

# REVIEW and Herald

General Conference Session  
BULLETIN NUMBER 5



## The Day in Detroit

By B. B. BEACH

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1966

This Adventist day in Detroit began last night at two minutes to eight when the aristocratically robed Middle East delegation marched up onto the platform of the vast civic center Arena-auditorium. The surging weekend crowds had shrunk to a more manageable, but not less appreciative, audience of some 5,000. I joined the Middle East group back in the corridors while they were getting ready to march in procession to their appointed seats on stage.

I was fascinated by the rich kaleidoscope of their costumes. Roger Coon, whom many of us have seen in Nigerian Yoruba dress in years gone by, was wearing a simple, brown Egyptian *fallahin* ("peasant") hat (not too unlike a very round loaf of bread). He is the new educational secretary of the division.

Mrs. R. A. Wilcox, the wife of the president, was impressively dressed in a Lebanese festive costume. Her very full Damascus black brocade skirt gave flowing style to her costume. Gold braid and much jewelry were in evidence. In fact, a Moslem wife in the Middle East is often literally covered with valuable jewelry. This is her marital "insurance policy," for if her spouse pronounces the triple divorce formula and she has to leave husband and house, all she can take with her is the gold, silver, and other precious habiliment which she is wearing.

Mr. and Mrs. Mahouk Benzatyan come from Istanbul, where Mr. Benzatyan is our pastor. Brother Benzatyan (in Turkey our church members generally affectionately call him "Manouk") was wearing a black Ephesian costume with gold braid and a wide rainbow-colored belt. At his side he was carrying an old sword that has killed many Christians. Pretty Mrs. Benzatyan had slipped into the typical dress ladies wear in Turkish restaurants and hotels to serve hot drinks. The distinctive parts of the costume are the scarlet shalvar (long baggy pants) and the jacket embroidered

with silver thread. A former schoolmate of mine at Pacific Union College, Carol Brauer, one of the division departmental secretaries, was walking about clothed in all the dignity—turban and all—of a Moslem sheik.

And we could go on almost indefinitely describing the costumes of the Middle East. They may not be the most colorful, nor in modern style, but they are the richest in quality and the most impressive in gentility at the General Conference session.

The colorful evening pageant was introduced by C. E. Moseley and E. W. Dunbar, of the General Conference. Toward the beginning there was a brief but almost charming little hitch in the program: The offering had been overlooked. Quick as the flashing of a coin, stepped V. A. Fenn, the division treasurer, to the desk to make everything right. After all, no self-respecting treasurer could permit a scheduled offering to be lost sight of!

After the invocation by W. R. Beach, who as secretary of the General Conference has responsibility for the total world mission program of the church, Roger A. Wilcox, the suave, but galvanic Middle East Division president, gave his report, ushered in by the recorded ringing of the Bethlehem bells and the plaintive call of the minaret. The Middle East offers probably the greatest challenges to the gospel commission. I cannot but think of those millions of empty sandals before the mosques, waiting to be filled with feet marching in the direction of God and obedient to His revealed will. Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, Libya, and Cyprus are countries each having at most a few hundred members. R. C. Darnell, the division secretary, presented graphically the challenge of Islam to the Seventh-day Adventist Church: One out of seven human beings around the globe is a follower of the prophet Mohammed.

Elder Darnell is one of our leading Adventist specialists in Islamic theology. He tells me that his great burden is to bring about a breakthrough in the work with Moslems by promoting an awareness of the common ground between Islam and Christianity and removing the past concepts of the Moslem inherited from the medieval crusader period.

Elder Fenn stepped up to the microphone and mentioned five outstanding results of the last two Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflows: (1) A new Cairo mercy home for Mother Erna Kruger, (2) facilities for the Middle East College's popular food industry, (3) the Modern Jerusalem Center, and (4) the new church Evange-



R. R. Figuhr welcomes delegates from Eastern Europe at the Northern European Division booth. Left to right: H. Petr, secretary, and O. Sladek, president, Czechoslovakian Church; S. Dabrowski, president, and Z. Lyko, secretary, Polish Union; and S. Rafanowicz, president, East Polish Conference.

listic Center in Damascus. How Paul would be proud of his—and our—new church!

During the past quadrennium, Elder Wilcox went on to declare, the strong triple emphasis of the division has been on the building of functional church centers, the planning of up-to-date educational facilities, and the training of qualified national workers. Elder Wilcox introduced a number of these wonderful national delegates and some of the missionaries: Pastor Nazirian, of the flourishing Borj Hammoud Evangelistic and Educational Center in Lebanon; Brother John Hasso, of the Iran Mission; Pastors Clemons and Azar, of the Jordan Mission; Pastors Miller and Benzatyan, of Turkey; Pastor Hilal Dose, of the Cairo Evangelistic Center; and Clifford Ludington, medical director of the Benghazi Adventist Hospital.

Mother Kruger has almost become a legendary figure in Adventist ranks. She received the biggest ovation of the evening program. For thirty-four years her Cairo Mercy Home for many needy orphan children has been a bright spot in the firmament of Adventist achievement in the United Arab Republic. The division evangelist, Chafic Srour, told of the thrilling experience of seeing the first baptism in the Arabian Gulf after a series of public meetings in oil-rich Kuwait.

"Our publishing work is found in the front ranks of Bible lands' evangelism," stated E. Anderson, manager of the Middle East Press. Our books are arrows of truth penetrating into such countries as Saudi Arabia, Bahrein, Qatar, and Libya, where open, active Christian evangelism is forbidden by the authorities.

A popular departmental promoter in the Middle East is 35-year-old Anees A. Haddad, the MV and temperance secretary. Listen to him as we did: "A revolution took place! Not like the habitual coup d'état, but a revolution within our own church! A sudden awakening as of an exploding dawn, to the great value of our gospel of temperance. The slammed doors are thrown ajar, and suddenly our denomination is in the spotlight of the public eye, through the medium of television, state-owned radio stations, and the public press. Government ministers stand on Adventist platforms. Prime ministers receive our international temperance pins. Heads of nations praise our work."

The Five-Day Plan has indeed literally run wild with success. Think of Mr. Iskander, who chain smoked more than 100 cigarettes a day and even puffed away in the shower because he was so addicted. When he "kicked" the habit he proclaimed joyously: "This Adventist center has become the center of my own salvation." Thousands are responding to the slogan: "More years to your life and more life to your years."

I can't talk about Anees Haddad without mentioning the dramatic experience of his wife! Two years ago she had nine-hour open-heart surgery. The operation was successful, and what's more, the patient lived. Since then her heart has



During the Pageant of Missions, Mrs. A. A. Haddad and two children, Ilhan and Hion, from Lebanon, march in procession onto the platform. Elder Haddad is MV and temperance secretary for the Middle East Division.

pumped 11,000 tons of blood. The Haddads had started with twin daughters and have ended up with artificial twin heart valves!

The workers and members of the Middle East have one avowed purpose—carrying the message of salvation to the cities, villages, and last Bedouin encampments in which 120 million people live. "Behold His messengers in the Bible lands!"

"The Middle East has the very special honor to be the home of the great final gathering," said Elder Wilcox in closing. Ellen G. White describes that scene: "The great city! . . . coming down from God out of heaven! and it . . . settled in the mighty plain which Jesus had prepared for it." In a fitting and inspiring climax Ray Turner sang "The Holy City," with a trumpet accompaniment by Mrs. Wilcox



Dedie Rados, the only delegate from Yugoslavia, is shown dressed in native costume.

and four trumpeteers on the other side of the platform, while an appreciative audience joined in singing "Hosanna in the Highest, Hosanna Forever More."

The lights went out, and while the Arena was bathed in darkness, the South American delegates, 300 strong, began to find their way from outside the auditorium to the platform. Among the more interesting, living participants in the march was a puzzled-looking ocelot. This second part of the evening's "double header" consisted of a historical pageant of Adventism in South America, and J. J. Aitken's presidential report on our church in those countries today.

During the march-in Mr. and Mrs. Mariano Pairo stood by a balsa boat, and she sang while he accompanied her on a small guitar. Justo Taina, dressed as an imposing Indian chief, walked majestically in isolated splendor from the main entrance up the Arena center aisle. Arrived on stage, he proceeded to produce a mighty trumpet sound from a conch shell.

We all listened with interest to the story of the first Sabbathkeepers in South America. The audience applauded warmly when some of the descendants of these early pioneers were introduced by F. C. Webster, the master of ceremonies.

A sympathetic gesture was the presentation by M. S. Nigri of special gifts, typical of different parts of South America, to certain missionaries and workers who, through long years of devoted service, had given the best of their lives to South America. People like Santiago Schmidt (34 years), Walter Schubert (39 years), L. H. Olson (34 years in Latin America), W. E. Murray (39 years), and N. W. Dunn (9 years). Truly these are heroes of the faith.

As each new historical period was ushered in, Brad Braley would sound a few notes from "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" on the excellent three-manual Rodgers organ. Many interesting facts emerged from the historical narrative. Here are a few that impressed me: among the division's eight countries, Peru stands second in the number of Seventh-day Adventists, but its soil has absorbed the blood of many Adventist martyrs. In Bolivia we are baptizing nearly 2,000 people each year. Today we have 15 launches endeavoring to meet the needs of the river people in the great Amazon Valley of Brazil. For no less than 30 years the Halliwells labored for these river people! During the eight years W. E. Murray was the president of the South American Division, a grand total of 338 churches were built.

The song "South America, Land of Today," first sung by Mrs. Charlotte Dennis, then by Francisco Siqueira in Portuguese, and finally by the entire South American delegation in Spanish, provided the transition from the past to today. Here are the words of the second stanza:

"On the pampas and the Andes  
In the jungles so hostile  
There we have a hundred thousand  
Who are working with a will.  
From Tierra del Fuego,

To the steaming Amazon,  
From the shores of Titicaca  
By the thousands now they come."

Elder Aitken, in his inimitable style, told the thrilling story of progress, while the four powerful Arena spotlights played back and forth across the glittering General Conference session motto, "Behold He Cometh." What a harvest of souls! Since the last General Conference session 67,000 new members have been baptized (20,000 in 1965 alone!). John Hartman, the treasurer, mentioned an impressive list of new buildings, and M. S. Nigri promised that by 1970 (the next General Conference session) South American Division membership will have passed the quarter-million mark!

Elder Aitken, well known for his unique stories, did not disappoint his expectant audience. He told us about Pastor Campalongo, who won more than 1,000 souls in the last two and a half years. He outdid himself with the story of the Brazilian lady from the Holy Spirit (Espírito Santo) Conference, who stopped smoking at the impressive age of 145, after having smoked for 125 years. Then we have enterprising Pedro Linhares, who over the years has acquainted hundreds of souls with our message by throwing truth-filled bottles into the Amazon River. Since going on sustentation—what sustentation!—he has won 350 souls to Christ.

Then there was the story of the colporteur taken prisoner by soldiers during a local rebellion, who was declared to be the leader of the insurgents because the soldiers found in his pocket a map of the locality. When our brother protested that he was an Adventist colporteur, nothing more and nothing less, the Army captain told him he would release him in the evening just long enough to give a talk to his soldiers about the evil effects of smoking, in order to test his genuineness as an Adventist. Our brother came through this examination with flying colors. The captain excused himself, and the next morning even gave our colporteur a jeep, with driver, to go around and sell his books!

What more shall we say? How about the president of Argentina visiting our River Plate Sanitarium (a first in Adventist history in South America), praising the staff and stating, "You must really have had some wonderful builders in South America," or Elder Aitken's favorite theme—"Wings of Gospel"—reducing travel to hard-to-reach interior areas from ten days and ten nights to one hour and 20 minutes. At the close of his report, Elder Aitken surprised many by announcing his resignation for family educational reasons from the presidency of the South American Division. I am sure he will be missed by many.

Despite the fact that the program ran somewhat over the allotted time, the audience with few exceptions remained spellbound in their seats to the last item prior to veteran Pastor Davis' closing prayer: the Christman family stringed orchestra, playing "O, That Will Be Glory." It was almost glory already to see father, mother, and four fine boys performing together.

What an inspiring evening! I hastened back to my hotel room to spend most of  
(Continued on page 14)



Paul Eldridge  
Elected President  
Far Eastern Division



Merle Mills  
Elected President  
Trans-Africa Division

### Further Partial Report of Nominating Committee

At the eighth business meeting held Tuesday morning, June 21, the Nominating Committee presented the following further partial report. The nominations were voted unanimously.

#### General Conference

Associate Secretaries: C. O. Franz, D. W. Hunter.  
Sabbath School Department, Associate Secretary: Fernon Retzer.  
Missionary Volunteer Department, Associate Secretaries: John Hancock, Lawrence Nelson, Clark Smith, C. D. Martin.

Temperance Department, Associate Secretary: E. H. J. Steed.

#### Southern Asia Division

Lay Activities: George Maywald.

Ministerial Association, Radio and TV: W. H. Mattison.  
Sabbath School: W. F. Storz.  
Publishing: J. A. Soule.  
Temperance and Public Relations: S. James.  
Education: C. H. Tidwell.  
MV, Public Affairs, and Religious Liberty: Emerson Hillock.

#### Trans-Africa Division

President: Merle Mills.  
Secretary: M. E. Lind.  
Treasurer: R. M. Reinhard.  
Field Secretary: A. W. Austin.

At the ninth business meeting held Tuesday afternoon, June 21, the Nominating Committee placed the following additional persons in nomination for the offices designated:

#### Southern Asia Division

Auditor: Harry Osmund.  
Field Secretary: I. K. Moses.

#### Far Eastern Division

President: Paul H. Eldridge.  
Secretary: A. E. Gibb.  
Treasurer: H. D. Johnson.

#### Southern European Division

Religious Liberty Secretary: P. Lanares.

#### Inter-American Division

Secretary: B. L. Archbold.  
Treasurer: A. R. Norcliffe.  
Auditor: R. B. Caldwell.

#### Trans-Africa Division

Education and Sabbath School: Gerald F. Clifford.  
Home Missionary, Stewardship and Church Development: T. M. Ashlock.

Medical and Temperance: M. H. Schaffner.  
Ministerial and Public Relations: A. E. Cook.  
Missionary Volunteer, Radio and TV: B. E. Jacobs.  
Publishing: J. N. Hunt.

#### General Conference

Medical Department Secretary: Ralph Waddell.  
Associate Secretary of General Conference and Secretary of North American Regional Department: H. D. Singleton.  
Associate Secretary of North American Regional Department: W. W. Fordham.  
Publishing Department Associate Secretary: Herbert White.  
Public Relations Bureau Associate Secretaries: M. Carol Hetzell, Marvin Reeder.

The nominations were approved unanimously.

# "Even So, Come, Lord Jesus"

MORNING SERMON, TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1966, 8:30 A.M.

By VARNER J. JOHNS, JR., M.D.

