

# Adventist Review

General Paper of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

June 30, 1985

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Cover: On Thursday,  
June 27, Neal C. Wilson was  
reelected president of  
the General Conference.



# GC president issues statements on racism, peace, home and family, and drugs

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

## Statement on peace

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

Today there is a new situation, unparalleled in history. Human beings have developed the means of humanity's own destruction, means that are becoming more and more "effective" and "perfected"—although these are hardly the right words. Since World War II, civilians are no longer just occasionally or incidentally harmed; they have become the target.

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

Today virtually every government claims it is working for disarmament and peace. Often the known facts appear to point in a different direction. Nations spend a huge portion of their financial resources to stockpile nuclear and other war materials, sufficient to destroy civilization as it is known today. News reports focus on the millions of men and women and children who suffer and die in wars and civil unrest and have to live in squalor and poverty. The arms race, with its colossal waste of human funds and resources, is one of the most obvious obscenities of our day.

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

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

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

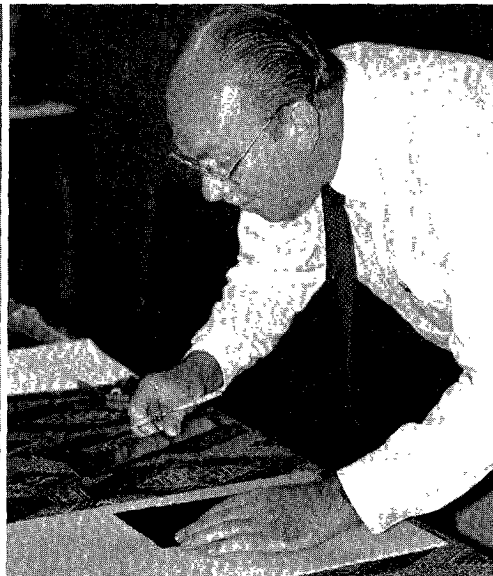
## Statement on racism

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

While the sin of racism is an age-old phenomenon based on ignorance, fear, estrangement, and false pride, some of its ugliest manifestations have taken place in our time. Racism and irrational prejudices operate in a vicious circle. Racism is among the worst of ingrained prejudices that characterize sinful human beings. Its



On the platform with General Conference president Neal C. Wilson (right) for his Thursday night keynote address were several members of his immediate family. To his right are his wife, Elinor; his parents, Elder and Mrs. N. C. Wilson, of Grand Terrace, California; and his son and daughter-in-law, Ted N. C. and Nancy Wilson, of the Africa-Indian Ocean Division.



Five years ago Southwestern Union president B. E. Leach (left) taught the delegates in Dallas the proper way to draw "Texas." This year, with the session again in his territory, he taught the delegates how Southerners say "New Orleans." Wilfred Benwell (right), from the *Oriental Watchman* Publishing House in Poona, India, puts together a section of the Southern Asia Division booth, which displays a number of handcrafted items.

consequences are generally more devastating because racism easily becomes permanently institutionalized and legalized and in its extreme manifestations can lead to systematic persecution and even genocide.

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

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

Scripture plainly teaches that every person was created in the image of God, who "made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth" (Acts 17:26). Racial discrimination is an offense against our fellow human beings, who were created in God's image. In Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek" (Gal. 3:28). Therefore, racism is really a heresy and in essence a form of idolatry, for it limits the fatherhood of God by denying the brotherhood of all mankind and by exalting the superiority of one's own race.

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

Any other approach destroys the heart of the Christian gospel.

## Statement on home and family

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

her spiritual dimension and family relationship through mutual love, honor, respect, and responsibility.

The church's Bible-based Fundamental Belief No. 22 states the marital relationship "is to reflect the love, sanctity, closeness, and permanence of the relationship between Christ and His church. . . . Although some family relationships may fall short of the ideal, marriage partners who fully commit themselves to each other in Christ may achieve loving unity through the guidance of the Spirit and the nurture of the church. God blesses the family and intends that its members shall assist each other toward complete maturity. Parents are to bring up their children to love and obey the Lord. By their example and their words they are to teach them that Christ is a loving disciplinarian, ever tender and caring, who wants them to become members of His body, the family of God."

Ellen G. White, one of the founders of the church, stated: "The work of parents underlies every other. Society is composed of families, and is what the heads of families make it. Out of the heart are the 'issues of life' (Prov. 4:23); and the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation is the household. The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences."—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 349.

## Statement on drugs

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

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

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

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

# Born to be a prophetic movement

Devotional message presented Friday, June 28, 1985.

By GERALD J. CHRISTO  
President  
Southern Asia Division



The journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus began with despair. The men's dreams of the kingdom lay shattered. The Man they believed in was no longer around. The whisper of the women gave way to a strange rumor that even His body was missing. But somewhere on that hopeless journey the prophetic word was brought to bear upon them.

"Beginning with Moses," the story was told by One who is the author and the object of prophecy. "Did not our hearts burn within us?" exclaimed the weary travelers as they recalled the force of the prophetic word—and what was thought to be a dead-end street to Emmaus turned into a highway to eternity (Luke 24:27-32, R.S.V.).\* Despair turned to hope. Crisis gave way to celebration. Doubt vanished. And faith put on its wings to tell the world that the Lord is, and that He acts to prepare a people.

In the interpretation and fulfillment of prophecy, we find our confidence in Scripture enhanced and our faith in God strengthened. Satan has endeavored to keep people from studying the prophecies. He knows that in the right interpretation of prophecy his grand designs to unite the world under his banner will be unmasked. The most complete revelation of God's will was through the One who expounded the prophecies to Cleopas and his companion on the way to Emmaus. During Pilate's infamous midnight trial Jesus declared, "For this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth" (John 18:37, N.I.V.).†

God acts. He acts in time. He acts in space. In the time of Noah, out of the land of Ur, against the arrogance of Pharaoh, toward the establishment of a covenant people, in creating an outline of divine history, at Bethelhem, at Pentecost, in the preserving of His truth through the dark ages of history, God's action is there for us to see.

I believe the same Lord acted in 1844. Many important events happened around that time. Evangelical Christianity

was at its height. Great mission movements swept Asia and Africa. The period also saw Darwin's evolutionary theory challenging the story of Genesis. Marx and Engels were working to produce the *Communist Manifesto*, trying to create a new god for a new age, at whose shrine millions now worship.

Modern spiritualism traces its origin from this period. The other side of the world was waking in a fury of nationalism, as India began its long crusade for freedom from oppression and colonialism. Religiously, scientifically, and politically the period around 1844 stands out as a benchmark in history. But more than all this, 1844 symbolizes God's prophetic clock striking a decisive hour, proclaiming to the world that the time of the end is at hand.

Following accepted principles of prophetic interpretation, William Miller came to the conclusion that the cleansing of the sanctuary mentioned in Daniel 8 pointed to the return of Jesus Christ to *this* earth and that this event would take place in 1843. Evidence suggests that the early church recognized the significance of the 70-week prophecy and that the year-day principle was accepted by Christian Jews in interpreting symbolic time prophecies. Other Protestant Reformers validated the inclusion of the 70-week period within and along with the 2300-day period.

Eighteen forty-four is not an accident. It is not a result of fanciful imagination. It is not a formula for the survival of a mistaken event. It is God's final call to man. The disappointment after Miller's mistaken interpretation seemed like a journey to Emmaus—but God intervened. God's Word was studied in earnest. His prophecies could not fail; therefore, they were studied again. In the days that followed the disappointment of 1844 the pioneers of this movement searched the Scriptures, beginning with Moses. Out of this search, out of this burning of the heart, a prophetic movement was born for the future—to "forth tell" that God's claims cannot be compromised; to "foretell" that God is working to bring about His character in the lives of His people. Seventh-day Adventists believe that to them has been entrusted the sacred task of cooperating with divine agencies to prepare a people to meet their Lord.

## Our commission

Our commission, the content of our message, and our divine credentials are all found in Revelation 14. The commission is to proclaim "the everlasting gospel . . . unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" (verse 6). It is a commission to give the good news of the *everlasting* gospel—the gospel that centers in the person and atoning ministry of Christ. It is a restating of the commission given to the 11 disciples, yet shaped to fit the circumstances and particular time of its presentation. It is the preaching of the gospel in the assurance of the imminent return of our Saviour. "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14).

Seventh-day Adventists have taken this commission seriously. We have been foremost in drawing the attention of the world to the prophecies predicting the end of this present world order. We teach a literal, visible Second Coming in the context of the promise of Christ in John 14:1-3. We preach

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Airbrush techniques and aspects of Sabbath school felt production are demonstrated at the Sabbath school booth.

the signs of the end outlined by Christ and the New Testament writers.

### The content of our message

The content of our commission is found in the message of the three angels of Revelation 14. It is a call to fear and worship God as Creator and judge. It announces the time of judgment. It points to the fall of false religions and warns against worshipping the beast and receiving his mark.

Our world today has a distorted image of God. Large segments of society have left God out of their reckoning.

Our commission is to call special attention to God as the Creator. The near-total acceptance of the theory of evolution, giving support to geological assertions of a long, drawn-out process for the earth to come into being, gives added relevance to the message of the first angel. Seventh-day Adventists boldly proclaim a seven-day Creation week. God declares that His creatorship is one of the marks of His divinity and authority. It is in the light of this message that the seventh-day Sabbath takes on special significance.

The first angel announces that the hour of His judgment has come. This judgment message is to be given prior to the Second Coming and after the 1260-year period of dominance given to the beast of Revelation 13. The theme of judgment is found throughout the Bible, and its particular import was given to the "little flock" after the 1844 disappointment. Judgment is to begin with God's people and is a vindication of their trust in Him. It is a judgment that results in deliverance.

The message of the second and third angels describes the fall of the false religions that have demanded allegiance of all earth's nations. God's judgments are to fall on all those who have set themselves up in opposition to His authority and His word. Before the destruction of the world by flood God sent a message of warning through Noah. His warnings included a symbol of deliverance—but to the unbeliever it became an object of contempt. Before the plagues fell upon Egypt and before the midnight massacre, God sent Moses and Aaron to warn Pharaoh of the consequences of disobedience. In

addition to the warnings, He gave ample evidence of His power to carry out His threats. But Pharaoh was callous to these heaven-sent messages.

### Our credentials

God's loyal followers have just one mark of identification, but that one mark sets them apart from the rest of the world. Their lifestyle, their worship, and their objectives are all shaped by that one credential. They have the name of the Father and the Son written in their foreheads. This name, onto which they have held dearly in spite of trials and persecutions and death itself, makes them worthy of following the Lamb wherever He goes. Because of this name, they have kept the faith of Jesus, the same faith that their Saviour had entrusted to His disciples. Because of Him—who is their righteousness—they have been kept by His word. In an age of permissive and wanton abandonment of God's holy precepts they have, through His name, willingly accepted these principles. By faith in Him they have become partakers of the divine nature.

With patience they wait for the return of their Lord. Despite apparent delay, in the face of ridicule and fear, they know that "he that shall come will come, and will not tarry" (Heb. 10:37).

The message of the three angels will divide the world into two camps—those who follow the Lamb and those who worship the amalgamation of false systems. Under the miracle-working forces described in Revelation 16, the wrath of the entire world will be arrayed against the commandment-keeping remnant. Only those who have declared allegiance to God will be spared the terrible judgments pronounced upon those who have set themselves up in opposition to His Word. The victorious multitudes on the sea of glass have followed the Lamb of God while they were here on earth, and they will have the privilege of following Him in the new heavens and earth.

What a privilege to be part of a special movement, to be part of the last segment of God's sevenfold church, to be part of a movement raised up in fulfillment of Bible prophecy. We are stewards of Heaven's last warning message to judgment-bound men and women. Ours is no peacetime ambassadorial assignment. Our divine imperative calls for plans that will match heaven's expectations. We are not social reformers; we are not political freedom fighters. Our every endeavor and our lifestyle must proclaim that "the hour of his judgment is come."

Others seeing us must not marvel at our accomplishments or at the health statistics of our people but must be quickened into exclaiming, "What shall we do to be saved?" We are to prepare a people to meet God, to vindicate in our being God's justice and mercy. We must give the lie to the devil's assertion that God's provision for salvation does not save men from their sins. As you consider these privileges and responsibilities, does not your "heart burn within" you?

"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. Christ's ambassadors have nothing to do with consequences. They must perform their duty and leave results with God."—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 609, 610. □



# THE DAY IN REVIEW

Friday, June 28  
By Miriam Wood

“I think continually of those who were truly great . . .  
Whose lovely ambition was that their lips, still touched  
with fire,  
Should tell of the Spirit.”

Those majestic words by Stephen Spender have sprung into my mind as I stand here in this vast Superdome, where last-minute preparations are under way for the opening meeting of the fifty-fourth General Conference session here in New Orleans, Louisiana. I think of our pioneers, and how it all began in such a small way, with Ellen and James White and Joseph Bates and so many (actually, so few) others. I think of the little tents in the rough fields and the few stalwart voices raised in song. How miraculous if for just this one day these people could be here and marvel at what God hath wrought! How wide their eyes would open as they would realize, in one blinding moment, the results of their steadfast faith and leadership. They, the “truly great,” began all this, and they have been followed in every generation by others



Radio and TV speakers and other staff members were on hand at their program booths to greet viewers and listeners. George Vandeman, from *It Is Written*, shakes hands with a well-wisher.

who were truly great and who have kept the sacred trust. I am humbled, exhilarated, challenged, and thrilled to be a very small part of it all, as I have been for so many years.

The problems of a session as complicated as this boggle the mind. It's just about like trying to stuff an elephant into a teakettle—and yet finally, somehow, somehow, the elephant fits. One person who could tell you (painfully) all about the how is Don Robinson, one of the General Conference treasurers. He's spent so much time here in the past few months I'm surprised he hasn't been presented with the key to the city.

It's really impossible to give you an idea of the immensity of the Superdome. But just let me say that a rumor has been circulating, among people who've been here for several weeks laying the groundwork, that it might be necessary to carry a compass! My only problem with that is that I am insecure about directions at best. I considered borrowing and bringing along my grandson's skateboard to help me cover the distances, but felt that eyebrows would be raised. However, my feet now wish I had been more courageous. If you are reading this story, you will know that I've located the places I had to find, particularly the office of the *ADVENTIST REVIEW*, which by a stroke of great good fortune is adjacent to the cavernous main auditorium.

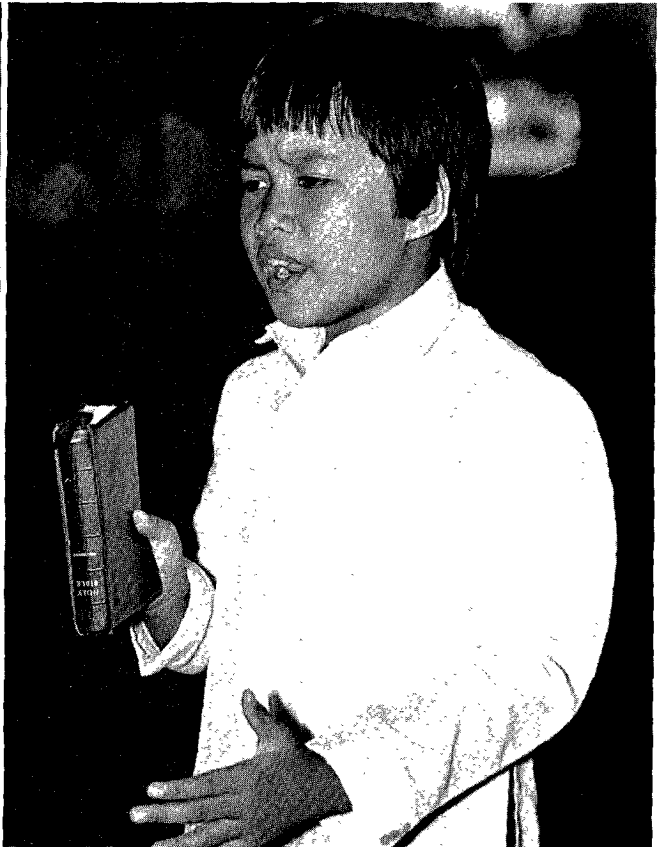
The color scheme of the session is royal blue and white, and you'll find that most of the exhibits are in that mode. But I'll leave those to be described to you by later writers of this column. Let me tell you about the platform. There are enormous vertical panels on each side in various shades of blue, with the motto “Christ Our Hope” in the center, above which is the convention symbol, silhouettes of three heads, Christ's being the center one. In front of the panels, flags of scores of nations form a colorful montage. On the front of the white pulpit there's an area of royal blue; right in the center of the panel the cross is delicately outlined in white with the words “The Seventh-day Adventist Church.” We are reminded each time we look at it that our hope really is in Christ's death on the cross for our sins. The beauty of the platform is enhanced by baskets of white chrysanthemums, pale lavender seafoam statice, white lilies, and the royal-blue carpeting.

