

# THE RECORD

A photograph of a man and a woman, likely the newly elected NAD president and a representative, smiling for the camera. The man is wearing glasses, a white shirt, a yellow and black striped tie, and a dark suit jacket. The woman is wearing a dark jacket over a white top and a black scarf with a yellow floral pattern. They are standing in front of a blurred background of green foliage.

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## The 57th General Conference Session reports

Schneider elected NAD president



# The GC theme, "Almost Home," Will soon be a reality

Often church members have questions regarding the operations of the church and how it functions as a world body. One of the important factors that keeps the church functioning on a unified worldwide scale is the world session of the General Conference which is held every five years. At the 57<sup>th</sup> Session which was just concluded, the theme, "Almost Home," depicted very well the atmosphere that prevailed throughout the ten days.

*What is the function of the World Session of the church, and is this the most cost-effective way of doing church business?*

The General Conference Session is important in keeping the world church working in unity. It's at this meeting that policies and programs are reviewed, and new plans are launched. This is also a time when reports are given every evening from



Photo: Richard Dower

The General Conference Session theme, "Almost Home," was emblazoned across the back of the stage in the SkyDome at the Toronto Convention Center.

each of the 12 divisions around the world to apprise the delegates of the progress of the gospel in their given territories. At the Session which has just ended, those in attendance were thrilled to hear how the membership is growing in the overseas divisions, with as many as 1,000 being baptized a month in India—unheard of in past years.

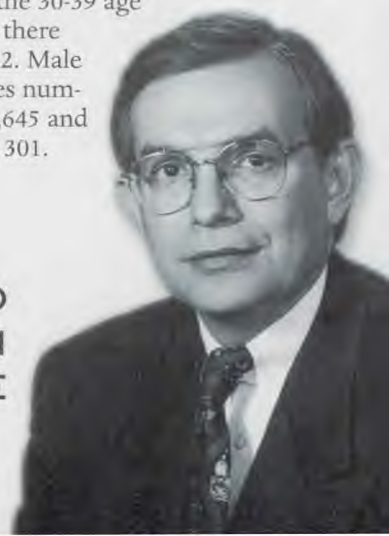
*How are delegates chosen from the divisions, and what function do they have at a World Session?*

Delegates from each division are selected using a formula based on membership. Of the 2,000 selected, 1,946 actually came to represent their divisions in both the business sessions and on the nominating committee. Of that group 49 were under 30 years of age. In the 30-39 age bracket there were 232. Male delegates numbered 1,645 and females 301.



Al McClure (right) listens to a point being made by Clay Farwell, president of the Indiana Conference, during the NAD caucus.

**MAX A. TREVINO**  
**SOUTHWESTERN UNION**  
**CONFERENCE**





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Once the delegates were seated at the opening session, they each received a large 3-ring agenda notebook including documents to be discussed. Each business session is chaired by a General Conference (GC) vice president and secretary who guide the discussions. Delegates vote on policies and amendments placed before them and have the option of speaking to issues from the floor.

*Since delegates represent 201 different countries, they come with varying customs and cultures. Is it possible to get a consensus on agenda items?*

On certain issues, such as evangelism and plans for world mission, consensus is not difficult. However, when items are brought before the body which may involve theological and cultural issues, it is more difficult.

*How effective can a body of 2,000 delegates be in conducting church business?*

One of the first functions at the Session is for each division to caucus and choose delegates they wish to represent them on the nominating committee. The nominating committee's task is to nominate all leading church officials for both the General Conference headquarters and the divisions. The nominating committee that has just concluded was made up of 174 delegates. The average attendance at each meeting was 140. Members met for a total of 36 hours and nominated people for 119 different positions. (In the process they consumed 700 bottles of water.) A total of 11 reports were given to the business session for a final vote of approval.

*Now that you have returned from the 57th General Conference session, having served on the nominating committee for the first time, what is your opinion on the "health" of the church and its growth?*

To have the opportunity to work with members of our church family from around the globe is a unique experience. It is especially gratifying that we can discuss major issues and come to a consensus. I personally feel very good about our church, and it is evident to me that this movement is led by God's spirit. The reports we received from all of the divisions around the world show that we are a vibrant and growing church, and I am excited about our future because I believe it points to Jesus' second coming.



## About the cover:

Newly-elected North American Division president Don Schneider, shown with his wife Marti, takes up his responsibilities at the division headquarters in Silver Spring, Md.

Photo: Richard Dwyer



The 57th  
General Conference  
session reports



# God is about to say "Son, go get my children!"

One of the opening events at the General Conference Session in Toronto was the unveiling of Victor Issa's sculpture depicting the second coming of Christ. This sculpture, done in bronze, shows a group of people, both young and old and of different cultures, looking up in anticipation of Jesus' return. To my mind, this sculpture set the tone for the whole GC Session and its theme, "Almost Home."

Seeing people hugging each other, missionaries embracing nationals from countries afar, friends greeting friends and delegates making new acquaintances portrayed in a small way what it will be like when we meet each other in heaven.

Listening to reports from around the world increased my sense that we're nearing home. It was inspiring to listen to Violeta Bocala, president of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, tell of the spiritual healing that has taken place in Indonesia, where 32 congregations who had separated from the church in 1949 have now come back, bringing nearly 2,000 members with them, requesting to be reunited with the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Just as thrilling was the report from the Eastern Africa Division which told of evangelistic efforts, beginning with Pentecost '98 in the strife-torn city

of Soweto, South Africa, and ending with ACTS 2000 in Kumasi, Ghana in 1999, when some 10,070 new members were baptized. And hearing of the 40,000 people in the Philippines who had united with Christ this past year was another thrill.

But to me the most thrilling was the report by D. Ronald Watts, president of the Southern Asia Division, who told of a 154 percent increase in baptisms over the past five years and that the annual accessions have reached 1,000 a month. Anyone who has read stories of the opposition and difficulties faced by missionaries in India during the past century will praise God for what is happening there.

With all of this as background, in my mind the culminating event of the Session was the emotionally stirring piece sung by the 200-voice choir just before General Conference President Jan Paulsen spoke Sabbath morning to the 60,000+ visitors and delegates assembled in the Toronto SkyDome on July 8. The song, "The Midnight Cry," describes Jesus' return to earth to fetch his children home. Here are the words:

I hear the sound of a mighty rushing wind....  
I can almost hear the trumpet as Gabriel sounds the call.  
At the midnight cry we'll be going home.  
I look around me and I see prophecies fulfilling  
And signs of the times appearing everywhere.  
I can almost hear my father as he says, "Son, go get my children."  
At the midnight cry, the bride of Christ will rise.



Photo: Ron Quick

The 200-voice choir singing "The Midnight Cry" and setting the stage for President Jan Paulsen's sermon on Sabbath, July 8.

When Jesus steps out of the cloud to call God's children  
The dead in Christ shall rise to meet him in the air,  
And then those who remain will be quickly changed  
At the midnight cry when Jesus comes again.

Words and music from  
Midnight Cry by  
Bill and Gloria Gather

The Parade of Nations, when delegates from all parts of the world walk across the stage dressed in their national costumes and carrying their national flags, was the closing event of the Session. I thought of Jesus' words in Acts 1:8 (NKJV) where He said, "You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." His statement was depicted to us in living color! Again I thought of the words the choir had sung about God saying, "Son, go get my children!"

May we be in the crowd that awaits Him on that day!



Photo: C. Elwyn Platner

"The King Is Coming" is the title Victor Issa gave his bronze figures looking up in anticipation of Jesus' return.

**JEAN THOMAS**  
EDITOR, RECORD





# Adventists renew hope in Toronto



I joined the ranks of the more than 60,000 other Adventists in their pilgrimage to the 57th General Conference Session in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Like many of these pilgrims, I passed through customs before entering Canada.

The line was long and my customs agent particularly thorough. As she reviewed my documents she asked what I was in town for. "Meetings," I replied, trying to rush the process.

"What meetings?" she pressed.

"The Seventh-day Adventist Church's General Conference Session."

Without missing a beat she fired back, "When was the Great Disappointment?"

I blinked. The flight had been long, and I was totally unprepared for this pop quiz. Then I noticed the twinkle in her eye.

"1844," I finally blurted out, relieved I knew the answer.

"Welcome to Canada," she said smiling.

With that brief exchange the enormity of the Adventist impact on Toronto began to dawn on me. The Session was heralded as the largest convention ever held in Toronto, and our distinctive fingerprints were everywhere, like the local hotdog stand serving vegetarian dogs and vending machines stocked with decaffeinated drinks. But more than affecting the consumption of soy products in Toronto, delegates and guests met to share our unique hope through the theme "Almost Home."

Photo: Richard Duerksen



## Hope is shared on Toronto's streets

According to statistics cited during the Session, more than 70 percent of Adventist members are under age 30. While the average delegate—male, age 50—didn't come close to reflecting this statistic, Impact Toronto participants certainly did!

Impact Toronto, an evangelistic outreach running concurrently with the Session, drew youth and young adults from around the world. Toronto streets were flooded with our youth sharing hope through street preaching, mime ministry, a Christian Café and door-to-door outreach, to name a very few of the activities.

In addition to Impact Toronto, youth also served as pages (running messages and giving out directions) and reporters for the press booth during the session. The youth presence was also felt in the convention center where many helped run booths, pass out information and perform on stage.

## Newly elected General Conference president and officers express hope

Jan Paulsen, Ph.D., world president of the Adventist church, was elected on the second day of the Session.

Paulsen, a Norwegian, was coming to the end of his sixteenth month in office. He has extensive pastoral and administrative experience as a missionary, teacher, college principal and church administrator.

"It is both a privilege and honor to serve the church and our Lord. God is the one who calls and sustains us," Paulsen said in his acceptance speech. "Were it not for that conviction, I would not be here today. But I am reassured by the long-held conviction my wife, Kari, and I share that God gives guidance to us. We will do our best to discharge the duties you have placed on our shoulders. We will try to do something wonderful for the church and our Lord. It gives us strength to know that you remember us in your prayers."

The president's election by the 1,946-strong delegation came after the Session's Nominating Committee, composed of 174 members from around the world, put forward his name.

The elections of Matthew Bediako as secretary and Robert Rawson as treasurer filled the top three leadership posts in the General Conference.

(Above) Jan Paulsen and his wife Kari appear before the delegates in response to his re-election as General Conference president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

(At left) Elizabeth Calaguian, one of the "Clowns for Jesus" (third from left) from Impact Toronto 2000, captures the attention of children in a Toronto park. She's surrounded by Awo, 4; Dega, 4; Johnny, 5 (in back); and Rahma, 6; all from the surrounding community.



Photo: Dick Duerksen





The upright signs indicate the location where delegates are to be seated during the General Conference Session.

Photo: Richard Dower

## New NAD president expresses hope in God's leading

Don C. Schneider, 57, was elected to lead the church in North America following Al McClure's retirement from the presidency in July. He has served the church as a pastor and church administrator, culminating in his service as



Photo: Richard Dower

president of the Lake Union Conference for the past six years.

## "Hope" is heard around the world

For the first time in our church's history viewers from every continent could watch the GC Session. In 1995 only viewers in North and South America were able to watch the GC Session in Utrecht.

Mike Agee from Idaho works with Kevin Kruger from Walla Walla College to prepare a radio segment for broadcast as Glen Robinson from Southwestern Adventist University looks on.



Photo: Richard Dower

Each weekday three hours of events, music, sermons and reports were uplinked. On Sabbaths, six hours of programming were uplinked. Programming was provided by General Conference Television (GCTV) produced jointly by Warren Judd, Adventist Media Productions CEO, and Ray Tetz, Mind Over Media president/owner.

Not only was GCTV seen globally, but it was also staffed by technicians, editors and engineers from around the world. They came to share in the ministry of hope through sharing their technical skills. The United States, Australia, Germany and France were a few of the countries represented.

The Adventist Communication Network (ACN) carried the programs throughout North America while the Adventist Global Communication Network (AGCN) carried programming to the rest of the world. The signal was also available to Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) and other private distributors.

