



Trans-Africa Division
OUTLOOK

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THE GREAT CONVOCATION

A Report on the 51st General Conference Session

by PHILIP A. VENTER, JNR., of the *Sentinel Publishing Association*



"WE DO NOT come tonight with trumpet fanfare and blazoned banners announcing some great feats of human prowess," said Pastor Robert H. Pierson, president of the General Conference as he presented his report during the opening meeting of the 51st session of the General Conference on Thursday evening, June 11, 1970. "Rather we come in deep humility and with heavy hearts that now, in 1970, when the work should have been finished and God's people in the kingdom, we are here in Atlantic City for another General Conference session."

The vast convention hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey, U.S.A., though not filled for that opening business meeting of the session, contained approximately six thousand delegates and visitors. Behind and above the enormous stage hung the simple but tasteful backdrop consisting of a map of the world flanked by the theme, THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW, and an open Bible. To this great hall with its 41,000 seats came more than 1,700 delegates from nearly two hundred countries of the world. In addition many thousands of visitors from the United States and from abroad poured in.

Immediately following the president's report the meeting set about its business. The various delegations retired to rooms assigned to them, and appointed their representatives to the nominating committee which began its work early on Friday morning, June 12. Before the end of the second business session this committee was ready to render its first partial report. Once the nominations of the president, secretary and treasurer had been ap-

proved by the delegates the session was really in action.

The emphasis of this convocation was on revival. Daily at 8.00 a.m. mighty preachers of the Word brought searching messages of admonition and hope to the assembled delegates and visitors. Men like Fordyce Detamore, H.M.S. Richards, K. H. Wood, and many others challenged the church of God to full surrender and dedication. Again at 11.00 a.m. the business of the session was interrupted in order that the theme, THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW, could be further impressed upon all. Speakers whose names are known around the world daily urged the church of God to greater dedication and bolder witnessing for God. Speakers at the Bible study hour included W. R. Beach, Gordon Hyde, and Graham Maxwell.

On Sabbath, June 13, when Pastor Robert Pierson spoke, the great hall was filled from choir loft to farthest balcony. The ballroom which is many times larger than most city halls on our own continent was filled also. Even the lobbies outside the halls were crowded with those who could not find seats.

And the music! Music is an essential part of worship and inspiration. Here we enjoyed a feast. Choirs, quartets, soloists—some well known to us all, others new—enraptured the great audiences with their moving songs. There was an endless variety of old favourites and new discoveries to arouse the envy of every singer and lover of music. The "King's Heralds" and Del Delker continue to be firm favourites. Thank God for their talent!

To support the singing there was a galaxy of instrumentalists who brought enjoyment to us. The Convention Hall boasts the largest pipe organ in the world, and Brad Braley certainly put it to good use. To back him

there were organists, pianists, violinists, orchestras and special groups. We may be forgiven if we mention with some pride the Shankel-Rittenhouse family so dear to us in South Africa. Their musical contribution brought back many happy memories. Another item merits mention, namely the "Golden Bells." This group consisted of four young people who held us enthralled with a musical item played on bells. Strange yet appealing to western ears was some of the music brought to us by brethren from the Far East. Especially enjoyable was the Bamboo Orchestra.

The evenings of the session were devoted to reports from various world divisions. These were colourful occasions and thrilling reports of progress were brought by word of mouth and pictorial presentation. Special mention must be made of the report of the North American Division which was presented on three large and six small screens simultaneously. None who witnessed this tremendous presentation will ever forget it.

On Monday evening, June 15, Pastor W. Duncan Eva and his delegation from the Northern European Division reported on the wonders God is performing in that great field with its diversity of peoples. The following evening, June 16, Pastor Mills led his delegation from our own Division in reporting on what is happening in this field. A film was shown depicting the work in all parts of Trans-Africa. We can truly praise God for all He is doing here to polish gems for His crown!

On Sabbath afternoon, June 13, the great mission pageant was held. Hundreds of delegates, many dressed in colourful costumes paraded behind the flags of their respective countries through the great Convention Hall. What a never-to-be-forgotten sight they presented!

COVER:

Merle L. Mills, re-elected president of the Trans-Africa Division.



WORLD LEADERS JOIN HANDS: Left to right: Robert H. Pierson, re-elected president of the General Conference; Kenneth H. Emmerson, re-elected treasurer; and Clyde O. Franz, newly appointed secretary.

The basement of Convention Hall was occupied by stalls and display booths of sixty-one divisions, departments and institutions, depicting the progress of God's work around the world. One feasts one's eyes and exclaims, and then on reflection cries out, "What hath God wrought!"