Chairman, School of Medicine, Loma Linda University

When Christ's disciples came to Him privately on the Mount of Olives and inquired, "What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matt. 24:3), He opened before them a prophetic glimpse of the future events preceding and surrounding His glorious return.

The importance of the second coming of Christ cannot be overemphasized, as it forms an integral part of the everlasting gospel of Revelation 14:6, which is the same gospel revealed in Matthew 24:14. The word "gospel" comes from the Greek *euaggelion*, which means good news. The good news is that we have a Saviour who gave His life for us, who saves us by grace through faith in Him. It also encompasses the judgment-hour message and the good news of His imminent return to this earth. There is only one gospel; it is the same in the Old Testament as in the New. It is called the everlasting gospel, and it is this gospel that we are called upon to preach to all the world in power and glory before Christ's return. It is the understanding of this gospel in all of its clarity, beauty, and unity that turns men's hearts and minds toward their Creator and Redeemer.

The New Testament writers have left no doubt regarding the importance of this climactic event of earth's history. John the revelator foretells the proclamation of the gospel message just before Christ's second coming. He beholds an angel flying "in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come" (Rev. 14:6, 7). This warning of the judgment with its connected messages is followed by the coming of the Son of man in the clouds of heaven. The proclamation of the judgment is an announcement that Christ's second coming is at hand, and is an essential part of the gospel message.

The Second Advent is to be the glorious culmination of the entire plan of redemption. Its importance as one of the pillars of our church is indicated by its inclusion in the name Seventh-day Adventist. It is, indeed, the blessed hope of the Advent people as expressed so beautifully in Titus 2:13. An event of such monumental importance and of such climactic grandeur should become the object of intense study, the theme of our conversations, and the object of dedicated preparation.

## The Signs of Our Lord's Return

What are the signs of this important event? There are many general, nonspecific signs that are an integral part of our

terrestrial existence. These signs include war, famine, pestilence, and the catastrophic events that have been part and parcel of life on our planet for the past 2,000 years. Matthew 24:5-11 graphically portrays these trials of mankind:

"For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars; see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."

Among the other signs that indicate Christ's imminent return are those in the heavens, widespread social degeneration, and the universal spread of the gospel. The celestial signs are listed in verse 29: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken." The darkening of the sun took place on May 19, 1780, and the greatest meteoric shower in all history took place on November 13, 1833.

It is worth noting the next words, in verse 30: "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven." These celestial signs, which have already appeared, are important indicators of the time by heaven's great clock. And while it is certainly true that we cannot know the day or the hour of Christ's return (Matt. 24:36), we do know He is at the door.

Other important signs of the imminence of Christ's return are the social patterns indicated in verses 37-39. "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." "Men are rushing on in the chase for gain and selfish indulgence as if there were no God, no heaven, and no hereafter. In Noah's day the warning of the flood was sent to startle men in their wickedness and to call them to repentance. So the message of Christ's soon

coming is designed to arouse men from their absorption in worldly things. It is intended to awaken them to a sense of eternal realities, that they may give heed to the invitation to the Lord's table."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 228.

"The world is no more ready to credit the message for this time than were the Jews to receive the Saviour's warning concerning Jerusalem. Come when it may, the day of God will come unawares to the ungodly. When life is going on in its unvarying round; when men are absorbed in pleasure, in business, in traffic, in money-making; when religious leaders are magnifying the world's progress and enlightenment, and the people are lulled in a false security,—then, as the midnight thief steals within the unguarded dwelling, so shall sudden destruction come upon the careless and ungodly."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 38.

"The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God. Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying, and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are jostling one against another, contending for the highest place. Pleasure lovers are still crowding the theaters, horse races, gambling hells. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation's hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 636.

This is not to deny the importance of eating and drinking for the sustenance of life or of participation in the God-given relationship of marriage, but it is a condemnation and a warning against the materialistic, pleasure-worshiping cult of the twentieth century that by deed, if not by word, denies allegiance to God.

One of the other great and important signs of the imminence of Christ's return is the spread of the gospel message to all the world (Matt. 24:14). Christ "does not say that all the world will be converted, but that 'this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.' By giving the gospel to the world it is in our power to hasten our Lord's return. We are not only to look for but to hasten our Lord's return. We are not only to look for but to hasten the coming of the day of God. Had the church of Christ done her appointed work as the Lord ordained, the whole world would before this have been warned, and the Lord Jesus would have come to our earth in power and great glory."—*Ibid.*, pp. 633, 634.

"Different periods in the history of the church have each been marked by the development of some special truth, adapted to the necessities of God's people at that time. Every new truth has made its way against hatred and opposition; those who were blessed with its light were tempted and tried. The Lord gives a special truth for the people in an emergency. Who dare refuse to publish it? He commands His servants to present the last invitation of mercy to the world. They cannot remain silent except at the peril of their souls."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 609.



## The Manner of Christ's Coming

The manner of Christ's return is clearly indicated in Scripture. The personal, visible, bodily return of Jesus Christ cannot be counterfeited as it will be glorious and cataclysmic. Christ's coming will be as the lightning in the heavens (Matt. 24:27). "And they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (verse 30). "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory" (chap. 25:31). When one angel came and rolled away the stone at Christ's resurrection the Roman guards fell as dead men. When Christ comes with all of His holy angels, ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, the glory and power of this scene are unimaginable.

Christ's return is going to be personal and visible. "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him" (Rev. 1:7). "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

His coming will be sudden and unexpected. "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come" (Matt. 24:42). "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (verse 44).

Christ's second coming will be an earth-shaking event. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).

The message of Christ's second coming is not given just for us to bask in the glory of some far-off event in which we picture ourselves receiving our reward. It is a message that should change our lives. First, it is to awaken us out of our lethargy and make us alert to eternal realities. Second, it provides a call to a personal commitment to Jesus Christ and the opening of our hearts to the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. Third, it provides a stimulus for each of us to serve as effective witnesses in the spread of this gospel message to all the world.

Is each of us truly aware of his own spiritual condition? In the parable of the Ten Virgins Christ was not making an exact mathematical division, but He certainly provided a message to many in the remnant church.

"So with the church that lives just before Christ's second coming. All have a knowledge of the Scriptures. All have heard the message of Christ's near approach, and confidently expect His appearing. But as in the parable, so it is now. A time of waiting intervenes, faith is tried; and when the cry is heard, 'Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him,' many are unready. They have no oil in their vessels with their lamps. They are destitute of the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit of God a knowledge of His word is of no avail. The theory of truth, unaccompanied by the

Holy Spirit, cannot quicken the soul or sanctify the heart. One may be familiar with the commands and promises of the Bible; but unless the Spirit of God sets the truth home, the character will not be transformed. Without the enlightenment of the Spirit, men will not be able to distinguish truth from error, and they will fall under the masterful temptations of Satan. The class represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites. They have a regard for the truth, they have advocated the truth, they are attracted to those who believe the truth; but they have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit's working."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 408-411.

The only one besides ourselves who can appreciate the motives of the heart is God Himself. It is incumbent upon each of us to examine his own motivation, his own inner experience honestly and fully, so that if there is a ritualistic experience, a heart that has not been opened to the working of the Spirit of God, it can be changed. We must eliminate from our lives those things that are tying us to this world and that are making us unfit for the hereafter.

In our own individual search of the Scriptures it is important that we begin reading the Scriptures with a new view. We need to look not merely for theological truth, religious theories, or the satisfaction of intellectual curiosity. Instead, we should come to the Book with souls hungering for the Bread of Life, spirits thirsting for the water of life, and a yearning for a born-again experience. There must be a personal, individual relationship with Jesus Christ that will reflect itself in the lives we live and the witness we give.

## The Greatest Story Ever Told

By ETHEL BRANDT ROESCH

Have you heard the ancient story  
Of the coming of the Lord,  
Heralded by blaring trumpets  
Played by mighty angel horde?

The morning sky will brightly burn  
With a light that's brighter far  
Than any meteor ever seen  
Or any man-made wonder star.

And the trumpets—Ah! the trumpets!  
Sounding clear their clarion call  
Gathering to His feet the faithful  
Who to Him have given their all.

It's the story of a glory  
That transcends both time and space,  
Bringing hope unto the legions  
Who wait upon His glorious face.

Sounding warning to the laggards,  
That time for them is rushing on,  
Serving notice, swift and certain,  
That His cause is nearly won!

And I tremble when I listen  
To that story, brave and bold,  
Told by angel song and trumpet—  
Greatest story ever told!

## We Are His Witnesses

Once all of the members of the remnant church have united their souls and dedicated their lives unconditionally to Christ they will not be able to remain silent, but will become effective, fervent witnesses for Him. A few years ago, when I had the opportunity of seeing the advance of the work in many parts of the earth, I was particularly impressed with the rapid advance of our work in south Korea. This progress was not because the ministry was more dedicated or because the workers had a larger budget than other fields, but because of the united dedication of all the members.

In addition to watching for the Lord's return as advocated in Matthew 24:42, we must also work. "Those who are watching for the Lord are purifying their souls by obedience to the truth. With vigilant watching they combine earnest working. Because they know that the Lord is at the door, their zeal is quickened to co-operate with the divine intelligences in working for the salvation of souls. These are the faithful and wise servants who give to the Lord's household 'their portion of meat in due season.' They are declaring the truth that is now specially applicable. As Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Moses each declared the truth for his time, so will Christ's servants now give the special warning for their generation."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 634.

"We are living in the most solemn period of this world's history. The destiny of earth's teeming multitudes is about to be decided. Our own future well-being, and also the salvation of other souls, depend upon the course which we now pursue. We need to be guided by the Spirit of truth. Every follower of Christ should earnestly inquire, 'Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?'"—*The Great Controversy*, p. 601.

"Long has God waited for the spirit of service to take possession of the whole church, so that every one shall be working for Him according to his ability. When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfillment of the gospel commission, the whole world will soon be warned, and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 111.

"The evil servant says in his heart, 'My Lord delayeth His coming.' He does not say that Christ will not come. He does not scoff at the idea of His second coming. But in his heart and by his actions and words he declares that the Lord's coming is delayed. He banishes from the minds of others the conviction that the Lord is coming quickly. His influence leads men to presumptuous, careless delay. They are confirmed in their worldliness and stupor."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 635.

Let us at the time of this General Conference unite our hearts with that of our great Leader as never before. As a church let us make a renewed dedication of our lives and means to give the gospel to all the world in this generation, that our Lord may come. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20).

# Middle East Division

By R. A. WILCOX, *President*

The march of the church in the Bible lands is onward, sometimes under most difficult conditions but always forward as promised in Acts 1:8: "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." This is the commitment for our day. Here we have the challenge of the church—123.5 million people separated in five language groups and spread out across a million square miles, cutting into three continents—Europe, Asia, and Africa—to make up the territory of the Middle East Division. Of the inhabitants, 95 per cent are non-Christian.

The past four years have been filled with soul-stirring events in the lands of the revolutionary East. Formidable and rugged transitions ushered in new and difficult problems in the work of proclaiming the third angel's message in this ever-changing Orient. But God has made provision for His children. Miracles have been wrought, and God's people have been made stronger in their faith. The earnest prayers of God's children have been answered.

During this quadrennium 629 members were added to our membership. The number is not great, but it represents the faithful labor of all our workers. Our people are dedicated most earnestly to a larger harvest and a more abundant outpouring of the Spirit of God. The work is moving forward slowly but firmly. There is much to encourage us. Progress has been achieved in many denominational lines. Strong emphasis has been placed on the developing of church centers, educational facilities, and the training of workers on all denominational levels.

## Church Development

It is said of Christ that "he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read" (Luke 4:16). A proper place of worship is very important in the thinking of the peoples in these lands. It is difficult for them to understand that the true worshiper would fail to provide such a place. All faiths recognize and respect a place of worship dedicated to God, and they honor those who reverence the Maker of all mankind.

Every new project is a thrilling experience of complete dependence on the Lord for His leading and guidance. Every finished monument is a modern miracle. A Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflow provided a church and cultural center in old Damascus. The structure is now complete and ready to be dedicated. This fine edifice, situated in the city's finest residential area, offers Adventists facili-

ties for worship and other church activities. In the same building are the mission headquarters and worker residences. If the apostle Paul were here today he could be proud of his church in what is probably the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world.

The Borj Hammoud church and school center of Beirut was completed and dedicated in 1965. Land was made available in the center of a new community. The church with its facilities has a seating capacity of 1,000 persons. The educational center in the building offers full provisions for a junior academy for 350 students. The finest families choose the Adventist school for their children.



R. A. Wilcox

R. R. Figuhr and W. R. Beach joined us and the people of Iraq last year on December 18 to dedicate the new Basra church with a seating capacity of 300. The Baghdad members raised \$50,000 to help make possible the new church center. Friends in the city helped us find a superb location in the embassy section of town on the margin of the Arab River, and local government authorities cooperated in every way possible to assist the Adventists in their building project.

Hundreds joined us on dedication day to seek God's blessing, an offering to the Lord for worship. One visitor said, "I have waited for years for the Adventists to have a temple of worship. Now I have a place to come." Following a few days later with the presentation of the Five-Day Plan in Basra, we were able to introduce the practical work of the church, and already a three-month series of public meetings has been conducted under the supervision of the division evangelist, Chafic Srour. There is a strong interest in Bible truth, and capacity audiences night after night have come to learn more of the Word of God.

The Armenian congregation of Teheran, Persia, have moved into their new church home with a seating capacity of 350. Evangelist Hovik Sarrafian contin-

ues strong evangelistic services to full capacity audiences. New people are coming to the church. This modern place of worship has facilitated the growth of the work. The very presence of the church bears a strong witness to the truth.

Land was recently purchased and the mission headquarters have now been established in existing buildings on the property in Jerusalem, Jordan. The location in the city provides a central place for the development of a physiotherapy and cultural center. For many years our people have prayed for this occasion, and now it has come to pass, for which we are grateful to God and praise His holy name. Already the architects are preparing the master plan for the development of this church center.

## Correspondence Schools

The past four years have seen several significant advances in connection with the work of Bible school evangelism in the Middle East Division. C. V. Brauer, radio secretary, reports that the enrollment of 1,000 active students at the beginning of 1962 has now passed the 16,000 mark. This represents the adding of new courses in additional languages. Every local mission in the division, with the exception of one, now has an active Bible school in operation. We must do the possible until the day when the millions in the Eastern countries can hear the message over radio and see it on television screens.

Our laymen are dedicated workers for God and they are laboring to hasten His return. Ten per cent of these men and women are commissioned by the home missionary department as members of the "120." They have completed training courses and have won others to Christ. Together they gave 87,847 Bible studies, and gave literature to 400,000 people. Many thousands were blessed through the welfare ministry of our lay people. Food and medicine relieved much human suffering and 73,716 articles of clothing were distributed. These acts of sympathy gave witness to the love of Christ for His needy children.