As I think of the fact that this massive edifice is the home of the professional football team known as the New Orleans Saints, and as I think of the shrieks and hoarse bellows that fill the air on so many occasions, I wonder how the huge force of security guards will feel about the sweet sounds of praise to our heavenly Father ascending to the 273-foot dome. Of course, they've gotten a taste of this during the three days of the World Ministers Council.

The delegates have found their places under the familiar standards placed throughout the arena—though security is so tight that it's taken quite a long time to get past the guards who inspect each badge thoroughly. How good it feels to have the right credentials—like having the “wedding garment” at the feast.

If the pioneers could attend just this opening meeting, among all the staggering surprises awaiting them, certainly not the least would be the two giant television screens hanging on either side of the platform, and the six giant screens, near the ceiling, facing each area of the balcony. The speakers' faces are projected, in enormous size, with





Clinton Somoso (left) and Evan Deocades (right), child preachers from the Philippines, gave impromptu talks at the globe Thursday.

their names onto these screens by roving cameramen, and by cameramen on high metal scaffolding platforms in several aisles, as well as immediately behind the platform. On these screens, also, the words to the hymns are projected in both English and Spanish. When I learned that many of the TV cameramen, plus the director-producer, David Jones, are employees or former employees of our center in Thousand Oaks, I thought, Little church, you've come a long way!

But now the moment has come. Those assigned are filing onto the platform, and Enoch Oliveira, a general vice president of the General Conference, speaks the first official words as he welcomes the delegates to the fifty-fourth session. Dr. Melvin West is at the organ, and Janice Lehnhoff at the piano.

As you know and expect, a great deal of the opening session must be given over to the mechanics of getting things started, such as the seating of delegates. When that is accomplished, we find that a grand total of 1,853 delegates, duly accredited, were right there in the arena; the number will doubtless reach 2,000 or more as late arrivals come in. Of course, you must multiply this figure by about four, to account for families and guests, to get a picture of the vast audience.

But it isn't all cold and impersonal. There is a poignant moment when we stand in silent tribute to the more than 1,000 workers, retired and active, who have died since the past session five years ago. I feel a tear trickle down my cheek. Some of my dearest friends are in that group—for instance, Louise Carcich.

During the voting of various and sundry recommendations

studied out carefully in advance by the General Conference, we have an opportunity to see the democratic process at work. Far-reaching changes are being made in the structure of the world divisions, owing to changing political, social, and other conditions. (Be sure to read all these items carefully in the business minutes so you'll be informed.) These changes have been studied very carefully, with various possibilities weighed.

However, after one recommendation is read concerning the moving of the Israel Field from the Euro-Africa Division, with headquarters in Bern, Switzerland, to Northern Europe, with headquarters in St. Albans, England, an Israeli delegate asks to be recognized from the floor to register objections. This is done immediately. With the democratic process in which our church believes, he is allowed to speak as long as he wishes. When he sits down, Elder Wilson, with flawless courtesy and patience, explains carefully the various factors leading to the decision. When the vote is taken, it is overwhelmingly in favor of the change—but all are satisfied that Christian democracy had been practiced. In his speech, the delegate stated that if the session voted the change, he could be counted on to support it.

When the time comes to break for the two-and-one-half-hour caucus to select the Nominating Committee, the delegates are given a sheet listing all the meeting rooms. But sadder and wiser in regard to the Superdome as I am, I feel they might end up like sheep without a shepherd, in a vain attempt to find, for instance, Meeting Room 13, in the Southwest Quadrant. Believe me, the Superdome is not for the fainthearted or the directionally insecure. G. R.

Thompson, secretary of the General Conference, apparently sensing the magnitude of the problem, announces that each delegation had better cluster around their president, and he'd lead them. Then I began wondering What if the "shepherd" himself didn't know the way? Faithful and true shepherds are important.

The shepherds haven't failed—we're back in the great auditorium after a two-hour break. Now another group is filing onto the platform. What Adventist history and commitment is wrapped up in the persons of Elder and Mrs. N. C. Wilson, Sr., Elder and Mrs. Neal C. Wilson, and Elder and Mrs. Ted N. C. Wilson as they stand there. (I must mention that a *fourth* Wilson generation is in attendance in the persons of small Emilie, Elizabeth, and Catherine, here from Africa with the Wilsons III. I wonder if their grandfather will be able to spend even 15 minutes a day with them, though they are little charmers and openly adore him.)

Two well-remembered and much-loved people are being introduced on the other side of the platform—Elder and Mrs. Robert H. Pierson, former General Conference president. His opening prayer, with its familiar cadences, evokes many memories.

But the spotlight shifts to the corner of the arena, where it



Edwin Edwards, right, governor of Louisiana, thanks Neal C. Wilson, General Conference president, for a gift copy of *The Desire of Ages*, given to him Thursday evening.

## Nominating Committee Report—1

*Voted*, To approve the following partial report of the Nominating Committee:

*General Conference*

President, Neal C. Wilson

Secretary, G. Ralph Thompson

picks up the governor of Louisiana, the Honorable Edwin Edwards. He graciously assures the guests of his joy at the selection of "his" state for the session and declares that "no other group in the world has done more to prepare the world for the second coming of Christ than have the Adventists." Elder Wilson expresses appreciation for the governor's visit and presents him with a copy of *The Desire of Ages*, and a special medallion. From the rear of the platform a gracious woman appears and hangs a lei around the neck of the governor and several others.

Among other greeters, including the local and union conference presidents, is Rev. Richard Randall, president of the Greater New Orleans Federation of Churches, with its 230-church roster.

And now there's another moment of unique "Adventistiana" (may I coin that word?) when the beloved organist, Brad Braley, is called to the pulpit and introduced as the composer of the session theme song (both words and music), "Christ Our Hope Forever." Brad has spent a lifetime as a minister of music for the church, 30 years with the Voice of Prophecy. As he opens up the stops of the organ and plays the Triumphant melody, with his wife, Olive, accompanying him on the piano, I don't mind confessing that I feel goose bumps. Who wouldn't? Then our beloved C. L. Brooks teaches us the song, with help from the quartet "Los Heraldos del Rey."

When Elder Wilson stands up to begin his message he surprises us by reading a warm message from the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan. And then, in a beautiful gesture of love, he takes the lei he had been given from around his neck, and places it around his mother's neck, with a warm kiss of love. You will, I trust, already have read the transcript of Elder Wilson's sermon in *Bulletin* No. 1. But I want to bring you a few details that won't have been included. For instance, it would be difficult to convey the deep emotion we all felt when, at one point, he read the names of the long list of workers who had a profound effect upon his life, who had died since the last General Conference session. We sat in absolute silence as an unseen trumpeter played "The Golden Morning Is Fast Approaching." Sometimes I feel I can hardly wait for that glorious event; I am homesick for heaven.

One cannot accuse our president of lacking courage, for, after stating that the second-largest ethnic and racial group of our church is Hispanic, he announces that he will deliver a short message to them *in Spanish*. This he proceeds manfully to do. As a Spanish student, I can tell you that his delivery



showed much determination and careful practice but do I detect a fine sheen of perspiration on his forehead when he finishes—to ringing applause from the Hispanic group.

By another modern miracle of secretarial and mechanical skill, the list of Nominating Committee members is ready and is being distributed. There are 238 members. Six are women. They will start their work immediately, though it is nearing 10:00 P.M.

Now it is Friday morning, and the day has begun with an earnest devotional given by G. J. Christo, president of the Southern Asia Division. His title, "Born to Be a Prophetic Movement," was indicative of the tone of ringing reassurance that his message contained. "Eighteen forty-four was no accident," he stated. "It was not a face-saving formula to cover a mistaken event. It brought forth a people *born for the future*." He asserted that each person is born into a special time and special place, and for the Seventh-day Adventist, this gives life a meaning and value that is inestimable.

An extra-special treat of the morning was the rich baritone solo by Ivan Kosovan, of the U.S.S.R. Delegates are already asking when he'll sing again.

Elder Wilson made it very clear at the end of his message last night that he wanted the Nominating Committee to break at eleven o'clock this morning so that everyone could be present for the rest of the day when matters crucial to the future organization of the church will be discussed. A committee has worked for many months on the subject "Role and Function of Denominational Organizations." At first

reading this may not strike you as fascinating, but it is vitally important that the church keep pace with changing methodologies of work, and especially with technology.

But wait! Great events are suddenly taking place—the chairman and secretary of the Nominating Committee, Richard Leshner and Calvin Rock, have just come onto the platform. Everyone feels a stir of excitement. Dr. Rock announces the selection of Neal C. Wilson to continue as president of the world church. Applause breaks out. Alf Lohne, chairman of the meeting, acknowledges the endorsement of the applause, but "just for the record" asks for a show of hands, and the election becomes unanimous. Mrs. Wilson joins her husband on the rostrum, where Elder Wilson makes a serious, soul-searching speech of acceptance. "No human being is adequate for such a position as this," he asserts, "even if he possessed every possible talent, and I do not. But Elinor and I pledge to give you the best that is within us." He asks for the prayers of all the delegates and the world church.

But another election is to take place at this time, that of G. Ralph Thompson, secretary of the General Conference. Also endorsed by ringing applause, Elder and Mrs. Thompson ascend the platform, where the vote again is unanimous. Elder Thompson graciously accepts the wishes of the delegates and assures them of his total devotion to the trust given to him.

Dr. Leshner then explained to the delegates that since current General Conference treasurer Lance L. Butler is

## The Nominating Committee

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 Vice Chairpersons: Claude D. Judd, Dennis K. Bazarra  
 Secretary: Calvin B. Rock  
 Associate Secretaries: Noel S. Fraser, Norman J. Woods, Samuel Young

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Walter Cameron, Norberto Carmona, Isaac Carpin, R. H. Carter, Silvanus Chioma, K. Chisakula, C. D. Christian, P. D. Chun, Y. K. Chung, R. E. Cobbin, W. O. Coe,  
 Flor Conopio, Daniel Cordas, D. E. Coy, Cami Cruz, Jaime Cruz, L. C. Cruz, P. Daboyan, S. Dabrowski, Kebede Daka, D. David, A. de Angel, P. B. de Freitas, Z. Deucher, P. M. Diaz, F. X. Dos Santos, N. Duarte, C. E. Dudley, Atilio Dupertuis, J. A. Edgcombe, V. D. Edward, A. Enriquez, R. D. Fearing, Luis Florez, R. R. Frame, N. S. Fraser, S. L. Gadsby, Agustín Galicia,  
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K. Kalume, Gerry Karst, T. Katemba, E. Kilian, C. W. Kim, P. B. Kopolo, Michel Krakonan, Merlin Kretchmar, M. P. Kulakov, Jonathan Kuntaraf, J. N. Kyale, Max Laurent, B. E. Leach, C. S. Lee, John Lee, W. R. Leshner, J. Lobos, H. Long, J. Lorencin, William Loveless, H. Luna Victoria, Y. Lusingu, B. Mabote, J. Madsen, Orlando Manuela,  
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Perla, Alejo Pizarro, C. S. Plummer, D. Popa, H. D. Posse, Neftali Quintero, A. M. Radjagukuk, L. D. Raelly, Donato Ramirez, Alex Rantung, L. Reiche, B. Reichel, Jorge Reid,  
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retiring, the Nominating Committee would bring in a recommendation for this office later.

Events are crowding in pretty rapidly now, and it is time for a "happening" of great importance to the staff of the ADVENTIST REVIEW. The first-day copy of the daily bulletin is presented to Elder Wilson by Dr. William Johnsson, editor, who expresses appreciation to the large staff that makes this kind of service possible. All the delegates seize the paper with delight; it's just about the only way to keep up with everything that is going on.

One thing I like about writing this kind of story is that I can carry you along through time and space so rapidly. Now it is just a little past 1:30 P.M., and an unusual event has taken place in the White Estate booth. Five original oil paintings have just been unveiled, with the artists present. Alfred Lee is the artist who painted the large centerpiece, and Vernon Nye painted the others. Alfred's painting depicts Christ as He is pictured by John in Revelation 1, with hair "white like wool" and standing among the seven golden candlesticks. How beautiful and awe-inspiring Christ is! I am drawn to Him; I want to stand and continue gazing just as the disciples did when He ascended to heaven.

Vernon Nye depicts four of Ellen White's visions: (1) that given on January 3, 1875, when she told of seeing publishing houses in several countries; (2) the vision of Sabbath, April 3, 1847, when she was carried in vision to the heavenly sanctuary and saw Jesus standing by the ark, and on the tables of stone she saw the Sabbath commandment with a halo surrounding it; (3) a vision in which she was walking through a garden with a friend who did nothing but complain about the thorns and briars (the guide said, "Let the thorns alone,

for they will only wound you. Gather the roses, the lilies, and the pinks"); (4) a warning in vision to D. M. Canright, then a leading Adventist minister. She was shown Canright on a ship, and he was told that he should not leave it, but stay on to a safe harbor. Unfortunately, he did not heed the advice of the vision.

Now let's reverse direction and move back to the World Council of Ministers, held immediately preceding the session. I feel that I must share with you fragments from two of the most powerful Adventist sermons I've ever heard. Sometimes it becomes merely routine to us to expect that God will speak through a human instrument. But there was nothing routine about J. R. Spangler's sermon addressed to "the messenger"—in other words, to every minister in the church, represented by the 2,000 to 3,000 in attendance. Taking the book of Malachi as his basis, Elder Spangler, secretary of the Ministerial/Stewardship Association, listed eight "commitments," or conditional promises of God, specifically given to His messengers. His ringing challenge for *absolute* consecration and *absolute* fidelity in daily life had "the certain sound" for which we are all so hungry. (The entire sermon will be published in a future issue of *Ministry* magazine. I hope you'll make every possible effort to get a copy.)

And then on Wednesday morning the devotional message given by Dwight Nelson, the young senior pastor of Pioneer Memorial church, in Berrien Springs, Michigan, was so deeply soul-searching that I will never forget it. His powerful appeal was that every worker and every member "stand in the presence of the Lord." He contrasted our "standing" in the secular world, endlessly, it sometimes seems, when time in God's presence is the only solution for a lukewarm ministry, a lukewarm Christian life. As he progressed in his appeal, the vast audience grew perfectly still, as if afraid to breathe and disturb the almost palpable feeling that the Holy Spirit was in the room. His sermon also will be published in *Ministry*.

These two sermons fed my soul. Something wonderful is happening to our church. I feel it; I sense it; I know it.

I can't resist telling you how exciting it was during the Ministers Council to use the new *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*. It's a wonderful book! For those of you who've had some feelings of insecurity about the project, I can put your fears at rest. Many, many of the old favorites have been included, but there are new hymns also. I think we'll enjoy increasing our hymn repertoire, and I can't wait to get started. Are there some songs the young people will enjoy? Yes. Will these songs offend the senior citizens? No. All is well. A small triumph, in my view, was giving "Amazing Grace" the "correct" tune, which wasn't true in the old hymnal. Oh, yes, some of the hymns have been pitched a bit lower, which will be welcome news for those of us who've shrilled along on some of the old high notes.

But now it's time for me to turn you over to another scribe, who'll carry on the story of the second day of this great session. Wonderful as it all is and happy as I am with all I am seeing and hearing, somehow I feel that we have "sung the Lord's song in a strange land" long enough. How glorious it would be to sing that beautiful song at the next General Conference session, not in Indianapolis, but in the New Jerusalem. □

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# First business meeting

Fifty-fourth General Conference session  
June 27, 1985, 3:00 P.M.

## Session proceedings

**ENOCH OLIVEIRA:** In His good providence God has brought us together from the ends of the world, and it is my joy and privilege to give to each one of you—delegates, friends, and visitors—a cordial welcome to this great international gathering. We trust that this session will go down in history as the best General Conference session we have ever known. We have many reasons to praise the Lord for His goodness over the past five years. In spite of some political upheavals and economic uncertainties, this last term has been the most prosperous and most successful in our history.

**C. B. HIRSCH:** [Announced the opening hymn, "Marching to Zion."]

**GEORGE W. BROWN:** [Read Psalm 126:1-3.]

Now let us pray. O God, our Father, Your sons and daughters have come from the four corners of the earth to participate in this very special convocation of Your church. We lift our hearts and voices in gratitude, thanksgiving, and praise for all You have done for us during this quinquennium.

We have come together to celebrate, to rejoice, and to praise Your name. We have come also to lay new plans, so that Your work might go forward aggressively and powerfully, and our Lord might soon come to gather His waiting saints.

We pause, our heavenly Father, to confess our sins and shortcomings and to ask that through the precious blood of Jesus Christ, Your Son, we all will be made pure.

Be with the chairman of this first session, we pray, and with all of us who participate. We lift up before You Elder Wilson, whom You have guided and sustained these many years.

As we fellowship, plan, and worship together, grant, O God, that we will have a new and a more vital Christian experience, that we might return to our respective countries, institutions, and fields resolved, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to finish the work and hasten the imminent return of our blessed Lord. Accept our commitment, our dedication, and our surrender today. Amen.

**F. W. WERNICK:** Welcome to New Orleans and the fifty-fourth General Conference session of Seventh-day Adventists. It is good to see this large gathering of delegates, guests, and friends from all over the world. I now call upon G. Ralph Thompson, secretary of the General Conference, to read the official call.