Pastor Robert H. Pierson was re-elected president of the General Conference. Pastor Walter R. Beach retired from the secretaryship and was replaced by Pastor Clyde O. Franz. Pastor Kenneth H. Emmerson was re-elected as the treasurer. Our own Division has been affected by changes, but Pastor Merle L. Mills was unanimously re-elected as our Division president. Pastor M. E. Lind has been called to be president of a newly formed division to be known as the Afro-Mideast Division. This new territory includes the former Middle East Division to which has been added Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. Pastor Roy E. Clifford of the South African Union Conference has been elected as secretary of our Division, thus following in his father's footsteps, and Pastors Vincent A. Fenn

and A. W. Austen return to us as treasurer and field secretary respectively.

As we moved among the crowds we met many old friends who had served our Division long and well. Dare we mention a few at random without slighting others? Among those whom we greeted were Pastors Robert H. Pierson, E. L. Cardey, S. G. Maxwell,

W. R. Vail, R. M. Mote, G. R. Nash, L. L. Moffitt, Uncle John Hnatyshyn, A. F. Tarr, E. W. Tarr, W. D. Eva, V. E. Robinson, and their companions, Mrs W. B. Higgins, and a host of others who all wished to be remembered to friends and believers in the Trans-Africa Division. God bless them all!

The Session is over. The delegates are on their way home. The newly elected officers and secretaries are taking up their work. None of us knows whether there will be another gathering like this one on earth, but may we all have the happy and blessed privilege of being present when the greatest gathering of all convenes on the sea of glass before God's heavenly throne.

We Say Farewell . . .

to the Tanzania Union. By vote of the Conference Committee the Tanzania Union has been detached from our Division and included in a newly formed division, known as the Afro-Mideast Division. This division stretches from Turkey in the north to Tanzania in the south, and comprises the former Middle East Division, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Pastor M. E. Lind is the president, and personalities on the new division's staff known to us are the Alfred Brandts, the Earl Greggs, and the H. R. Hennings.



Convention Hall, Atlantic City, where delegates to the 51st Session of the General Conference assembled.

TRANS - AF



MERLE L. MILLS,
president, re-elected



ROY E. CLIFFORD,
newly appointed secretary



VINCENT A. FENN,
treasurer, re-elected

Membership
January 1, 1970
233,182



A. W. AUSTEN,
field secretary, re-elected

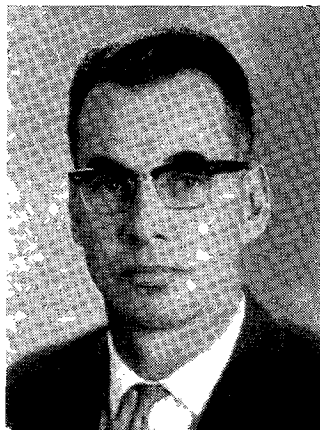


GERALD F. CLIFFORD,
secretary, Education and
Sabbath School Departments,
re-elected

ALVIN E. COOK,
secretary, Ministerial
Association, re-elected

DE
secretary
and

Baptisms
1966—1969
124,348



ICA TEAM

Literature Sales
 1966—1969
 \$1,509,604



DONALD E. ROBINSON,
 assistant treasurer

DR DUNBAR W. SMITH,
 secretary, Medical and
 Temperance Departments,
 re-elected



**Sabbath-school
 Membership**
 January 1, 1970
 471,506



JONAS MBYIRUKIRA,
 field secretary,
 newly appointed

HENRY W. PETERSON,
 secretary, Lay Activities
 and Radio/TV Departments,
 re-elected



HILLS,
 Relations
 ty elected

JOHN T. MASON,
 secretary, Publishing
 Department, re-elected

J. J. MTHOMBENI,
 associate secretary,
 Publishing Department,
 newly elected



**STEWARDSHIP
 AND CHURCH
 DEVELOPMENT
 DEPARTMENTS
 TO BE
 APPOINTED**

Alvin E. Cook Reports From

ATLANTIC CITY

on: **Convention Hall**
The Giant Organ
Multi-Media Presentation
Power in the Word

ATLANTIC CITY, rendezvous of more than 30,000 Seventh-day Adventists over two great week-ends in June, lies on the Atlantic coastline about three hours' drive south of New York. The time can be shortened by using one of the super highways at a cost of approximately one cent per mile of the journey. The city exists solely for vacation or convention purposes. Boardwalk, so called because this boulevard is constructed of wooden boards, runs for a couple of miles as a border to the sandy beach. Landward, the walk is lined with hotels and shops that handle a wide variety of goods with emphasis on tourist requirements. First priority is doubtless food and drink, the former featuring an endless variety of the world's most delicious ice-cream. The souvenir shops display a bewildering array of items. Large signs arching Boardwalk proclaim 1970 as its hundredth birthday. The hotels and buildings give the impression that many of them ante-date the walk.