Middle East College, major training institute of the division, had a very simple beginning 27 years ago and has expanded into a senior college offering majors in religion, history, education, and business administration. During the past four years 36 completed the B. A. degree. Seventy-five per cent of our graduates enter denominational work.

The 150 students enrolled this year in this educational center constitute the true United Nations of the East. Ten nationalities are united on one campus to prepare for the future. The molding processes are not easy, but the hand and heart and mind trained for the Master bring satisfying results.

K. L. Vine came to the college as president in 1965 to fill the position formerly occupied by G. A. Keough. Both educators have had many years of experience training youth for service in the Bible lands.

Middle East College became affiliated with Loma Linda University on July 1, 1965. Dr. G. T. Anderson, president of the university, visited the Middle East

prior to the affiliation and gave valuable study to the future development of this college in its new relationship with Loma Linda. His contacts with many educators in Lebanon continue to prove a special blessing to us in the educational field. Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Bull, former missionaries to the Middle East, are the first two professors to join us under the affiliation from the Loma Linda campus. They are greatly appreciated for their spiritual influence and rich experience in Christian education.

Already the architects have perfected a master plan for the future expansion of the school. A new library and science wing has been joined to the present administration building and is already meeting an urgent need.

The Lebanon Ministry of Education has recently confirmed the re-registration of our government grant to maintain a senior college in this country. This delicate question hung, as it were, by a tiny thread for three years, but, thank God, the decree is completed and our college has been saved.

Through the field on all levels our educational work has been strengthened. Seven new schools have been added and our teachers are in an aggressive training program of in-service and upper graduate study. Two thousand three hundred young people are enrolled in the 28 schools of the division educational system. Our schools serve a twofold purpose: they provide Adventist education for our own boys and girls and also serve as a means to teach the truth to others not of our faith. At the present time only 17 per cent are from SDA homes, 26 per cent are from non-Christian homes, and 57 per cent are from non-Adventist Christian homes.

It is evident that in the face of such a challenge our schools must be spiritual and guided by consecrated men and women. Surrounded by godly teachers, our youth come to know the high ideals of the true educator, Christ Jesus. With only a few exceptions in the day schools, our students are found in the place of worship on the Sabbath day. In these young minds God will find the instruments to perform His will. We thank God for these stalwart men and women who keep the standards of Christian education strong.

The new Matariah Mercy Home of Cairo, Egypt, was recently completed, and Mother Erna Kruger moved into the new building with her family of orphan children. For 33 years this good sister struggled alone with insufficient accommodations and inadequate facilities. She expresses her love and appreciation to those who made possible this new home through the channels of the Thirteenth Sabbath giving.

#### Financial Growth

Our members have responded to the strong appeals for liberality in giving to the cause and faithfulness in bringing their tithes to the treasury of the Lord. Our churches have joined in the building of other centers of worship. Our tithe has more than doubled and there is a 21 per cent increase in missions offerings. V. A. Fenn, division treasurer, has been a careful and wise counselor in strength-

ening the financial structure of the division.

Middle East Press is an important factor in the development and growth of this division. "If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the Scriptures."—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 390. R. E. Anderson, manager, is giving strong leadership, and many advances have already been made to increase the facilities for bringing out the printed page. The publishing house has been enlarged and a new modern Heidelberg press steps up our production.

The Spirit of Prophecy books are being made available to the people of the Middle East. All the principal publications of Sister White have been translated and several have been published. Others are in the process of preparation, to come forth in due time. It is our purpose to orientate our people with the strong Christian principles as found in the writings of the Lord's servant. This will give stability to the church.

D. L. Chappell, division publishing secretary, has inspired our people to share their faith through the use of Christian literature, and God has blessed his efforts. During this quadrennium the student part-time and full-time literature evangelists achieved a 57 per cent gain in literature sales for the four-year period. Thousands have come to know the truth through these faithful men and women of the colporteur ministry.

#### Medical Work Moves Forward

In December of 1965 the foundations were poured for the new Adventist Hospital in Benghazi, Libya. The event points back about 10 years when Dr. Roy Cornell pioneered the early beginnings of the Adventist medical work in Libya. A small hotel furnished a beginning. That place has endured many transitions and still contains the ever-expanding hospital program. Many professional services have been added and no longer can we move forward except in larger quarters, which promise to be ready late in 1967. Under the able leadership of Dr. Clifford Ludington and business manager Cleo Johnson, together with our fine staff, the hospital continues to make a strong contribution to the appreciative people of North Africa.

The continuing oil developments in the country bring many changes and greatly increase medical needs. Our hospital, situated in the heart of the oil boom area, is greatly appreciated and has contributed liberally to the needs of the Libyan people. The government has

opened the way for Adventists to purchase ten acres of choice property in the name of the church and has facilitated every possible move in the formalities of government protocol. Oil companies have made available \$750,000 to aid us in the erection of this new medical unit. The strong right arm has reached out into the heart of Libya.

#### Temperance

The work of temperance has placed Seventh-day Adventists in the Middle East before the people in a most remarkable way. Our health principles have attracted with deep interest the leaders of governments and those responsible for the well-being of whole nations. Anees Haddad, MV and temperance secretary, and Dr. Herschel Lamp, division medical secretary, inaugurated in 1965 for the first time in the Middle East the Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking. In only a few hours after the first meeting conducted in Amman, Jordan, the interest in the program became nationwide. Radio, newspapers, and television covered their activities. The people came to know about some of the practical Christianity of the Adventists.

In Iraq, the president, Dr. Arif, arranged a five-minute interview but kept our team 45 minutes, asking questions about the work of Adventists. Television put our films on half a million TV screens, and Dr. Lamp, on radio and TV, told the story of the tobacco evils. Never before has the entire government of a Middle East country cooperated so magnificently to help Seventh-day Adventists do their work.

From everywhere come urgent requests to conduct the Five-Day Plan. Twenty teams could be working continually. In Teheran a man said at the close of the meeting one night, "I have carried this burden of smoking for 25 years and my church has been able to do nothing for me. Now in one night you have helped me to find victory over the evil habit."

#### Conclusion

We lift our voices in gratitude to our heavenly Father for His love and protection and for His guardian angels watching over the harvest field and the laborers. We express our appreciation to the General Conference for their prayers, for counsel and support, for warm fellowship and Christian love.

Our hearts are burdened with the unfinished task—millions unwarned, thousands of villages unentered. How soon can the work be complete, "warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Col. 1:28)?

Surrounding us is a task not yet finished. Ringing in our ears is the promise of power to witness, "And ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." To this end our members and workers are dedicated to the supreme cause of giving this truth in all the lands of the Middle East. "And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him" (Mal. 3:17).

## God Dwells

By MYRTLE LEORA NELSON

In outer space  
And inner space—  
But especially  
In that place  
Within the heart  
Of the human race—  
God dwells  
By His grace.

# South American Division

By JAMES J. AITKEN, *President*

I am happy to bring you a good report as to how God has helped us to bring the good news of salvation in an ever stronger way to the people of South America. At the time the division was organized in 1916 we had, according to the records, 4,903 members. At the beginning of 1966 our division membership had risen to 165,319 in 763 churches. During this past quadrennium 67,944 new members were baptized, an increase of 25,559 over the previous quadrennium. In 1965 alone 19,107 were taken into church membership. When we see these marvelous and encouraging results we exclaim, "What hath God wrought!"

Today we rejoice in 50 years of marvelous progress from the steamy jungles of the Amazon, along the snow-clad Andes, across the wind-swept pampas, to the rugged glaciers of Tierra del Fuego and Antarctica. This is an area of tremendous dimensions twice as large as continental United States, with 120 million people to be told of a soon-coming Saviour.

## Two Main Programs

During this four-year period we have intensified our efforts in two main programs: reaching the teeming millions in the great cities around the perimeter and making a special drive to reach the vast interior jungle and underdeveloped regions, where thousands upon thousands of primitive peoples sit in darkness and degradation. We have called this program of big-city efforts the evangelization of the Asphalt Jungle, and the frontier efforts the evangelization of the Green Jungle, which has often been depicted as the Green Hell of South America.

In both these areas God has blessed our efforts with remarkable success. As never before the cities of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Buenos Aires, Santiago, and Lima have heard the gospel message through large and small efforts of public evangelism and also through the media of radio and TV.

It was a great act of faith for our people when our new evangelistic center and Voice of Prophecy headquarters and auditorium were dedicated with a capacity of 2,000 for the preaching of the gospel in the great city of Rio de Janeiro. We now have more than 5,000 believers in and around Rio, and the work is growing in 40 churches and groups. In the city of São Paulo we have perhaps the largest Seventh-day Adventist population in the world, outside the United States, in one city. Here we have 91 churches and groups with 12,068 members.

Through the faithful work of our evangelists and laymen the year 1965 was dedicated to four large city efforts

penetrating into the very heart of Buenos Aires, the largest Spanish-speaking capital in the world. We believe that with God's help at least 1,000 souls will be gathered in as a result of these efforts. In the past two years three new churches and 13 groups have been organized in Buenos Aires alone. Already word has come to me that prospects are good for 1,000 to be gathered out in the effort of 1966 in the city of Santiago. The interest has been so great in these big-city efforts that we have at least two sessions and sometimes three to accommodate the crowds. When we announce in the public press and by radio that we are going to conduct a truly Christian baptism in harmony with the example of



James J. Aitken

Jesus, huge crowds flock in, and the result is that others desire to follow the example of Jesus.

In hundreds of our cities, big and small, our young people who number an army of 70,000 young hearts on fire for God have done wonders in a positive program of Voice of Youth evangelism. During this past year to our amazement city halls have been opened free of charge to our youth for congresses and Voice of Youth meetings. In various cities Catholic priests have appeared on the platform with Adventist youth leaders to praise them for their fight against juvenile delinquency and for our fine temperance program of teaching people how to quit smoking in five days.

Word has just come to me of new and great victories that have been won on an old outpost raised up by F. A. Stahl 50 years ago on Lake Titicaca—the Broken Stone Mission at Umuchi. During the month of March, 1966, more than 200 precious souls were baptized, and a large share of these people have been brought to a knowledge of the truth by a consecrated young native boy 19 years of age. Our recent youth congress at the Lake Titicaca Training

School had more than 3,000 young people in attendance, which was the largest by far in the history of this college.

Our practical Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking has really captivated the attention of leaders and statesmen. Universities and civic centers have opened their doors to Adventist doctors and evangelists to present the Five-Day Plan for the benefit of their communities. High in the Andes in the city of La Paz, Bolivia, some of the most influential people of the city begged that the Five-Day Plan be repeated in the various sections of the city for the benefit of those who could not get into the first meetings.

Recently a woman in Brazil 140 years old was baptized, and we found that she first became acquainted with the Advent message through the Five-Day Plan. She said her greatest thrill was to be released from 100 years of smoking slavery and learn how to live a clean life. We believe this temperance program should be the right arm in connection with the medical work of the Advent message.

The messenger of the Lord has stated that our truth-filled literature should be distributed as the leaves of autumn. This is really what is taking place with our valiant army now numbering 1,000 colporteurs. The colporteur work in South America is becoming world famous for its soul winning. Think of it! The equivalent of a church of 136 members was won by our colporteurs every month last year. One colporteur brought 70 souls into the truth. Our total army of colporteurs won approximately 2,000 people in 1965. Our two large publishing houses for the Portuguese and Spanish languages in São Paulo, Brazil, and Buenos Aires, Argentina, are modernizing and enlarging their plants to meet the increasing demands.

Colporteur sales have doubled in the past quadrennium, rising from one million dollars in sales in one year to well over two million dollars for the year 1965. Because of restrictions on the movement of our literature from Argentina to Chile we have now completed the setting up of a branch publishing house in Santiago. This immediately increased sales of our literature in this promising field. In the teeming cities and in the highways and byways our colporteurs are the front-line shock troops for bringing the light of truth to the multitudes.

## The Airplane

The most helpful aid in enabling us to rapidly pursue the second phase of our evangelistic penetration of the interior jungle regions has been the small utility-type airplane. Our pioneer missionary, Elder Stahl, had a great vision for sowing the seeds of truth and showing the people a better way of life in Christ Jesus from the highlands of the Andes to the jungles of the Amazon. Elder Stahl rode 35 days by horseback from Lima, Peru, to the jungle at Pucallpa. Our faithful Helio Courier airplane named the *Fernando Stahl* makes this same trip in two hours and 30 minutes.

From Pucallpa, Elder Stahl paddled a canoe to our Unini Mission Station area in ten days and ten nights of dangerous, hard travel. Today we make the flight from our Adventist mission air base to



our Unini Mission Station in one hour and 20 minutes.

In approximately two years of operation the *Fernando Stahl* has saved 70 lives by the rapid transport of emergency cases to medical clinics. It has transported more than 3,000 missionaries, doctors, teachers, and nurses on urgent missions of mercy in the jungle. The demand on the *Fernando Stahl* has been so heavy that another aircraft, a Piper Supercub, has been purchased recently to back up the lifesaving work of the larger ship and replace it during its periods of maintenance and overhaul. This small, economical plane has been christened the *Ricardo Hayden* in honor of Elder and Mrs. Richard Hayden who have given 35 years of mission service to South America.

Not since the days of Elder Stahl has the work of Seventh-day Adventists been praised in official government circles such as it is today. A letter was recently read in the Peruvian Senate praising the work of Seventh-day Adventists. This letter has been sent to Lima by the municipal authorities of Puerto Pataya, a small frontier village in the jungles of eastern Peru near the Brazil border. It told of the wonderful work of our Adventist pilot, Clyde Peters, of his flight service in saving the lives of their people and of his service in pulling teeth and treating the sick on various occasions. I recently saw how a man's life was saved as he was brought in at 6:00 A.M. with gunshot wounds.

It is significant to note that the Inca Union, which has put three airplanes in service in Peru and Bolivia, was the first and only union in South America in 1965 to go over its baptismal goal. This came about because the *Fernando Stahl* and *Ricardo Hayden* planes went into action to bring in the last 150 people for baptism in the swollen streams of the Amazon to complete the total of the Inca Union baptismal goal.

We are finding groups of people who were brought to the truth by Elder Stahl and his collaborators as they traveled from place to place. The sad thing is that a number of these groups have left the message because they have not been visited by a missionary for 30 years. We can understand how these sheep have lost the way without a shepherd, and the main reason for the lack of a visit by the missionary was that in this far-flung area the missionary, until today, just did not have the transportation to maintain contact with these frontier outposts. We thank God for our faithful God-fearing pilots. No Seventh-day Adventist mission pilot ever takes off without pausing for a word of prayer that God may safely guide him and his passengers across the dangers of the jungle. We should daily pray for the safety of our work and workers in this important field of frontier mission activity.

At present five other urgent calls have come to us for mission air transportation to open new interior and jungle areas for the preaching of the gospel in Ecuador, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Brazil.