## Booths depicted hope in Adventist enterprises

Adventist institutions, churches, ministries and members from around the world set up booths in the Toronto Metro Convention Centre, attracting an estimated 20,000 visitors a day. The booths, dominating floor space equivalent to three football fields, were laid out in an eclectic pattern with ministries, institutions and publishing houses forming walls and isles in the massive Centre, just a five-minute walk from the SkyDome.

Adventist World Radio (AWR) occupied the largest amount of space on the floor with their broadcasting area where they translated the GC proceedings into Spanish, French, Portuguese, Russian and Romanian. The feed was sent directly to Europe, Africa and the Americas. It was also broadcast on the Internet. The AWR station in Guam picked up the Internet feed and then broadcast it to all of Asia.

## Global Mission conveyed a message of hope

For many of the attendees the Session was more than a review of the *Church Manual* and the vote actions taken on the main floor; it was also a time of fellowship... something akin to a camp meeting, bringing in more than 55,000 people to the Sabbath meetings.

Throughout the week meetings were held in the convention center for groups which included the Prayer Ministry and Women's Ministries. On the SkyDome's main floor delegates and attendees received reports from around the world during "Windows on Missions."

The Global Mission stage, located in the convention center, provided a forum for ministries from around the world to share their progress, mission and vision.

Some of the church's foremost pastors and speakers shared what was on their hearts in an "If I Had Only 15 Minutes to Preach" segment.



Photos: Richard Dower

(Top) Delegate Joycelyn Hess from Baton Rouge says, "I've attended General Conference sessions before as a visitor, but this time I am a delegate. Voting on an issue is very different from just observing the proceedings."



(Above left) David Contreras, a delegate and pastor of the Keene Spanish church, observed that "The future of the church looks good. I see the Holy Spirit at work around the world."





Conference presidents James Gilley from Arkansas-Louisiana and James Stevens from Texico confer during the business session.

Photo: Richard Dower

the *Adventist Review*, July 2, 2000. Traditionally North America (NAD) contributed 11 percent of its tithe while other divisions contributed only one percent. In addition to the two percent, the NAD has agreed to send six percent of its tithe to support world missions in recognition of the benefits of having the GC headquarters office and several GC institutions located in its territory.

flag, marched in a dazzling procession through the SkyDome.

Yes, we came to the General Conference Session, more than 60,000 of us. We discussed the *Church Manual*, voted in church leaders and listened to speakers and musical groups from around the world. We even reestablished old friendships, but more than anything we came away with a sense of hope. Hope in the strength of God's incredible diversity. Hope that we truly are almost home.

Jolynn R. Fisher



Jolynn Fisher is assistant editor of the *Pacific Union Recorder*.

## Openness of discussion in business session brings hope

The first business meeting of the 57th GC Session kicked off June 29 at 3 p.m. Over the next seven business days between 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. delegates discussed many agenda items including the *Church Manual* where talks on divorce and remarriage included an amendment to add "abandonment" as a cause for divorce but not remarriage.

In addition to discussing and voting on the *Church Manual*, delegates also voted in GC officers and division presidents. The business meetings ended Friday, July 7, at 4:30 p.m. During the Session the church released position statements on gambling, child welfare and proselytism during a series of press conferences.



Photo: Richard Dower

Southwestern Union president Max A. Trevino (right), and Oklahoma Conference president Rodney Grove exchange views about the new tithe-sharing plan.

## Increased tithe-sharing plan offers hope

The GC Executive Committee adopted a new tithe-sharing plan, allowing world divisions to share more equally in funding GC operations. The decision dramatically revised the funding formula for sharing expenses of the worldwide church.

The new plan, to be phased in over a five-year period, provides that each division share equitably to fund GC headquarters operations. Committee members voted that each world division of the church will send two percent of tithe for this purpose, thus creating the first equal financing plan in the denomination's 137-year history, according to

## Amazing growth of "our family" excites hope

The 57th General Conference Session closed Sabbath evening by celebrating our world family. Delegates from every nation represented dressed in native garb and carrying their country's



Photo: Richard Dower

## Church Growth Fact

According to Global Mission, in 1990 there were 5,000 groups of a million people in the world and only 2,700 of them had an Adventist presence. Since then, world population has grown to 5,800 groups of a million people and 5,100 of those have an Adventist presence.

(At left) Delegate Pat Stock from Shattuck, Okla. feels that being a delegate is a great privilege. She has enjoyed being a participant in a church organization that brings honor to God and mankind.



# NAD says goodbye to a "quality leader"

The North American Division (NAD) took time at the General Conference Session to bid farewell to NAD President Alfred McClure. A dinner in his honor was held at the Crown Plaza Hotel ballroom in Toronto on July 2. McClure served as president for 10 years before his decision to retire.

"When we began in our ministry almost 47 years ago, we never dreamed that anything like this could ever happen to us," said McClure. "We were just honored to be a part of the Lord's work. And now that I have had the privilege of working with so many of you and being a part of God's church, and the way that we've been able to fellowship and have a part in much of the world, particularly here in North America, it's been a great blessing to us." McClure's career with the Seventh-day Adventist Church included positions such as president of the Southern Union and president of multiple conferences. He also spent time

in pastoral and evangelistic work.

Many influential members of the church were in attendance, including Kari Paulsen, wife of the General Conference president, who expressed appreciation to both McClure and his wife Frances.

Alfred McClure "always represented the North American Division with strength and fairness," said Bryan W. Ball, former president of the South Pacific Division. "What he had to say was said with well-chosen words and with dignity, even when sensitive issues were addressed." Bryan Ball went on to state, "Al was always an articulate advocate of the North American Division," and that "He was also a good representative of the world church."

When asked how McClure must be feeling, former NAD president C. E. Bradford said, "It's gotta be mixed emotions. The man has invested himself in his work and in his territory, his union,

his coworkers. These are networks that are not easily broken." Bradford went on to say, "It will take a little distance to really bring it into focus...but he's made up his mind and the Lord is with Him." Bradford affectionately declared to McClure and his family, "You are quality people!"

Orville Parchment, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, said, "It's a sad day because Al McClure's greatest contribution was to turn the tide of evangelism in North America. And I believe that with the momentum that is there now, the new president will have to continue it."

McClure's wife, Frances, who served as head of Shepherdess International for North America, said, "It's been a great adventure and I'm looking forward to a new adventure now." McClure said, "I'm going to look forward to and enjoy the privilege of sleeping in my own bed virtually every night, giving up some of those frequent flyer miles for the opportunity to be at home."

McClure thanked those in attendance, saying, "Thank you for your kindness, for your friendship." He encouraged the North American Division and their next president, saying, "I want to assure you that we will be praying for you and the leadership you continue to give to the church. We will be watching with interest." In closing, he told the NAD workers, "We will not be joining the critics; we will be joining your supporters."

Reggie Johnson



Reggie Johnson is a senior communication and religion major at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich.



Photo: Richard Dower

Neal Wilson (right), former world president, welcomes NAD President A.C. McClure to the ranks of the retired during the General Conference Session in Toronto.





Photo: Richard Dower

# Schneider replaces McClure as new NAD president

The newly elected North American Division president, Don Schneider, reads the scripture at the last Sabbath's worship service at the General Conference Session.

**D**on Schneider, newly elected North American Division president, comes with a background of 36 years of denominational experience working as a pastor, departmental director, conference and union president.

When asked how he viewed his appointment as president of the North American Division, Schneider said, "The North American Division is part of the structure of the church, and that is important," he said. "But it is not as important as the people in the division. The important part is whether people know Jesus and whether they know how to share Him with others."

Schneider comes to the division from the Lake Union, where he has been president since 1994. He also has been president of the Northern California, Rocky Mountain, Arkansas-Louisiana, New Jersey, and Wyoming conferences and worked as a departmental director and pastor.

Schneider told a compelling story about the Sunday night of his election as division president. "The nominating committee procedure is for the delegates in each division to caucus to vote on names. The voting, which is done by mechanical means, displays the percentage votes on the screen for everyone to see.

"I looked up at the screen and realized that the percentage beside my name indicated I would be the nominee. Right there I bowed my head and gave my life to the Lord again, because I knew that in my strength I do not have the wisdom to do this great work."

Schneider says he comes from a simple family background. "I don't know why I should be given the opportunity to serve in this capacity; however, I want God to lead since He is the one who has called me."

Jean Thomas



Jean Thomas is the editor of the Southwestern Union Record

## A sermon from a homeless man

**I** stepped up to his bedside with a mission. As hundreds of complete strangers walked by, I stooped down to talk to the old man on the street corner. He had some sort of padding that was made up like a bed, an old coffee can that he used for begging, and a small paper bag that looked like it had some bread in it. It seemed as though these items and the clothes on his back were his only earthly possessions.

His name is A.J. I handed him a "toonie" (a Canadian two-dollar coin) and he thanked me. But that wasn't enough for me. With the 57th General Conference Session taking place just one block away at the SkyDome, I had to know if any of the Seventh-day Adventists had witnessed to him. "Has anyone talked to you about Jesus and His second coming?" I asked. "All the time," he said with a smile, "and I don't mind it one bit."

I breathed a sigh of relief, relief from the fear that none of the more than 60,000 attendees at the General Conference Session had stopped long enough to share the good news about Jesus Christ; relief from the fear that no one had offered him anything more valuable than money; and relief from the fear that while the delegates and members focused so hard on the business of the church that they might neglect to reach out to one soul in need, right on their doorstep.

Then he went on to say, "I know that Jesus is coming soon," dispelling my misconception that he merely tolerated the religious propaganda people had offered him. "None of these people here know it," as he motioned to the endless crowds walking past him on the street, "but I know it." He went on to talk about those who would be "banging on the gates" after the door was closed. At the time, of course, I assumed that his general referral to "those people" excluded the large numbers of Seventh-day Adventists walking by, since this church has the message of the Second Advent. But since then I've had time to think.

If we really knew that Jesus is coming, we would be spending every waking minute working for the glory of God and His kingdom. We wouldn't care about personal possessions or status. All that would matter would be sharing this great news with the whole world, not only with native villages in third-world countries, but with the man who sells you the paper in the morning or the lady who stops you on the street to ask for the time. Knowing that Jesus is coming means wanting to share this message with everyone you work with, everyone you play with, your family, your friends. And guess what? That includes every person on this planet!

"He takes care of me," said A.J.

You know, I think God has really blessed him. Just think, the man doesn't have a possession in this world. Well, maybe that's what it takes to help a person realize that there are no real possessions in this world. We are all equally poor on our own, but we can be equally rich in the kingdom of God by His grace. Thank you, A.J. I'll see you soon. . .

Reggie Johnson

Reggie Johnson is a senior communication and religion major at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich.



# Impact Toronto 2000 changes lives

We'll never know the full effect of Impact Toronto (IT) this side of heaven, but there are enough stories to keep us marveling at God's grace 'til kingdom come.

What was Impact Toronto 2000? A lot of things:

Three hundred young adults from more than two dozen countries, together for 10 days in one city, using their God-given gifts to touch others through 22 different ministry sections. Two evangelistic meetings attracting more people nightly. A day camp bringing Fun Learning

"I see people learning that God is surprising," says 18-year-old Evan Howe of Boonsboro, Md. "People are learning that evangelism isn't always what we expect. If you keep an open mind, it's incredible."

Impact delegates didn't stop touching lives when they finished the day's programs. Compassion Ministry team member Jennifer Gregory, of Chicago, Ill., believes God particularly led her to one person, a homeless man who'd been raised Adventist.

On a quick trip to a nearby grocery she met a man selling Toronto's "homeless newspaper." When she stopped to give him some money, he saw her IT2000 badge and asked what group she was with. The man related how, after being raised Adventist and experiencing much material success in life, he'd lost everything in a battle with drugs.

"He told me he knew God was still working on him because I'd come by to talk to him," Jennifer says. "I prayed with him and didn't know what kind of impact I'd make, but when I opened my eyes he'd been crying."

J. R. Erickson, a 22-year-old from Park Rapids, Minn., spent his afternoons as a leader in the FLAG day camp. "I was a little surprised at the openness the kids had toward prayer," J. R. remembers. "I expected them to be less eager than they were."