**G. RALPH THOMPSON:** The General Conference Constitution, Article IX, Section 1, reads as follows: "This Conference shall hold quinquennial sessions at such time and place as the Executive Committee shall designate and announce by a notice published in the ADVENTIST REVIEW in three consecutive issues at least four months before the date for the opening of the session. In case special world conditions seem to make it imperative to postpone the calling of the session, the Executive Committee in regular or special Council shall have authority to make such postponement not to exceed two years, giving notice to all constituent organizations."

[Elder Thompson read the official call as published January 3, 10, and 17, 1985, in the ADVENTIST REVIEW.]

Article III, Section 3(a) of the General Conference Constitution provides that all members of the General Conference Executive Committee shall be delegates at large to the session. The present membership of the General Conference Committee is 366. Of this number 343 are present at this time.

Article III, Section 3(c) provides that four delegates at large shall be appointed from each division without regard to membership and one additional delegate for each 200,000 or major fraction thereof of the division membership. These are to be appointed by the division committee and ratified by the General Conference in session.

Article III, Sections 4 and 5 provide for the appointment of regular delegates by union conferences and divisions. These delegates have been duly appointed in harmony with the constitution, including those from the U.S.S.R. and the three unions attached to the General Conference, a total of 1,083 regular delegates. Adding to this number the 343 delegates at large who are members of the General Conference Committee and

56 delegates at large who represent the division organizations gives a total of 1,482 delegates present.

Mr. Chairman, we present this delegation to you at this first business meeting of the fifty-fourth session of the General Conference.

**F. W. WERNICK:** I will declare the fifty-fourth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists open for business.

**G. RALPH THOMPSON:** There is one further group of delegates present. Article III, Section 3(b) provides for the appointment of delegates representing the institutions, departments, and other interests of the General Conference not to exceed 25 percent of the total number of delegates otherwise provided for. It is the recommendation of the General Conference Committee that 371 delegates be seated under this provision. Their names are in the minutes of the General Conference Committee and will also appear in the ADVENTIST REVIEW, which will be placed in your hands Sunday. [Motion was made, seconded, and voted to ratify the delegates under this provision and to waive the reading of the list.]

**G. RALPH THOMPSON:** The constitution, under Article III, also requires the ratification of credentials of division delegates at large. [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

**G. RALPH THOMPSON:** You will be happy to know that a grand total of 1,853 delegates are in attendance at the fifty-fourth General Conference session.

**F. W. WERNICK:** The agenda books will be distributed to the delegates at this time.

We will endeavor to move through these many agenda items as expeditiously as possible. Each delegate should feel free to participate if desired. Please notice the pages under the title "1985 General Conference Session, Session Organization Agenda" backup material for each of these items will be found following the agenda and will be referred to at the appropriate time.

**G. RALPH THOMPSON:** The next item is the daily program found in the program booklet. [The motion to approve the daily program was made, seconded, and voted.]

The next item of business is the election of the standing committees. I move that we accept the recommendation on standing committees. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

We are very happy to have delegates here today. We can be very thankful that God has brought us all together from many countries. We are very happy to welcome our delegates from Burma. We look

forward to the arrival of several delegates from the great country of Cuba. There are eleven delegates from Angola and four from Mozambique. We are also happy to have delegates from every country in the Euro-Africa Division. We especially welcome our seven delegates from the U.S.S.R.

The delegation to this session represents 4,424,612 members of the Adventist family as of December 31, 1984, the true working force of the church. Of this number, 103,614 are full-time denominational workers. Time moves inexorably on, and as happens during each quinquennium, some of these workers have fallen asleep in Jesus. During the past five years, 1,329 workers, including retired personnel, have closed their earthly ministry. It would be appropriate for us to stand for a few moments of silence in memory of these fallen warriors of the cross. [Moments of silence.]

**F. W. WERNICK:** There are several very interesting and important items that affect the church because they represent growth and progress throughout the world field. The first item concerns two union missions in the Far Eastern Division that have become union conferences. D. A. Roth, associate secretary of the General Conference for the Far Eastern Division, will bring these items to us.

**D. A. ROTH:** More than three years ago the Far Eastern Division asked the General Conference to study its request for union conference status for the Korean Union Mission. In accordance with policy, a commission was named to make an in-depth study of the request. Enoch Oliveira, one of our vice presidents, served as chairman of this commission, and I served as secretary. We found five local conferences functioning very well.

On June 16, 1983, the General Conference Committee voted the request of the Korean Union Mission and the Far Eastern Division that Korea be granted union conference status, effective January 1, 1984. Thus Korea became the very first union mission to become a union conference in the Far Eastern Division.

**F. W. WERNICK:** W. T. Clark will make a few remarks and then make a motion to accept this new union conference.

**W. T. CLARK:** It has brought a great deal of joy to the Far East to see in the Korean Union growth, maturity of leadership, financial strength, and the willingness to support the world church. I move that the Korean Union Conference be accepted into the sisterhood of



**As Review photographers toured the booth area, one of the people they caught in conversation was Stanley Folkenberg, Upper Columbia Conference stewardship/development director.**

churches of union conferences of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. [Motion was seconded and voted. P. D. Chun, president of the Korean Union Conference, was introduced.]

D. A. ROTH: The work of the Adventist Church in Japan began in an organized way in 1919. In this Buddhist stronghold the work progressed slowly but steadily. Today we have more than 11,000 members and more than 100 churches. The Far Eastern Division requested that the General Conference give study to Japan's request for union conference status. On August 23, 1984, the General Conference Committee voted to approve union conference status for Japan, effective January 1, 1985. We are delighted to present Japan this afternoon.

W. T. CLARK: It is a real pleasure to speak about Japan, because this is where my wife and I spent 17 very happy years. We watched Japan grow and develop. It is a real pleasure to move that the Japan Union Conference be accepted into the sisterhood of union conferences of this world church. [Motion was seconded and voted. Yukio Yokomizo, president of the Japan Union Conference, was introduced.]

G. RALPH THOMPSON: There are two items that really affect the great country of Mexico. R. F.

Williams, associate secretary of the General Conference for Latin America, will introduce these items.

R. F. WILLIAMS: Because I am a son of Mexico and have worked there for 20 years, it gives me great pleasure to introduce this item. The work in Mexico began in the early 1900s, and today, under the blessing of the Lord, it leads the Inter-American Division in baptisms. The Inter-American Division, after studying the needs of the Mexican Union, requested that the General Conference appoint a survey commission. Enoch Oliveira served as chairman and D. H. Baasch as secretary. The General Conference Committee voted on December 16, 1982, to record the reorganization of the former Mexican Union Conference into two new union conferences known as the North Mexican Union Conference and the South Mexican Union Conference, effective January 7, 1985.

GEORGE BROWN: I feel very happy this afternoon to represent one of the most outstanding sections of the Inter-American Division, Mexico. The North Mexican Union Conference has 45,000 members, and the South Mexican Union Conference has 156,000 members—the largest union conference in our division. I move that the North Mexican Union Conference be

accepted into the sisterhood of unions. [Motion was seconded and voted. Neftali Quintero, president of the North Mexican Union Conference, was introduced.]

I move that the South Mexican Union Conference be accepted into the sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. [Motion was seconded and voted. Augustin Galicia, president of the South Mexican Union Conference, was introduced.]

G. RALPH THOMPSON: On November 3, 1983, the General Conference Committee approved the request of the Northern Union Mission in the Southern Asia Division to reorganize into two unions, to be called the Northern Union Mission and the Northeast Union Mission, effective January 1, 1984. I move that we accept the Northeast Union Mission into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and that we record that the Northern Union Mission will continue in the sisterhood of unions but with a reduced territorial assignment. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

G. J. CHRISTO: It is my pleasure to introduce to you Pastor Lal Hmingliana, president of the Northeast India Union Mission. He is an evangelist, a pastor, and a keen Bible student.

G. RALPH THOMPSON: We have three items that affect the area where B. E. Jacobs serves as associate secretary of the General Conference.

B. E. JACOBS: The first item is the dissolution of the former Central African Union, comprised of two countries, Rwanda and Burundi. [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

Rwanda is a small country in the heart of Africa, only about 400 miles from north to south and 300 miles from east to west. In this small country there are now about 149,000 Seventh-day Adventists in three missions. It's my pleasure to move that the Rwanda Union be voted in as a member of the sisterhood of unions in the world church. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

R. J. KLOOSTERHUIS: It gives me immense satisfaction to present to you the first president of the Rwanda Union Mission, Robert G. Peck. The Rwanda Union Mission is the largest union in the Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

B. E. JACOBS: We move to another part of the world, the Euro-Africa Division. October 7, 1981, the General Conference Committee approved the request of the Euro-Africa Division to dissolve the Southern European Union Mission and to designate the organiza-

tions in Italy, Portugal, and Spain separately as the Union of Churches in Italy, Portugal, and Spain. I move that we record the dissolution of this union in the Euro-Africa Division. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

F. W. WERNICK: We now have recommendations regarding union organizations in South America.

R. F. WILLIAMS: The work of God in the great country of Brazil goes forward, especially in the South Brazil Union. The General Conference Committee, on November 1, 1984, approved the request of the South American Division that the South Brazil Union Conference be reorganized into two union conferences, effective January 1, 1986. [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

A second item concerns the East Brazil Union Mission. On November 1, 1984, the General Conference Committee approved the request of the South American Division and the East Brazil Union Mission for the latter to be granted union conference status. [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

G. RALPH THOMPSON: We now deal with the African territorial reorganization. In harmony with the action of the fifty-third General Conference session, on April 17, 1980, the General Conference Committee took an action on October 9, 1983, as follows: (1) to reorganize the East African, Ethiopian, and Tanzania unions, administered by the Eastern Africa Division, and the Southeast Africa, Zambesi, and Zambia unions and the Botswana Field, administered by the Trans-Africa Division, into a new division of the General Conference, and (2) to attach the Southern Union Mission and the South African Union Conference directly to the General Conference.

I move that the African territorial changes be recorded. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

The General Conference has been studying the territorial realignment of the Southern Asia and the Far Eastern divisions.

F. W. WERNICK: I now ask Neal C. Wilson, president of the General Conference, to give a little background.

NEAL C. WILSON: During the past 40 minutes you have participated in recommendations and votes with respect to reorganization. We live in a world of change—political, economic, cultural, and social. All of these factors and forces make an impact upon our church. Some are not necessarily to our liking, but sometimes the best option requires reorganization.

You are also aware of the fact that

this church does not change hastily, without considerable discussion and accumulation of information and wide counsel. One of these areas, the Southern Asia Division, has just been brought to your attention. We looked at various options, but each time that we came close to suggesting the implementation of a solution, it seemed as though it was fraught with peril and difficulty. We could only hope to make a temporary arrangement, nothing that seemed to have any kind of permanence. We hope you will see wisdom in the suggestion that has been brought to us, and that God will certainly bless in the future and development of this great land.

F. W. WERNICK: The motion has been made to accept this recommendation. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

G. RALPH THOMPSON: Elder Wilson has prepared the background for the next item. We recommended that a new division be organized to comprise the Burma Union Mission, the Bangladesh Union Mission, and the Sri Lanka Union of Churches, all in the territory of the Southern Asia Division, in addition to the present territory of the Far Eastern Division. [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

The nomenclature for the new division is yet to be determined. We recommend the transfer of the territory of the Pakistan Union Mission from the Southern Asia Division to the Northern European Division. [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

NEAL C. WILSON: Fellow delegates, about 15 years ago studies were initiated with respect to some type of reorganization on the African continent. It took almost ten years for some of those plans to be thoroughly examined and for a proposal to eventuate. You are fully aware of the fact that in Africa we felt it was wise to bring about some reorganization at the time of the past General Conference session. The Northern European Division lost in that rearrangement about 100,000 members in Africa, leaving the Northern European Division with six unions and about 45,000 members.

The other division with territories in Africa that was very vitally affected was the Euro-Africa Division, which also ceded certain territories in the formation of the new Africa-Indian Ocean Division. There was then a rather noticeable imbalance between the two European divisions. The Euro-Africa Division consisted of about 19 administrative units, including some attached territories, in addition

to all of the institutions that are governed or guided by and presided over by the division. The Northern European Division was composed of only six unions, one attached field (Iceland), and one division institution. It was suggested that Europe should be combined into one division. In terms of distance, facilities, the economic situation, and transportation, it would not be a very difficult thing to do. However, it would make an almost impossible division organization because of the number of administrative units, approaching the neighborhood of 40 units, for which the division would be directly responsible. We have studied the problem carefully with the various entities involved and have reached the conclusion that it is very important to keep two divisions in Europe.

F. W. WERNICK: Someone has been standing at a microphone for a little while. Would you please give your name and the organization you represent?

ERMANNIO GARBI: I am the president of the Israel Field in the Euro-Africa Division. It is difficult for us in Israel to reasonably understand the project to move our field. For several reasons—geographical, ethical, linguistic, numerical, financial, and political reasons—it seems to us that it would be better for the Israel Field to maintain headquarters in a neutral country such as Switzerland.

F. W. WERNICK: Elder Thompson will read the action, and then perhaps we will get a motion on the floor.

G. RALPH THOMPSON: The recommendation reads as follows: "Voted, To recommend to transfer the territory of the Hungarian Union Conference, the Yugoslavian Union Conference, the Greek Mission, and the Israel Field from the Euro-Africa Division to the Northern European Division. We recommend also to change the name of the Northern European Division at an early date should this realignment be approved." I move that we approve this recommendation.

F. W. WERNICK: Elder Wilson, you heard our brother from Israel. Would you like to say a few words in response?

NEAL C. WILSON: I think that the comments that have been made are very appropriate. I would like to say that the Euro-Africa Division has given very special attention to our work in Israel. They feel a special attachment to that particular territory. I have discussed the needs and the challenges of Israel with the leaders of our work in the Euro-Africa Division. We know, as pointed out by the delegate, that

many factors in Israel are distinctive and singular.

We wish that the headquarters of all divisions could be in neutral countries. There are only so many neutral countries in the world. I also recognize the emotion and the sentiment, in addition to valid reasons and facts that we do not discount. We need to find the best possible solution to the challenges that this church faces today. The Euro-Africa Division has a number of very real external challenges. We feel that the Northern European Division would also like to have a few external challenges.

The political situation is certainly somewhat tenuous and tense, but we also must recognize the fact that there have been and continue to be very good political relationships between Israel and Great Britain, where our Northern European headquarters are found. In fact, the second language of Israel is English. We feel that the interest of Israel will be well served. More attention and help can be given to Israel by the Northern European Division than by the Euro-Africa Division, not for lack of desire but because of the time required by the various territories connected with their division.

F. W. WERNICK: Thank you very much, Elder Wilson. [Motion was voted.] Elder Thompson, will you bring to us the recommendation regarding a new name for the Northern European Division?

G. RALPH THOMPSON: I would like to give the president of the Northern European Division, Jan Paulsen, the opportunity and pleasure of bringing that name to us.

JAN PAULSEN: The recommendation of the Northern European Division is that a new name be given that more correctly expresses the territories now in this one division. I move that the name be changed from the Northern European Division to the Trans-European Division. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

C. D. WATSON: As the work in the Australasian Division has grown and as the membership has increased it has been recognized that the name Australasian Division is no longer adequate for the territories of that division. I move that the Australasian Division, at their legal meeting to convene soon, be permitted to adopt a new name, the South Pacific Division. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

G. RALPH THOMPSON: The next item has to do with the



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Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

B. E. JACOBS: When the Central African Union was dissolved, the West Central African Union Mission wished to change its name to the Central African Union Mission. Therefore, I move that we record the change of name only from the West Central African Union Mission to the Central African Union Mission. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

G. RALPH THOMPSON: We recommend that each of the unions attached to the General Conference be authorized to have one person on the Nominating Committee. I move this recommendation.

F. W. WERNICK: You understand that the Constitution provides for delegates of divisions, but these unions are detached from divisions and are tied directly to the General Conference. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

G. RALPH THOMPSON: Elder Alf Lohne, who has been our liaison with the U.S.S.R., will present the next item.

ALF LOHNE: The Soviet Union today has approximately 31,000 Seventh-day Adventists in about 400 churches. They do not yet have an organization for the entire country, but they do have some districts that might be compared to conferences, and two unions. They are called "associations" for the present. I move that the Soviet Union be permitted to appoint two representatives to the Nominating Committee, one from each of the two associations. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

W.R.L. SCRAGG: [Benediction.]

F. W. WERNICK, *Chairman*

G. RALPH THOMPSON

*Secretary*

B. E. JACOBS and

D. A. ROTH, *Proceedings Editors*

## Session actions

### 1985 General Conference Session Delegates—25 Percent Provision

*Voted*, 1. To waive the reading of the delegates to the fifty-fourth General Conference session, under Article III, Section 3(b) of the Constitution, listed in the agenda.

2. To ratify the credentials of the delegates listed under the General Conference Constitution, Article III, Section 3(b).