We look back over the years and thank God for the vision and foresight of Leo Halliwell in beginning the launch work some 30 years ago with the *Luzeiro I.*

This ship is still in operation, bringing health and healing along with the good news of the gospel to the shores of the mighty Amazon. Leslie Scofield has brought the light of the gospel to thousands along the San Francisco River with the launch *Luminar II*. I am happy to say that in the past quadrennium we have put into service eight new medical and colporteur launches, and we have three mobile clinics and seven airplanes serving in four nations.

Because of the rapid growth of the work, new organizations and institutions have come into being. In November of 1965, at our annual division meeting, the organization of the Chile Union was voted and approved by the General Conference. This new union consists of three fields—the North Chile Mission, the Central Chile Conference, and the South Chile Conference—with a total membership exceeding 10,000. God has greatly blessed the preaching of the Word in Chile and we believe that this new union organization will greatly strengthen the work of the church of God from the north to the south of this fine nation.

Through the marvel of radio the message is reaching into more and more of the dark areas of our continent. Today in South America we have 465 Voice of Prophecy broadcasts on 463 stations. Along with our local broadcast each week there are 505 Seventh-day Adventist radio and six TV programs going out over the airwaves. We have more than 50,000 active students in our Bible correspondence courses, with a constant reserve of some 1,500 people keeping the Sabbath who are entering into our baptismal classes. We thank God for this modern miracle of radio to help us in spreading the message so rapidly.

Another new and positive program was carried out through the length and breadth of the division last year in the training of 5,000 laymen as qualified soul winners. Our lay courses have been received with great enthusiasm, and we thank God that every layman in South America is finding his soul-winning place of labor for which he is best suited in an active church.

Great strides forward have been realized by the success of our educational program for the training of our children and youth in paths of service for the Master. At the end of 1965 we had 42,218 students enrolled in our grade schools, secondary schools, and colleges. Because of the dire need for expanded educational facilities we have just purchased and broken ground for two new training colleges, one in Ecuador and the other near Belém on the mouth of the Amazon in Brazil.

The Sabbath school is the heart of the church, and good Sabbath school members make good church members because the Sabbath school is the church at study. Seventh-day Adventists in South America are famous for their knowledge of the Bible and they have won various international and national Bible contests. I am happy to report that we have had a good increase in three important branches of Sabbath school activity. First, our Sabbath school membership has risen to the most encouraging figure of 184,293

at the end of 1965. Second, we have noted throughout the division an increase of \$25,000 in offerings in 1965 alone. This is most remarkable when one considers the economic chaos through which almost all the nations of South America have passed and are now going through because of inflation. Third, in the last quarter of 1965, due to increased interest in the soul-winning program of the Sabbath school and a good increase in branch Sabbath schools, more than 8,000 Sabbath school members were baptized.

### The Growing Influence of Our Medical Work

The medical work in the South American Division is truly the right arm of the message. Consecrated doctors and nurses serving at modest missionary wages have been instrumental in bringing hundreds and thousands to a knowledge of Christ as the Great Physician. Throughout the division we now have some 14 hospitals and clinics. Our medical work in Brazil has aroused such public attention through our Penfigo and Belém hospitals that a world aid organization from Germany has asked us to prepare plans to add a one-million-dollar wing to our Belém Hospital, to be fully equipped by them. Already this organization has given more than U.S. \$200,000 for the enlargement and building of a new hospital for the terrible savage-fire disease pemphigus.

At the present time our hospitals in Brazil are full because of our new and unique plan of health insurance, which is similar to the Blue Cross insurance program in the United States. The difference is that our medical institutions operate this plan and a part of the profits of the insurance program pays for needed expansion construction. At the present time the South American Division has five main hospitals in the process of modernization and expansion in Belém, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Brazil; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Lima, Peru.

In this quadrennium we have seen the benefits of a modernized hospital in Asunción, Paraguay. In southern Paraguay at Hohenau more than 1,000 non-Adventist families pledged their support for the building of an Adventist hospital and sanitarium. It is a modern miracle to see how the forest has been cut away and already more than \$100,000 worth of simple, practical buildings have been built. Even though the facilities have not been completed, at least 40 people a day come for medical treatment.

The honorable president of Paraguay, Alfredo Stroessner, has made two official visits to this outpost jungle hospital, praising our humanitarian medical work in behalf of his nation. He also has urged us to complete our landing strip for aircraft, so that emergency cases may be brought in to receive immediate medical attention.

Truly God has given us our medical work as the right arm of the message. The need for funds for this work is tremendous. It will cost us at least \$6 million to fully care for the present needs of expanding our medical facilities, but we are moving forward in faith, believing that God will open doors of opportunity in the future as He has in the past.

Adventists in South America are fast becoming famous for their welfare work in behalf of the disaster stricken and the poor and needy in distress. In earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, and other disasters we have been at the forefront in letting our light shine by helping those in need. The efforts of the church, the Food for Peace program, and the Alliance for Progress have all combined to bring real help to humanity throughout South America. Especially have these programs been effective in Chile, Brazil, and Peru. Our welfare work is now becoming nationally known and officially recognized and praised by the heads of government.

For the first time in the history of the Adventist Church in South America an important head of state, the Honorable Dr. Arturo Illia, president of Argentina, visited an Adventist institution. This visit was to our River Plate College and Sanitarium on Sunday, October 10, 1965. Dr. Illia praised Seventh-day Adventists for their fine educational and medical work at Puiggari. He stated specifically that of more value than the educational and medical work of these institutions were the great spiritual values that radiate from these Adventist institutions in favor of moral integrity and Christian orientation for service in the heart of modern youth. Then addressing himself especially to Adventists as a people, he said: "My desire is that each continue in the work of faith which has brought him to this hour. I realize that my words can have no other significance than to accompany you in your decisions. I cannot awaken in you a faith, because you are full of faith, and you will be guided by this faith and share it wherever you go. I can only encourage

you to follow the path which you have outlined which gives you so much security. Perhaps other citizens and brethren of this nation may be orientated by you in a more sure and certain future."

I think of the recognition which Dr. Eduardo Frei Montalva, the president of Chile, gave in an audience to the executive committee of the Austral Union, praising Adventists for their good works in time of earthquake and flood disaster in Chile. Also recently Dr. Fernando Belaunde Terry, president of Peru, visited his boyhood schoolteacher who was a patient in our Good Hope Clinic. As the president stood by the bedside of his beloved and aged teacher he spoke in glowing terms of our humanitarian medical service. A few months earlier he also visited the Ana Stahl Clinic at the time of his visit to Iquitos and the jungle of Peru.

I also think of how last year the president of Brazil, Humberto Castelo Branco, laid aside the duties of his office long enough to go out to his balcony in the presidential palace in Brasilia and salute with praise the little caravan of Adventists moving along with the new launch *Pioneira* which was being transported on a large semitruck. This caravan of God's people was on its way with the new launch to bring Christian medical service deep into the heart of the Brazilian jungles on the Araguaya River.

Yes, Seventh-day Adventists are today better recognized perhaps than ever before in the history of our work in South America. This is our day of opportunity to arise as never before to gather out God's people swiftly and thus finish the work He has given us to do in this tremendous hour of earth's history.

carry this training program into every church under the trained lay leaders. [Voted.]

### World Ingathering Objectives

WHEREAS, Ingathering presents one of the greatest opportunities of the church for missionary contacts and through this means "men and women of all classes have been reached, and the name of God has been glorified" (*Christian Service*, p. 167), and,

WHEREAS, Fulfilled prophecy points to the rapid approach of the end of probationary time and "God in His providence is calling His people out from their limited sphere of action to enter upon greater enterprises" (*Testimonies*, vol. 3, p. 405), and,

WHEREAS, Unprecedented needs of the world field present a tremendous challenge for an expanding work and greater financial support, therefore,

We recommend, That every conference, mission, and church around the world emphasize Ingathering as personal evangelism, giving opportunity to make every call a missionary contact and to leave an impression favorable to our cause, thereby achieving the objective "souls won in every church through Ingathering contacts," and,

2. That churches conduct a training program to present the missionary purpose and techniques of Ingathering to new members and to improve the Ingathering skills of the more experienced ingathering workers, and,

3. That missions and conferences in the world field set more challenging goals for this quadrennium, and,

4. That in order to carry forward a short and successful Ingathering campaign, we appeal for every-member participation and complete territory coverage. [Voted.]

### Health and Welfare Ministry

WHEREAS, Jesus during His earthly ministry worked to relieve the suffering of the sick, the poor, and the troubled, and,

WHEREAS, He has called His followers to this same service for the development of their own spiritual life as well as to relieve the increasing human distress and suffering,

Voted, As we approach the climax of earth's history, to call upon every church member and youth to participate in the health and welfare program of the church, for those in need in the home community and in lands afar, in the following ways:

1. Studying the Spirit of Prophecy instruction on health and welfare work as found in the book *Welfare Ministry*.

2. Praying daily for those in need and taking a personal interest in meeting human needs in the neighborhood.

3. Giving regularly and systematically for welfare work through the tithe and offerings envelope.

4. Supplying material aid and increased financial support for international disaster relief.

5. Becoming an active worker in one of the organizations meeting community needs—MV community services, Dorcas welfare, or Adventist men.

6. Joining in the every-home visitation program of the Lay Activities Department  
(Continued on page 12)

## Further Partial Report of the Plans Committee

[At the eighth business meeting, 10:00 A.M., June 21, the following plans were submitted to the delegates and approved unanimously.]

### Worldwide Bible Evangelism Crusade

WHEREAS, "Our work has been marked out for us by our heavenly Father, we are to take our Bibles and go forth to warn the world" (*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 150), and the reading of the Bible in the home is strongly emphasized by all Christian denominations and many other religious organizations, and,

WHEREAS, Probationary time is running out for us and for the restless and disillusioned world,

Resolved, That 1. We appeal to every member in the worldwide church to open the Holy Scriptures to friends and neighbors and to take as an objective the giving of at least one Bible study per member per week.

2. We make available to every member of the church the necessary training in Bible evangelism through the courses available in the Lay Activities Department.

3. We double the number of Bible

studies now given by our laymen and determine to reach an average of one million Bible studies per month during the next quadrennium. [Voted.]

### The Lay Leadership Training Program

WHEREAS, "That which is needed now for the upbuilding of our churches is the nice work of wise laborers to discern and develop talent in the church, . . . talent that can be educated for the Master's use" (*Christian Service*, p. 58), and,

WHEREAS, "Every church should be a training school for Christian workers" (*Christian Service*, p. 59), and,

WHEREAS, The pilot schools of lay leadership training held so far have proved to be a great help in achieving this objective,

Recommended, That during the next quadrennium 1967-1970, 1. Lay leadership training courses be held in every conference and mission.

2. That the available textbooks be translated into all major languages and used in this training course.

3. That every local field make plans to

# Missionary Volunteer Department

By THEODORE LUCAS, *Secretary*

Today there are some 540,000 Missionary Volunteers in the world. But the missionary Volunteer organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the greatest youth organization in the world only because it is commissioned to carry God's greatest message to the peoples of the world. It is not by enlarged membership, financial resources, earthly honor, impressive buildings and equipment, or cultured leadership that Heaven rates a youth organization. The youth group that catches a global vision of living and giving the everlasting gospel is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Total evangelism is the supreme goal of Missionary Volunteering. Brilliant and unprecedented are the manifestations of divine power even now through youthful lives devoted to the cause of truth and righteousness. Thousands are being baptized because of their endeavors. New churches in many countries stand as witnesses that youth have shared the greatest thing in life. We must—and we shall—see more of this.

For the first time in the history of the church, youth from every division of the world field have participated in a single project under the banner known to the church as MV TARGET 30,000. At this General Conference session division MV leaders report more than 60,000 persons baptized in two years of MV TARGET evangelism. Young people have conducted some 85,000 major group evangelistic projects.

## Leadership in the MV Department

Recognition is due everyone in the MV Department of the General Conference. They all make a contribution to the worldwide work of Missionary Volunteering—John Hancock, the late J. R. Nelson, Lawrence Nelson, Clark Smith, Mildred Lee Johnson, and Lowell Litten. No salute can be overdone for these workers who lead without compromise, who hold in their hearts a great burden for our young people and in their hands the key to the hearts of the youth.

With those mentioned is another important team who day by day carry their responsibilities in the office: Mrs. Phyllis Ball, Mrs. June Vogt, Mrs. Ruby Phalen, Mrs. Frieda White, and Betty Hender-shot. They largely create the image of the MV office at the General Conference. Their training, efficiency, and dedicated lives make a contribution as great as any other to the work of Adventist youth around the world.

But the staff at MV world headquarters is but the vanguard of the force of youth leaders in the field whose insights and skills and diligent work make possible the total MV program. We salute the division, union, and local conference Mis-

sionary Volunteer secretaries who have led their young people in the brilliant record of successful youth evangelism God has granted in this our day.

## National Service Organization

In this day of wars and rumors of wars thousands of Adventist young men have been called to military service. The National Service Organization, a division of the Missionary Volunteer Department, provides counsel, noncombatant training, professional help with military problems, fellowship, and literature for their personal use and for missionary work. The Servicemen's Fund offering received



Theodore Lucas

biennially provides this literature and evangelistic equipment. The goal this year was \$75,000. The enlarged draft of men to meet the present situation in Vietnam will draw additional thousands of young men into military service, among them hundreds of our own.

Recently 150 of these young people gathered at Berchtesgaden, Germany, for the annual retreat sponsored by their church that gives careful attention to their needs. There are 10 Seventh-day Adventist ministers serving in the field as military chaplains. They have served with distinction for years and have regularly been promoted to higher rank. There are also four civilian chaplains serving our young men in large centers where the problems are acute.

We are proud of our servicemen's centers in San Antonio, Texas, and Frankfurt, Germany, which provide places of refuge for them. Plans are under way for another center near Washington, D.C., and still another in Okinawa. In both areas there are concentrations of Seventh-day Adventist young men in military service.

The annual National Medical Cadet Corps Training Camp was conducted this month at Grand Ledge, Michigan. Medical Cadet Corps are in action in North

America, in the Far East, in Inter-America, in the Middle East, and in South America. Medical Cadet Corps training is a great asset to Adventist young men as they face the problems attached to military life. One of the heroic activities of Adventist servicemen is participation in Project Whitecoat, a medical research program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. As many as 200 Seventh-day Adventist military personnel are voluntarily connected with this project at any given time.

The following now serve as Adventist chaplains, both military and civilian: Chaplain (Major) William S. Hall, Chaplain (Major) Wayne C. Hill, Chaplain (Major) Glenn I. Bowen, Chaplain (Major) John E. Keplinger, Chaplain (Major) Joseph T. Powell, Chaplain (Captain) Richard Sessums, Chaplain (Captain) Ralph C. Workman, Lt. Norman Goodwin, Cdr. Robert L. Mole, Lt. Cdr. Davis A. Thomas, Elder Hollis Anderson, Elder Thomas Green, Elder Chester Jordan, Elder Ralph Heiner. Preparing for the chaplaincy are Elder James L. North, Jr., and Elder Gary O. Strunk. These men meet annually in a chaplains' conference, this year to be held at Wawona Camp in California, in August.