FLAG camp was based in Regent Park, a housing project where the IT team also conducted nightly tent meetings. Regent Park is home to many low-income families from around the world, including Muslims and Hindus.

"I really believe that we can reach the community through the children," says John Ringhofer, of Tennessee. "We've been playing with the kids, just letting them know that they're loved by

God. A lot of these kids don't even know anything about Christ at all.

Delano Son, of Ottawa, Ontario, helped kids enjoy a ropes course as part of his recreation ministry. "I tell the kids to hold on to the rope and let their legs go. We're teaching them that God is the rope."

The FLAG camp staff watched as the Holy Spirit worked on the children. "The children have grown more loving," says John. "Children who were biting and hitting kids have become more and more loving and joyful. I see them really participating in the songs that are all about Christ."

The Regent Park evening meetings, featuring Andrews University seminary student Andrea Trustee-King, grew as a result of FLAG camp. Starting out small on Sunday night, attendance grew throughout the week.

"God brought 300 people down here just for me. I know that's why you came here," a heroin addict named David told a group of delegates he met on the street. They first encountered him Monday afternoon returning from FLAG camp. When he found out they were a church group, he asked if they'd pray

Alyssa, a resident of Regent Park, Toronto, reaches for the last hanger on an obstacle course for kids in the park. It was part of the Impact Toronto 2000 Christian Witnessing project.



Photo: Richard Duersen

Betty Cologuian, a member of the Adventist clown ministry, gets a broad smile from one of the Toronto children who came to the clowns' performance in a city park during the General Conference session in Toronto.

About God. Christian graffiti. Mime, drama, music, recreation, compassion. Young people learning skills to take home to their own communities. New insights into God's character and astonishing providence. Spiritual fuel for the road ahead.

Impact Toronto had two major goals: to train young adults in ministry and to inspire them to take their work home with them. Each morning IT delegates trained, and each afternoon they went out to serve.

"I wanted to do a lot of practical stuff," said Mark Baines, 23, a student at Avondale College. "I'll get practical stuff in my theology training eventually, but not specific community outreach. I can take this back home with me."



Photo: Richard Duersen





Don Racasa, of Vancouver, BC, was one of 200 Adventist youth who provided assistance at Toronto's Daily Bread food bank in organizing tons of food for the poor.

with him. Confessing his love for God and sorrow for his sins, David prayed with the group, and the group asked for God's power in his life.

When the group encountered David the next day, he shared the difference prayer had made. That morning he'd overslept, past when he usually wakes up for his heroin fix. Yet he had no craving. Every other time he's missed heroin for a day, he said, his body had become numb and shaky and he'd become homicidal, yet this morning he had no symptoms at all.

When the group met him again two days later, he was still elated at being heroin-free. "None of my family would know me now," he said.

"You have to be careful what you pray for," says Shelly Bilo, of Portland, Ore. "God comes through."

Shelly attended the Christian café running with Jose Rojas' nightly evangelistic meeting. Collette Muth, of Dayton, Ohio, ran a café in the basement of the Toronto East Adventist church, providing food, live music and Christian fellowship. Tuesday, July 4, the ministry team said a prayer asking for a receptive audience to the movie on the life of Jesus that they were planning to show that evening at 6:30.

In the nearby streets they gave flyers to people they met, including a group of teens hanging out—some from the nearby shelter. At 6:30 they were pleas-

antly surprised to see eight of the teens. The youth watched the movie with interest and then went upstairs to hear Rojas preach. Rojas ended his message with an altar call, asking his listeners to give Jesus a chance in their lives. Four of the teens came forward, and all eight stayed for the café's Christian fellowship and music after the meeting. The teens continued attending throughout

the week, and the IT2000 team worked to connect them with local youth pastors.

Hands-on experience in ministry proved of tremendous benefit to all involved. Drama ministry member Sarona Mulitalo, from Australia, enjoyed sharing her gifts with the kids at FLAG camp. "There's no way we could draw kids in with just Bible study, but with the use of drama and art we can draw many more," she says. "It's exciting for me to see how many young people realize the importance of creative arts."

Katie Rossiter from England discovered that interacting one-on-one with children as a clown can be a great way to share God's love. "This is the first time I

ever felt like God's hands and feet," she shared.

What's it like witnessing door-to-door in Toronto? Terri-Anne Hleady, from Saskatchewan, found out. "I gave my testimony to a 17-year-old boy, and he's come to the meetings three times," she shares. "Last night at the evangelistic meeting in Regent Park he signed a card to give his life to God."

"To see how the spirit is working in these young people is just amazing," says Steve Oshaway, of Regina, Saskatchewan, a member of the compassion ministry team. "It's been a great experience and allowed me to become a lot more humble and to recognize just how powerful Jesus is in the hearts and minds of so many young people."

Tompaul Wheeler



Ron Whitehead (left), NAD associate director of Youth Ministries, is shown here with Mario Villegas of the Five Points Bilingual Seventh-day Adventist Church in El Paso, Tex. Villegas was one of over 300 youth who came to work with Impact Toronto 2000 during the 57th Session of the General Conference. He was involved in youth congress planning. He also learned leadership skills including how to budget money, be organized and train others to share Christ.

Villegas' most memorable experience was when he and a friend were walking around the city, and his friend's T-shirt that said "Jesus heals the broken hearted" caught a stranger's attention. Right there they gave him a mini Bible study, and they hope and pray he will continue to grow in Christ.

Jerrold Thompson, SWAU intern at the Southwestern Union Conference



# Technology at the 57th GC session provided worldwide viewing

Never before have members everywhere had such broad and immediate online access to news, pictures, graphics and video clips of a General Conference Session. Computers and the Adventist Communication Network provided a virtual Toronto 2000 General Conference Session experience as it happened. Internet traffic exceeded expectations to the extent that access to archived evening International Festival of Mission programs had to be dropped to increase availability of the program of the day.

Ten to twelve thousand visitors logged on to the [session2000.adventist.org](http://session2000.adventist.org) Web site daily, according to Larry Turner, one of five young people on the Internet Services communication team. In addition, Lee Bennett, coordinator of the North American Division Press Photo Site, also kept visitors up-to-date at [www.nadadventist.org/gcsession/mediaphotos](http://www.nadadventist.org/gcsession/mediaphotos).

"The web coverage has been such an eye-opener to me," wrote Jean Killer, a new church member living in Marina Del Rey, Cal. "What a vision it has given me for the scope of mission and the impact the church has around the world," her e-mail message continued. "Thank you for bringing the experience to me virtually."

Cutting-edge communication technology and the Adventist Global Communication Network daily provided several hours of session programming via satellite to locations on several continents.

Adventist World Radio (AWR), an international broadcasting network, beamed live reports to stations around the world. Using electronic channels, the Adventist News Network (ANN) provided dispatches to religious news editors worldwide. Helping to fill the communication pipelines, about 25 writers, photographers and other public relations professionals worked on the General Conference communications team and an equal number on the North American Division communications staff.

In the exhibit halls at least 130 video screens, another 50 computer

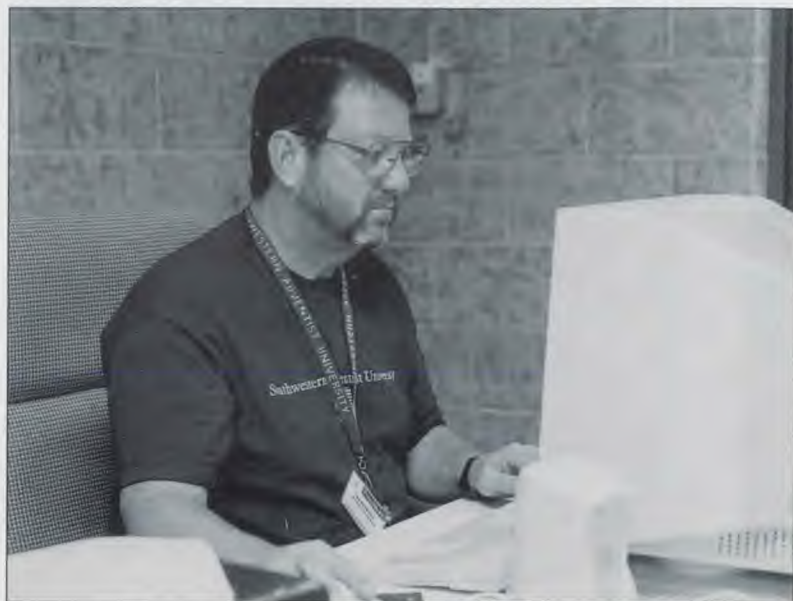


Photo: Richard Dowser

Robert Mendenhall, professor and chair of Communication at Southwestern Adventist University was the executive producer for the Adventist Radio Network at the 57th session of the General Conference held in Toronto. Three programs were produced each day Sunday through Friday. Every morning and evening there were five-minute shows which covered the breaking news of the session. At midday, there was a five-minute feature and on each of the two Sundays there was a 30-minute program recapping the major events of the week.

In all of his 25-year experience with ARN, Mendenhall says Toronto was the best. "I could hardly wait to get to work every morning. It was fantastic! Every program was recorded, edited and posted digitally. Each one is CD-quality. I've never had so much fun."

Cutline text: Jerrold Thompson

screens, and at least one slide projector pictured ministries of every imaginable kind. Visitors clustered at the large glass windows of GCTV where live interview and editing studios hosted various guests. Sometimes it was a high-profile individual such as General Conference president Jan Paulsen or *It Is Written* speaker Mark Finley. At other times it was a guest from a far-away place with a story measuring up to those in the biblical book of Acts.

Another unusual vantage point in the exhibit area was the glassed-in workroom where *Adventist Review* staffers worked at a dozen or more computers to produce the General Conference Daily Bulletins.

And cell phones? The subterranean location of the exhibit halls slowed them down there, but elsewhere they were as

common as video cameras.

"The technological advancements that this session has experienced are a tremendous contrast from five years ago in Utrecht," commented C. Elwyn Platner, communication director for the Pacific Union Conference.

Doris Stickle Burdick



*Doris Stickle Burdick served for the past 13 years as director of public relations at Southern Adventist University. As of September she has accepted a call to serve at Christian Record Services as director of direct mail.*



# Revolving fund assists church building projects

To relieve churches from the financial drain that often accompanies the borrowing of funds from a bank, the Southwestern Union Conference operates a revolving fund.

The option of depositing funds in the Union Revolving Fund at a 5 percent interest rate is open to all church members. In turn, churches needing to borrow money are able to get these same funds at an 8 percent interest rate which is often lower than what the bank offers. Additionally, there are no closing costs or points assessed by the fund.

Two years ago the 142-member All Nations church, under the pastoral leadership of James Otieno, took advantage of the plan. This international church, which is predominately African, was begun when several African families in the Arlington church began holding weekly Bible studies near the University of Texas Arlington. It soon became necessary to rent the Arlington Central Assembly Church of God because, as Pastor Otieno said, "We wanted to meet the needs of the international Seventh-day Adventists in the Metroplex."

In 1999 the All Nations church applied for a loan from the Southwestern Union Revolving Fund to purchase an existing church. With the help of the Revolving Fund, the Cornerstone Baptist Church was bought in Dalworthington Gardens, a suburb of Arlington.

The loan was for \$420,000 at an 8 percent interest rate. Church treasurer Justus Bolo explains, "At the time we were trying to get a loan, the Southwestern Union had the lowest interest rate. This made it possible for us to go on with our plans in a systematic way, sending a regular payment back to the Revolving Fund each month."

By depositing money in the Revolving Fund, members have the satisfaction of knowing that their funds are being used for the progress of God's work by making it possible for churches and schools to implement building projects that might otherwise be difficult to finance. For more information regarding the Revolving Fund, call 817.295.0476.