### General Conference Session Delegates—Art. III, Sec. 3(c)

*Voted*, To ratify the credentials of the 60 delegates to the fifty-fourth General Conference session under the provisions of Article III, Section 3(c) of the Constitution.

### Daily Program Approved

*Voted*, To approve the daily program for the fifty-fourth General Conference session as it appears in the session program booklet.

### 1985 General Conference Session—Standing Committees

*Voted*, To approve the standing committees for the 1985 General Conference session as follows:

#### Seating of Additional Delegates

*Voted*, To seat the following delegates-at-large under the 25 percent provision:

1. Robert Soderblom in place of Milton Fredrickson, Pacific Union
2. Palmer Wick in place of Lorenzo Paytee, Pacific Union
3. Additional: Calvin Berthelsen, Mid-America Union; Wadie Farag, Canadian Union; W. R. May, Southwestern Union; Jere Patzer, North Pacific Union

#### Nominating Committee—Membership Appointment

*Voted*, To appoint the following as members of the standing Nominating Committee of the fifty-fourth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists:

Abdonel Abel, Caleb Adeogun, M. Afonso, Japhet Agboka, Betty Ahnberg, Adekunle Alalade, E. W. Amundson, M. Angawa, N. R. Arit, S. A. Armah, R. J. Atkin, F. Augsburg, Z. Ayonga, R. Azavedo, Kyaw Balay, Pablo Balboa, Sergio Balboa, M. S. Baluku, Stefano Barabuliye, D. Basterra, Bruce Bauer, D. K. Bazarra, Matthew Bediako, Mikel Beesoo, J. Belleli, H. Berg,

K. Bhaskara Rao, A. E. Birch, Bekele Biri, Mardian Blair, Gordon Blandford, W. D. Blehm, V. F. Booala, D. M. Borba, C. M. Borda, F. A. Botomani, Reinder Bruisma, A. Bullon, G. Burnham, Luis Cadiz, Walter Cameron, Norberto Carmona, Isaac Carpin, R. H. Carter, Silvanus Chioma, K. Chisakula, C. D. Christian, P. D. Chun, Y. K. Chung, R. E. Cobbin, W. O. Coe,

Flor Conopio, Daniel Cordas, D. E. Coy, Cami Cruz, Jaime Cruz, L. C. Cruz, P. Daboyan, S. Dabrowski, Kebede Daka, D. David, A. de Angel, P. B. de Freitas, Z. Deucher, P. M. Diaz, F. X. Dos Santos, N. Duarte, C. E. Dudley, Atilio Dupertuis, J. A. Edgecombe, V. D. Edward, A. Enriquez, R. D. Fearing, Luis Florez, R. R. Frame, N. S. Fraser, S. L. Gadsby, Agustin Galicia,

E. Garcia, Isaac Gomez, Aristides Gonzalez, Malcolm Gordon, R. Gorski, Tevni Grajales, C. A. Gray, Helen Griffiths, Napoleon

Grunder, Samuel Guizar, R. Gullon, James Hayward, Elie Henry, George Hermans, J. Hildebrandt, L. Hmingliana, D. W. Holbrook, Roger Isaacs, Amon Iyamuremye, G. C. Johnson, Bruce Johnston, B. N. Josiah, C. D. Judd,

J. A. Justiniano, S. Kabuye, K. Kalume, Gerry Karst, T. Katemba, E. Kilian, C. W. Kim, P. B. Kopolo, Michel Krakonan, Merlin Kretchmar, M. P. Kulakov, Jonathan Kuntaraf, J. N. Kyale, Max Laurent, B. E. Leach, C. S. Lee, John Lee, W. R. Leshner, J. Lobos, H. Long, J. Lorencin, William Loveless, H. Luna Victoria, Y. Lusingu, B. Mabote, J. Madsen, Orlando Manuela,

Mrs. B. Marks, O. Martinborough, Daniel Martinez, W. L. Masoka, L. Masuku, W. H. Mattison, G. E. Maxson, Siegfried Mayr, N. Mbuguje, A. C. McClure, R. McKenzie, W. O. Mendez, Cyril Miller, D.E.G. Mitchell, R. V. Moe, A. Moises, Paul Monk, G. Monroy, H. Moran, D. Moroz, T. J. Mostert, A. C. Mporfu, E. Mpyisi, B. Muganda, M. A. Munoz, E. J. Murray, Nathanael Musaza, M. Muze,

Nyembo Mwema, Senzo Nagakubo, Z. M. Ncube, G. T. Ng, D. M. Niare, J. Niedermeier, Emmanuel Nlo, K. V. Oossanen, H. F. Otis, Jr., E. Owotor, K. Owusu-Mensa, Robert Peck, J. O. Perla, Pablo Perla, Alejo Pizarro, C. S. Plummer, D. Popa, H. D. Posse, Neftali Quintero, A. M. Radjagukuk, L. D. Raelly, Donato Ramirez, Alex Rantung, L. Reiche, B. Reichel, Jorge Reid,

O. Reis, P. C. Rema, A. Ribeiro, R. D. Riches, M. Riveros, H. A. Roach, Paul Robberson, C. B. Rock, A. P. Roda, O. Rouhe, Guiscard Sablier, M. Salomon, N. Sand, J. Santos, T. Sarli, N. E. Scavella, K. Seligman, Victor Shepherd, R. S. Shinge, O. Sladek, E. Snorrason, Jerry Snowden, Helen Socol, Bahasa Soemarna, N. Spady, E. M. Stiles, R. Surridge, Shozo Tabuchi, P. I. Thomas,

S. Thompson, A. H. Tolhurst, Joel Tompkins, Manuel Vasquez, J. C. Viera, C. Villeneuve, H. H. Voss, V. S. Wakaba, M. Walemba, Elton Wallace, William Wampler, P. Wangai, E. C. Ward, Esther Ward, M. E. Weir, Arturo Weisheim, J. W. Wilson, Ronald Wisbey, N. J. Woods, D. Woolley, Naomi Yamashiro, Yukio Yokomizo, Samuel Young, Fernando Zabala, N. A. Zhukaluk

### Korean Union Mission—Conference Status Recommended

*Voted*, To recognize and to record that the former Korean Union

Mission has been granted union conference status by the General Conference Committee and is now known as the Korean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

### Japan Union Mission—Conference Status Recommended

*Voted*, To recognize and to record that the former Japan Union Mission has been granted union conference status by the General Conference Committee and is now known as the Japan Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

### North/South Mexican Union Conference—New Union Conferences

*Voted*, 1. To recognize and record the reorganization of the former Mexican Union Conference into two new union conferences known as the North Mexican Union Conference and the South Mexican Union Conference, effective January 7, 1985.

2. To accept the North Mexican Union Conference and the South Mexican Union Conference into the sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in place of the former Mexican Union Conference.

### Northern Union Section (Mission) (SUD)—Territorial Adjustment; Northeast Union Section (Mission) (SUD)—New Union Mission (Section)

*Voted*, 1. To accept the Northeast Union Mission (SUD) into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

2. To record that the Northern Union Mission (SUD) will continue in the sisterhood of unions in the Seventh-day Adventist Church but with a reduced territorial assignment.

### Central African Union Mission (AID)—Dissolution; Rwanda Union Mission—New Union Mission

*Voted*, 1. To recognize and record the dissolution of the former Central African Union as of January 1, 1984.

2. To recognize and record the organization of the Rwanda Union Mission as of January 1, 1984.

3. To accept the Rwanda Union Mission into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

### Southern European Union Mission—Dissolution

On October 7, 1981, the General Conference Committee approved



the request of the Euro-Africa Division to dissolve the Southern European Union Mission and to designate the organizations in Italy, Portugal, and Spain separately as the Union of Churches in Italy, the Union of Churches in Portugal, et cetera, respectively. The Greek Mission became a mission attached to the Euro-Africa Division. The title percentages have been paid in harmony with existing policy (see *GC Working Policy B 10 65-2*). In the initial reorganization there were no conference organizations. As the membership grows, it is expected that conferences will be organized.

*Voted*, To recognize and record the dissolution of the Southern European Union mission as of December 31, 1981.

### South Brazil Union Conference Survey Commission—Report

*Voted*, To receive and record the report from the General Conference Committee regarding the approval it has given to the request of the South American Division and the South Brazil Union Conference for the latter to be divided into two union conferences.

### East Brazil Union Mission Survey Commission—Report

*Voted*, To receive and record the report from the General Conference Committee regarding the approval it has given to the request of the South American Division and East Brazil Union for the latter to be granted union conference status.

### Africa Territorial Reorganization

The fifty-third General Conference session voted on April 17, 1980, to reorganize the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on the African continent. In harmony with that mandate, the General Conference Committee on October 9, 1983, took the following action:

*Voted*, 1. To reorganize the East African, Ethiopian, and Tanzania unions, now administered by the Eastern Africa Division, and the South-East Africa, Zambesi, and Zambia unions, and the Botswana Field, now administered by the Trans-Africa Division, into a new division of the General Conference.

2. To attach the Southern Union Mission and the South African Union Conference directly to the General Conference with the following provisions:

a. Both unions are to continue as distinct union organizations.

b. The relationship to the General Conference as attached union organizations is to continue only until such time as it becomes possi-

ble to reincorporate the two unions into a division of the General Conference.

3. To designate the new division as the Eastern Africa Division.

4. To designate Harare, Zimbabwe, and the present Trans-Africa Division facilities as the location and headquarters facility for the new division and to retain the present Eastern Africa Division facilities in Nairobi, Kenya, as a branch division office.

5. To request the General Conference Committee to appoint a standing committee at the General Conference headquarters to serve as the administrative liaison with the Southern Union Mission and the South African Union Conference in lieu of a division organization.

6. To define institutional relationships as follows:

a. Helderberg College to become an institution of the South African Union Conference.

b. Bethel College to continue as an institution of the Southern Union Mission.

c. Solusi College status to be determined by the new division.

d. Adventist University of Eastern Africa to be an institution of the new division.

e. Publishing houses (Africa Herald Publishing House, Ethiopian Advent Press, Malamulo Publishing House, and Tanzania Adventist Press) to continue serving the territories being served by them currently.

f. Southern Publishing Association (Cape Town, South Africa) future operations to be determined by the General Conference and the two unions in South Africa attached to the General Conference, and in counsel with the new Eastern Africa Division.

*Voted*, To accept and record the report of the General Conference Committee in regard to the reorganization of the work of the church on the African continent.

### Southern Asia Division Reorganization—Territorial Assignment (Southern Asia Division Headquarters)

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

### Southern Asia Division/Far Eastern Division—Reorganization

*Voted*, To organize a new division comprising the Burma Union Section, the Bangladesh Union Section, and the Sri Lanka Union of Churches, all in the territory of the Southern Asia Division; and the Japan and Korean union confer-

ences, the Central Philippine, East Indonesia, North Philippine, South China Island, South Philippine, Southeast Asia, West Indonesia union missions, and the Guam-Micronesia Mission, presently in the territory of the Far Eastern Division. (Nomenclature for the new division is to be determined.)

### Southern Asia Division Reorganization—Transfer of Pakistan Union to NED

*Voted*, To transfer the territory of the Pakistan Union Mission from the Southern Asia Division to the Northern European Division. (See also GCO 84-1014, 84-129, 84-226, 84-259, 85-12.)

### European Territorial Realignment

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

*Voted*, 1. To transfer the territory of the Hungarian Union Conference, the Yugoslavia Union Conference, the Greek Mission, and the Israel Field from the Euro-Africa Division to the Northern European Division.

2. To change the name of the

Northern European Division at an early date should this realignment be approved.

### Northern European Division—New Nomenclature

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

### Australasian Division—Name Change to South Pacific Division

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

### West Central African Union Mission Name Changed to Central African Union Mission—AID

On January 10, 1985, the General Conference Committee took action discontinuing the former Central African Union Mission. It is therefore

*Voted*, To record that the name of the West Central African Union



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Mission is changed to Central African Union Mission as requested by the Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

### Nominating Committee Membership—Attached Unions

*Voted*, To authorize each of the attached unions—Middle East Union Mission, South African Union Conference, and Southern Union Mission—to appoint one delegate each on the Nominating Committee of the fifty-fourth General Conference session.

### U.S.S.R. Representatives—85GCS Nominating Committee

A plan is required for the selection of representatives from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to serve on the 85GCS Nominating Committee.

*Voted*, 1. To request the delegates from the U.S.S.R. to caucus as a group to choose two individuals to serve on the 85GCS Nominating Committee.

2. To request that in selecting the two individuals, one be chosen from each of the two organized associations of the church in the U.S.S.R.

### Caucusing of Delegates From Unions Being Transferred Between Divisions

Caucus arrangements are needed for delegates from unions that are being proposed for future transfer from one division to another.

*Voted*, 1. To instruct delegates from unions being proposed for transfer from one division to another to meet with the caucus of the new division to which they would belong.

2. To instruct delegates to sit with the delegations of the divisions to which they currently belong.

### Recess

### Financial Reports for Quinquennium 1980-1984

*Voted*, 1. To approve the financial report of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for the quinquennium (1980-1984), including the operations of the General Conference, the General and Hospital Retirement Plans, the General Conference Corporation, and the General Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists.

2. To approve the auditors' statement of Maner, Costerisan, and Ellis, Certified Public Accountants, read by Jack Powers.

### Nominating Committee Report—1

*Voted*, To approve the following partial report of the Nominating Committee:

#### General Conference

President, Neal C. Wilson  
Secretary, G. Ralph Thompson

### Letter From President of Botswana

Bekele Heye presented a letter of congratulation and petition to Neal C. Wilson from the president of Botswana.

*Voted*, To acknowledge the request of the president of Botswana and ensure him of the prayers of the church on his behalf.

Adjourned

ALF LOHNE, *Chairman*  
J. W. BOTHE  
*Secretary and Editor*  
MARTHA HORN  
*Recording Secretary*

# First business meeting

*Continued*

## Fifty-fourth General Conference session June 27, 1985, 7:00 P.M.

### Session proceedings

ENOCH OLIVEIRA: I would like to welcome you to the second part of our opening program. On the platform is a representative group of laypeople. They represent 4.5 million believers scattered all over the world.

It gives me pleasure and great joy to introduce some special couples on the platform. In our church dictionary we have four well-known and interrelated words—revival, reformation, evangelism, and Pierson. I am glad to inform you that our former president, Robert H. Pierson, and his dear wife are with us on the platform. [Applause.]

We also have with us the proudest couple in this congregation, N. C. Wilson, Sr., and his wife. [Applause.] They had the opportunity to guide, train, and mold a little boy, full of energy and enthusiasm, a boy who in God's providence would become the fourteenth General Conference president. Elder Wilson, Sr., was a successful church administrator in four different divisions—North America, Africa, Southern Asia, and Australia.

We would also like to introduce a young preacher, Ted Wilson and his wife. He represents the third generation of preachers in his family.

L. L. BOCK: [Announces opening song, "Lift Up the Trumpet."]

R. H. PIERSON: [Opening prayer.]

C. L. BROOKS: [Announces special music.]

C. E. BRADFORD: It's a happy privilege to welcome delegates from the world field to New Orleans, Louisiana, and the North American continent for this fifty-fourth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Coming back to New Orleans is a homecoming, full circle, because I started my ministry here in 1946 as an intern, and continued pastoral service in places like Baton Rouge, Monroe, Covington, and Hammond. The North American Division members want to welcome all of you to this unique city, this great state, and the continent that gave birth to the Advent Movement.

The emphasis in North America,

as you know, is on caring, loving concern for others. We want to be known as a caring church. Our hearts are filled with gratitude to God for bringing you safely here, and I call upon all of the delegates and members from North America to open their hearts to you and to make you feel right at home. May your stay in North America be pleasant and profitable and may you return to your home divisions with good impressions and happy memories of the time spent here.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honor and the rare privilege to present to you the distinguished governor of the state of Louisiana. He is a true servant, a leader concerned for the people—the Honorable Edwin Edwards. Will you please give him a good Seventh-day Adventist welcome. [Applause.]

GOVERNOR EDWARDS: Thank you for your welcome. You are in the world's largest enclosed facility. We are glad that you are here. I am very impressed with the number of countries represented by your delegates and very pleased that you have chosen this great city for your convention. I welcome you with a special degree of interest because of what your church represents, its doctrine, and the caliber of delegates that it has sent to this convention.

I hope that when you return to your native countries after this convention you will take with you a renewed friendship with the people of America and especially of Louisiana, knowing that we are a freedom-loving people, anxious to help wherever possible around the world, and that we share with you a belief that, as the voice from the clouds said to the men of Galilee, this same Jesus taken from you, who has ascended into heaven, will one day return in like manner.

No other group in the world has done as much as the Seventh-day Adventists to prepare the world for that coming. When it happens, and it will happen, whether in our generation or the next or a hundred years from now, this church and what it stands for will be able to say proudly that we knew it, we believed it, we taught it, and more important, we lived it. Thank you. [Applause.]

