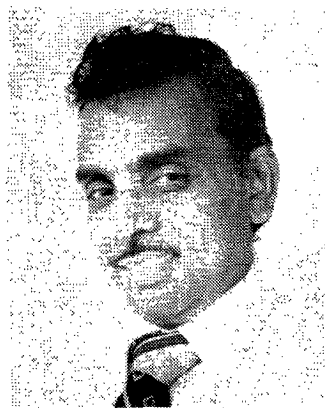
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