Fred G. Thomas  
SWU Revolving Fund

## 5%

Your refundable deposit in the  
**Southwestern  
Union  
Revolving Fund**

Earns 5 percent interest for you while your deposit supplies money to be lent to Adventist churches and schools for construction projects. Your refundable deposit is important, for it ensures that church building projects have funds available at a reasonable rate of interest. For additional information or to make a deposit, contact:

**Revolving Fund  
Southwestern Union  
Conference  
Box 4000, Burleson, Texas  
76097  
817.295.0476**

# Over \$190 billion given for charity in the USA

Figures for American contributions to charity are in for 1999 which show it was a record-setting year. In the June issue of *The NonProfit Times* is a full report from *Giving USA* as published by the AAFRC Trust for Philanthropy, the research arm for the American Association of Fund-Raising Council. During the last 10 years, America's giving has nearly doubled, from \$98.4 billion to \$190.16 billion. Giving by individual citizens represented 75.6 percent of the total, showing an increase for individual giving of 7.2 percent or \$32.45 per person.

Since 1998 tithe giving in the Southwestern Union has increased 9.5 percent—an average yearly per capita of \$671.67.

## 1999 US Contributions to Charity

Individuals	75.6%
Foundations	10.4%
Bequests Wills/Trusts	8.2%
Corporations	5.8%

## Who Received the Donations

Religion	43%
Education	14.4%
Health	9.4%
Human Services	9.1%
Foundations	7.9%
Public Schools	5.8%
Arts & Culture	5.8%
Environment	3.1%
International Affairs	1.4%

These figures do not include giving within denominations; only the organizations that reveal their income are counted.

Let us thank our heavenly Father every day for our prosperous nation and for the citizens who give so willingly to others. Let us also thank Him for the systematic Planned Giving program of the Seventh-day Adventist Church whereby tithes and offerings are handled in an efficient manner. More information can be obtained about Planned Giving by calling 817.295.0433, or your local conference trust department.

Harvey J. Byram  
Union Trust Services Director





## New Orleans First church holds mother/daughter banquet

A mother/daughter banquet was held at the New Orleans First church on Sunday, May 7, to honor mothers and their daughters. All women of the church along with their guests were invited to attend a covered dish dinner to celebrate the occasion.

Several women were honored with awards: Irene Tewis, oldest mother present; Diane Clark (daughter of Irene Tewis), oldest daughter whose mother was present; Virginia Ramirez, mother with the most children; Lillian Sorbet, grandmother with the most grandchildren; Kathy Culberson, oldest mother at the time of her daughter's birth; and Nicole Russell, youngest mother. Each honoree was presented with a bouquet of flowers fashioned by Dot Flannery.

Gladys Lincoln entertained the group with a rendition of "Under the Old

Apple Crust." Several readings about mothers and daughters were given, and Heather Sundin Crabtree brought a musical selection.

Special guest Hortensia Baudin, Women's Ministries director of the Arkansas Louisiana Conference, shared a few anecdotes from her years of mothering and encouraged mothers to do well the most important job ever created by God.

*Linda Levin  
Correspondent*



Women of the New Orleans First church enjoyed fellowship and a meal at the recently-held mother/daughter banquet.



Pastors Alfredo Castro and Martin Rios recently donated a number of Bible-based books and videos in both Spanish and English to the DeQueen branch of the Sevier County library. Included in the gift were materials of interest to both adults and children. Pictured are Martin Rios (center), Alfredo Castro (right) and librarian Betty Smith, who expressed appreciation for the donated materials.

## Adventist work featured on Fort Smith television

On June 13, Wayne Miller, pastor of the Fort Smith church, and Jim Dickinson, Christian Record Services representative, were interviewed by local television host Polly Crews for a half-hour Sunday morning television show airing on NBC-affiliate channel 24.

During the interview, Miller shared information about the General Conference Session in Toronto, Canada, and reported on the work of ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency), while Jim Dickinson discussed the services offered to blind people by Christian Record Services.

*Janet Beason  
Correspondent*



# Shreveport South church raises funds for daycare ministry

More than \$1,000 was raised in a rummage sale held by the Shreveport South church. This was to provide funds for a new daycare center scheduled to open in August. The rummage sale provided church members a perfect opportunity to pass out tracts and Bible study materials, making the event an outreach ministry as well as a fundraiser. Many shoppers stopped to share prayer requests with members.

Marsha Salzman, Teresa Parker, and Al and Peggy Schlemmer spent many hours coordinating the sale. Another rummage sale is slated for the fall along with several other fundraising events.

*Terrie Nugent  
Correspondent*



Pictured are items offered for sale at the Shreveport South church rummage sale where funds were raised for a new daycare center.



The Siloam Springs Pathfinders were pleasantly surprised when the staff decided to reward them with a day of fun instead of having their regular meeting. Spending the day at the Wildlife Safari in Gentry, Ark., Pathfinders enjoyed feeding the emus and visiting the petting area where they petted and fed goats, a calf, miniature ponies, a giraffe, camels, birds and tiger cubs. The outing concluded with a veggie feast and an ice-cream treat at the Dixie Cafe.

*April Randall, Correspondent*



## Pastor holds evangelistic meetings



Adventist believers welcomed Glenn and Mary Alice Hill to India with garlands of flowers.

(Below) In both cities where Glenn and Mary Alice Hill conducted evangelistic meetings in the Tamil Nadu province of South India, believers built new concrete baptistries on local Adventist school campuses to accommodate the hundreds who wanted to unite with the church.



Retired pastor/evangelist Glenn Hill and his wife Mary Alice continue to carry God's last-day message to various parts of the world. Since their retirement five years ago, the couple has conducted seven evangelistic series in Ukraine, three in Ecuador, two in Romania, two in India, and one each in Russia, the Philippines and Poland. During retirement, their work with local pastors and lay people has yielded hundreds of baptisms and helped to establish 15 new churches.

The Hills' most recent series, held in Southeast India in March and April of this year, resulted in 300 baptisms and more planned for the near future. These decisions for baptism have been made at great personal cost to many. In one village the Hindus cut off the drinking water supply to those who had just become Adventist members.

The summer and fall of this year will take the Hills to Ecuador for another series and then to Siberia for two campaigns. The couple reports that their greatest pleasure is to help bring peace, hope and security to hungry hearts by leading them to a relationship with a personal God who loves them unconditionally.

Glenn H. Hill  
Correspondent

## Berryville church baptizes new member



Rick Gibson was baptized on June 10 by Jerry Mayes, pastor of the Berryville church.

After attending meetings held by Jerry Mayes, and following a series of Bible studies, Rick Gibson made the decision to be baptized. On the day he was baptized in the Berryville church, June 10, Gibson gave the following testimony:

"With this baptism and by God's grace, I am a new creature in Christ. My love for Jesus and my own soul are renewed. My love for Him will always be a number one priority, just as the scripture speaks, 'We love him because he first loved us.'"

Marvin Gunter  
Correspondent



## Pathfinders present church service in Fort Smith

The Pathfinders of Fort Smith conducted an entire church service from the invocation to the sermon to the benediction. Following prayer by Danielle Howell, Lacie Nunley gave the welcome and announcements, and after the opening hymn, Mark Parker read the scripture text. Lloyd Clapp, Pathfinder director of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference, offered the morning prayer. Michael Nunley called for the offering, and his sister, Amanda, presented special music.

The sermon, entitled "Life Boats," was presented in four parts by Austin and Mark Parker, Danielle Howell and Jill Greenwood. Following the presentation, Clapp invested eight Adventurers and 11 Pathfinders and presented them with the many honors they had earned under the leadership of their directors, Betty Weyer and Lynelle Swena. The service concluded with Nathan Nunley offering the benediction.

*Janet Beason  
Correspondent*



Twenty-seven members from Southern Louisiana and Mississippi enjoyed a canoe trip on the picturesque Okatoma River. The seven-hour trip was followed by a picnic and swimming.

*Linda Levin, Correspondent*

## Ozark Family Camp Meeting

As many as 1,450 people converged in Gentry, Ark. for the annual Ozark Family Camp Meeting held May 30 to June 2. Morris Venden gave encouraging messages on righteousness by faith, following mini-concerts and congregational singing on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. On Friday evening, Morningstar artists presented an inspirational concert.

Campers and community members attended weekday seminars on prophecy, family finances, children's ministries, relationships and recovery. Many listeners responded to a call for commitment to Christ made by Walter Wright who spoke on Sabbath morning and evening. A baptism was held in Flint Creek on Sabbath afternoon.

Children enjoyed daily programs that combined spiritual lessons with nature and crafts. They also participated

in such activities as swimming, canoeing, water skiing, ice skating, roller skating and a basketball camp. Earliteens produced daily newsletters and videos that informed and captivated attendees.

The next Ozark Family Camp Meeting will be held May 29-June 2, 2001. Dorm or hotel rooms, RV and tent sites are available. Seminars tentatively scheduled include Ed Reid, who will talk about finances; the Corwins, who will present a marriage seminar; and Tom Sharp, whose presentation will center on emotional and substance abuse recovery.

Plan now to be a part of camp meeting and enjoy inspiration, a family atmosphere and the scenic Ozark Mountains. For more information, see the Web site at [www.ozarkfamilycampmeeting.com](http://www.ozarkfamilycampmeeting.com) or call 501.736.8808.



## Toews featured in commissioning service

**D**amian Madonna Toews, head teacher at Ketchum Junior Academy and a state certified teacher in Oklahoma and Texas, was awarded a Ministry of Teaching credential at a commissioning service on June 3 at Wewoka Woods Adventist Center. This is in recognition of her outstanding service as a teacher.

The Ministry of Teaching credential has been established by the Seventh-day Adventist Church to recognize professional educators with a life-long commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist system of education and a demonstrated proficiency in their responsibilities.

In her response, Toews gave credit to people who cared for her Christian education. "I want to thank my 'second' parents, Dan and Philles Ballew. If it had not been for their sponsoring me, believing in me and helping me, I wouldn't have received a Christian education. Now I have the same opportunity to teach other children and encourage them in the same way I was encouraged. Believing in children makes all the difference!

"A big thank you to all the Toews for accepting me into the family and making life wonderful for me and my husband in Ketchum. The kids I teach are truly my children. And thank you to the Ketchum Adventist church for being so supportive of me and the school."



## New ministry begins at Tulsa New Life

**A** prison ministry, under the direction of Mae Brown, was begun in the Tulsa New Life church, with the objective of letting victims of crime know that they are not alone and forgotten.

The first prison ministries day was held the last Sabbath of April. Lunch followed the eleven o'clock service, and at 3:00 p.m. a workshop was conducted by Virginia Echols.

Some of the workshop topics focused on guidelines for letter writing, family visitation, and adoption of families. Although prison visitation is what comes to mind when one thinks of a prison ministry, the workshop pointed out how much more is involved in an effective prison ministry.

*Pamela Detrick  
Correspondent*

## Claremore holds nutrition class



**A**s a service to the community, members of the Claremore church offered a nutrition/cooking class May 7, organized by Robert Davidson, Claremore's health and temperance leader.

John Scharffenberg, M.D., an adjunct professor of nutrition from Loma Linda University, presented up-to-date scientific information regarding nutrition. The advantages of a vegetarian diet were made clear.

The lecture was enhanced by a

food demonstration by Christy Korgan, P.T., M.P.H., and Joy Davidson, R.N., and samples for tasting were provided. Each person was given a packet of recipes, some of which had not been demonstrated in the class. A list of the vegetarian products available in Claremore markets was also included.

*Lenna Lee Davidson  
Correspondent*

Nutrition specialist John Scharffenberg talks about the value of certain foods while Christy Korgan demonstrates how to prepare them.



# New Hope church celebrates homecoming

Sabbath, June 17, the New Hope church in Marietta, Tex., held its annual homecoming.

Tim Tidwell's sermon was entitled, "Is Jesus Really Coming?" and Carl Culpepper, pastor, led out in the Sabbath school lesson study.

Dr. Charles H. Tidwell retold the story of Mary Brown, the first New Hope school teacher. After her marriage to George Beckner, they left on their honeymoon to sail as missionaries to the South Sea Islands. This was in response to an appeal by A. T. Jones, once editor of *Signs of the Times* and *Review and Herald*.

Dorothy Morgan  
Correspondent



"Connections" is a spiritual gifts program the San Marcos church has been using to match people with the responsibilities in the church where they feel most comfortable. It has been found that joy in service is contingent upon utilizing members' talents in those specified areas of ministry. San Marcos church members are shown here attending the spiritual gifts seminar conducted by their pastor, Phil Vasseur.