NEAL C. WILSON: Governor Edwards, you honored us by com-

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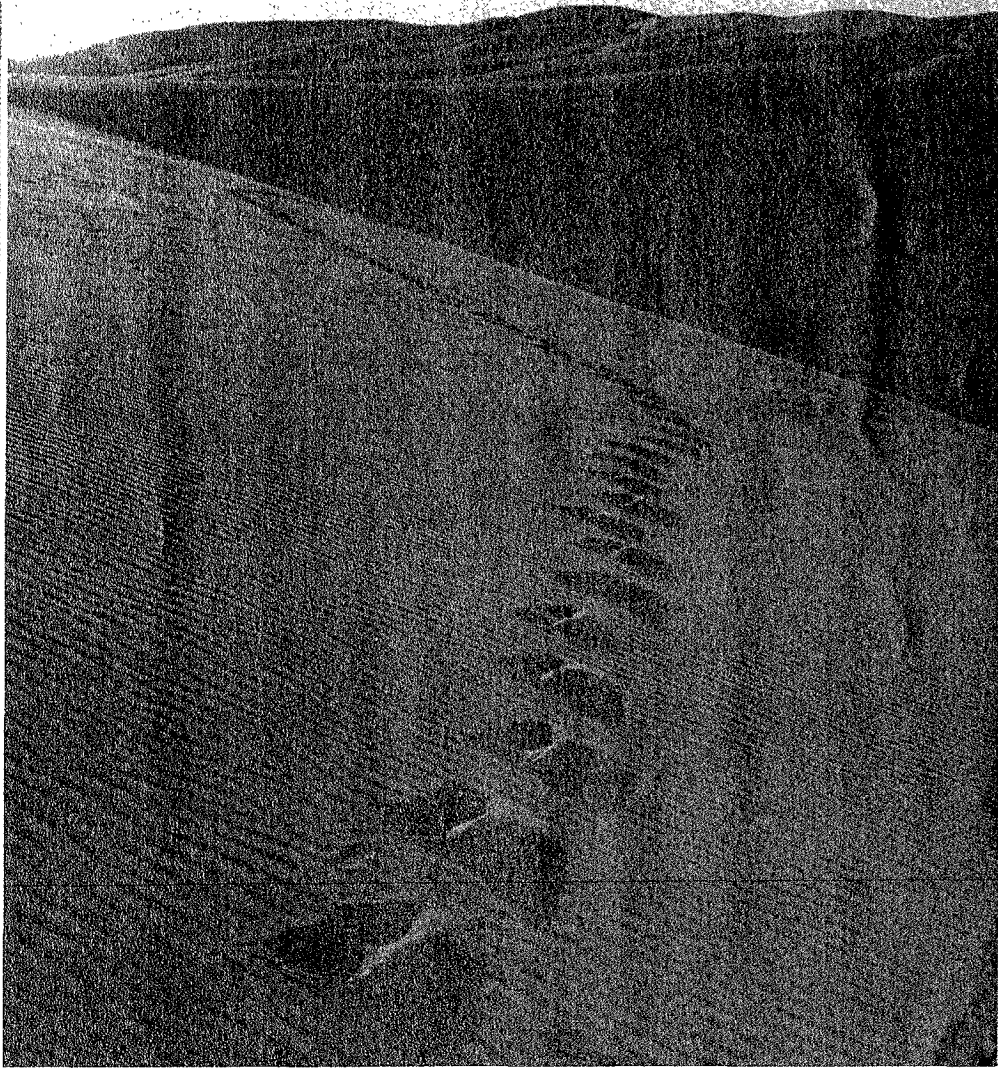
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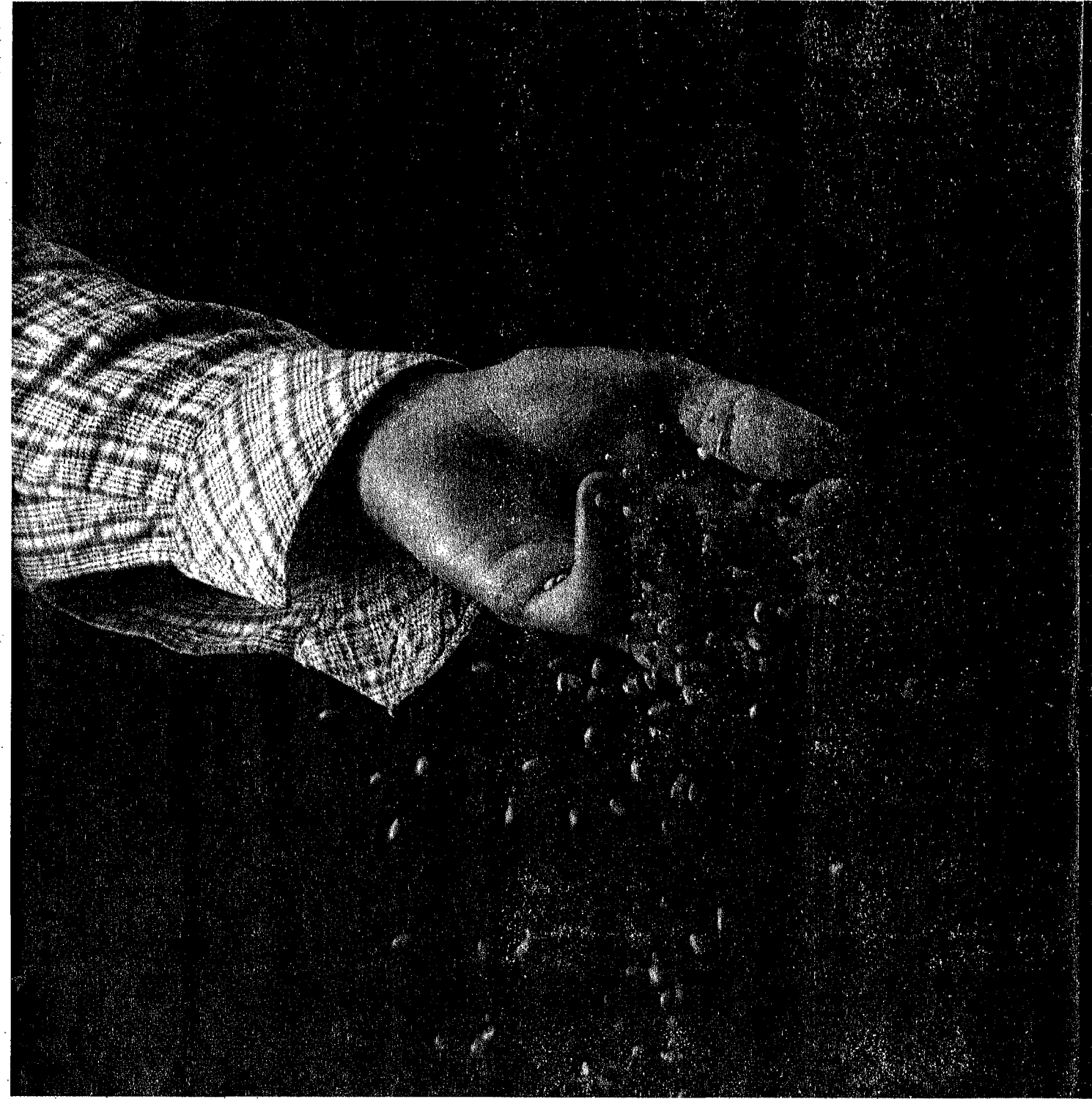


# Sowing, Reaping, and Keeping



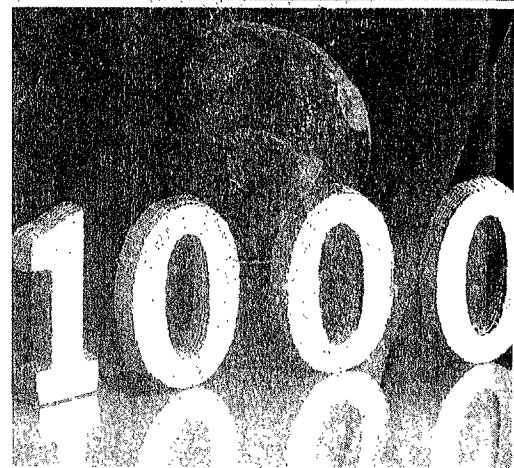
South  
American  
Division of  
Seventh-day  
Adventists  
.980-1984

*In the  
footprints of  
Jesus*

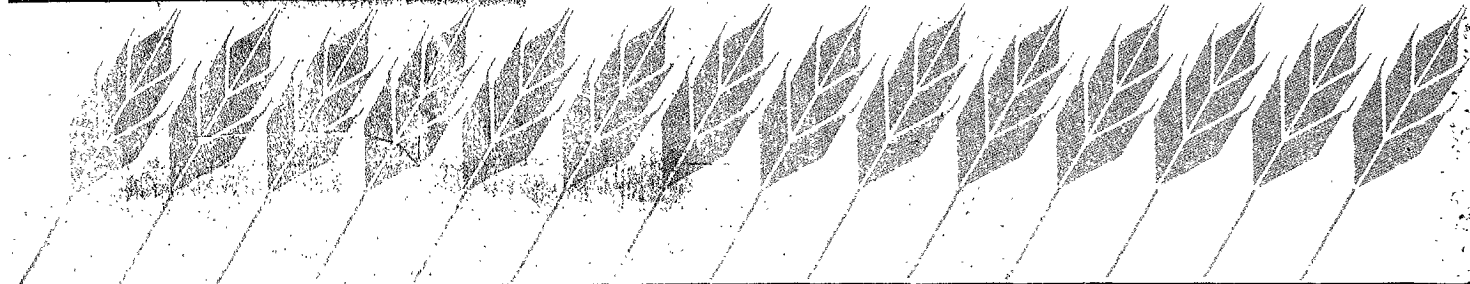


*During the last quinquennium the South American Division, along with the rest of the world field, was involved in the 1000 Days of Reaping. Next page, from top to bottom: Plans were laid for total church involvement in our division headquarters in Brasília, and the work progressed so rapidly that it was necessary to create new*

*conferences. In 1984 a new office building was inaugurated for the Central Brazil Conference. Elders Neal C. Wilson and João Wolff and their wives were present for this significant occasion. Members of all ages have been involved in witnessing as the older members of the family pass on the torch of faith to the youth.*







# Administration



**F**

ounded in 1916 with only 773 Adventists, the South American Division now has 656,529 members

who gather in 7,941 churches and congregations. It is organized into 6 unions and 36 local conferences and missions.

The plan of action for this quinquennium is summarized by our motto, "Sowing, Reaping, and Keeping," and our theme, "By His Spirit." Each plan for outreach is focused on the local congregations and homes. To stimulate the multiplication of congregations, we developed Pioneer Projects, in which small groups of laymen are challenged to leave their home churches and establish new congregations in unentered territory.

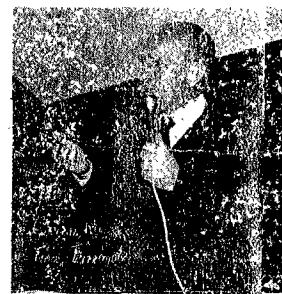
Faithful stewardship has also facilitated our growth. Our members returned US\$107,316,425 to the Lord in tithes, and mission offerings increased by 249 percent.

"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us" (1 Samuel 7:12).

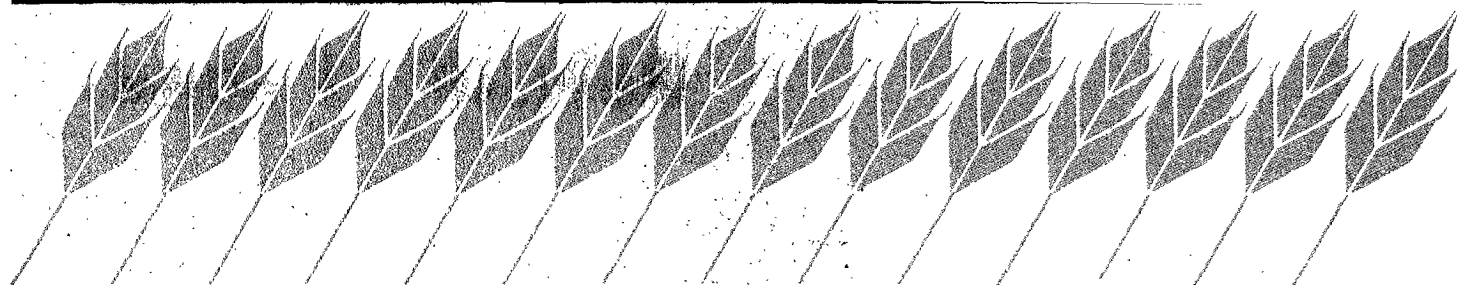
Elder João Wolff, President  
South American Division of  
Seventh-day Adventists

*During the past five years 309,841 people were brought to Christ. This beautiful baptismal scene is symbolic of the thousands of similar ceremonies that took place all across the division during this quinquennium.*

*Pastors and laity were united in evangelistic action during the 1000 Days of Reaping. Evangelistic campaigns played a major role in this thrust.*







Left: More than 50,000 Adventists meet in the 350 congregations scattered across São Paulo, a city of more than 14 million. Right, major evangelistic campaigns were held in every country, such as the Hour to Live campaign held in Argentina.

This large air auditorium drew enthusiastic crowds.



# Evangelism

**T**

he 1000 Days of Reaping objective has mobilized both pastors and laity into united evangelistic action throughout South America. As a result, 309,841 people were brought to Christ during this quinquennium, representing a growth of more than 50 percent over the previous period.

Mass metropolitan evangelism played a key role. In Guayaquil, Ecuador, a total of 1,007 souls were won during such a campaign. Through another two efforts in Brazil, 676 people were baptized in Manaus, and 1,200 in Aracaju.

Each of the 7,941 churches in the South American Division has at least one active baptismal class, with productive results. One million Bibles were distributed through these classes and evangelistic meetings.

In Peru Seventh-day Adventists represent the second largest church in the nation, after the Catholic. The capital city of Lima alone has over 100 congregations.

Brazil now has the second-largest Seventh-day Adventist membership among the nations of the world. In São Paulo, a city of more than 14 million, there are more than 50,000 members in approximately 350 congregations.

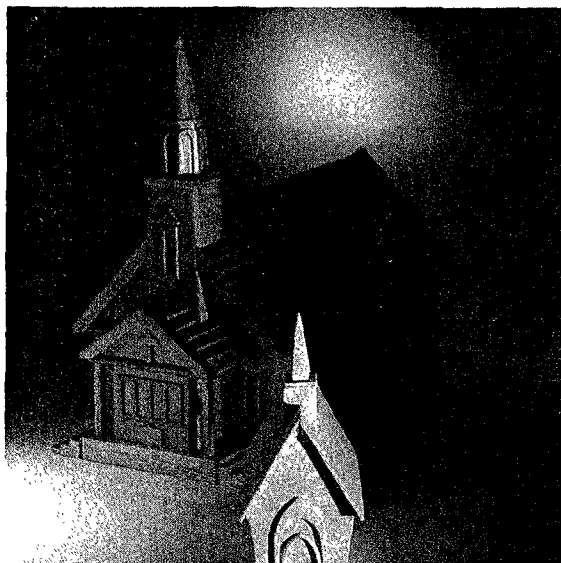






# Lay Activities and Sabbath School

During the Easter season church members all across South America participate in a special witnessing project, utilizing a large brochure which they share with neighbors, friends, and strangers. The brochure emphasizes Christ's Second Coming and also features several major doctrines, one to each panel. Recipients of the brochure are invited to special evangelistic meetings held in conjunction with Holy Week.

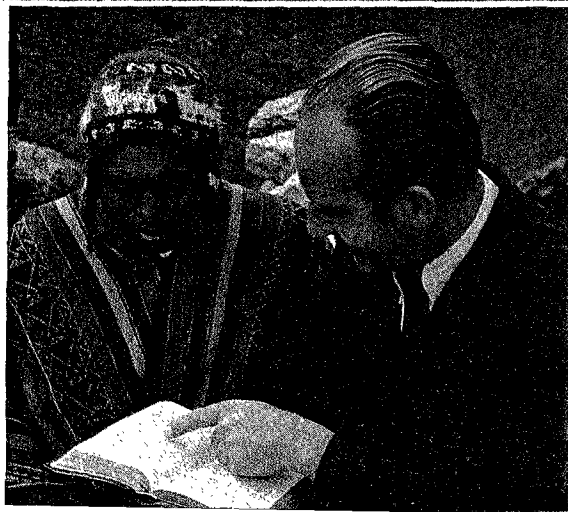


This symbolic depiction of the Pioneer Project was used to encourage churches of at least 250 members to send one Sabbath school class (or group of up to 50 people) to begin a new church in a nearby neighborhood.



The laity is eager to participate in home Bible studies and gave 12 million.

God's Word is being shared with all types of people in South America, from city dwellers to the Indians that populate the high Andes.