J. R. Nelson was the first General Conference MV Secretary to be lost while in action for the Missionary Volunteers of the world field. He was the first director of the National Service Organization after it became a part of the Missionary Volunteer Department in 1958. Elder Nelson's example of unselfish and dedicated service inspired thousands of our youth, including all three of his children, to serve the church. Elder Nelson fell asleep on August 10, 1965, after a brief illness.

## Pathfinder Club

In the Pathfinder Club youth find church-centered physical activity in a climate of impressive spiritual overtones. Here they may engage in crafts and hobbies, nature discovery, outpost camping, drill and marching, their own fairs and parades. The intention is to develop character, good citizenship, physical fitness, and Christian discipleship. The Pathfinder Club is a working partner of the JMV Society, and the two cooperate to provide incentives for wholesome and noble living. The high day on the church calendar for the junior youth of the church is the annual Pathfinder Day.

The Pathfinder Camporee has become one of the most popular activities. It is a camping experience extending over three or four days and shared by numerous clubs. Here the Pathfinder Club unit is on its own. It prepares its own meals and lives in the outdoors. The camporee is high in appeal to our junior youth.

## Leadership

At this General Conference session we introduce a revised Leadership Course. This facet of our Missionary Volunteer work is no longer new to the field. It was introduced in 1954 and has constantly escalated in popularity and profit to the church as a whole. The MV Department believes that the place to begin is with leadership acquiring the know-how.

The Leadercraft Course, with its supplies and library, encourages our Missionary Volunteers to take advantage of the new leadership skills brought forth by modern development in a time when young people will not tolerate the effects of outmoded leadership attitudes.

Our church work is advantaged when we devise and apply new methods. The Leadercraft Course is a challenge that evaluates our procedures, applies up-to-date instruction, and blazes the trail for Missionary Volunteering as a whole. It is available to any group that desires it through Missionary Volunteer leadership.

### MV KIT

The *MV Kit* is one of our important modern tools. It serves a specialized group, for the subscription list is confined to MV officers and other officers of the church who are associated with the administration of the MV Society in the local church. Its circulation list is almost 9,000, and it is being translated into other languages. We think continually of world divisions, endeavoring to plan each issue so it will be of great benefit to our world youth. Of particular importance is the annual issue devoted entirely to MV Week. *Kit* is a proud world traveler in such a cause.

### MV Week

Through MV Week, which begins with MV Day each year, pastors, church officers, teachers, and parents unite in giving spiritual encouragement and guidance to every young person within the sphere of their influence. It is a time especially designated for spiritual emphasis and reflection on the part of all Seventh-day Adventist youth. MV Week has become one of the major evangelistic endeavors of the church. The 1964-1965 MV Week report lists 4,486 young people baptized in North America. This week of spiritual emphasis is an opportunity for all of us, with the youth, to experience reformation and revival in our lives.

### MV Camps

This year is the fortieth anniversary of MV camping. The camping idea, begun in 1926 in the State of Michigan, provides opportunities for both senior and junior youth to develop mentally, physically, and spiritually. Many of our youth find God in these camps. Under the most favorable circumstances these camps develop loyalty, teamwork, and sportsmanship, while helping our young people to form new and higher ideals.

Many of our conferences own their own campsites, which are coming more and more to serve missionary projects as well as provide sites for family camps, senior camps, and retreats conducted for students in our academies and colleges. The objective is to make use of the campsite the year round. In the North American Division 80 per cent of our local conferences own their own campsites.

### Today's Missionary Volunteer

The church can well be proud of the typical modern Missionary Volunteer. He has found spiritual strength and cultural advantages in the youth organization of the church. He has acquired skills

## Additional Delegates

### SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION

#### Austral Union Conference

Eduardo Schmidt.

#### East Brazil Union Mission

E. M. Davis, Rubens Segre Ferreira, Merlin Kretschmar, Parisio Martins.

#### Inca Union Mission

Oswald Krause. Delete: Elwin C. Lanz.

#### North Brazil Union Mission

Edmundo Gil.

#### South Brazil Union Conference

Jose Apolinario, Jose Guimaraes, Emilio Keppke, Ellis R. Maas, Santiago Schmidt, Edmundo Souza. Delete: Eugenio C. Lima, Paulo Passos.

for sharing his faith he may choose to study, with others, such manuals as *MV Voice of Youth*, *Operation Fireside*, *Friendship Teams*, *Branch Sabbath Schools*, *Bible School Evangelism*, *MV Community Service*, the *Leadercraft Course*, the *Pathfinder Staff Training Course*, the *MV Handbook*.

Youth must have church-centered fellowship and recreation. This is a major purpose of the MV Society itself. A good sharing program calls for careful attention to the needs of the sharers also. Fellowship recreation is the keynote of such MV features as social get-togethers, group camping, outdoor clubs, and many MV Honors that are recreational in nature. The new MV Silver Award plan for physical and cultural excellence is popular with academy-age youth.

And so the modern Missionary Volunteer faces a desperate world as a youthful bearer of a glorious message, because his church has cared. Now the church looks to him as one of its brightest hopes for a glad tomorrow.

## Plans Committee Report

(Continued from page 10)

of the church, using the health and welfare approach.

7. Contributing volunteer service to the church health and welfare unit or center.

8. Helping to provide and operate conference and church mobile units in burn-out and other disaster relief service.

9. Making our health and welfare service complete by combining effectively physical and spiritual ministry. [Voted.]

### World Literature Penetration Program

WHEREAS, The Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy predict that a quick work will be done in the earth, for the Lord "will finish the work, and cut it short," and "the final movements will be rapid ones"; and,

WHEREAS, Recent developments in the religious world have resulted in the opening of millions of doors to the reception, reading, and study of the Bible and our message-filled literature; therefore,

We recommend, The endorsement of the following plans for a great world penetration program with our missionary literature, each division giving study to the following plans, adapting them to the particular needs of their respective fields:

1. That divisions assign to their literature committees or to a literature guidance committee or committees the study of the best method of approach and the type of literature needed to meet each local situation as to language and other needs.

2. That the major method of contact be by personal visitation from house to house.

3. That at least one piece of literature dealing with the cardinal doctrines of the Bible be placed in the home of every literate family in the world.

4. That each division work out a plan to subsidize such literature as may be necessary, so that every church will be encouraged to cover the families in its territory. [Voted.]

that enrich his personal life and that equip him to share his faith. His needs for Christian fellowship and recreation have been satisfied. He is a stalwart witness on whom the church can depend.

For the spiritual and cultural areas of his life Missionary Volunteering has given him the Morning Watch, Bible reading plan, Character Classics, the MV Week of Prayer, the MV Legion of Honor, a series of MV Leaflets for counseling, the Youth Bible Conference, the youth congress, the MV Book Club, a great variety of MV Honors, and MV Classes culminating in Master Guide.

As training for leadership activities and

### The MV Story in Figures

1965		
WORLD MV MEMBERSHIP	538,935	
MV SOCIETIES	16,985	
PATHFINDER CLUBS	1,817	
MV CAMPS	590	
MV CAMP ATTENDANCE	47,767	
1962-1965		
MV BOOK CLUB CERTIFICATES	304,385	
MASTER GUIDES INVESTED	15,943	
LEADERCRAFT CERTIFICATES	18,562	
PATHFINDER STAFF TRAINING COURSE CERTIFICATES	9,295	
1964-1965 *		
MV TARGET 30,000		
Voice of Youth efforts	7,626	
Operation Fireside projects	17,133	
Friendship Team projects	24,600	
Branch Sabbath Schools	31,277	
Persons baptized	58,299	

\* Except third quarter, 1965, for overseas divisions.

### The Theater of God's Grace

"Enfeebled and defective as it may appear, the church is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard. It is the theater of His grace, in which He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 12.

# North American Regional Department

By H. D. SINGLETON, *Secretary*

Colored citizens of the United States have from the beginning been a part of the Advent Movement. One of the Mill-erite preachers was a Negro American named Charles Bowles. He was an out-standing evangelist, raising up many churches in New England. Another Negro preacher of that time was John W. Lewis, of Providence, Rhode Island.

Among those given visions was Wil-liam E. Foy, a man of color. He related his visions before large audiences during the early 1840's.

As the Seventh-day Adventist Church developed, a few Negroes were scattered among various churches in the North. O. O. Farnsworth is said to have observed that there were Negroes in the first SDA church organized in Washington, New Hampshire.

But the growth in numbers from this segment of the population was very slow. By 1894 there were only about 50 colored believers. Heeding the call of El-len G. White for aggressive evangelism among the colored people of the South, many workers, white and colored, went South. By 1909 there still were fewer than 1,000 members in the United States. At that time a department with a secretary for the fostering of the work among the Negroes of the United States was organized on the General Conference level. In 1918 the secretary of the department reported that there were 3,500 members.

As the membership and number of churches grew and the ministry enlarged, departments on the union and, in some cases, local levels were organized for the fostering of the work.

By 1944 there were 17,891 members in 235 churches. That was the year that the plan of Regional conferences was decided upon. There are seven Regional conferences covering all the United States where we have colored church congrega-tions except the unions on the Pacific Coast and the Northern Union. The separate-conference idea was never thought to be an ideal organization, but has served an excellent purpose in the furtherance of God's work and in the development of leadership.

Until the year 1951 only one colored person was on the staff at the world head-quarters in Washington, D.C. In that year the secretary of the department, G. E. Peters, was joined by C. E. Mose-ley, formerly the head of the Bible department at Oakwood College, as associ-ate secretary. Elder Moseley has served as a general field secretary for the General Conference in recent years. In 1954 E. E. Cleveland joined the Ministerial Associa-tion, and in 1959 O. A. Troy, Sr., became associate secretary of the Sabbath School Department.

A high-water mark in Negro participa-tion in SDA church leadership was reached in 1962 when F. L. Peterson, who had spent 19 years altogether as sec-retary of the General Conference Re-gional Department, was elected as a gen-eral vice-president for the world field. Altogether there have been, during the last term, six Negro leaders serving in the General Conference. They are F. L. Peterson (vice-president), C. E. Moseley (field secretary), E. E. Cleveland (Min-isterial Association associate secretary), L. B. Reynolds (Sabbath School Depart-ment associate secretary), and F. L. Bland and H. D. Singleton of the North American Regional Department.



H. D. Singleton

An important area of progress since our last General Conference session has been the integrating of the union con-ference staffs in several unions by the add-ing of colored personnel. In the Pacific Union, W. S. Lee had been regional de-partment secretary for about nine years; he was made temperance secretary. The Lake Union selected J. P. Winston, for-merly pastor of the City Temple church in Detroit, as the union temperance sec-retary; the Colombia Union has added C. D. Brooks, formerly pastor of the Glen-ville church in Cleveland, Ohio, as field secretary; the Atlantic Union elected G. H. Rainey, pastor of the Cincinnati, Ohio, church, to be associate ministerial secretary; and the Southern Union elected M. G. Cato as associate publish-ing department secretary.

The past four years should go into his-tory as marking an important period of development on the part of the church in the matter of brotherhood in race re-lationships in North America.

At the Autumn Council of 1961 an ac-tion was taken outlining the basic princi-ple of brotherhood that is fundamental in this church. At that time a permanent committee on human relations was set up under the chairmanship of R. R.

Figuhr. This committee has met several times during the past quadrennial period and given study to the advancement of brotherhood in the church. Recommen-dations have been made and church councils have acted. These councils have placed the church firmly against discrim-ination in education, church member-ship, employment in and patronage of the varied institutions in North America. We are very pleased that the various union conferences are in full agreement and are attempting to implement the ac-tions taken by the church body.

Our evangelists have baptized 18,254 souls during this period of four years. Outstanding evangelistic efforts have been conducted by E. E. Cleveland in New York City and in St. Louis, Mis-souri; H. L. Cleveland in Atlanta, Geor-gia; C. D. Brooks in Cleveland, Ohio, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; G. H. Rainey in Buffalo, New York; J. M. Phipps in Durham, North Carolina, Chi-cago, Illinois, and Milwaukee, Wiscon-sin; and E. C. Ward in Miami, Florida, and San Diego, California, to mention only a few evangelists. Altogether 16 of our evangelists baptized 100 or more in one year in one or more of the four years past.

The membership was 45,991 four years ago. At the close of 1965 it was 57,202, a gain of 11,211, or enough to make a con-ference as large as Allegheny, which is the largest Regional conference. An in-teresting comparison is that 30 years ago the total membership was only a little under 11,000, or about the same as the net gain of these four years. Further, the membership has more than tripled since Regional conferences were started about 20 years ago. The membership has dou-bled in the past 15 years. There are 427 churches with 280 ministers, 32 Bible in-structors, 240 church school teachers, and 359 colporteurs.

The total membership of all SDA's in North America, December 31, 1965, was 380,855, with the Regional membership being 57,202. This shows that every sev-enth Adventist in the North American Division is a member of the Department for which I am reporting. Generally in the United States the Negro is consid-ered the tenth man, but not among SDA's, where he is the seventh man, or to be more exact the 6.6 man.

Although our group traditionally oc-cupies the lowest income level, having a per capita income of about 54 per cent of that in the United States, we have been faithful givers to God's cause. The tithe for the past four years has been \$18,136,873.66, the Ingathering \$2,269,383.55, the total mission offerings \$5,127,111.05.

Compare this with the figure of \$50 tithe for all the colored members for one year in the 1890's.

We are proud of our educational prog-ress. Oakwood College had an enroll-ment of more than 500 this past term. It is fully accredited by the Southern Asso-ciation of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Having opened its doors to classes 70 years ago this year, it has been mainly responsible for the development of the leadership of the Regional work. All the presidents of our seven Regional



conferences attended Oakwood at some point in their educational careers. The same also can be said of the six colored men on the General Conference staff. Pine Forge Academy, a boarding school conducted by the Allegheny Conference, and three day academies in the Northeastern, Lake Region, and Southwest Region conferences, along with the 78 church schools, complete the school program in the Department. Since we were in session last, all of our church colleges and practically all of our academies and many church schools have opened their doors to students of all races.

Our believers are entering wholeheartedly into all phases of God's program. The youth supported the MV Target 30,000 project to the extent that in the Regional conferences alone 719 were baptized in 1965. Likewise, the lay activities program is energetically fostered, and in some areas local projects have been developed as the Blueprint Every Member Evangelism and the Family Bible Course. Our people respond loyally to the health and welfare projects and Ingathering promotion.

The 359 colporteurs are making outstanding sales records. Around \$3,700,000 in deliveries was made.

Many good buildings have been purchased or erected for our churches and institutions. An improvement in buildings and properties is a general need, and it is heartening to see the advancements in this area.