Pastor Noble Alexander, author of the best-selling book *I Will Die Free*, will hold a three-day revival at the Alvarado Spanish Adventist church, located at 201 E. College in Alvarado (formerly the Brazos Bank Building). Services will be bilingual. Meetings are scheduled for 7:30 Friday evening, Aug. 25 and at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sabbath, Aug. 26. For more information, call the church at 817.783.7831.

# Davis recognized for musical talents

Rachelle Davis, a member of the Bryan, Tex. church, was recently featured in the local newspaper for her outstanding musical talents. Rachelle is the associate concertmaster of the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra (BVS) and is an orchestra representative on the BVS board of directors. She is a full-time private music teacher and has enjoyed participating in the musical life of the Brazos Valley since she and her husband, Kent, moved to College Station in 1998.

Rachelle is a member of the Bryan/College Station and BVS string quartets. She is the concertmaster of the Temple Symphony Orchestra and occasionally plays with Orchestra X in Houston. Last year Rachelle was the orchestra director of the Stephen F. Austin Middle School in Bryan.

She has a master's degree in violin performance

from Indiana University, where she was on the faculty of the pre-college IU String Academy. She has also had the privilege of performing around the world as a member of various musical organizations, performing in such places as Carnegie Hall in New York City; Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris; The Royal Opera House in Cairo, Egypt; and the Shanghai Conservatory of Music in Shanghai, China.



Rachelle Davis of the Bryan, Tex. church is recognized in her community for her musical talent.



# DeSoto church holds special communion service



DeSoto church last supper reenactment.

Just a little over six months after a successful Daniel seminar, the DeSoto church sponsored a Revelation seminar hosted by the pastor, Ken Davila. The first baptisms from the series were held on Sabbath, June 10.

During the series one Sabbath service was dedicated to a special communion service. Thirteen men, including the pastor, and two young women reenacted the Last Supper. After the "disciples" and "Jesus" had participated, the congregation was invited to take part in the foot washing and communion. Chairs had been arranged, so all could take part together, some for the first time!

Introducing the communion service in this manner was new, not only to new members, but also to those who had been members for many years.

*Marion James  
Correspondent*

## Adventurer Club participates in community fundraiser

For the second year in a row, the DeSoto Adventurer Club encouraged church members to participate with them in taking part in the 15K Multiple Sclerosis Walk in Dallas. Twenty-five members participated the first year, raising \$700. Forty-three participated this year and raised \$2,148. Almost everyone completed the entire walk.

Lindy King, Adventurer leader, raised extra funds from area businesses to provide special T-shirts for all the walkers. The shirts featured the church name

and Adventurer logo.

DeSoto's Adventurer Club has proved to be one of the church's most successful programs and has created many opportunities for all church members to be involved in community service projects such as the MS Walk. The club has also created a strong sense of cooperation within the church. Lindy King, along with Ellen James and Joshua Crumpton, lead out in the club.

*Marion James  
Correspondent*

DeSoto church members who completed the 15K walk for multiple sclerosis.







## VGA graduates Class of 2000

The weekend of May 27, Valley Grande Academy held its graduation services. Twenty-three graduates received their diplomas and were challenged to "keep hope alive" at the Saturday night commencement service conducted by Van Hurst, then Texas conference youth director.

The Friday night service was conducted by Sherry Clapp, teacher at Greater Houston Academy, and the Sabbath morning service was by Ray Hubbartt, grandfather of Rob Hubbartt, one of the graduates. The graduating class is pictured at left.

## The Clifton Norse church to hold annual services

The oldest standing Adventist church in Texas will hold its annual service on October 14. Services will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will be followed by a potluck lunch. Those attending should bring food and water to share and their own lawn chairs and card tables. To get to the church from the Keene-Cleburne area, take Highway 174 south to Meridian. Drive through Meridian to Highway 6 toward Clifton (about 8 miles). Directional signs will be posted between Meridian and Clifton. Turn right on FM 2136 (about 3 miles). Turn left on the second gravel road, CR 4155. The church is about one mile on the left. Those traveling through Clifton, travel north about four miles, then turn left on FM 2136 and follow the above directions.

Marjorie Stowe



The children's choir of the Alvarado Spanish church, directed by Ysis Espana, presented seven performances at the GC session in Toronto, twice during meetings held at the SkyDome and also at the Bassett Theatre, the Global Mission pavilion and the Adventist Book Center exhibit. Here the choir is pictured during a performance on Sunday, July 2, at the Global Mission pavilion.



Recognizing the importance of character building in the early years of a child's life, the young parents of the San Marcos church organized an Adventurer club where their children would be exposed to the positive experiences of daily living. (From left) Clarisa Range, club director and central Texas area coordinator, joined mothers Annette Bishop and Cynthia Laws and Adventurer club members at the investiture service conducted by Van Hurst, former Texas Conference youth director, on Sabbath, June 10.



# Church members respond to Los Alamos fire disaster

It was May 6, 2000, and newspaper and television headlines announced, "New Mexico on Fire!" What was supposed to have been a controlled burn got out of control and soon became a blazing inferno headed for Los Alamos. As the fire approached homes in Los Alamos, officials decided to evacuate the city. With only enough time to get a change of clothes, their pets and photographs of their families, residents began to head out of the city. Miles of cars wound their way down the hill to safety. Not long after Los Alamos was evacuated, White Rock, a nearby town, also had to be evacuated.

Church members were quick to respond by taking people into their homes. Rusty Lawson opened her home

to those affected by the disaster, though she has only a small apartment. Others who took families in were the Rick Bonney family, the Lewis Fisher family and Lon and Rox Smyth. Other members worked long hours in the storerooms handing out food, bedding and clothing.

On Mother's Day the sad news was announced that Mark and Juvy Fisher and their two sons had lost their home and all they owned in the fire. Many tears were shed, but members held prayer and praised God that no lives were lost in the fire.

The church is collecting furniture and household items for the Fisher fami-

ly. They are currently on a waiting list for one of the prefab homes being provided for those who lost their homes in the fire.

Calls offering help came from friends in other parts of New Mexico, including Silver City and Corrales. The fire left 500 people homeless and more than 250 homes were wiped out by fire. The congregation continues to praise God for His loving protection and is grateful for the way God's people pulled together in such a time of need.

Iris Fisher  
Correspondent

## TEXICO CONFERENCE WOMEN'S RETREAT "Go Light Your World" September 8-10, 2000

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- Keynote speakers are **Rose Otis**, a well-known Christian author, and **Edith Egers**, a Holocaust survivor.
- Retreat features a lovely banquet and brunch, quiet walks, fellowship, Spanish translation and breakaways.

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Non-refundable pre-registration fee is due with registration form.

If postmarked by 8-8-00

☐ \$40.00

If postmarked after 8-8-00

☐ \$45.00

The following additional fees will be due upon check in at Glorieta. The Fee includes five meals and two nights.

Accommodations with private bathroom and two queen size beds in each room.

Check your preference:

**Roommates Names:**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$68.00 (4 women to a room) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$68.50 (3 women to a room) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$82.50 (2 women to a room) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$130.50 (1 woman to a room) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please assign roommates. How many? \_\_\_\_\_

Return registration form and check payable to: Christian Women's Ministries • P.O. Box 209 • Corrales, NM 87048



# Visiting author comes to Olsen Park VBS

Olsen Park's vacation Bible school 2000 featured creation as its theme. If success can be measured by happy smiling faces, then the Amarillo Olsen Park VBS, with 59 children attending, was a success!

Creative activities included violin lessons taught by Ashleigh Cohen and Sheila Shedd, guitar lessons taught by Morgan Chacon, and piano lessons by June Cohen and Tamera Shedd. The children's choir was directed by Sheri Denny and co-directed by Kay Frakes. Pat Varner from the Hereford church taught sign language.

The children learned Spanish as taught by Willyta Wamack, and Ruth Weis taught German. Kelli Marquette, craft director, along with her assistants, helped the children create their own beautiful quilt based on the seven days of creation. Elsie Lewis donated material for the quilts.

Willyta Wamack, VBS director, invited author Mary Kay Milam of the Oak Grove, Mo. church to tell the creation story each night. Beautiful illustrations were used, some provided by artist and retired schoolteacher Ruth Weis.

As the creation story unfolded, Mary Kay introduced aspects of the Creator's character in contrast to the character of the destroyer, Satan. Scriptural verses were supplied to encourage each child to choose Jesus the Creator over Satan the destroyer. Each night the children used their own creativity to illustrate on their calendar their impression of what Jesus created each day.

The first night, the children were taught a unique way to help them understand the Trinity using three colors of yarn braided together. God, the Almighty Father, was symbolized by the strong color of red; Jesus, the Creator who humbled Himself to come to Earth, was depicted with earthy brown; and the loyal Comforter, the Holy Spirit, was represented by royal blue. All three colors were entwined and placed in an unbroken circle on the first square of their calendar that read "In the beginning God." The question Which came first, the butterfly or the caterpillar? created a lively discussion.

Mary Kay was surprised when the

children sang in both Spanish and English, "I Love My Guardian Angel" to close the program. She had completed this song during vacation Bible school to accompany her latest book, *The Waiting Place*. This book is a true story that was written to help her great-grandchildren accept the death of their beloved Grampy. Following the reception each child was presented with a copy of *The Waiting Place*. This new book is available at the Texas and Oklahoma Adventist Book Centers.

Mary Kay Milam has been entertaining children of all ages with character-building stories, songs and toys for more than 50 years. Being a grandmother of 12 and a great-grandmother of 13, she is concerned with character development and the well being of children. She is active in



Children's author Mary Kay Milam helps Shelbi Crawford (seated) and Meagan Holladay.

speaking at school assemblies, library story hours and churches.

Mary Kay Milam has been invited back next year. For more information call 1.800.880.7103 (PIN02) or visit her Web site at [www.Childcharmers.com](http://www.Childcharmers.com).

**Eight people made a decision for baptism into the Amarillo Spanish church following a Daniel and Revelation seminar conducted by church pastor Jose Luque. Pictured are members and visitors who completed the seminar.**





# Socorro church baptizes new members

The fourth generation of the Estefana Alvarez family, two boys, were the first new members of the millennium to be baptized in the Socorro, NM church. Their great-grandmother, Estefana, was baptized in the Rio Grande River and was a charter member of the Socorro church. A few years later her daughters and then her granddaughters were baptized. The fourth generation of the family, Jason and Aaron Savedra, were baptized on the Sabbath of Easter week-end.

The Socorro church also welcomes to its membership Cecilli Nelson. She comes from a non-Adventist family, but her mother encouraged her to attend church to learn of spiritual things and to know the Lord. Her Adventist neighbors offered to bring then four-year-old Cecilli with them each week and since then she has been faithfully attending. Cecilli studies her Sabbath school lessons each week and sometimes even learns her memory verses a week ahead of time.

These three children, Jason, Aaron and Cecilli, wanted to be baptized together. "She's like our little sister," said the boys. Cecilli's father traveled from San Francisco to attend her baptism.

*Luana Savedra  
Correspondent*



Jason Savedra (left), Aaron Savedra and Cecilli Nelson were recently baptized at the Socorro church.

## Socorro church celebrates medical miracle

Leo Marquez gave his life to the Lord and was baptized at the Socorro church on Easter weekend just prior to his heart surgery that was scheduled for April 25. Leo's heart stopped three times during his surgery, and each time he was resuscitated and the surgery continued. Leo's doctors told him that he would have to be in the hospital for two months while he recovered, but he was released after just two weeks. The doctors say it was a miracle from God!

*Luana Savedra  
Correspondent*



Leo Marquez was baptized Easter weekend by Pastor Ramon Cano, just prior to heart surgery.



Alamogordo Adventist students went door to door in Tularosa, N. Mex. this spring handing out flyers advertising a rerun of the NET '99 meetings. Pictured is fourth-grader Kendra Efird posing at the entrance of a home in Tularosa.