**S**abbath school membership exceeds 700,000 in South America, demonstrating a 50 percent

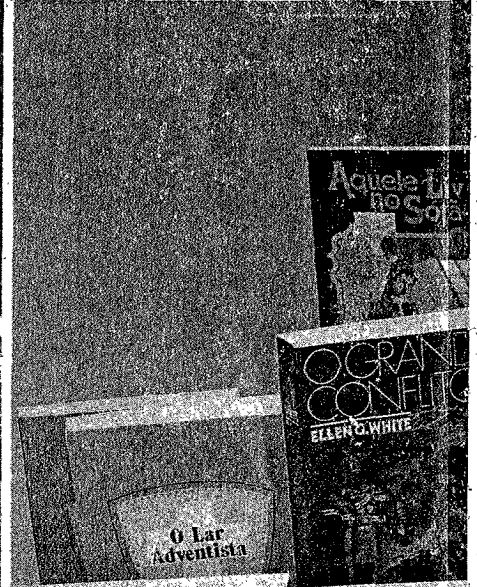
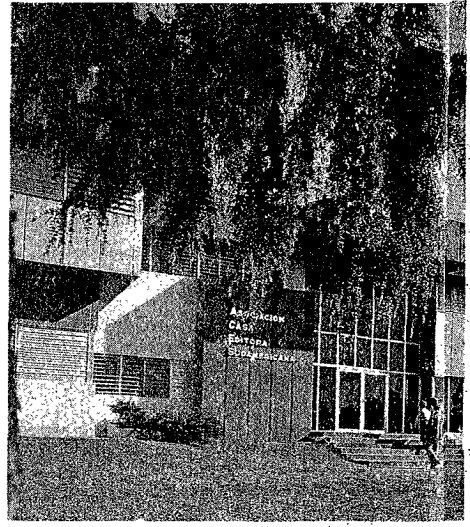
increase during this quinquennium. The second Sabbath of each month is designated as Visitors' Day, amplifying the evangelistic dimensions of the Sabbath school.

Our laymen report more than 100 percent increases in all types of missionary contacts. They gave more than 12 million Bible studies and distributed millions of pieces of literature.

The Easter season presents a prime evangelistic opportunity each year, as the largely Catholic public is reminded of Christ's love and sacrifice. Church members share with the public a large brochure, which features the Second Coming but also explains several Adventist doctrines. For some time now, each Adventist congregation in South America has held an evangelistic series during Holy Week, to which neighbors and friends are invited.

During this quinquennium an innovation known as the Pioneer Project was added, in which a mother church spawns a new congregation in another neighborhood at the close of its Holy Week evangelism. A new Pioneer Project has been established for every day of the 1000 Days of Reaping—1,000 new congregations.

Right: Asociación Casa Editora Sudamericana, Argentina. Below: Our two publishing houses print thousands of books and magazines, which are sold by literature evangelists and distributed by our laity. Included in this large output are the special leaflet and the brochure used during the Easter season and also a special issue of Vida e Saude (Life and Health) devoted to vegetarianism.









*In 1983 the first division-wide camporee was held at the beautiful Iguazu Falls. The Pathfinders paraded in uniform down the main street of the small town nearby, to the delight of the town's residents. When a group of literature evangelists arrived later, they introduced themselves as being from the same organization and were able to sell many books. The evangelistic meeting that followed resulted in many baptisms.*





# Youth & Temperance

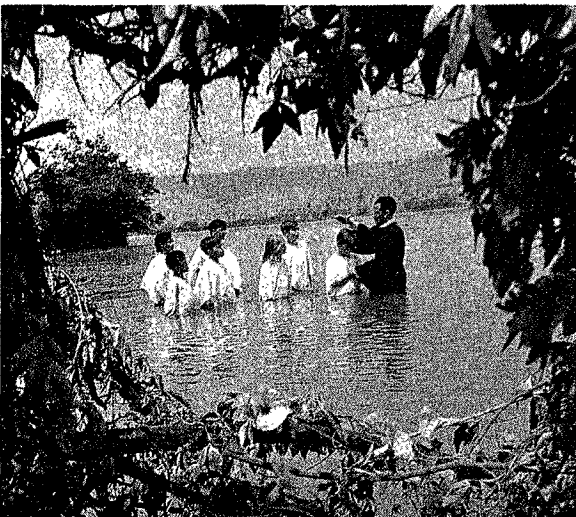
On Memorial Day Adventist youth visit cemeteries and leave specially prepared cards with an inspirational message and an invitation to a Memorial Day service in the Adventist Church. Often the young people sign these cards and add a personal message of hope.



Each year the Adventist Church chooses a Mother's Day flower and commissions a song to be written just for the event. As Mother's Day approaches, billboards and TV announcements feature the flower and song. On Mother's Day itself Adventist youth join in special parades or knock at doors, singing the song and leaving a flower and special card that includes a short message and an invitation to enroll in a Voice of Prophecy Bible course.



On the Sabbath closest to the first day of spring, Adventist churches throughout the division hold a special youth baptism. Each year from ten to fifteen thousand young people declare their commitment to Christ in these special baptisms.

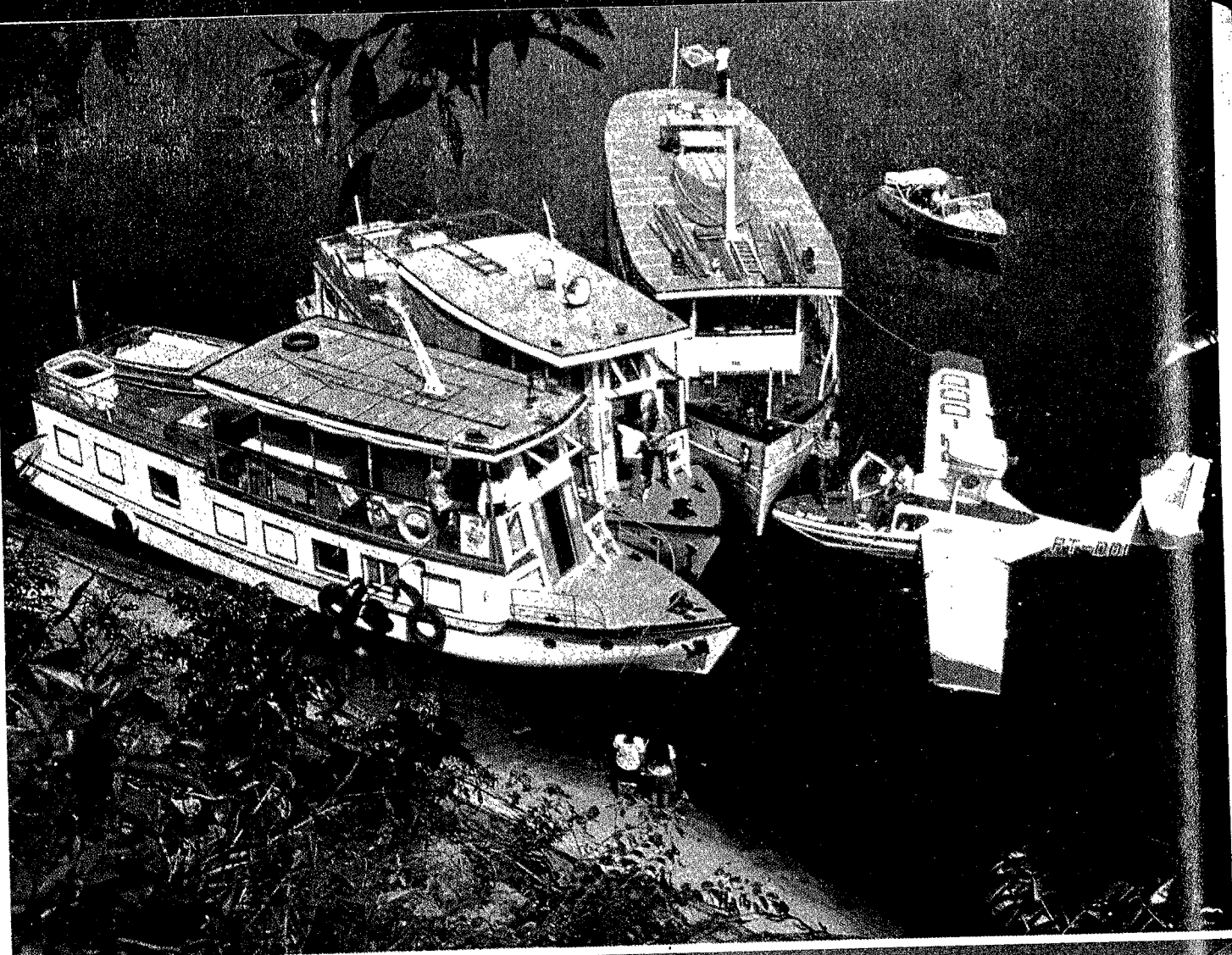


**O**ur youth form a great army for God. Within these ranks are nearly 40,000 Pathfinders, for whom we held the first division-wide camporee in 1983 at the beautiful Iguacu Falls. More than 4,500 Pathfinders, representing eight countries, participated. The impact made by the Pathfinders was followed by book sales and an evangelistic campaign, which resulted in many baptisms.

In addition to Voice of Youth programs and other usual activities, South American young people are involved in the church's temperance work, including 227 chemical dependency courses and nearly 10,000 Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking seminars.

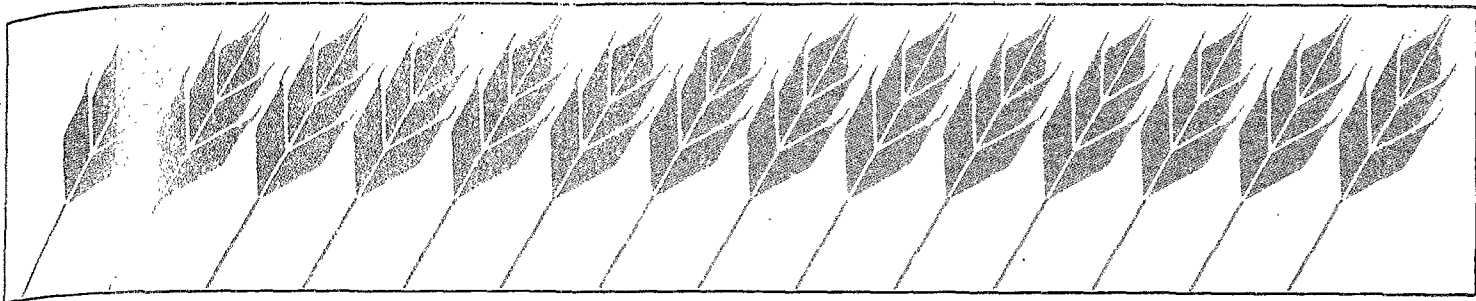
On Mother's Day thousands of Adventist youth form parades in the streets—singing and distributing hugs, kisses, and flowers to the delighted mothers among the bystanders. On Memorial Day, when millions visit the cemeteries, Adventist youth are there to give personal messages of hope and comfort. The cards that they leave at grave sites invite the public to special Memorial Day services held in our churches. The press and national TV networks give wide coverage to these two activities.

Most importantly, each spring on the special youth baptismal day, between 10,000 and 15,000 youth give their hearts to Christ.



*The Granix Food Factory in Buenos Aires, Argentina, along with the Superbom food factory in São Paulo, produces canned and dry health foods, as well as healthful fruit and vegetable juices.*

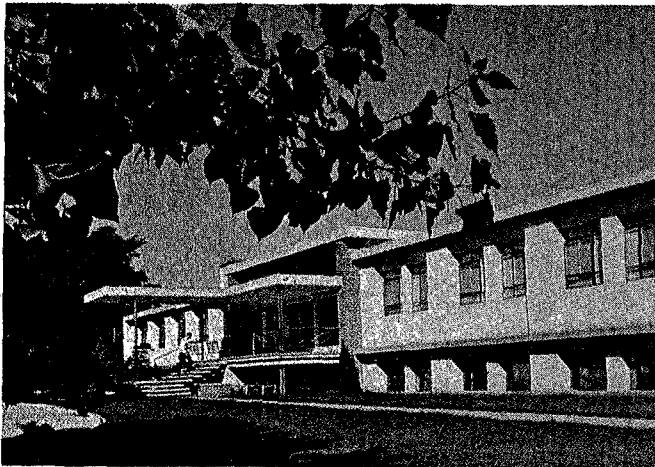




## Institutions

*In 1931 Leo Halliwell piloted the first aquatic clinic, the Luzero, up and down the Amazon River. Today 14 mission launches and 3 airplanes carry medical aid and the story of the gospel to the Brazilians and Indians along the river.*

*The River Plate Sanitarium and Hospital in Argentina.*

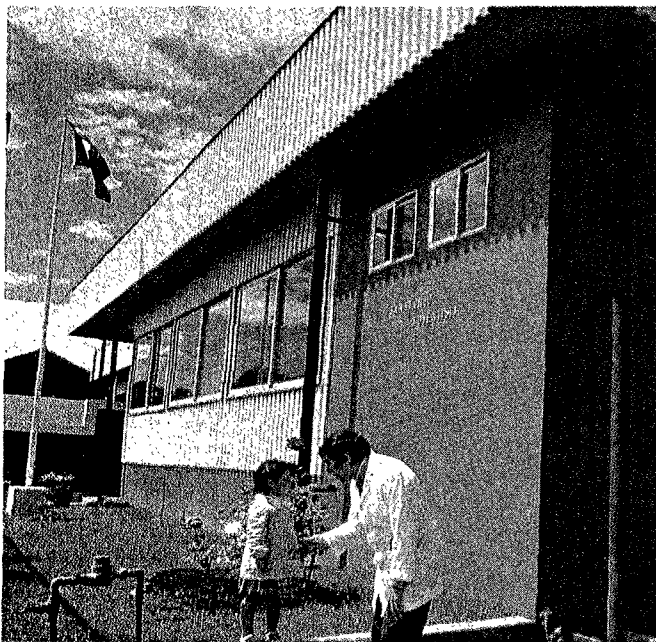


**M**edical evangelism has grown from its humble beginnings at the end of the past century until today there are 24 hospitals, 14 mission launches, and 3 airplanes in active service. These outreaches of medical evangelism project the church into cities, towns, and villages all across South America.

A health food company with two large factories, Granix in Buenos Aires and Superbom in São Paulo, also operates eight vegetarian restaurants, which serve as effective windows for our healthful-living philosophy.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), the international church agency created to accept the challenge of large projects, is involved in meeting the educational, nutritional, medical, agricultural, and disaster-relief needs of communities on a large-scale basis. Due to ADRA's involvement, appreciative government authorities have given the church credit for developing solutions to great social problems.