The Trans-Africa Division delegation was billeted in Claridge's Hotel, the tallest of all the hotels. The building is crowned at the twentieth floor with a pagoda-style lookout which gives an extensive seascape panorama. The giant Convention Hall stands right on Boardwalk. Seating was more than adequate during the week but on the two Sabbaths available space was well filled. The main hall is 488 feet long, 288 feet wide, and 137 feet high. It is the largest room of its kind in the world. A descriptive brochure claims that the floor area equals seven acres. It is difficult to imagine such a building. Picture, if you can, four city blocks under one roof which has no supporting pillars, and that is about it! Or try to imagine a walled football field under an arching dome! The picture will be quite factual since the building is used for indoor football matches quite regularly between conventions. There is head room aplenty under the mighty curve of the ceiling. A 13-storey building could be placed on the main floor without touching it.

The Organ: Those who sat in the auditorium through an organ voluntary will need no convincing that the Convention Hall organ is the world's largest. Friends at home who missed this experience will be interested in the following facts: The organ is the brain-child of Senator Emerson Richards, one-time governor of New Jersey and an organ designer of international reputation. One hundred organ technicians laboured from 1929 to 1932 under his direction to build this organ at the Midmer e Losh organ factory in Long Island, New York, and in the Convention Hall where it now stands.

The instrument is divided into 22 divisions installed in 8 locations. In 12 other rooms are located electrical and mechanical connections for the operation of the organ. Two floors below are 8 motors with a total of 395 horse-power to drive the blowers that supply wind to the pipes at a rate of 36,400 cubic feet per minute. The console controlling the instrument contains 7 manuals, four of which are of 5 octaves, one of 6, and two of 7. There are 1,439 hand-controlled tablets and 35,000 moveable components.

The largest pipe (low C) is 64 feet 9 inches long, 10 inches square at the base, and 3 feet square at the top. It is made of wood from an 800-year-old Oregon fir tree. The 12 pipes of the

lower octaves contain 10,000 feet of lumber. Low C vibrates at only 8 vibrations per second—a tone which is felt rather than heard. The largest metal pipe is 38 feet 1½ inches long. It weighs a ton (2,000 lbs.). The complete organ with its total of 33,112 pipes weighs 150 tons. The electric wiring used in operating the organ measures 137,500 miles. This would belt the earth at the equator five and a half times. The cost of the organ in 1929 was US\$400,000. Today it is estimated that US\$1,500,000 would be its probable value.

Multi-Media Presentations: The TAD presented its report in the form of a 16mm sound film entitled "Fire and Flood in Africa." Several other divisions used film reports.

A year ago I was told that two divisions would bring in their reports by multi-media pictures and that this still picture presentation would eclipse in effect the best of sound films. It was difficult to imagine how this could be. The North American Division was the first to use this form of projection on the first Saturday evening of the Session. By popular demand the programme was repeated at 6.00 p.m. on the closing Sabbath. A second look only increased the wonder of it all. It is not easy to find words to describe so compelling a presentation, but I shall do my best.

Basically the system consists of a battery of slide projectors which flash colour pictures on a multi-frame screen as cued by a computerized tape. The North American Division used 26 projectors. The screen was made up of three large frames, maybe 20 feet square, and six half-sized screens, 10 feet square. Sometimes the three large screens were used for wide panoramas with tremendous ef-

The King's
Heralds are still
firm favourites.



fect. With nine pictures on the screen at once all kinds of combinations can be and were used. For example, the three large screens carried at one time three union conference offices. Below each picture on the smaller screens were flashed pairs of slides—the president's portrait and his name and union. Three facts of three unions would thus be before the audience at the same time.



An Abyssinian delegate chose to marry at the Session.

our public evangelistic programme?" I think not! The amount of equipment and the cost involved seem for the present at least entirely prohibitive. Evangelism depends basically on the preaching of the Word of God. When visual aids dominate the programme entirely and become the programme rather than the aid they can only hinder rather than help. It will always be true that God has chosen "by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." The seed is still "the Word of God."