We thank God for the growing list of doctors being prepared within the ranks of our Regional membership. We need many more, along with more trained nurses. The Riverside Hospital is still holding forth a bright light on the banks of the Cumberland River at Nashville, Tennessee, where its standing in the community is highly rated. The Phillips Memorial Hospital in Orlando, Florida, has been taken over by the South Atlantic Conference and is now being conducted as the Phillips Memorial Nursing Home.

The *Message* magazine continues its work of soul winning by means of the printed page. It was developed for the purpose of appealing to the Negro population and has succeeded in this role. It is one of the church's most attractive journals with a growing circulation.

It is with sorrow that we mention those workers who in the past four years have died. Perhaps best known in this group was George E. Peters, for years prominent in our church, having been pastor of our largest congregation and a successful soul winner. He served as secretary of the Regional Department for 12 years before retiring in 1953. His widow is present at this conference.

Also prominent among us for years in the role of leadership was John H. Wagner, Sr., who had served as president of the Allegheny and South Atlantic conferences. He died only a few days after our last General Conference session.

When a young man is cut down in his prime our sorrow becomes even deeper. Leland B. Mitchell, who had dedicated his life to foreign mission service and was the president of the Liberian Mission in West Africa, was taken from us

by death. Several others have died and now await the great resurrection morning. Well known among these was Sister E. I. Cunningham, known as "Mother Cunningham" at Oakwood College where she served for many years.

We thank God for His blessings. We thank Him for those who labor together in His work. We thank Him for faithful believers who are loyal and dedicated to finishing His work on earth. We feel our need for a greater infilling of the Holy Spirit and an all-out preparation to meet our God. We humbly pray for this deeper experience as we face the challenge of warning the more than 20 million colored Americans of our Lord's coming.

## The Day in Detroit

(Continued from page 3)

the night writing up this story. Stepping outside the Arena it seemed that the whole convention hall area was embroidered with lights. Looking across the Detroit River (I would guess just under half a mile wide) to Canada I could see a red-and-green electric signboard beckoning "Shop-Stay-Save-Play 5 Min. Away." Well, that's not for me. How different and peaceful the Detroit waterfront looks at night. During the day, gazing from the spacious Cobo Hall cafeteria, one can see packed white excursion boats leaving for Lake Erie, motorboats speeding by in the choppy waters, and sailboats racing down the river along the Canadian shore, their sailing canvas forming a white-flecked pattern reaching up toward Ambassador Bridge, while above, jets streak by, leaving vapor paths in their wake.

A hard-working group under the direction of C. D. Forshee, the session man-

ger, are the eight messenger boys assigned to various duties connected with the secretarial office, nominating committee, and other places. I take a special interest in this group, because I myself was a messenger boy at the Washington, D.C., 1946 General Conference session 20 years ago.

Varner J. Johns, Jr., of the Loma Linda School of Medicine, gave a well-reasoned morning devotional emphasizing the general and specific signs pointing to Christ's imminent return, and invited us all to dedicate our lives to giving the gospel to all the world in this generation.

The secretary of the General Conference paid homage to one of the world's great institutions, the American Bible Society, now celebrating its 150th anniversary. Dr. Robert T. Taylor, general secretary, responded by saying that "Adventists and the Bible Society are partners." Kenneth H. Emmerson then performed his first official duty as treasurer of the General Conference by handing to Dr. Taylor a check for \$29,000. Adventists have always been "People of the Book." We support Bible Society work. In fact, Harold Pereira Lobo, a delegate at this session, is vice-president of Brazil's Bible Society.

To close the morning business session W. E. Webb of Fresno, California, shared with us some familiar but inspiring thoughts on the Christian's obligation to forget the limiting things of the past and to pass triumphantly forward to victory.

The overseas division booths are some of the most popular spots at any General Conference session. As I made my way from one booth to the other I felt that each booth was better than the preceding one, until I completed the circle and came back to the first booth again, which appeared then just as good as the others, if

(Continued on page 15)



C. D. Forshee, driving his electrical cart, with his helpers who kept messages flying between General Conference departments. From left to right: Fenton Froom, Willis M. Adams, Jr., Roland Perez, Isaac Johnson, Ted Wilson, Richard Long, David DeBooy. Jim Chase was absent at the time.

# Harris Pine Mills

By CHARLES J. NAGELE, *President*

The General Conference is well into the fifteenth year of operating the Harris Pine Mills since receiving the corporation from Brother and Sister C. H. Harris in 1951. To report on its progress during these years is but to reflect on the blessing of God on the industry. They have been successful years, years of great growth and years of increased integration into the denomination's educational industrial programs.

Today more than 1,000 students receive part-time employment in some degree in one of the 14 Harris plants near their respective academy or college. Not only has this employment been a great help to many needy students but it has helped the parents and institutions, as well. Educational institutions that enjoy this benefit from Harris branches are Monterey Bay and Lodi academies in the Pacific Union; Walla Walla College and Laurelwood Academy in the North Pacific Union; Champion Academy in the Central Union; Wisconsin, Indiana, and Broadview academies in the Lake Union; Blue Mountain and Garden State academies in the Columbia Union; and Southwestern Union College in the Southwestern Union Conference.

The year 1965, the last full year of operation, broke all records in the long and successful history of the company, with a sales volume of more than \$15.2 million. The present year is well on its way to surpassing it. Profits have kept pace as the Lord has blessed the efforts of a large and dedicated work force. The company has a profitable record of operation for every year in every plant or branch it has operated during the 15-year period. Sales during these years have been in excess of \$125 million, more than \$53 million of this total in the four years since our last General Conference session.

The company today has four main divisions: a lumber division with sawmills at Pendleton and Ukiah, Oregon; a box and cut-stock division; a furniture division; and a redwood products division with roots in California. The lumber division manufactures enough lumber annually to reach around the earth at the equator. The box division continues to produce fruit boxes for the fruit and vegetable areas of the West by the millions every season. The furniture division, with its many branch assembly units, has a capacity in these plants across the nation of 6,000 pieces a day; and the redwood division seasonally adds greatly to these large volumes.

The company is the nation's largest manufacturer of both pine furniture and redwood patio furniture. Cushions for the patio furniture in the redwood division are manufactured in company-

owned sewing rooms, one in California and a second in Wisconsin. They in turn ship the covers to the various branches where more than one-half million pounds of polyfoam is shredded and blown into these casings for reshipment to customers with the patio furniture it was intended for. It is these processes in pine furniture and redwood products assembly that, for the most part, provide work opportunities for students in the various educational institutions.

Lumber in pine, redwood, and maple, as well as fir, spruce, and larch, is now used by the company in very large quantities both for sale and remanufacture,



Charles J. Nagele

currently running approximately 100 million board feet a year. Sales of this large volume from the various divisions are handled by a company-controlled sales organization covering the nation with showrooms and sales offices in San Francisco, Chicago, and New York. Approximately 7,000 customers nationally use Harris products from one or more of its divisions.

The large Pendleton manufacturing plant, covering nearly 100 acres of ground, continues to be the major base and the location of the home offices, with its IBM centralized accounting system tying together the network of branches and offices from coast to coast.

Basic precepts of operation continue along the general lines the company has followed for many years and passed on

## Fellowship in Suffering

"Of all the gifts that Heaven can bestow upon men, fellowship with Christ in His sufferings is the most weighty trust and the highest honor."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 225.

to present management by C. H. Harris, the company's founder. For the most part, the company carries on every aspect of the processes from the growing trees to the marketing of its products—tree farming, road building and maintenance, hauling with company-owned truck fleets, milling, drying, remanufacture, assembly and sales, as the case may be. In most organizations there would be two or more companies involved in these various processes, but in this instance there is but one—a unique organization in many respects, but one conceived by its founder and blessed by God through the years.

As the years have passed under General Conference ownership and operation, we feel sure that it has met its objectives well, and shall continue to do so. Future growth will be sensitively tuned to those objectives, not only in a financial way but also in meeting the industrial need of our institutions.

The large corps of dedicated men and women that make up the working force of this denominational organization, and to whom in a large measure credit for its successes must be given, are happy for an opportunity to have a part in God's closing work.

## The Day in Detroit

(Continued from page 14)

not better! The Middle East Division booth is set against a backdrop panorama of Jerusalem taken from the Mount of Olives, flanked by exquisite dolls from Turkey with expressive features and Lebanese dolls representing various Middle Eastern countries. Three architect's models of the Jerusalem Center (soon to be built), Benghazi Hospital (being built), and the Middle East College (present plant and future developments) are very much in evidence, as are also interesting brass vases, trays, candlesticks, and incense urns. This well-designed booth was, interestingly enough, largely planned by John E. Simpson, a non-Adventist who did this for us as a "work of love."

The South American booth is predicated on the fiftieth anniversary theme (the division was organized in 1916). This booth has a special feature: Some of the scenes are changed every day. The backdrop represents a composite picture of some great South American cities. Exotic tropical plants, colorful stuffed birds, a three-toed sloth (It moves in slow motion to the extent that you get tired of watching the sloth reach out for a leaf!), *Luzeiro* river launches churning down a miniature Amazon containing live fish.

In the afternoon the MV and North American Regional departments gave lively reports and introduced some of their departmental stalwarts. Then C. J. Nagele spoke to the delegates about the prosperous Harris Pine Mills, a real financial boon to the denomination.

It is a thrilling experience to attend a General Conference session. This is the sixth session that I have attended. Each has had its own distinct character. All have been good and all have been inspiring. Today as never before progress is the order of the day. God's church is onward.

# General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists

[The tables appearing on pages 16 to 21 were read at the eighth meeting, June 21, 1966.]

## BALANCE SHEET—DECEMBER 31, 1965

### ASSETS

#### CURRENT

Banks .....	\$ 35,978.37	
Investments .....	4,069,658.52	
Notes and Mortgages Receivable .....	57,552.75	
Accounts Receivable .....	26,238.68	
Prepaid Insurance .....	3,144.07	
Supply Inventories .....	49,069.23	
Accrued Interest Receivable .....	17,794.69	
Total Current Assets .....		\$4,259,436.31

#### FIXED

Land .....	\$ 306,497.68	
Land Improvements, net .....	17,306.27	
Buildings, net .....	1,481,696.83	
Equipment, net .....	332,719.16	
Total Fixed Assets .....		2,138,219.94

#### OTHER ASSETS

Oregon Properties Investment .....	\$ 42,796.18	
Investment in Harris Pine Mills, Inc. ....	540,000.00	
Investment in wholly-owned subsidiary ..	375,000.00	
Total Other Assets .....		957,796.18

Total Assets .....		<u>\$7,355,452.43</u>
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### LIABILITIES

#### CURRENT

Accounts Payable .....	\$ 399,642.85	
Trust Funds .....	14,993.49	
Certificates of Deposit .....	144,962.04	
Total Current Liabilities .....		\$ 559,598.38

#### LONG-TERM

Annuities, Net .....	\$ 741,677.30	
Trust Agreements .....	326,066.84	
Life Income Contracts .....	557,000.00	
Clyde and Marry Harris Contracts .....	177,500.00	
Total Long-term Liabilities .....		1,802,244.14
Total Liabilities .....		<u>\$2,361,842.52</u>

### NET WORTH

#### REGULAR

Balance, December 31, 1965 .....	\$3,722,078.54
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#### RESERVES

Balance, December 31, 1965 .....	1,271,531.37
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Total Net Worth .....	<u>\$4,993,609.91</u>
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Total Liabilities and Net Worth .....	<u>\$7,355,452.43</u>
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# General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND RETAINED NET WORTH Year Ended December 31, 1965

### REGULAR OPERATING

<b>INCOME</b>			
Apartment Properties Net Gains .....		\$ 2,399.09	
Rental Income .....		109,697.94	
Total Regular Operating Income .....			\$112,097.03
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Apartment Properties Net Losses .....	\$	244.39	
Depreciation Expense—Buildings .....		44,542.17	
"    "    —Land Improvements .....		1,932.87	
"    "    —Equipment .....		40,204.53	
General Expense .....		608.78	
Grounds Expense .....		2,155.21	
Legal Expense .....		4,140.06	
Insurance .....		4,254.59	
Repairs—Buildings .....		24,147.58	
"    —Equipment .....		5,576.91	
Salaries .....		1,525.20	
Taxes .....		5,294.22	
Total Regular Operating Expenses .....			\$134,626.51
Net Loss From Regular Operating .....			<u>(\$ 22,529.48)</u>

### INVESTMENTS

<b>INCOME</b>			
Miscellaneous Income .....	\$	3,459.18	
Oregon Properties Operating .....		5,400.00	
Investment Income—Dividends .....		97,256.89	
"    "    —Interest .....		86,563.60	
"    "    —Sales Gain .....		24,225.84	
Total Investment Income .....			\$216,905.51
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Annuity Payments .....	\$	51,442.25	
Interest Expense .....		9,950.96	
Total Investment Expense .....			\$ 61,393.21
Gain From Investments .....			\$155,512.30
Less: Net Loss From Regular Operating .....			(22,529.48)
Net Gain .....			<u>\$132,982.82</u>
<b>NON-OPERATING INCOME</b>			
Equipment Donations .....	\$	6,553.93	
Building Donations .....		51,370.00	
Gain on Sales of Property .....		18,004.83	
Miscellaneous Income .....		9,257.25	\$85,186.01
<b>NON-OPERATING EXPENSE</b>			
Loss on Sales of Equipment .....	\$	1,419.36	
Miscellaneous Expense .....		11,825.92	13,245.28
Net Non-Operating Gain .....			\$ 71,940.73
			<u>\$204,923.55</u>
<b>TRANSFER OUT:</b>			
Geo-Science Research Radiocarbon Equipment .....			7,019.60
Net Increase to Regular Net Worth .....			<u>\$197,903.95</u>