*Trish Livingston  
Correspondent*



## Bethel church hosts prophecy series

**G**ilbert Williams, pastor of the Bethel church in Texarkana, Tex., recently completed a four-week Bible prophecy series held at the church's newly-constructed multi-purpose building. The 15-night series ran from May 7 to June 4.

The prophecies of Daniel and Revelation were the main focus of the series. Students were able to see the history of the world through the rise and fall of nations and how Christ will set up His kingdom that will have no end. At the conclusion of the series, four young people were baptized. Several others are still studying, and the church anticipates another baptism soon. Of the 45 individuals registered, 27 received diplomas.

This prophecy series was a community outreach evangelism effort designed to help Texarkana area residents realize the need to daily prepare for the soon coming of Jesus.

*Annie Turner  
Correspondent*



Gilbert Williams (rear), pastor, poses with three of the four youth baptized following the prophecy seminar at the Bethel church in Texarkana. From left: Regan Taylor, April Taylor and Jasmine Taylor.

## City Temple sponsors VBS

**T**he City Temple church in Dallas, Tex. was transformed into a tropical rain forest during a vacation Bible school held June 4-8. In keeping with the theme, "Treasure Hunt Bible Adventure," trees, bugs, frogs and birds decorated the halls of the church building throughout the week. Each night more than 80 children ages 3 to 11 came to discover that the Bible is our map and that Jesus is our treasure. Lively songs, attractive decorations, snacks (referred to as treasure treats), gifts and prizes, and a corps of enthusiastic staff (many of whom were teens) helped to enrich this year's program.

Creative teaching methods, such as "walking on water" were used to help children understand that the Bible shows us how to love, trust, pray, live and, best of all, discover Jesus. A follow-up outreach program aimed at disadvantaged children and/or confined seniors is planned for the near future. Children who participated in VBS will sing songs and distribute teddy bears that they prepared during VBS for this occasion.

*Carolyn Medlock  
Correspondent*

The New Life Revelators of the New Life company in Palestine, Tex. braved the hot sun on May 28 to clean up a two-mile stretch of Hwy. 19. This community effort supports the "Don't Mess With Texas" highway clean-up campaign. Following the work session, the group enjoyed a hearty meal prepared by a church member.

*Makeba L. Mitchell, Correspondent*





## Four Hebron youth baptized

Following their completion of a children's Bible lesson series administered by Flash Abdool, a local elder, four young people of the Hebron church requested baptism. "Baptism means that we die to our sins and when you come up out of the water you are a new person," said William Jefferson, one of the four baptismal candidates. When asked why he wanted to be baptized, LeAnthony Gilliam replied, "I feel good about being baptized. I want to be baptized so that my name will be written in the Lamb's Book of Life."

*Betsy Hudson  
Correspondent*



Pictured with local elder Flash Abdool (rear) are William Jefferson, Montraye Gilliam, LeAnthony Gilliam and Alesia Jefferson taking their baptismal vows.

## Hebron church reaches out to the homeless



(Above) Adventist Community Services workers distribute clothing to the homeless at Root Square Park in downtown Houston.

(At right) Blood pressure screening was a popular attraction at the recently sponsored Sabbath event for the homeless held at Root Square Park in Houston.

The Community Services Department of the Hebron church recently held its second annual Sabbath service for the homeless at Root Square Park in downtown Houston. Noel Chandler, community services director, greeted the crowd.

Volunteers from area churches assisted with food, clothing, literature distribution and health screening. The Carrera family provided music for the event.

*Betsy Hudson  
Correspondent*





## New Members assist New Life church

The New Life church is grateful for the addition of several new members whose efforts have been invaluable to the small congregation. When they joined the congregation several months ago, Ron Orvis and his wife, Mitzy, immediately volunteered their services. Mitzy helped assemble booklets for Family and Friends Day and offered to help with children's ministries and the primary Sabbath school class. Ron noticed a need for assistance with the church bulletins and offered to help.

Steve Molina came to New Life about the same time as Ron and Mitzy Orvis. Within less than a month, he had begun working as an adult Sabbath school teacher and even preached one Sabbath when the elders and pastor were away at triennial session.

*Makeba L. Mitchell  
Correspondent*



(At left) Ron and Mitzy Orvis pose near a bulletin board in the primary Sabbath school classroom at the New Life church in Palestine, Tex.

(At right) Newcomers to the New Life church in Palestine, Tex., Esteban and Refugio Molina, are eager workers for the Lord.



Lilburne Thompson (center), received a meritorious service plaque in recognition of 30 years of service as a Sabbath school teacher at the Baton Rouge Berean church. Thompson also served as Berean's first Sabbath school superintendent. Also pictured are Norma Dawkins (left), Sabbath school superintendent, and Michael Myers, pastor of Baton Rouge Berean church.

*Evelyn M. Edwards, Correspondent*



Nearly 30 children attended this year's vacation Bible school held at the Natchitoches, La. church. Craft projects included placemats, handbags, throw pillows and birdhouses. Pictured is the VBS kindergarten class posing on the church lawn.



## Smyrna church conducts health class

The Women's Ministries department of the Smyrna church recently conducted a nutrition class to educate members on the art of juicing fruits and vegetables for good health and/or weight loss. Church members Robbie Thibodeaux, Hilda Wright and Sibble Knight conducted the class.

Thibodeaux, a registered nurse, explained that the nutrients from juice get into the blood stream in a matter of minutes and shared how juicing increases longevity and good health and lessens disease while cleansing and detoxifying the body. She also emphasized the importance of eating foods containing fiber.

*Sibble Knight  
Correspondent*

Robbie Thibodeaux and Sibble Knight pause for a moment during their presentation on juicing at the Smyrna church.



Eighteen graduates of the Baton Rouge Berean church who completed public, private and church school programs were recognized in a special ceremony during the worship service on June 9. Following a musical tribute and charge to the graduates, Margaret Lawrence delivered the morning message entitled "Who Is Applauding You?" Centering her message on the parable of the 10 talents, Lawrence admonished the audience with these words: "You must make good use of your gifts, for you will either be used of God or used of the godless. Remember, unless God is standing and applauding our actions, they are all for naught."

*Evelyn M. Edwards, Correspondent*



Eunice Bailey, an elder at City Temple church in Dallas, was the guest speaker at New Life's annual Women's Day. In a thought-provoking message entitled "The Potter's Prerogative," Bailey asked the question, Who is the creature to question the Creator? She spoke about life's disappointments and how God allows trials to come in order to develop our character and prepare us for heaven.

*Makeba L. Mitchell, Correspondent*



# SWAU students win scholarships

**Silhi Diaz**, a sophomore student studying international business, has won the Bill Gates Millennium Scholars Scholarship. Diaz was nominated for the scholarship by Robert McChesney, professor of business.

**Romina Rodriguez** joins Silhi Diaz as the second Southwestern Adventist University student to be awarded the Bill Gates Millennium Scholars Scholarship.



Silhi Diaz

Rodriguez, a junior elementary education major and early childhood minor, received an e-mail stating that she qualified for the award. She did not know who had submitted her name. She took the next

step by returning the information forms. After several months of no response, Rodriguez says the Gates foundation sent her a letter to verify that she did, in fact, win the scholarship.

Presently Rodriguez is working as secretary for the Adult Degree Program at SWAU. Her goals are to complete her undergraduate work, teach kindergarten students, and to eventually earn a master's degree in education. She was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1977. At the age of eight she moved with her family to West New York, NJ. Her father, Carlos Rodriguez, is retired, and her

mother, Sara Rodriguez, does home health care. A graduate of Blue Mountain Academy in Pennsylvania, Rodriguez loves to read and travel. She is excited about winning this award and says, "Thanks to God! He continues to watch over me."

The Gates Scholarship is designed to help minority students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Gates' goal is to promote academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for thousands of outstanding students like Rodriguez and Diaz to reach their fullest potential. Criteria for the award includes cumulative GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale, full-time enrollment in an accredited college or university, minority status, significant financial need, and demonstrated leadership ability through participation in community service and extracurricular or other activities. The scholarship pays for tuition, books, living expenses and other fees for the 2000-2001 academic year.

*Jerrold Thompson/Mary Ann Hadley  
Correspondents*

*Gates is the founder of Microsoft and is currently the world's richest man.*



Romina Rodriguez

## Alumnus receives Dove Award

Graduating in 1981 with a B.S. in broadcasting from Southwestern Adventist University, **Mike Agee** is the key to KTSY, 89.5 FM in Boise, Idaho winning a very prestigious award. KTSY has won the Dove Award this year as radio station of the year in the small market category. The Dove Awards, presented annually in Nashville, Tenn., are the highest awards in the Christian music industry. Agee, general manager at KTSY, says, "I am very pleased and deeply honored. It is pretty cool to be honored by your peers for a job well done."

Agee came to Gem State Academy, outside of Boise, in 1990 and founded and built KTSY that year. Having worked at SWAU's KJCR, 88.3 FM in Keene, and WAUS in Berrien Springs, Mich., Agee has plenty of experience in radio. This experience has helped him build the station's listenership to where it has become one of the top 10 Christian stations in the United States.

While a student at Southwestern, Agee was a very strong and active news director for KJCR. Nine of his stories made the Texas Associated Press. Bob Mendenhall, chair of SWAU's communication department and founder of KJCR, says, "I couldn't be prouder of Mike for this national recognition of hard work, fabulous leadership, and God's blessing."

*Jerrold Thompson/  
Mary Ann Hadley  
Correspondents*

## English Department expands honors program

More than 30 students are participating in a new honors program developed by Renard Doneskey, chairman of the honors committee and an associate professor of English at SWAU. Honors students are required to take 16 units of honors classes, up to 12 of which can also fulfill general education requirements. To be eligible for the program, incoming freshmen must have a 3.4 grade point average or an SAT score

of 1050 or higher, or an ACT score of 24 or higher.

To continue in the program, students must maintain a 3.4 GPA. Honors students also participate in extracurricular activities, such as theatrical performances and lectures. Doneskey expects the program to grow to 80 to 100 students over the next four years and believes it will be one of the best among Adventist universities.



# Expansion opens at Rollins Brook Community Hospital

**T**he new two-story, 15,500-square-foot expansion at Rollins Brook Community Hospital recently opened its doors to the public for the first time.

The newly constructed addition provides eight new private patient rooms, a 24-hour emergency service and state-of-the-art laboratory and radiology services, including CT and mammography.

During the grand opening, visitors enjoyed entertainment, refreshments, commemorative give-aways, tours of the new facility and guest speakers, including former Rollins Brook Administrator Carlyle Walton and State Representative Suzanna Hupp. The Lampasas Chamber of Commerce also performed a ribbon cutting.

"This is a grand event for Rollins Brook and we hope the community will come celebrate with us and see the exciting changes we've made here," said Ginger Henderson, administrative director of Rollins Brook Community Hospital, which is part of Metroplex Health System and Adventist Health System.

Two Lampasas businessmen recently donated \$10,000 each toward the kick-off fundraising campaign to help pay for the new 15,500-square-foot expansion. Jim and Glyn Hoffpauir, owners of Jim Hoffpauir, Inc., and Richard Procter, president of First State Bank Central Texas,

At the grand opening of the new Rollins Brook Community Hospital about 400 people toured the expansion. Kenneth A. Finch, president/CEO of Metroplex Health System, explains that the expansion is "no longer just a dream."



Rollins Brook Community Hospital during expansion grand opening festivities.

were the first to donate to the "Expanding the Dream RBCH Campaign," targeted to raise close to \$300,000 to help pay for new patient rooms being built on the second floor of the recently opened expansion at Rollins Brook.

"Metroplex has done everything it has committed to do, and then some. Now, I hope the community will do its part," said Procter, who is chairperson of the Rollins Brook Community Hospital Board of Directors.

Before construction on the new addition began, the community agreed to help raise money for the eight new patient rooms. Members of the local hospital board, as well as other community leaders, decided they wanted to see the construction begin before any fundraising efforts were made.

"Metroplex went ahead and committed in excess of \$3 million to build this addition to the facility, knowing the community would do its part after the building was completed," Procter said. "The community has raised a considerable amount of money in the past for the hospital—approximately \$550,000 when the hospital was shut down back in the

early '90s. It was that effort, when the community raised all that money, that allowed Lampasas to keep a hospital. If the community hadn't raised that money, all we'd have now is an outpatient clinic, like so many other small communities have."