Power in the Word: I will close on this thought with a brief reference to two outstanding evidences of God's power to save. Chosen arbitrarily from among the many, many wonders of His saving grace reported or seen at the Session, I think of Mundahoi who comes from among the needy millions of Borneo in the Far Eastern Division. At the Sabbath-school mission's programme on the first Sabbath, a short swarthy lady appeared with two American missionaries dressed in Borneo national costumes. She carried in one hand a human skull, and in the other a small bell and sundry charms. This Borneo witch-doctor came into contact with the message and is now a baptized Christian, winning souls for Christ and His church—140 to date.

Secondly, by contrast, came another remarkable miracle of God's grace from the Christian culture of Europe.

It was the final Sabbath afternoon of the Session. A musical feast was in progress. A number of really fine choirs featured in the programme. Few will forget the appearance of the Czech choir robed in colourful national costume. Their singing was equally unforgettable. But more thrilling than either sight or sound was the fact that the gifted director was, until recently, a nun serving the Roman Catholic Church. The Word of God had made a change in her life no less fundamental than in the heart of Mundahoi of Borneo.

The field is the world, the good seed is the Word of God. Let us like the sower, "go forth and sow!"



WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY?

- In a home it is kindness.*
- In business it is honesty.*
- In society it is courtesy.*
- In work it is fairness.*
- Toward the unfortunate it is pity.*
- Toward the weak it is help.*
- Toward the strong it is trust.*
- Toward the penitent it is forgiveness.*
- Toward the fortunate it is congratulations.*
- Toward God it is reverence and love.*



SUNSET CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 1970

	4	11	18	25
Cape Town	6.30	6.34	6.39	6.44
Johannesburg	5.56	6.00	6.03	6.05
East London	5.52	5.57	6.01	6.06
Port Elizabeth	6.02	6.06	6.11	6.16
Bloemfontein	6.02	6.05	6.09	6.13
P'maritzburg	5.44	5.48	5.52	5.56
Durban	5.42	5.46	5.50	5.54
Windhoek	6.42	6.44	6.46	6.48
Bulawayo	5.57	5.59	6.00	6.02
Salisbury	5.47	5.49	5.50	5.51
Gwelo	5.49	5.52	5.54	5.55
Lusaka	5.55	5.57	6.00	6.02
Blantyre	5.34	5.34	5.35	5.36
Lubumbashi	6.07	6.07	6.07	6.06
Nairobi	6.34	6.32	6.30	6.27
Mombasa	6.21	6.19	6.17	6.15
Kisumu	6.44	6.41	6.40	6.37
Kampala	6.52	6.49	6.47	6.45
Dar-es-Salaam	6.22	6.20	6.19	6.19
Tabora	6.48	6.46	6.45	6.44

OCTOBER 1970

	2	9	16	23	30
Cape Town	6.49	6.54	7.00	7.05	7.11
Johannesburg	6.08	6.11	6.15	6.19	6.23
East London	6.10	6.15	6.21	6.26	6.32
Port Elizabeth	6.21	6.26	6.32	6.37	6.43
Bloemfontein	6.16	6.20	6.24	6.29	6.33
P'maritzburg	6.00	6.04	6.08	6.13	6.18
Durban	5.58	6.02	6.06	6.11	6.16
Windhoek	6.50	6.53	6.56	6.59	7.02
Bulawayo	6.03	6.05	6.07	6.10	6.13
Salisbury	5.51	5.53	5.54	5.57	6.00
Gwelo	5.56	5.58	5.59	6.02	6.04
Lusaka	6.04	6.05	6.06	6.07	6.09
Blantyre	5.37	5.38	5.39	5.40	5.42
Lubumbashi	6.06	6.06	6.07	6.07	6.07
Nairobi	6.26	6.23	6.22	6.19	6.19
Mombasa	6.14	6.13	6.12	6.10	6.09
Kisumu	6.36	6.32	6.30	6.28	6.27
Kampala	6.44	6.41	6.39	6.36	6.36
Dar-es-Salaam	6.19	6.17	6.16	6.15	6.15
Tabora	6.43	6.41	6.41	6.39	6.39

Flashed by computer control in a sequence that had been very carefully programmed ahead of time the effect was certainly dramatic and impressive. A synchronized sound-track made up of narration, music background, and sound effect similar to a movie sound-track added the sound to the sight. The slides used were 1 7/8 inch square super slides which in itself means sharper definition, better colour saturation, and a quality somewhat higher than usual. Nine hundred slides were shown during the 45-minute programme.

As I look back over these paragraphs I realize that here is something which must be seen and heard, "experienced" perhaps is a better word, to be understood. I have done what I could to describe a really tremendous new departure in visual presentation. Many of our workers will question, as I certainly did: "Is this perhaps the next forward step in

GREETINGS FROM OLD FRIENDS

Pastor and Mrs O. I. Fields, 1931-1967: "We think of you every day and remember you in our prayers and count you as our children yet today."