# General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists

## COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET—1962 to 1965

ASSETS				
CURRENT	1962	1963	1964	1965
Banks .....	\$ 104,731.48	\$ 87,201.91	\$ 49,312.75	\$ 35,978.37
Investments .....	3,416,276.37	3,720,994.47	3,890,001.59	4,069,658.52
Accounts Receivable .....	4,467.94	7,535.37	47,435.95	26,238.68
Notes Receivable .....	180,210.46	147,676.26	62,944.29	57,552.75
Prepaid Insurance .....	2,918.16	1,991.09	2,768.41	3,144.07
Inventories .....	57,568.74	47,147.59	32,776.23	49,069.23
Accrued Interest Receivable .....	22,413.13	19,608.34	17,648.51	17,794.69
Work in Process .....	683.65			
Total Current .....	<u>\$3,789,269.93</u>	<u>\$4,032,155.03</u>	<u>\$4,102,887.73</u>	<u>\$4,259,436.31</u>
FIXED				
Land .....	\$ 262,224.59	\$ 310,444.34	\$ 307,594.34	\$ 306,497.68
Land Improvements, Net .....	14,991.07	21,286.16	19,064.14	17,306.27
Buildings, Net .....	1,143,129.13	1,357,279.47	1,464,799.52	1,481,696.83
Equipment, Net .....	294,843.57	328,699.76	319,568.75	332,719.16
Total Fixed .....	<u>\$1,715,188.36</u>	<u>\$2,017,709.73</u>	<u>\$2,111,026.75</u>	<u>\$2,138,219.94</u>
OTHER ASSETS				
Oregon Properties Invest. ....	\$ 77,276.94	\$ 77,276.94	\$ 43,306.94	\$ 42,796.18
Clyde & Mary Harris Contract.....	275,000.00			
Harris Pine Mills Investment .....		540,000.00	540,000.00	540,000.00
Invest. Wholly-Owned Sub. ....		375,000.00	375,000.00	375,000.00
Total Other Assets .....	<u>\$ 352,276.94</u>	<u>\$ 992,276.94</u>	<u>\$ 958,306.94</u>	<u>\$ 957,796.18</u>
Total Assets .....	<u><u>\$5,856,735.23</u></u>	<u><u>\$7,042,141.70</u></u>	<u><u>\$7,172,221.42</u></u>	<u><u>\$7,355,452.43</u></u>
LIABILITIES				
CURRENT				
Accounts Payable .....	\$ 627,625.93	\$ 739,149.07	\$ 305,780.20	\$ 399,642.85
Trust Funds .....	54,223.45	52,699.79	83,242.17	14,993.49
Certificate of Deposit .....	231,498.04	222,312.79	175,362.04	144,962.04
Total Current .....	<u>\$ 913,347.42</u>	<u>\$1,014,161.65</u>	<u>\$ 564,384.41</u>	<u>\$ 559,598.38</u>
LONG-TERM				
Annuities, Net .....	\$ 865,185.34	\$ 808,896.47	\$ 763,623.88	\$ 741,677.30
Notes Payable .....	1,250.00	1,250.00		
Trust Agreements .....	316,873.30	303,553.57	295,560.45	326,066.84
Life Income Contracts .....	26,000.00	557,000.00	557,000.00	557,000.00
Clyde & Mary Harris Contracts .....		240,000.00	210,000.00	177,500.00
Total Long-Term .....	<u>\$1,209,308.64</u>	<u>\$1,910,700.04</u>	<u>\$1,826,184.33</u>	<u>\$1,802,244.14</u>
Total Liabilities .....	<u><u>\$2,122,656.06</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,924,861.69</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,390,568.74</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,361,842.52</u></u>
NET WORTH				
REGULAR				
Balance, December 31 .....	\$2,690,059.09	\$2,944,587.17	\$3,524,174.59	\$3,722,078.54
RESERVES				
Balance, December 31 .....	1,044,020.08	1,172,692.84	1,257,478.09	1,271,531.37
Total Net Worth .....	<u>\$3,734,079.17</u>	<u>\$4,117,280.01</u>	<u>\$4,781,652.68</u>	<u>\$4,993,609.91</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Worth .....	<u><u>\$5,856,735.23</u></u>	<u><u>\$7,042,141.70</u></u>	<u><u>\$7,172,221.42</u></u>	<u><u>\$7,355,452.43</u></u>



# General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND RETAINED NET WORTH

For Years 1962 to 1965

### INCOME

	1962	1963	1964	1965	Totals
Apartment and Property Income .....	\$ 2,543.65	\$ 1,839.76	\$ 3,024.61	\$ 2,399.09	\$ 9,807.11
Building and Equipment Rentals .....	98,558.18	98,434.46	98,896.66	109,697.94	405,587.24
Wills and Legacies .....	9,658.16	11,512.77	15,110.51	-----	36,281.44
Interests and Dividends Earned .....	163,743.73	162,241.54	169,642.58	183,820.49	679,448.34
Miscellaneous Income .....	170,710.21	458,195.72	497,472.66	118,271.03	1,244,649.62
<b>Total Income .....</b>	<b>\$445,213.93</b>	<b>\$732,224.25</b>	<b>\$784,147.02</b>	<b>\$414,188.55</b>	<b>\$2,375,773.75</b>

### EXPENSES

Apartment and Property Losses .....	\$ 3,615.81	\$ 1,665.08	\$ 607.70	\$ 244.39	\$ 6,132.98
Annuity and Interest Payments .....	54,485.97	53,015.87	57,268.78	61,393.21	226,163.83
Depreciation, Buildings and Equipment .....	69,398.17	81,705.47	84,247.05	86,679.57	322,030.26
Insurance and Taxes .....	7,702.46	10,532.13	10,015.29	9,548.81	37,798.69
Repairs on Buildings and Equipment .....	19,724.10	25,567.66	21,045.29	29,724.49	96,061.54
Salaries .....	1,471.11	1,450.92	1,454.89	1,525.20	5,902.12
Miscellaneous Expenses .....	11,901.65	48,722.72	29,920.60	20,149.33	110,694.30
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$168,299.27</b>	<b>\$222,659.85</b>	<b>\$204,559.60</b>	<b>\$209,265.00</b>	<b>\$ 804,783.72</b>
<b>Net Gain .....</b>	<b>\$276,914.66</b>	<b>\$509,564.40</b>	<b>\$579,587.42</b>	<b>\$204,923.55</b>	<b>\$1,570,990.03</b>

### AUDITOR'S STATEMENT

TO THE CONSTITUENCY OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE CORPORATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

The Auditing Department staff of the General Conference have examined the balance sheets of the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists at the close of the calendar years 1962, 1963, 1964, and 1965, and the related statements of income and expense and retained net worth for the four years mentioned. Our annual audits were conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included

such tests of the accounting records, and such other recognized auditing procedures, as we deemed necessary in the circumstances.

The annual financial reports for the four years referred to above were presented to the Board of Trustees of the General Conference Corporation at its annual Spring Meetings, with the unqualified statement of the General Conference auditors appended in each case. Each of these annual audited reports was formally accepted by the Board of Trustees.

In our opinion the accompanying balance sheet, showing a total net worth of \$4,993,609.91, and the comparative balance sheets and comparative statements of in-

come and expense for the quadrennium 1962-1965, present fairly the financial condition of the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists at December 31, 1965, and the results of its operation for the four years then ended.

R. J. RADCLIFFE, C.G.A.  
Auditor  
General Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists

Takoma Park  
Washington, D.C.  
March 16, 1966

# General Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists

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## BALANCE SHEET—DECEMBER 31, 1965

### ASSETS

Investments .....		\$30,000.00
Accounts Receivable—General Conference Corporation .....		25,201.05
Accrued Interest Receivable .....		356.25
Real Estate .....	\$ 200.00	
Less: Reserve .....	200.00	
Total Assets .....		<u>\$55,557.30</u>

### LIABILITIES

None

### NET WORTH

Net Worth, January 1, 1965 .....	\$54,143.05	
Add: Net Increase in 1965 .....	1,414.25	
Balance, December 31, 1965 .....		<u>\$55,557.30</u>

## INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT

Year Ended December 31, 1965

### INCOME

Interest and Dividends .....	\$1,425.00
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### EXPENSES

Filing Fees to Michigan Corporation & Securities Commission .....	10.75	
Net Gain for the Year .....		<u>\$1,414.25</u>

# General Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists

## COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET—1962 to 1965

### ASSETS

	1962	1963	1964	1965
Accounts Receivable .....	\$20,946.80	\$22,366.80	\$23,786.80	\$25,201.05
Investments .....	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
Accrued Interest Receivable .....	356.25	356.25	356.25	356.25
<b>Total Assets .....</b>	<b>\$51,303.05</b>	<b>\$52,723.05</b>	<b>\$54,143.05</b>	<b>\$55,557.30</b>

### LIABILITIES

None

### NET WORTH

Balance, December 31 .....	\$51,303.05	\$52,723.05	\$54,143.05	\$55,557.30
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## COMPARATIVE INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT

For Years 1962 to 1965

### INCOME

	1962	1963	1964	1965	Totals
Income from Investments .....	\$1,425.00	\$1,425.00	\$1,425.00	\$1,425.00	\$5,700.00

### EXPENSES

Filing Non-Profit Corporation Report .....	5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 10.75	\$ 25.75
<b>Net Gain .....</b>	<b>\$1,420.00</b>	<b>\$1,420.00</b>	<b>\$1,420.00</b>	<b>\$1,414.25</b>	<b>\$5,674.25</b>

### AUDITOR'S STATEMENT

TO THE CONSTITUENCY OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

I have examined the balance sheet of the General Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists at December 31, 1965, and the related statement of income and expenses for the year then ended. My examination included a review of all transactions for the year, and a verification of balance sheet values.

Similar audits were performed annually by members of the General Conference Auditing Department staff, and the annual audited financial reports, with unqualified statement of the auditor appended, were presented to the Board of Trustees of the General Conference Corporation and accepted by them.

In my opinion, the accompanying balance sheet, showing a net worth of \$55,557.30, and the related statement of income and expense, present fairly the financial condition of the General Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists at December 31, 1965, and the results of its operation for the year then ended.

R. J. RADCLIFFE, G.G.A.  
Auditor  
General Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists

Takoma Park, Washington, D.C.  
March 16, 1966

**NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE  
CORPORATION OF  
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:  
The North American Conference Cor-

poration of Seventh-day Adventists, organized under the laws of the District of Columbia, has no known assets or liabilities. The corporation is being continued in order to care for wills, legacies, or bequests which may have been written in favor of this organization; and to adjust property interests which may still exist in the name of the North American Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists.

C. L. TORREY, *Treasurer*  
J. C. KOZEL, *Secretary*

Washington, D.C.  
December 31, 1965

Attested by:

R. J. RADCLIFFE, *Auditor*  
General Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists

# Proceedings of the General Conference

Fiftieth Session, June 16-25, 1966

## Eighth Business Meeting

June 21, 1966, 10:00 A.M.

CHAIRMAN: Theodore Carcich.

THEME SONG: "We Have This Hope."

PRAYER: H. W. Lowe.

SPECIAL MUSIC: Del Delker, singing Roy Pendleton's "Our Guardian Angel."

THEODORE CARCICH: We are now calling our session to order. We have guests with us this morning. I will ask Elder W. R. Beach to introduce them.

W. R. BEACH: Mr. Chairman, we have distinguished guests, for which we feel honored. This morning we set aside a little time to pay homage to one of earth's great institutions and to God's Word, the Bible. Seventh-day Adventists consider themselves people of the Book. They love the Book, they believe in the Book, they circulate the Book, and they stand with all who stand with the Book. We are speaking of the American Bible Society and its affiliated organizations. We have two guests from that organization this morning. During this session we have an American Bible Society exhibit, with Mr. Garret André in charge. Mr. André is on the platform. Would you stand, please.

There is a man with the American Bible Society whom many of us have come to consider as "Mr. Bible Society." He is Dr. Robert T. Taylor, one of the general secretaries of the society. A graduate of Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, and of Princeton, he has been with the American Bible Society since 1941, which means that he is celebrating his twenty-fifth anniversary with the American Bible Society. Since 1949 Dr. Taylor has played a key role in the development of the American Bible Society organizations. Of special interest is the fact that for a time Dr. Taylor was the minister of the First Reformed Church in Tarrytown, New York, the old Dutch church of Washington Irving's "Legend of Sleepy Hollow."

We are very happy this morning to have Dr. Taylor with us. We have some other things to put on the program in just a moment, but Dr. Robert Taylor, we are most happy to have you here, and we look forward to hearing your message.

[Dr. Taylor's remarks will appear in a later number of the *General Conference Bulletin*.]

W. R. BEACH: On the platform we have Brother Haraldo Lobo. Would you stand, Brother? He is the vice-president of the American Bible Society of Brazil—a good Seventh-day Adventist, a good American Bible Society man. Before we proceed we would like to have Elder R. R. Figuhr express the feelings of Seventh-day Adventists on the Bible.

R. R. FIGUHR: I am sure that we have been cheered by this good word that has come regarding the progress of the Bible around the world. If there are any people

in the world who love the Bible and are dedicated to the study of it, it is Seventh-day Adventists. I am glad to say that. I say it with a spirit of humility and with deep satisfaction. That is not saying that we are studying it and advertising it and circulating it as much as we ought to, but we do love the Word. Our faith is founded upon it. Wherever we go we introduce people to the Bible. I am sure we will continue to circulate the Word, introduce people to the reading of it and continue to love it. May God bless us as we treasure the Word.

THEODORE CARCICH: Thank you, Elder Figuhr, for these encouraging words. Now we have a resolution from the General Conference officers. I am asking W. R. Beach to present it to the delegates at this time.

W. R. BEACH: Brother Chairman, in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the American Bible Society, we introduce the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The year 1966 marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the American Bible Society, and

WHEREAS, The Advisory Council of the American Bible Society, representing more than 55 denominations, has requested that the churches of the United States designate 1966 as the "Year of the Bible," with special emphasis on the 150th anniversary advance of the American Bible Society and its work and mission of distributing the Bible to all nations and peoples, and

WHEREAS, The American Bible Society and its affiliated organizations, including the British and Foreign Bible Society, are the principal publishers and distributors of the Holy Scriptures in the languages of the people for the world mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church,

Be it resolved, That the Seventh-day Adventist Church, on this significant occasion, commends the American Bible Society for the admirable work it has done through all these years, and recognizes and endorses the society and its affiliated organizations as its chief agencies for the worldwide translation, publication, and distribution of the Bible, and

Be it further resolved, That the Seventh-day Adventist Church observe the 150th anniversary advance of the American Bible Society in 1966 with special services, emphasizing the need for wider reading and sharing of the Holy Scriptures. [Voted.]

W. R. BEACH: Brother Chairman, there is still an item that some might consider rather important on the program. The new treasurer of the General Conference, K. H. Emmerson, has this item in hand.

THEODORE CARCICH: We shall call Elder Emmerson to the microphone at this time.

K. H. EMMERSON: Brother Chairman, the duty that falls to my lot as my first offi-

cial act as treasurer of the General Conference is indeed a pleasant one. On behalf of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the General Conference, we present to Dr. Taylor and the American Bible Society, our annual contribution of \$28,000. In addition, we are contributing \$1,000 to help the society in its anniversary year. Dr. Taylor, it affords me real pleasure to give you this check.

DR. ROBERT TAYLOR: Thank you, Brother Emmerson.

THEODORE CARCICH: At this time we have some legal matters to come before the delegation. We are now calling for a meeting of the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists, the General Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, and the meeting of the North American Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists. Elder R. R. Figuhr will act as chairman for these legal meetings.

R. R. FIGUHR: We have three legal organizations that do the actual legal business for the church. According to our practice and arrangement, we appoint a time for that meeting and that time is now, this morning. There has been published in the *REVIEW* a call to this meeting.