The Rollins Brook expansion features a larger emergency room, a radiology department and a laboratory. The second floor includes eight new patient rooms.

Fundraising efforts have been divided into three phases. Rollins Brook employees recently donated more than \$5,000 to kick off Phase I, which includes soliciting donations from Metroplex Health System employees and their family members, physicians and the members of the board. Phase II targets Lampasas-area businesses, and Phase III will involve community residents.

Health care is a top priority for people moving to the area, Procter said. "I want people to realize we have this facility and feel fortunate that we have the quality of health care we have in Lampasas," he said. "I meet a lot of new people in town and health care is one of the first things they talk about."

Christi Myers  
Community Relations





# Little Notice for big group

## Adventists call city home for 10 days

I spent the last two Friday nights at SkyDome. Saturdays, er, Sabbaths, too. With 70,000 screaming, singing, applauding fans—of God, religion and clean living. That kind of stuff obviously doesn't sell much in this town. When the media did pay attention, it was to treat the adherents as exotic weird individuals who don't drink, smoke or do drugs. Wow! And I thought I was a normal guy all this time.

So, there I was in the SkyDome, on the first Canada Day of the millennium, with the multitudes from Azerbaijan to Zimbabwe—Seventh-day Adventists from around the world—babies and old ladies battling the dizzying heights up in the far reaches of the nosebleed sections.

The Adventist church is growing at a rate of one million per year. A new member joins every 30 seconds, a new church every 4 1/2 minutes. Membership is 11 million, with an Adventist presence in 205 of the 230 countries recognized by the United Nations. Nine out of every 10 members are living outside North America, where the church was founded in the 1840s. Seven of 10 members are under age 30.

It is not often that this many visitors descend on Toronto at once. In fact, it has never happened before. This was Toronto's largest-ever convention. For 10 days, SkyDome and environs were in a perpetual game-day frenzy, circa 1991, when baseball was a hot ticket.

"I wish the Blue Jays were here tonight so they could see what an audience really looks like," Mayor Mel Lastman told the Adventists on closing night. Lastman recognized the bonanza inherited: More than 30,000 hotel rooms officially booked by the church; an expected \$50 million in convention spending; unprecedented total booking of the Metro Convention Centre and SkyDome for 10 days. In short, it's the kind of tourism boost that cities die for. "There were no problems at all, despite your

size," he told the cheering throng Saturday night. "You amazed our city officials. You were perfect guests. We want to host all your conventions."

Lastman, who has a history with Adventists (the church operated North York Branson Hospital for 42 years until the Harris government took it over in 1998; his kids' nanny was Adventist; he has two Adventists on his mayoral staff), didn't stop there. He praised the church's alcohol and drug-free practices and its teachings on family values in an election-style address that left the crowd laughing, cheering and on their feet.

You didn't read a word of it, of course. In fact, this was the quietest "largest convention" ever. This, in the country's media mecca. With four big daily newspapers searching for new readers, three daily subway giveaways, breakfast television, noon-hour TV, 24-hour news and talk radio and so much yakety-yak.

In 2002, Roman Catholic youths will be in Toronto for World Youth Days. Comparing the Catholic gathering to the Adventist convention is like comparing the Olympics to the Pan American Games. But if the Catholic meeting, lasting five days, were one-tenth the size, for one-tenth the duration, it would still likely get 10 times the news coverage given the Adventists. Seventh-day Adventists are not well-known around these parts. There are only 48,000 Adventists in Canada, 14,000 of them in the Toronto area. In contrast, Brazil alone has close to 1 million. Jamaica has a ratio of one Adventist for every 16 residents. And there are nearly 900,000 south of the border. But here?

Still, this relatively tiny group has a lot going for it—if a journalist wanted to find out. The 43 congregations of Greater Toronto provide an anchor for many ethnic groups. When my mother arrived here in 1968 as a domestic worker, she spent six days cooking, cleaning and ironing for her lawyer and doctor bosses. But every Sabbath was her time of Jubilee, her freedom, her release from work, her time for fellowship and to meet and worship with friends—all day at their

home and at the church. The church is social worker, lawyer, immigration consultant, red-tape cutter and settlement centre for many Adventists, their families and friends, and the community. People in the homeless and food bank business know about Adventists. Many volunteer, just about every day of the year, to feed Toronto's homeless in a program called Touch of Love.

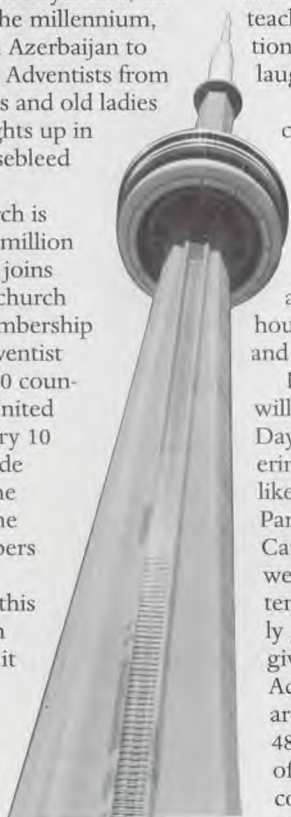
Any media hounds looking for news stories while the Adventists were here had many to choose from. There were members from Third World countries who used their life savings to travel here. Visiting youths cleaned graffiti, performed street theatre, sang at hospitals and in Regent Park. There were free lunchtime concerts at Nathan Phillips Square and Metro Hall and the Music Garden. One Alberta choir was even booked into the Hard Rock Cafe.

Delegates elected two Canadians to serve as leaders of the world church; 11-year-old Tiffany Campbell-Dailey from Mississauga wowed the faithful with a magnificent solo performance; a 6-year-old preacher, Oliver Benitez, from Virginia was a big hit; so was the airing of a segment of a puppet show, perfect for Breakfast Television. And if that wasn't enough, enterprising journalists could have given readers a glimpse of what these visitors are about.

For example:

- How does the church sustain its belief in the literal "soon coming" of Jesus, year after year—especially a church that was born out of a devastating event in 1844, when its pre-founders were bitterly disappointed when their prediction of an Oct. 22 advent failed?
- Why is church leadership, though changing, still predominantly white?
- Where are the female ministers? Seventy thousand people visited our city, dropped \$50 million and left. And you hardly know them.

*Article by Royson James, a regular columnist for the Toronto Star (usually appearing on Monday, Wednesday and Friday), which appeared on Monday, July 10, 2000*





# The Evidence:

## A new Faith For Today production with a powerful point

Faith For Today has begun production on a new television program called *The Evidence*. The host of the program is Dwight Nelson, senior pastor of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Mich., and speaker for NET '98. Dwight Nelson is also the speaker of the church service, *New Perceptions*, broadcast from the Pioneer Memorial Church and seen on Three Angels' Broadcasting Network.

Initial funding for *The Evidence* production came from the North American Division, and to be successful, major financial support from church members will be needed on an ongoing basis. While *The Evidence* is a new product of Faith For Today, *Lifestyle Magazine* with host Dan Matthews is continuing to be produced and shown across the country.

An in-depth, eye-opening exploration into the dimensions of God through art, science, history and the human heart, *The Evidence* investigates the possibility of God in all its expressions. It sets out to bridge the gap between science and theology, between ritual and the human heart. The target audience is the thinking, urban, non-



Head script writer Rodney Vance and producer Jeff Wood confer with host Dwight Nelson and guest Linda Segar about a point of discussion.

believer, not the believing Christian.

As an introduction to God, *The Evidence* explores such fundamental questions as "Where did we come from?" and "Why are we here?" From a basic Judeo-Christian perspective, *The Evidence* not only examines the idea that God exists, but that He also cares.

Using the half-hour news-magazine format, the television show features on-location interviews with world-renowned scientists and artists who de-mystify the technologies of nature and illuminate the wonder of life. Additional in-depth

interviews with experts take place on the beautiful new studio set. Now in its first season of production, *The Evidence* also explores the transforming power of spirituality in the lives of everyday people.

Rodney Vance, head writer for *The Evidence*, explained how they find the people to talk to. He said, "One of the ways we find them is by searching through Amazon.com which is like a *Books in Print*. We search under certain subject areas to find out who has written on that subject. Then we talk to different people to find out who is credible.

"We have been directed to some of the top people in the country in a particular area. Most are eager and excited to talk about God because they are not often able to talk about Him within their work arena. So they are very happy to come on the show and actually talk about



During the fifty-year anniversary of television ministry by Faith For Today, speaker emeritus Dan Matthews; Stew Harty, chief executive officer; Dwight Nelson, host of *The Evidence*; and co-founder of Faith For Today, Virginia Fagal, had an opportunity to reminisce about the many years that Faith For Today has been on the air.



how God works in their lives. Their stories create some really good television as well as television with a really powerful point," Vance added.

Richard Dower with Elwyn Platner

Richard Dower is the Lake Union Conference communication director, and Elwyn Platner is the Pacific Union Conference communication director.



Writers Rodney Vance, Heather Hale, and Hilary Carr watch the teleprompter during the video taping of *The Evidence*.

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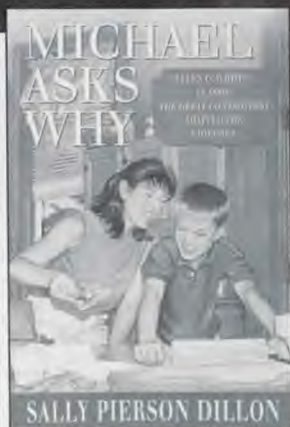


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## EMPLOYMENT

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**ADRA seeks country directors for Rwanda and Liberia** with strong development and management experience. Rwanda has EU funded projects, education, health and water. French language skills desirable. Liberia has UN funding, health, refugee projects. Applicants need experience in cross-cultural living, training and administration. Also strong leadership, teamwork, communication skills. Salary: per GC policy. Send resume, professional references, cover letter to ADRA HR, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904; or fax to 520-222-4798; or e-mail to: ADRAHR@compuserve.com. 8-1t

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KACS General Manager, 2401 NE Kresky, Suite B, Chehalis, WA 98532. Fax: 360-740-9415; e-mail: manager@kacs.org. 8-1t

**Andrews University seeks director of avionics/avionics instructor.** Operate/maintain the university's avionic repair station. Coordinates/teaches coursework in avionics. Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience. Airframe license. Avionics installation/repair certification. Adventists apply to: Al Bernet, Andrews University Airpark, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0930; 616-471-1455; alb@andrews.edu. 8-1t

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**Andrews University seeks educational technology specialist.** Oversees technology purchases, upgrades and replacements. Master's degree required. Experience in instructional technology and design, advanced word processing, presentation, web design. Adventists apply to: Seminary Dean's Office, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-1500; 616-471-3536. 8-1t

**Oakwood College Education Dept.** announces vacancy for chairperson. Doctorate in education. Three plus years of college-level and elementary or secondary school experience. Knowledge of certification requirements and procedures. Send CV to: Office of Human Resources, Oakwood College, 7000 Adventist Blvd. NW, Huntsville, AL 35896. 8-1t

**Oakwood College Business and Information Systems Dept.** announces vacancy for chairperson. Full-time (tenure-track meeting ACBSP requirements). An earned doctorate in major teaching area of the department preferred. Must demonstrate proficiency

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**Adventist Health** is a not-for-profit healthcare system with headquarters in Roseville, CA, where it oversees operations of 20 hospitals in CA, HI, OR and WA. Adventist Health is seeking experienced RNs and new graduates for immediate placement in several hospitals. Many specialty areas available. Please contact Leonard Yost. Phone 916-774-3355. E-mail: yostjl@rsvl.ah.org. 6-7t

**Missionaries needed in Korea:** SDA native-English-speaking volunteers from 20 years of age and above. Volunteers must be baptized and have bachelor's degree. Required to teach conversational English and Bible for one year or more. An English major is not a requirement. Teaching experience is not necessary—we will train you. Volunteer missionaries must be approved for service by their home division as well as the General Conference. Benefits include: round trip ticket, housing, utilities, insurance and stipend. For more information contact Ray James, 40 Pleasant Dr., Sutter Creek, CA 95685. E-mail: jamesrj@cedepot.net or phone 209-276-0416; fax 209-267-0342. 5-12t



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**Attention singles!** The new 2000 Directory of SDA Singles in North America is on sale now for only \$30. Men/women from the US and Canada give detailed personal information and are anxious to correspond with you. Directory, PO Box 12, Blue Ridge, GA 30513. 7-3t

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and longevity of these isolated mountain people. His discovery so far exceeded the power of Hunza water that his work has been submitted to the Nobel committee. To hear how you can benefit from his amazing discovery contact Frank Harford at 877-454-7461 (1-87-Pilgrim) or pilgrim@uniserve.com. 6-3t

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# announcements

## Greater Boston Academy Alumni gathering October 6-8, 2000

Friday evening, October 6, 7:00 p.m. a concert presented by Alumnus Paul White at the Stoneham Village Church; Sabbath services, with featured speaker, E. E. Cleveland, to be held at the Edgewood Elementary / Greater Boston Academy, 108 Pond Street, Stoneham, MA.