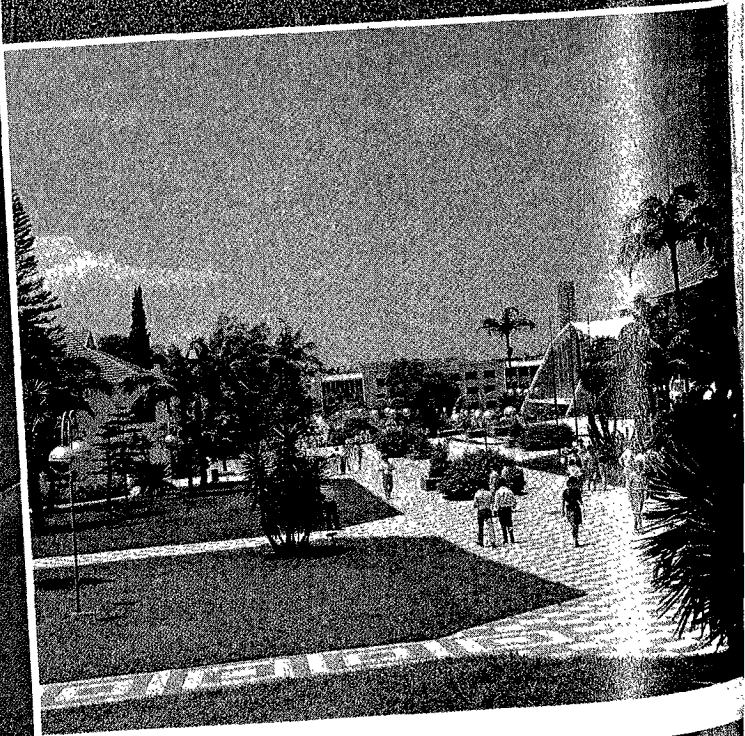
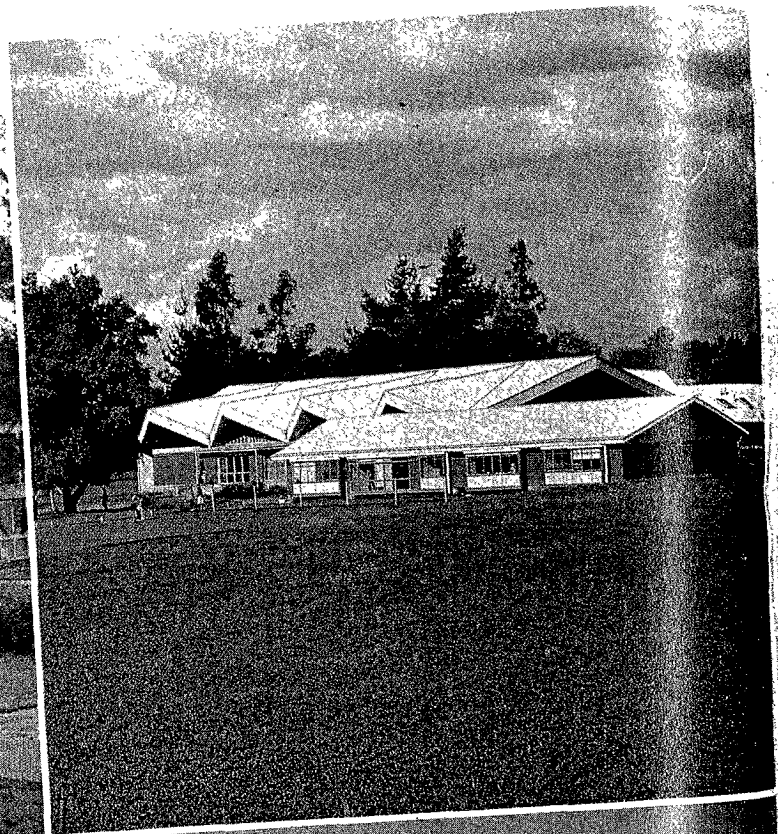
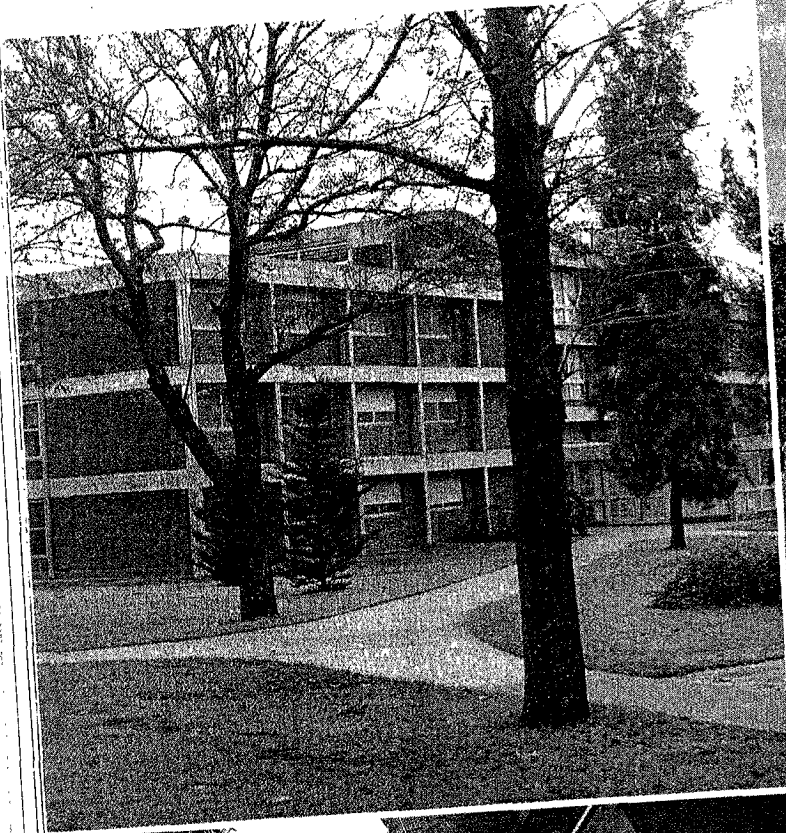
*South Chile Adventist Sanitarium, a small clinic in Los Angeles, Chile.*



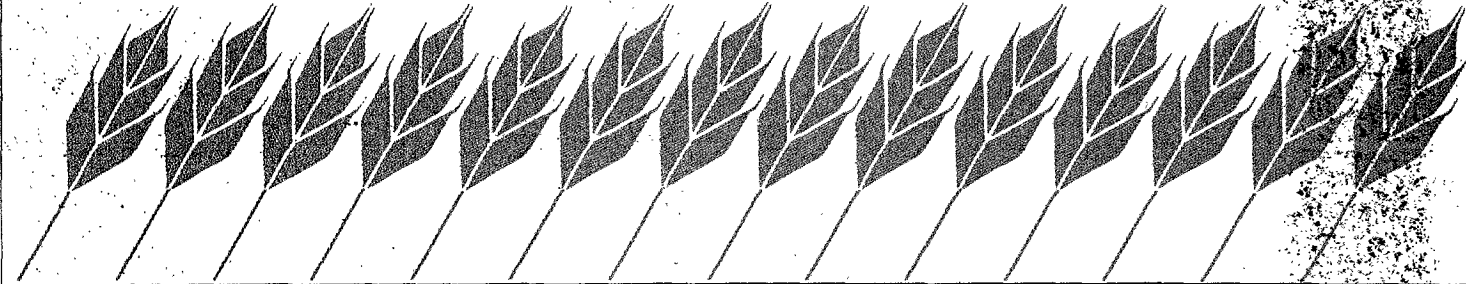
*The mission plane brings much needed aid to villagers such as these in Peru.*









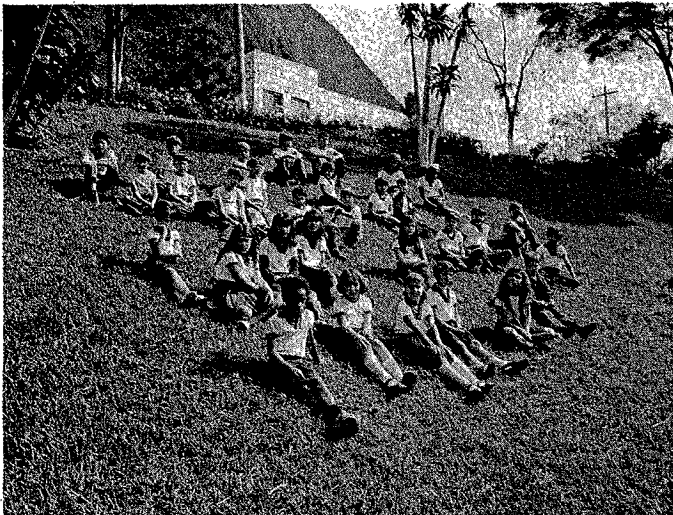


# Education

*Opposite page:  
Above, left,  
Adventist College  
of the Plata; right,  
South Chile  
Academy.*

*Below, left, the  
courtyard in the  
center of the  
theology building  
at Brazil College;  
right, a campus  
scene at Brazil  
College.*

*This page,  
from top to bottom:  
East Brazil  
Academy in  
Petropolis; the  
floating school at  
Lake Titicaca that  
serves the Uros  
Indians; Manaus  
Day Academy,  
famous in the area  
for its  
greenhouse-grown  
tomatoes.*



**A**dventist education forms a cornerstone for the growth and development of the church in South America.

Throughout the division, 4,601 dedicated teachers serve in 684 elementary schools, 62 academies, and 5 colleges where there is a total combined enrollment of 113,864 students. At present, 20 of these institutions are boarding schools, with 8 more in the development stage.

During the quinquennium, two graduate schools were created, the Inca Union University in Lima, Peru, and the Latin American Theological Seminary for South America, through which over 100 pastors have already earned their Master's degrees in religion or theology. Approximately 20 percent of Adventist theology students worldwide are in the South American Division.



# Communication

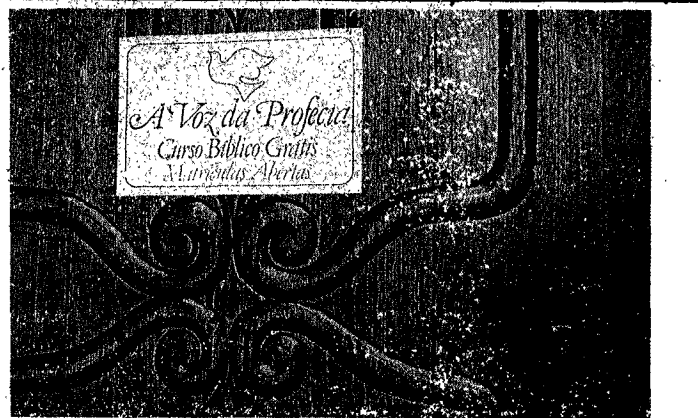
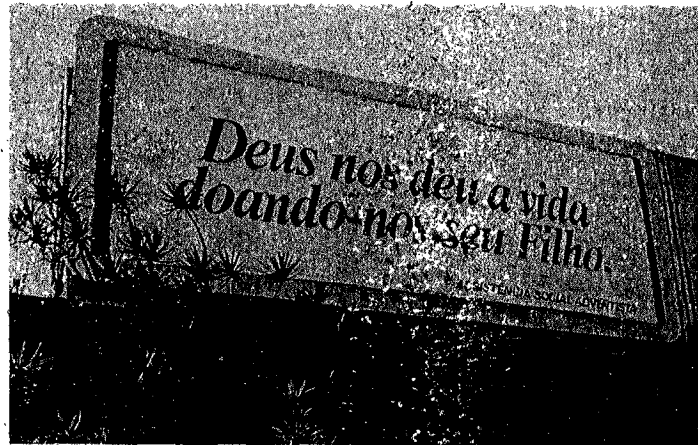
**F**ifteen radio and TV programs are beaming the gospel news throughout South America, in addition to those produced by local pastors and laymen. Altogether, over 600 programs with a total of 2,400 weekly broadcast hours are aired.

The Bible correspondence schools have matriculated 1 million students, of which 600,000 remain active. Graduates number 452,546, with 102,520 baptisms to date.

A number of pastors have reported that up to 80 percent of their baptisms have originated with radio and TV interests.

In some countries, in addition to excellent reporting of our church activities (such as Mother's Day and Ingathering), the major newspapers have printed entire Spirit of Prophecy books in serial form, creating favorable conditions for the advancement of our work.

*Above, left to right: Roberto Rabello, pioneer radio broadcaster; a commercial TV news team interviews Elder Neal Wilson; Enrique Chajj, Voice of Prophecy speaker in Argentina; volunteer workers at Telepaz provide a personal touch for those who call in for the recorded inspirational message. Right, top to bottom: one of the billboard messages used during the Ingathering campaign; a printed card on the front door of an Adventist home, alerting neighbors that this is a representative of the Voice of Prophecy broadcast; a billboard used in conjunction with Mother's Day, showing the flower of the year, which is also featured on the TV spots.*



*Text, Assad Bechara; translation, Joyce Christman; photos, Keystone (No. 1), Roberto R. Azevedo, Kiotaka Shirai, Erlo Koeler, Paulo Gusmão, Assad Bechara, Oswaldo Felix, Elias R. Azevedo, Paulo Bechara, Werner Binemann; design and printing, Review and Herald Publishing Association.*

ing tonight. I and my brothers and sisters greatly appreciate your gracious words. Louisiana is symbolic of the international nature of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as you have already stated, because of the many diverse customs and peoples, and the languages that are used here in this beautiful state.

Some of you may not realize that the flag of the state that Governor Edwards represents has on it a pelican, a mother feeding and protecting the young. What a marvelous symbol that is of what the world needs today—feeding and protecting. Governor Edwards, the words on the flag of the state that you lead symbolize also what the world needs today—union, justice, and confidence. May God give you wisdom and help each day as this state does its part to establish those rare, scarce qualities that our world so desperately needs.

And may I on behalf of our people, Governor Edwards, give to you a book that we treasure, a book entitled *The Desire of Ages*, on the life of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. One of the special little features at this General Conference session is a beautiful little medallion that has on one side "Christ Our Hope," our logo for this session, and on the other side a subject about which you just spoke, Governor Edwards, "Behold He Cometh."

You need to be decorated before you leave. Mrs. Naomi Yamashiro has for you a beautiful lei to symbolize our love.

GOVERNOR EDWARDS: I really do appreciate this, and I have to tell you something. One of my favorite persons is one of your more prominent church people here. He happens to be my dentist, Dr. Robert H. Sundin, and he is one of the many reasons why I'm here. Dr. Sundin had me in his dental chair about three months ago. I was sitting there with my mouth open and my hands stretched out. He came to me with the drill and turned it on and said, "By the way, my church is having a convention here in June. I want you to come and welcome us." I answered, "Absolutely, whatever it is, it doesn't make any difference." I want you to know, I'm very glad he asked me to come, and I appreciate your warm welcome. Have a good time and enjoy New Orleans and know that we love you and that this is a country that loves what this church stands for. [Applause.]

W. L. WOODRUFF: On behalf of your brothers and sisters in the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference, it is my great pleasure, as president, to welcome you to New Orleans and the Southern hospitality of the state

of Louisiana. Perhaps you have already noticed the warm welcome we have turned on for you. It is indeed my privilege to welcome you to New Orleans, a city with a rich historical heritage, and now the host city to the fifty-fourth session of the Seventh-day Adventist World Church.

F. W. WERNICK: Now we will have another welcome, this time from the president of the Southwest Region Conference, W. C. Jones.

W. C. JONES: It is my happy privilege as the president of the Southwest Region Conference to welcome you to our territory. We extend to you a heartfelt welcome to the Superdome in the great state of Louisiana and the city of New Orleans. We have anticipated and looked forward to your arrival for many months. We believe the brethren have exercised good judgment in the selection of this city in the Southwestern Union Conference. We are grateful and happy to have you as our guests in the Crescent City.

In the city of New Orleans and the surrounding suburbia there are six congregations with a membership approaching 3,000. Presently we have two church buildings under construction and two more in the planning stage.

Many sporting events have filled this arena with excitement and cheer, but none excels the thrill and excitement that pervades our hearts as we welcome delegates from the world church to the Crescent City. May your sojourn with us always remain a pleasant experience.

F. W. WERNICK: As you know, we are meeting not only in the conference borders of the Southwest Region Conference and the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference but also in the borders of the Southwestern Union Conference. B. E. Leach is the president of that union, and he will bring us a welcome.

B. E. LEACH: Thank you. It's a great pleasure to welcome you again to what is becoming known as the General Conference session union. Flags of four nations have flown over this city—Spain, France, the Confederate States, and, of course, the United States. This is the second-largest port in the nation, with 133 miles of waterfront and 30 miles of wharves and warehouses.

I hope you will enjoy yourselves. Have a good time, and I say to you, "Let the good times and the Lord be felt in your hearts in the great Southwestern Union."

VICTOR COOPER: We have had nothing but warmth and love and welcome since we arrived in New Orleans. Radio and television and the Greater New Orleans Feder-

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**LifeSpirit**  
**The Way to Adventist Church Growth**  
**Learning to Love**  
**How to Know God**  
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### Concerned Communications

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ation of Churches have welcomed us. I am delighted tonight that we have with us the president of the Greater New Orleans Federation of Churches, the Reverend Richard Reynolds.

**RICHARD REYNOLDS:** It is my privilege on behalf of the Greater New Orleans Federation of Churches to say we are glad to have you too. I represent 230 churches of 20 different denominations in this city. We are interested in the citizens of New Orleans getting to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour, and so we welcome you—we welcome all the help we can get.

**L. L. BUTLER:** [Offertory prayer.]

**C. L. BROOKS:** [Introduction of theme song, "Christ Our Hope."]

**F. W. WERNICK:** It is time now for the president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to bring to the delegates at this session his report. But before he does that, I would like to say a few words. Elder Neal C. Wilson is well known by all the world field because he has traveled extensively. His devoted wife, Elinor, is somewhat less known, but equally important.

Elder Wilson has given of himself without reservation to the responsibilities he has had to carry. Those of us who have worked closely with him know this to be the case. There have been many unusual events in the past five years. There have also been many great victories and much growth of the church throughout the world.

Elder Wilson has not only carried the burden of these administrative responsibilities, but he has also given active leadership to evangelism and soul winning. He has led out in two large evangelistic campaigns during this quinquennium—one in Manila, Philippines, and the other in Panama City, Panama. Hundreds of believers were baptized in each of these campaigns. And it seems to me this is a characteristic of spiritual leadership. It is my pleasure to introduce to you God's appointed leader for this past quinquennium, Elder Neal C. Wilson. I would like him and his wife to come to the podium.

**NEAL C. WILSON:** Thank you very much, Elder Wernick, for your gracious introduction. What a privilege, my brothers and sisters and fellow delegates and friends, to be here in this opening meeting of our fifty-fourth world session. And thank you for recognizing Elinor. That means so very much to me.

With your permission, Sister Naomi, I am going to put this beautiful lei around the neck of one who I think deserves it, my mother.

The fifty-fourth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has been officially opened. During the past five hours some very necessary and important business has been transacted. Welcomes have been extended in many ways.

I have this evening a special message from the White House, in Washington. It is with pride and with deep appreciation that I share this message with you: "I am pleased to extend warmest greetings to all those gathered for the General Conference session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in New Orleans. Your church is a powerful and positive force, upholding the moral and spiritual traditions upon which our nation was founded. These sessions strengthen your own faith and the diversity of worship that is the essence of America. In addition, they assist your members in bringing God's Word to so many peoples throughout the world. I can

think of no more important forum for Seventh-day Adventists and for all those who understand the need for religious fellowship.

"I am sure that this fifty-fourth session of the General Conference will be as successful as those of the past to the benefit of your members, the country as a whole, and those served by your missions at home and abroad. May the Lord continue to guide you and your great endeavors." Signed, Ronald Reagan.