The usual practice is to read that notice. [It was voted to waive the reading.] The next item of business is a report from our treasurer for the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists, Elder Torrey O. A. Blake, the undertreasurer of the General Conference, will read the financial report. [A copy of this report appears on pages 16-19 of this *Bulletin*.]

Thank you, Brother Blake. Are there any questions that you would like to ask the treasurer regarding this report? If not, we will call for the auditor's statement before we vote to accept the report. Brother Radcliffe. [The auditor's statement appears on page 19 of this *Bulletin*.]

All right, we have heard the report of the auditor. Now, are we ready to move the acceptance of this report? [Moved by V. E. Garber; seconded by C. L. Torrey. Voted.]

Our usual practice has been to request the regular Nominating Committee to nominate the Board of Trustees for the ensuing quadrennium. We can follow that procedure if you wish, or another if you prefer. What is your pleasure? [Moved by W. A. Nelson to follow the usual procedure; seconded by A. L. Ham. Voted.]

There is apparently a slight conflict of wording between our Articles and the *Working Policy* of the denomination. It would seem a wise thing for the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws to take a look at this. Could we authorize them to take a look at it and be guided by their suggestion as they present their report? [Moved by W. E. Murray; seconded by F. D. Wells. Voted.]

A motion to adjourn at the call of the chair is in order so we can receive the Nominating Committee report when it is presented. [Moved by L. L. Moffitt; seconded by V. T. Armstrong. Voted.]

We will now call a meeting of the North American Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists. The notice for this has been published in the *REVIEW* and unless there are objections, we will waive the reading of that notice. [Moved

by O. A. Blake; seconded by Theodore Carchich. Voted.] The item of business before us is the treasurer's report. Brother Blake also will read this statement.

O. A. BLAKE: To whom it may concern: The North American Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists, organized under the laws of the District of Columbia, has no known assets or liabilities. The corporation is being continued in order to care for wills, legacies, or bequests that may have been written in favor of this organization and to adjust property interests that may still exist in the name of the North American Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists. Signed, C. L. Torrey, treasurer; J. C. Kozel, secretary, Washington, D.C., December 31, 1965.

R. R. FIGUHR: There is no auditor's report because they have done no business. They have no money so far. We should go on record, however, that we have received this report. What is your pleasure? [Moved by E. E. Cossentine; seconded by R. L. Odom. Voted.]

Shall we refer to the Nominating Committee the matter of nominations for a board for the association? [Moved by A. L. Ham; seconded by H. L. Dyer. Voted.]

Now we should adjourn at the call of the chair again. [Moved by Charles Hirsch; seconded by D. E. Rebok. Voted.]

Our third association is the General Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists. Again, unless there is an objection, we will waive the reading of the notice inasmuch as it has appeared in our publications and we will call for a report of the treasurer. [The report read by O. A. Blake appears on pages 20-21 of this Bulletin; the auditor's report read by R. J. Radcliffe appears on page 21.]

Thank you, Brother Radcliffe. Is there any question you would like to ask the treasurer before we vote on the report? If not, a motion to accept the report is in order. [Moved by C. J. Nagele; seconded by R. S. Watts. Voted.]

Now we should refer nomination of the board to the regular Nominating Committee for this conference session, if that is your pleasure. [Moved by E. E. Cossentine; seconded by L. L. Moffitt. Voted.]

A motion to adjourn this group is in order at the call of the chair, to receive a report from the Nominating Committee. Is it your pleasure to adjourn? [Moved by W. B. Ochs; seconded by A. A. Esteb. Voted.]

THEODORE CARCHICH: We have two interesting groups that will talk to us after some other business. I wish to ask A. E. Gibb, from the Far Eastern Division, to make his way to the platform. He will introduce the group from Vietnam. Brother Bradley, would you please introduce the group from Burma.

W. P. BRADLEY: Brother Chairman, we have two more messages of greeting. I think these should be put into our records this morning.

[Messages from J. J. B. Combrinck, Pietersburg, Transvaal, South Africa, and from the staff of the Ruby Nelson Memorial Hospital in Northwest India, were read.]

[The report on Vietnam by C. D. Mar-

tin and Le Cong Giao will appear in a later number of the Bulletin.]

THEODORE CARCHICH: Thank you, Brethren Martin and Giao. We appreciate this very interesting report from overseas. We are asking the Plans Committee to bring their report. [The resolutions of the Plans Committee voted by the session appear on page 10 of this Bulletin.]

[At this point the Nominating Committee rendered a further report. See page 3.]

MERLE MILLS: W. C. Webb, pastor-evangelist of the Central California Conference, will now lead us in a brief devotional. [The devotional was based on Luke 9:62.]

BENEDICTION: A. E. Harmes.

THEODORE CARCHICH, *Chairman*

N. W. DUNN, *Secretary*

W. DUNCAN EVA, *Recording Secretary*

## Ninth Business Meeting

June 21, 1966, 3:00 P.M.

CHAIRMAN: W. E. Murray.

HYMN: "To God Be the Glory."

PRAYER: A. S. Maxwell.

SPECIAL MUSIC: Sunny Liu sang "As Long as He Loves Me."

W. E. MURRAY: Good afternoon, delegates. The business session is now called to order and we shall have several reports this afternoon. The Missionary Volunteer Department, the Regional Department, and Harris Pine Mills. I present first T. E. Lucas, the secretary of the Missionary Volunteer Department.

THEODORE LUCAS: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to a half hour of Missionary Volunteering.

[The report of the Missionary Volunteer Department appears on page 11 of this Bulletin. Assisting in the report were Clark Smith, Lawrence Nelson, and John Hancock.]

W. E. MURRAY: I am sorry to call this program to an end. These men ought to have an hour to tell us about their work and the wonderful things they are doing. Now we call for the report of the Regional Department of the General Conference. Elder Singleton will bring this to us.

[The report of the Regional Department appears on page 13 of this Bulletin.]

W. E. MURRAY: Thank you, Brother Singleton, with all your workers here represented. This is indeed a good report, and we thank God for the many souls that these ministers have brought into the church in the last quadrennium.

Now, the next item on our agenda this afternoon is a report from the Harris Pine Mills, and we call Elder Figuhr, president of that organization, to the platform.



C. L. Powers, president of the Inter-American Division, enthusiastically introduces the layman of the year 1965 for that division, Justiniano Lopez, who has given 1,500 Bible studies, held eight lay efforts, and prepared 65 people for baptism.

R. R. FIGUHR: It was 15 years ago that there came to the church a business that was making money. That business name is today an established name among us—Harris Pine Mills. God moved upon the hearts of the owners to turn it over to the church—lock, stock, and barrel. The Lord had to move upon the hearts of the brethren to take it and run it, because most of them thought that the church could not, or probably had no business trying to, run a sawmill. I confess I was among these.

But this business has grown by the blessing of God. It has prospered; it has developed. Today, this business is fully integrated into the program of the church as an educational asset and as an aid financially to our worldwide mission program.

The donors helped us get started and taught us how a sawmill functions. Then the denomination laid its hands on one of our men with experience in business and financial matters, took him from the good position he had in the church, and put him into this work. The Lord has blessed his leadership. You see, there wasn't anything in our *Working Policy* or constitution or bylaws about running a sawmill. It tells about things such as running schools, hospitals, and preaching. The running of a sawmill was a pioneering venture for us. By the blessing of God it has been a successful one. The president of this company is one of our ordained ministers, and if you have heard him preach, you know he is a good preacher. He is one of our field secretaries and I am glad to introduce him, Elder Charles Nagele.

CHARLES NAGELE: I bring you greetings from the some 1,500 people in the Harris Pine Mills organization. I think this is one of the important entities of the church, and I am tempted to take an hour here to tell you about it. But my better judgment tells me to set about 25 of these pages aside. I am going to give you just a few paragraphs. The good *REVIEW AND HERALD* has done miracles reporting this conference and I think they can bring about another one by giving us most of this report in their pages.

I want to be sure you see the folks that brought this business about. Brother and Sister Clyde Harris, would you come up here? These are two of the finest Christian people in the ranks of the church. To their friends they are fondly known as Clyde and Mary Harris. Mr. Harris, will you kindly come over here; I am sure you have a few words to say to us.

CLYDE HARRIS: I do not wish to take a lot of your valuable time, but I will make a few remarks reflecting my thinking. I am very happy to be here with you in this great meeting in this wonderful hall. We are very happy that we donated our plant in 1951, not now. At that time we already had wills giving all we had to God when we died. But as I reflected on that, the thought came to me that it wasn't so good to give our property when we die and don't need it any more. I felt that I should give it while we are alive. It was not easy for us to make up our minds, but we felt impressed to make this decision. This was in the fall of 1951. In the spring we consummated that wish.



It has been a great satisfaction to sit back and watch the Harris Pine Mills grow into one of the finest plants in the world. It gives employment to more than 1,100 of our students in the different schools, helping them to get an education so they can go into the work and be missionaries for God. We have a fine manager. Things have run smoothly. We have had no differences. This also applies to the General Conference Committee members who are on our board. When we gave the plant to Elder Branson and he accepted it, we reassured him that we had timber and raw products to last 15 years. That was back in 1951. The 15 years are up. That promise has been fulfilled. We have not run short of anything during these 15 years, and we still have timber. We have ample timber even if we double, triple, or increase our capacity five or ten times.

Mrs. CLYDE HARRIS: I too can say that I am very happy to be at this great gathering. In the years 1963 and 1964 we had the privilege of taking a world tour. We visited many of our mission stations and met many of our missionaries. Here at this great meeting we have had the privilege of meeting many of them again—a source of great pleasure. I can say with my husband that we are both very thankful to the Lord that He has blessed the Harris Pine Mills under the supervision of C. J. Nagele and that its profits have helped to spread this great gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, and hasten the coming of Jesus.

[The report on Harris Pine Mills appears on page 15 of this Bulletin.]

W. E. MURRAY: That's a very good report, isn't it? We are glad that Mr. and Mrs. Harris could be here this afternoon. It must be a source of great satisfaction to them to hear of continued progress. We again express our gratitude to them. This afternoon a reference was made to the REVIEW, and we have a representative from the REVIEW to tell us how it is made up daily. We thought it would be of interest to our delegates to have a few words from Elder Kenneth Wood.

KENNETH H. WOOD: I arrived from Washington only a short time ago. It is amazing what a person can do for about four days without either food or sleep. We find that four o'clock in the morning is an exciting time. There is nothing quite as exciting as seeing the *General Conference Bulletins* head for the airport at six o'clock to be shipped here. This morning I came with them.

I wish that all of you could see what is going on in Washington, because we are very excited about our new press. [Picture in Bulletin No. 1.] If you had seen the Bulletin the other morning beginning to roll off the press at 4:00 and the entire run of 82,000 off by 8:30, folded and ready to go to the periodical bindery for trimming, you would believe that we had really arrived at a new day in Adventist publications. If you could see our TWX machine there, and also the one on this end, rattling off this news and these sermons at 100 words a minute, you would realize that we have really moved into a new age. We hope that you are enjoying your Bulletins. The editorial staff is enjoying producing them and we hope that they

are reflecting somewhat, at least, for our readers back in the field, the thrill and excitement that is present in these halls.

W. E. MURRAY: The meeting stands adjourned till 10 A.M. tomorrow.

[At this point the chairman of the Nominating Committee appeared on the

stage. Elder Murray called the session to order again to deal with the Committee's further report. See page 3.]

BENEDICTION: Dr. Joeli Taoi.

W. E. MURRAY, *Chairman*

W. P. BRADLEY, *Secretary*

W. DUNCAN EVA, *Recording Secretary*

## THE NEW GENERAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

A Personal Sketch by a Friend and Associate

By J. F. ASHLOCK

Because of my long and close association with the newly elected General Conference president, I have been invited by the editors of the REVIEW to write a brief statement that will help our church members around the world feel better acquainted with this energetic, dedicated leader.

It was while attending a camp meeting at Collegedale, Tennessee, in 1934, that I first met Robert H. Pierson. He had raised up a church in that area while still a student in college and was then, at 23 years of age, the home missionary secretary of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

A few months later he joined our working force in India, where he served with distinction as pastor, evangelist, and administrator. During his first term of foreign mission service he was elected president of the South India Union. Since then his service to the church has included administrative responsibility in North America and in three overseas divisions.

During the time Elder Pierson was president of the Southern Asia Division, it was my privilege to work with him as division secretary. I never ceased to marvel at his apparently unlimited capacity for work, his energy, and his dauntless courage even under the most trying circumstances.

I observed with admiration his ability to remain calm and serene when sorely tested. Often as he experienced the loneliness of true leadership, I noted with what patience, kindness, and tolerance he dealt with those who failed to see as he saw. The secret, I believe, is his close connection with the Lord and his dependence upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Those who have worked with him are familiar with his oft-repeated words, "Let us pray about it." Some of the most cherished memories of our years together in Southern Asia are centered in his office, where so many times we knelt together in prayer.

The workers and laity in the fields where Elder Pierson has labored have particularly appreciated his warmhearted, friendly, approachable manner. They testify that though one of the busiest of men he yet makes himself readily accessible to all who need his counsel. As we journeyed to Detroit we came in contact with many to whom he had ministered, and without exception they requested us to give to him and to Mrs. Pierson their greetings, usually adding, "We love them and miss them so much."

In this connection I would like to pay tribute to Mrs. Pierson, who as a conse-

crated wife stands so faithfully by her husband's side.

Elder Pierson's father was a bank president, who was well known for his honesty and integrity. Elder Pierson's Adventist mother faithfully conducted family worship and taught her children to pray and to love the Word of God. Both taught their children to care for their bodies as the temple of the Holy Spirit.

It was at the time of his mother's death, when he was 20 years of age, that Elder Pierson made his total commitment to God. Leaving her bedside, he went alone to another room, fell upon his knees, and in sincere penitence cried out, "Now, Lord, I am where You want me to be. What do You want me to do?" Immediately there flashed into his mind the words he had once hidden there, "My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways" (Prov. 23:26). From that moment he became a dedicated servant of God.

The delegates, I believe, have chosen a man of God, who will provide courageous, dedicated leadership. With workers and members around the world I pledge him my prayer and my support.

### NOTICE

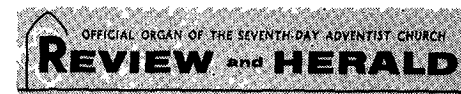
#### Correction

The following action of the General Conference in session was incorrectly worded in the report of the sixth business meeting on page 103 of Bulletin No. 4. The correct wording of the action follows:

#### Basis for Computing Per Capita Funds

We recommend, That in Article XVII—Finance, of the Bylaws, Section 5, relating to the computing of per capita goals and funds, be revised as follows:

"Sec. 5. The basis for computing goals or per capita funds shall be the average of the membership of the four consecutive quarters ending on September 30 of the preceding year as published in the General Conference official statistical reports." [Voted.]



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