## 100th year celebration at South Bend, Indiana church

The First Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Bend, IN will be having their Centennial Celebration starting Friday evening 7:00 p.m. EST, August 18th and will close Saturday evening, August 19, 2000. All who have ever been connected with our church as members, former members and friends are invited. This is a time to renew old friendships and acquaintances. We are looking forward to seeing you. Phone 219.234.3044.

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Mon.-Thurs.; 4-8 p.m.  
Sun.-Wed.)

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# obituaries

**ANDREASSEN, Dimil F.**, born Sept. 18, 1922 in Norway, and died May 29, 2000 in Anchorage, AK. Survivors: wife, Edna Andreassen, Delta Junction, AK; sons, Dr. Ross Andreassen, Columbia, MO, Dr. Raymond Andreassen, Delta Junction, Larry J. Andreassen, Arlington, TX; daughters, Kathern Vroman, St. Louis, MO and Debra Cullinan, Everett, WA; 14 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren.

**BOBBITT, Johnnie Manuel**, born Jan. 28, 1916 in Ponta, TX and died May 21, 2000 in Ponta, TX. Survivors: wife, Sadie Bobbitt, Ponta; daughter, Tammy Franks, Dallas, TX; 1 brother; 2 sisters; and 2 grandchildren.

**BROUSSARD, Arthur L.**, born June 17, 1928 in Galvez, LA and died May 6, 2000 in Prairieville, LA. Survivors: wife, Katie Broussard, Prairieville; sons, Arthur, Jr., Ronnie, Roger and Wayne Broussard all of Prairieville; daughter, Tina Hudgins, Cleburne, TX; 1 brother; 4 sisters; 11 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren.

**COLLINS, Willard**, born Oct. 22, 1916 in Brookfield, MI and died May 31, 2000 in Fort Worth, TX. Survivors: sons, Chester Collins, Howell, MI and Willard T. Collins, Cypress, TX; daughters, Janet Gauss, Stephenville, TX and Betty Cool, Northville, MI; 9 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

**CROWLEY, Katie B.**, born Mar. 25, 1908 and died May 7, 2000 in Midland. She was a charter member of the Midland, Texas Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: sons, John Crowley and Steve Crowley, both of Midland, TX; daughter, Johnie Armstrong, Odessa, TX.

**DAVIS, Charles R.**, born Sept. 27, 1914 in Colgate, OK and died May 12, 2000 in Keene, TX. Survivors: son Morris Davis, Cleburne, TX; daughters, Helen Bailey, Cleburne and Ruth Henderson, Wyoming; 2 brothers; 1 sister; 4 grandchildren; and 3 great-grandchildren.



*Speaker/Director  
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— Matthew 9:38

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## Editorial Correspondents

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 Non-member subscription is \$10 per year.

## About

*The Record* is a monthly publication of the Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists designed to inspire its readers in God's word and to serve as a networking tool for sharing news and evangelistic initiatives with its conference constituencies.

**FLOWERS, George William (Bill)**, born July 8, 1914 in Sherman, TX and died June 24, 2000 in Cleburne, TX. Survivors: wife, Frances Flowers, Cleburne; daughters, June Bascom, Berrien Springs, MI, Billie Cross, Killeen, TX and Daphne Best, Dallas, TX; 7 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren.

**FOLLETT, Arthur L.**, born Nov. 14, 1914 in Liberal, KS and died May 27, 2000 in Lovington, NM. Survivors: wife, Della Follett, Lovington, NM; 2 children; and 5 grandchildren.

**JACOBS, B. E. (Bobby Earl)**, born Sept. 19, 1928 in Hillsboro, TX and died May 19, 2000 in St. George, UT. During forty years of service to the SDA denomination he served as a teacher, pastor, mission service in the Trans-Africa and Far Eastern Divisions, president of the Christian Record Services and Adventist Media Center, Associate Secretary and Assistant to the President of the General Conference. Survivors: wife, Jeane, St. George; sister, Ilene, Willis, Granbury, TX;

**MARTIN, Donald E.**, born April 28, 1937 in Pine Bluff, AR and died June 1, 2000 in Benton, AR. Survivors: wife, Karen Martin, Benton; sons, Tony Martin, Rison, AR, Donald Martin and Jack Foley, both of Benton; daughters, Gina Landon, Jennifer Perry and Andrea Rhea, all of Benton; 1 sister; 1 brother; 14 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren.

**McGLOTHLIN, Vicki M.**, born Jan. 3, 1958 in Cleburne, TX and died June 19, 2000 in Dallas, TX. Survivors: husband, David McGlothlin, Brock, TX; sons, James David and Andrew Lloyd McGlothlin, both of Brock; mother, Dora Morgan, Keene, TX; 1 sister; and 1 brother.

**McPHERSON, Rosa Lee**, born Dec. 8, 1919 in Bauxite, AR and died Mar. 1, 2000 in Little Rock, AR. Survivors: sister, Addie Rogers, Alexander, AR.

**MOORE, Herbert H.**, born Dec. 23, 1928 in Denver, CO and died Mar. 10, 2000 in Houston, TX. Survivors: daughters, Arline Moore, Tillamook, OR and Kathleen Cook, Santa Cruz, CA; son, Frank Moore, Houston; 2 brothers; 4 sisters; and 2 grandchildren.

**PADILLA, Nestor G.**, born Oct. 2, 1916 in Bosquerito, NM and died Apr. 19, 2000 in Socorro, NM. Survivors: son, Leo Padilla, San Antonio, NM; 1 brother; 3 sisters; 2 grandchildren; and 3 great-grandchildren.

**PADILLA, Suzette**, born June 16, 1991 and died May 13, 2000 in Albuquerque, NM. Survivors: parents, Gerald and Elaine Padilla, Socorro, NM, grandparents, Leo and Beatrice Padilla, Socorro; 1 sister; and 1 brother.

**PILLSWORTH, Elbert C.**, born Mar. 24, 1914 in Cobourg, Ontario and died Feb. 27, 2000 in Bryant, AR. Survivors: son, Don Pillsworth, Lincoln, NE; daughters, Linda Foster, Evergreen, CO, Debora Broadway, Bryant, AR and Carol Thomas, Benton, AR; 1 sister, 1 brother; 11 grandchildren; and 3 great-grandchildren.

**RICHMAN, Evangeline**, born Sept. 18, 1912 in Montague County, TX and died Jan. 18, 2000 in Midland, TX. Survivors: son, J. W. Richman, College Place, WA; daughters, Kathryn Qualls and Ann Gerhart, both of Midland, and Sharon Miller, McApin, FL.

**ROBISON, Julia C.**, born April 24, 1912 in Grant, OK and died June 12, 2000 in Pattonville, TX. Survivors: daughter, Doris Malone, Taylortown, TX; 3 sisters; 3 grandchildren; and 3 great-grandchildren.

**SAPIAN, Ardis Chloe**, born Aug. 6, 1963 in Bacolod, Philippines and died May 31, 2000 in Dallas, TX. Survivors: mother, Elnora G.

Sapian, Denton, TX; sister, Aileen J. Hummel, Fort Worth, TX; brothers, Edsel R. Sapian, Denton, and Schubert L. Sapian, Loma Linda, CA.

**SPROLES, Everett B. "Red", Sr.**, born June 18, 1942 in Loveland, CO and died Apr. 28, 2000 in Midland, TX. Survivors: wife, Peggy Sproles; daughters, Deanna Mcright and Donna Horton; sons, Gill Sproles and Everett B. Sproles, Jr.; mother, Mildred Sproles, all of Midland; and 2 sisters.

**STARK, William Andrew**, 87, born in Silver Valley, TX and died June 21, 2000 at Coleman, TX. Survivors: brother, Clifton Stark; 2 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren.

**WELLS, Ester**, born April 12, 1925 in Phoenix, AZ and died May 12, 2000 in Fort Worth, TX. Survivors: daughters, Lana Johnson, Burleson, TX and Cheryl Vidaurri, Cleburne, TX; and sister, Darlene May, Alvarado, TX.

**WILLIAMS, Joseph Branam**, born Jan. 13, 1910 and died June 4, 2000 in Fort Worth, TX. Survivors: daughter, JoAnn Yow, and granddaughter, Barbara Williams, both of Fort Worth; grandson, Joseph Yow, Keene, TX; 1 sister; and 6 great-grandchildren

**ZIMA, Willard Gene**, 72, born in Minneapolis, MN and died Apr. 30, 2000 in Rossville, GA. Survivors: wife, Patricia, Rossville; sons, Robert Zima, Minneapolis, Willard Zima, Jr., Murrieta, CA, Jeffery Zima, Lincoln, NE; daughter, Nancy Gentry, Chattanooga, TN; and 8 grandchildren.

## sunset calender

	Aug 4	Aug 11	Aug 18	Aug 25	Sep 1	Sep 8
Abilene, TX	8:24	8:28	8:20	8:12	8:04	7:54
Amarillo, TX	8:48	8:40	8:32	8:23	8:14	8:04
Brownsville, TX	8:13	8:08	8:02	7:55	7:48	7:40
Dallas, TX	8:21	8:14	8:07	7:59	7:50	7:41
El Paso, TX	8:00	7:53	7:46	7:38	7:30	7:21
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	8:23	8:16	8:09	8:01	7:52	7:43
Galveston/Houston, TX	8:11	8:05	7:58	7:50	7:42	7:34
Gentry, AR	8:20	8:12	8:04	7:55	7:45	7:35
Little Rock, AR	8:08	8:01	7:54	7:45	7:36	7:26
Muskogee, OK	8:24	8:17	8:08	7:59	7:50	7:40
New Orleans, LA	7:51	7:45	7:39	7:31	7:23	7:15
Oklahoma City, OK	8:31	8:24	8:16	8:07	7:58	7:48
San Antonio, TX	8:23	8:17	8:10	8:02	7:54	7:46
Santa Fe, NM	8:06	7:58	7:50	7:41	7:32	7:22
Shreveport, LA	8:10	8:04	7:56	7:48	7:40	7:31
Tulsa, OK	8:26	8:19	8:10	8:01	7:52	7:42



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Friday, August 25	5. The Greatest Wealth Is Health 6. All Power Is Given Unto You	7:00 pm-10:00 pm
Saturday, August 26	7. A New Heart and Mind 8. As a Man Thinketh So Is He 9. Achieving Total Success-Part 1 10. Achieving Total Success-Part 2 11. Be Like Christ 12. Striving Toward the Mark 13. Setting the Captive Free 14. We Have Not Been Given a Spirit of Fear, But of a Sound Mind 15. No Problem Is Bigger Than God	10:00 am-12:30 pm 2:00 pm-4:30 pm 6:30 pm-9:00 pm
Sunday, August 27	16. Seeing Roses or Thorns 17. Creating Financial Wealth-Part 1 18. Creating Financial Wealth-Part 2 19. Incredible Relationships 20. Final Words	2:00 pm-4:30 pm 6:30 pm-9:00 pm

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