Pastor and Mrs J. M. Hnatyshyn (Uncle John), 1942-1954: "We send our Christian greetings to you all whom we hold so dear to our hearts. We are praying daily that the Lord will continue to bless everyone of you as you put the finishing touches to the work, for it will not be long before the Lord will come. Let us remain faithful and hold fast. We are well and keep busy working in His cause. Mrs Hnatyshyn is serving in the dietary department of Loma Linda University, and I am a chaplain in a retirement and convalescent home. God has blessed us with 23 souls won for Him during the three years we have been here."

Pastor and Mrs E. A. Trumper, 1946-1962: "One of the reasons high on the scale for coming to the 51st Session of the General Conference for Mrs Trumper and me was to see again friends with whom we worked during the 18 years of service in the Trans-Africa Division. This meeting we have thoroughly enjoyed. We think of many of you on a continuing basis and you are high in our esteem and our prayers. May our Lord richly bless you, and may we soon all meet together with the Lord in the air."

Dr and Mrs Graham McMorland: "Canada with only one in every 1,200 people an Adventist, is a real mission field and we are kept busy. We miss Africa and our friends there, especially every winter. Graham is medical secretary of the Ontario-Quebec Conference and a director of our Branson Hospital. Beth is director of our local Health and Welfare Centre and president of the Dorcas Federation. The girls, Elizabeth and Patricia, are in high school at Adelphian Academy in Michigan. Greetings to you all."



Pastor and Mrs A. Floyd Tarr, 1914-1941: "We look back with affectionate memories on our work with the workers and members in our home division, and wish we had more years to give in service."

Pastor and Mrs Virgil E. Robinson, 1936-1961: "Trans-Africa is still 'Home, Sweet Home' to us and we are going to go back there. Don't be surprised to see us. The first thing we will do will be to climb Table Mountain."

Pastor C. B. Hammond, 1947-1957: "It has been a pleasure to learn of the growth of our work in the Trans-Africa Division. Greetings to all our friends."

Pastor and Mrs G. O. Adams, 1947-1954: "Greetings to everyone in Trans-Africa. Our years in the Zambesi Union were some of our best."

Pastor and Mrs R. Brandstater: "Our two years in Rhodesia were most rewarding and we wish we had another ten years to give."

Dr and Mrs Ralph Royer, 1942-1949 and 1958-1961: "Greetings to all our friends in the Trans-Africa Division. It was a wonderful privilege to renew friendships with many of you in Atlantic City at the General Conference Session, but we missed many more, especially our friends from Botswana and Malawi. Now we are going to return to Africa, but this time to Nigeria where we will be working at the Ile Ife Hospital."

Pastor and Mrs Ira R. Schultz, 1947-1967: "Our hearts are still in Africa."

Pastor Michael Blaine: "Greetings to all friends at home. It has been good to see so many old friends at the Session. May God bless you in His service."

Pastor and Mrs Joe N. Hunt, 1955-1967: "We are still singing 'O, bring my terug na die ou Transvaal,' and we think often of the people and needs of Africa. We are praying for you." Pastor Hunt is now a Publishing Department secretary in the North American Division.

Dr and Mrs Robert L. Osmunson, 1955-1962: "How is it possible to ever forget Africa! A part of our hearts is there. We watch with keen interest the progress of God's work in Trans-Africa. May God send a revival to each heart, and may the power of Pentecost come soon so that the work can be finished and we can go home." Pastor Osmunson is Dean of Admissions, La Sierra Campus and Director of Student Recruitment and Church Related Affairs, Loma Linda University.

In the mission pageant representatives from scores of countries wore national costumes and carried their national flags.

Trans-Africa Division OUTLOOK

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Pastor and Mrs Gerald R. Nash, 1927-1945: "This is a real treat for us to be able to send Christian greetings to our many, many friends of yesteryear in the land of our adoption. We have officially retired from active service but our hearts are still in the work. May God bless you all and let us resolve to be faithful and all meet in the earth made new."

Pastor and Mrs Roy M. Mote, 1929-1944, who had much to do with implementing the Teacher Training and Ministerial courses at Solusi College, and also in building up the work at Rusangu in Zambia, send greetings to the students they helped train in those early years. "We are happy in the work of the Lord and rejoice in the success which has come to the Trans-Africa Division."

Dr W. E. McClure, 1938-1954: "How pleasant it is to recall our association with Malamulo and Helderberg colleges. I would admonish all to be faithful." Dr McClure continues to keep in touch with Africa as adviser to students from Trans-Africa who attend Andrews University.