[The president then presented the keynote address, which appeared on pages 3-8 in the June 27 *Bulletin*.]

**G. RALPH THOMPSON:** [Presented the list of 238 names for the Nominating Committee.] I move that we accept the list comprising the Nominating Committee. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

**F. W. WERNICK, Chairman**

**G. RALPH THOMPSON, Secretary**

**D. A. ROTH and**

**B. E. JACOBS,**

*Proceedings Editors*

## Second business meeting

**Fifty-fourth General Conference session  
June 28, 1985, 9:30 A.M.**

### Session proceedings

**C. D. MARTIN:** [Directed the song service and led in the opening song, "I Would Be Like Jesus."]

**K. S. PARMENTER:** [Opening prayer.]

**ALF LOHNE:** I welcome you all to the second business meeting of this session. We have two important items; first, the report by the secretary, G. Ralph Thompson.

**G. RALPH THOMPSON:** Just before my report I bring greetings from our believers in the Chile Union of the South American Division. We also received greetings from the North Chile Mission, acknowledging God's blessings, and from the South Chile Conference, where prayers for Christ's soon return ascend with ours. Greetings have also been received from the Central Brazil Conference, the Brazil Publishing House, the Belo Horizonte Hospital, and the South American Division Food Company. [The full text of the secretary's report appears on pages 21-24.]

**ALF LOHNE:** In this business meeting we have another important presentation. Lance Butler, General Conference treasurer, will present the treasurer's report.

**L. L. BUTLER:** [The full treasurer's report appears on pages 28-31.]

**W. L. MURRILL:** We are now ready to receive the auditor's certificate. We are pleased to report to the session that this is the first time in the five-year period that we have had an independent auditing firm statement. D. D. Dennis, director of the General Conference Auditing Service, will introduce our auditors from the firm that has been serving the General Conference for the past seven years.

**D. D. DENNIS:** It has been the privilege of the General Conference Auditing Service to be associated with a certified public accounting firm, Maner, Costerisan, & Ellis, P.C., Lansing, Michigan, to examine the annual financial statements of the General Conference. I introduce to you Floyd Costerisan, the managing partner of this accounting firm, and Jack Powers, the audit partner, both of whom are Seventh-day Adventists.

**JACK POWERS:** [Presented the auditors' statement, which was accepted.]

### Nominating Committee Officers

Chairperson: W. R. Leshner  
Vice-Chairpersons: Dennis K. Bazarra, Claude D. Judd  
Secretary: Calvin B. Rock

Associate Secretaries: Noel S. Fraser, Norman J. Woods, Samuel Young

**W. R. LESHNER:** C. B. Rock will bring us the recommendation of the Nominating Committee for president of the General Conference.

**C. B. ROCK:** The Nominating Committee is pleased to place before you as president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for the next quinquennium the name of Neal C. Wilson. [Applause.] I move his reelection.

**ALF LOHNE:** Is there a second? All in favor please raise your right hand. Any opposed, the same sign. As far as I can see, it is unanimous. I declare the motion passed. Elder Wilson and Elinor, will you come to the platform?

**NEAL C. WILSON:** Fellow delegates, I can only think this morning of the response of the apostle Paul when he was confronted with the challenge of taking the gospel to Troas and Macedonia as recorded in 2 Corinthians 2:16, "And who is sufficient for these things?" That is very much the way Elinor and I feel: Who is sufficient for these things? Really, there is no one with all the talents needed. What a chance God took when He placed in the hands of men and women the responsibility of finishing the work that Jesus Himself started. Yet, how grateful we are for the privilege. How wonderful to be surrounded with individuals who show such loyalty, and have God's promises to lean upon. What a marvelous provision to have the assurance of the presence of the Holy Spirit. He is the one who leads and brings conviction and unity among us. God has told us that every day He is there to help.

How grateful Elinor and I are for your prayers. So many of you have told us that you are praying. You don't know how much that means. A combination of all these blessings, my brothers and sisters, makes the load much lighter.

This morning Elinor and I pledge that we will do the very best that we can. We will not be perfect, but with God's grace we hope not to disappoint you, and certainly not to bring any reproach upon the great cause that you and I have espoused and that the Lord has placed in our hands, the wonderful privilege of being a part of helping to finish the work that He says will climax in a blaze of glory.

**ALF LOHNE:** I understand that the Nominating Committee has a further partial report.

**W. R. LESHNER:** The Nominating Committee has also given careful study to a nomination for secretary of the General Conference.

**C. B. ROCK:** The Nominating



Committee is pleased to place before you, as secretary of the General Conference for the next quinquennium, the name of G. Ralph Thompson. [The motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

G. RALPH THOMPSON: It has been a great privilege and pleasure to work with Elder Wilson during the past five years. I am happy that you have so enthusiastically demonstrated your desire that he should be our leader again for the next five years. What a privilege to serve this world church.

ALF LOHNE: The editor of the ADVENTIST REVIEW has a statement to make.

W. G. JOHNSON: I have in my hand *Bulletin* No. 1 of the General Conference session. These bulletins are the official record of the session and contain both the actions and proceedings.

I want to acknowledge many people, many hands, and many minds that make these bulletins possible. In Hagerstown a large group of workers at the Review and Herald Publishing Association will work around the clock, up until an hour before sundown today.

The Secretariat staff is also very much involved. You may have noticed the team of ladies working at the table near the platform where all proceedings are recorded. Others work into the early hours of the morning, transcribing and editing. Many thanks should go to D. H. Baasch and D. A. Roth and the wonderful team who make this report possible.

I also want to recognize one special person at this time. It has been an interesting five-year period at the ADVENTIST REVIEW, but one person has closed his term of service as editor during this time, K. H. Wood. He has labored long and hard for the church and has done outstanding work. Under his leadership the paper made a large stride

forward journalistically. He loves the Lord and loves the church. I would like to publicly acknowledge Elder Wood, the past editor of the ADVENTIST REVIEW.

Now, Elder Wilson, I would like to present to you the first issue of *Bulletin* No. 1.

NEAL C. WILSON: Thank you very much indeed. You heard my expression last night of deepest appreciation for what the editorial staff of the ADVENTIST REVIEW does for the world church.

ALF LOHNE: Bekele Heye, president of the Eastern Africa Division, has a special message to read to the president.

BEKELE HEYE: I have a special message from the president of Botswana to Elder Wilson.

NEAL C. WILSON: This is truly an unexpected pleasure. I am happy to read to you this message from the president of the Republic of Botswana.

"Dear Elder Wilson: I am sending these personal greetings to you and the General Conference session of Seventh-day Adventists for 1985 with the delegates from Botswana. My association with the Seventh-day Adventist Church dates back many years. I have been medically treated and prayed for by them and even got married in Kanye Hospital. May God bless you all as you gather during these troubling times. Please pray for us in Botswana." It would be very nice to acknowledge this and to assure His Excellency, the President of Botswana, that we will pray for that country as it seeks to meet the needs of humanity and to find its place in the world community of nations. I would like to move that. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

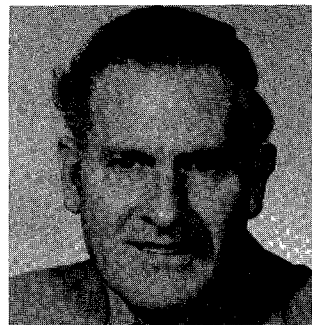
CLIVE BARRITT: [Benediction.]

ALF LOHNE, *Chairman*  
J. W. BOTHE, *Secretary*  
M. T. BATTLE and  
D. A. ROTH, *Proceedings Editors*

# Adventist World Purchasing Services

Report presented  
at the General  
Conference session.

By JOHN M. STEPHENSON  
*Director*



The past five years have seen both a change in name, and, to some extent, function of the General Conference purchasing agency. What was previously known as Institutional Services/ESDA is now Adventist World Purchasing Services, and the whole operation is conducted from the fifth floor of the General Conference North Building. The branch office at Riverside, California, was closed on October 31, 1982, in order to consolidate the operation and to save on overhead expenses. The total staff has been reduced from 14 to eight (one part-time) and the director oversees both AWPS and Central Departmental Services.

The two main emphases of AWPS are in the export area, serving our missionaries and obtaining equipment and supplies for overseas institutions; and in the negotiation of national contracts for the use of denominational organizations in North America. In addition, the domestic department continues to provide a service to institutions (particularly elementary schools and academies), churches, and denominational employees who need the convenience of a purchasing agency with a large number of product dealerships.

Since late 1982 the office in Takoma Park has handled the total business of AWPS and the volume of export business has been roughly equivalent to the combined business of the former East and West Coast offices. The export sales in 1981 for both offices were \$719,987, and in 1983 (the first complete year for the one-office operation) the sales were \$627,575. In recent times world economic conditions have affected sales to overseas areas, but the year 1984 still ended with export sales of \$555,399. In 1984 total direct sales through AWPS were \$1.2 million with an additional \$4.3 million in national contract sales handled directly between the vendor and the denominational purchasing entity.

AWPS has worked closely with the purchasing department of the Adventist Health System, and this has led to the concluding of some

**The value of AWPS's service depends  
on the extent to which it is used.**

excellent national contracts with major equipment and supply manufacturers in the United States. The combined purchasing power of the health-care institutions and the educational/administrative/church entities of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is very attractive to the major vendors in the United States. This fact should lead all denominational entities to work together in using the national contracts available. Many more contracts negotiated through the Adventist Health System and AWPS would be available



Food service personnel prepare trays for the lunchtime crowds.

if there was a commitment from the major educational institutions in North America, thus opening these contracts to all other denominational organizations. The practice of independent purchasing of commonly used equipment and supplies is costing the church tens of thousands of dollars. The success we have had in savings with a limited number of products, owing to wide support of the contracts, should encourage denominational organizations to give wider support to the concept of national contract buying.

The export department is subsidized by the General Conference in order to provide the best possible service at the lowest cost. The markup on items for export varies from 1 to 5 percent depending on the value of the order and the amount of work involved in processing the order.

Under different names and leadership AWPS has served the denomination for 65 years. The value of the service to the denomination depends on the extent to which it is used and the willingness of the various organizations to be involved in national contract purchasing, not as an occasional convenience, but as a way of life. □

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## Office of General Counsel

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Report presented  
at the General  
Conference session.

By WARREN L. JOHNS  
*Chief Counsel*



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The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a multinational organization with billions of dollars in resources. The achievement of its spiritual mission often involves effective interface with the legal system.

In 1936, when Adventist world membership was less than 10 percent of today's, the General Conference retained Judge Millward C. Taft as its first corporate counsel. Judge Taft was a New England jurist who served unselfishly as a pioneer Adventist lawyer for the church until his retirement in 1960. Attorney Boardman Noland left a successful private practice in Washington State to follow in Judge Taft's steps, serving the GC as its chief legal adviser for 15 years until his own retirement in 1975.

Corporate commercial entities comparable in size to the Seventh-day Adventist world organization typically employ an office of general counsel with 25 to as many as 200 lawyers. Today the Office of General Counsel to the GC is represented by four attorneys, each licensed to practice in the District of Columbia and at least one other State jurisdiction. GC law offices are maintained in both Washington, D.C., and in California. Serious consideration is being given to the addition of a fifth attorney.

The Office of General Counsel also benefits from the professional skills of two Of Counsel attorneys—one in Washington, D.C., and

one in California. Where specialized expertise is essential or representation is required in a distant geographical jurisdiction, Special Counsel, under the coordination of the Office of General Counsel, are customarily retained to represent the interests of the church. (Where qualified Adventist lawyers are available, a consistent effort is made to utilize their services as Special Counsel for the church and its related entities.) In addition, GC Insurance, Communication, and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty departments benefit from staff members who are also members of the bar.

The demands for the services of the Office of General Counsel are legion, including diverse areas such as review of contracts; real property transactions; taxation; corporate organization, merger, and dissolution articles and bylaws; labor relations; litigation in defense of conscience; litigation in defense of legal attacks against the church; trademark and copyright law; securities and investment law; international law; and law relating to special church ministries such as education, publishing, and health care. Emphasis has also been given to preventive law, in which legal consultations with church administrators contribute to the creation of policies and procedures designed to achieve church goals while avoiding unnecessary legal pitfalls.

The Office of General Counsel is directly responsible to the GC president, serving in an advisory capacity only. Rather than formulating policy, the Office of General Counsel defends and supports official policies and actions of its client, the GC.

When the present chief counsel undertook the study of law there were approximately 25 other Seventh-day Adventist lawyers in North America. Today that number has grown to nearly 400, with some 150 in other countries. To encourage the contribution of this growing reservoir of talent to the church, the GC through the Office of General Counsel has implemented a continuing dialogue with the church's lawyers. The first GC-sponsored Christian Lawyer's Conference was held in 1976. Lawyers representing North America spent a weekend in discussion with GC officers in Takoma Park, Maryland. A second and similar meeting was held in 1978 at Williamsburg, Virginia.

In 1981 the Christian Lawyer's Conference concept went worldwide with an international meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. Scheduled at three-year intervals, the second such meeting was held in Rome, Italy, in 1984, and a third is recommended for 1987. Apart from Christian fellowship, these multilanguage meetings provide a platform for at least one Adventist attorney from each division to spend a weekend with church leaders to study classic strategic legal issues confronting the church on a world scale.

In 1979 the Office of General Counsel initiated the Judge Millward C. Taft Law Scholarship Awards Program to honor and benefit seniors graduating from Adventist colleges and universities and planning careers in the legal profession. Approximately 40 students have qualified for the honor in recognition of both their academic achievements and their personal representation of Christian ideals.

Under the title *JD* the Office of General Counsel publishes an annual roster of Adventist lawyers together with a variety of feature articles of interest to lawyers. The eighth annual edition of this publication has been distributed to delegates at the 1985 GC session in New Orleans. Nonlawyers may subscribe to *JD* by contacting the Office of General Counsel.

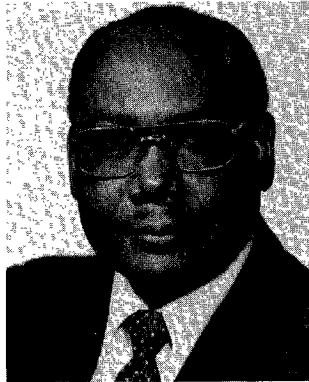
On occasions when the church has been confronted with extraordinary challenges involving serious legal implications or even litigation, the church has emerged stronger and wiser. While normally unnoticed, effective preventive law practices have been implemented to assure legally as well as morally sound directions and to avoid the pitfalls and drain inherent in extended litigation. Always the church acts honorably, respectful of the applicable law while motivated by a mission of love and service.

The Office of General Counsel is privileged to participate in a noble tradition and an eternal cause. □

# Good news from far and near

Report of the General Conference secretary, presented Friday morning, June 28, 1985.

By G. RALPH THOMPSON



During the past quinquennium the Seventh-day Adventist Church worldwide has faced many challenges, problems, and opportunities in financial, theological, structural, evangelistic, personnel, political, economical, social, and spiritual areas. Sometimes answers have been difficult to come by. But in and through the play and counterplay of human events, we have seen the divine hand working on behalf of His people and His church.

As long as we are in this world we must be prepared to face unprecedented and growing problems from without and within. But the everlasting gospel is God's everlasting good news to the world. I want to recount some of God's good news as it has been registered throughout this quinquennium in the various divisions of the world field.

**Good news from the South American Division.** At the beginning of this quinquennium South American Division leaders prepared a plan of action that was built on four pillars:

1. Only by His Spirit.
2. Sowing, reaping, and keeping.
3. Emphasis on local congregation.
4. Evangelism.

Recognizing that the miracle of conversion in people's lives supersedes statistical analysis, they are, however, gratified to see that during the quinquennium a total of 309,841 baptisms (representing a 50 percent increase over the previous five years) was accomplished under God. Each of the division's 7,941 congregations conducts at least one permanent baptismal class. São Paulo, Brazil's industrial center with a population of more than 14 million, has approximately 300 Adventist churches and groups. Adventists in that city have just completed a massive metropolitan evangelistic crusade with more than 600 large and small simultaneous nightly meetings, conducted by pastors, laymen, youth, and adults.

**Good news from the Africa-Indian Ocean Division.** At the first business session of the 1980 General Conference the Africa-Indian Ocean Division was created. In spite of the difficulties associated with making one new division out of parts of three existing divisions, Africa-Indian Ocean has

managed to launch a tremendous evangelistic drive. In 1981, the first year of the operation of the division, 41,350 people were baptized; in 1982, 41,751; in 1983, 60,659; in 1984, 66,320; a 60 percent increase. In the same period division membership rose from 334,343 to 489,053, an increase of 46 percent.

Following an evangelistic crusade by Arturo Schmidt, the first Seventh-day Adventist mosque, or house of prayer, was established in the city of Dakar, Senegal. More than 30 new believers now attend there regularly.

**Good news from the Eastern Africa Division.** The Eastern Africa Division added to its territory the old Trans-Africa Division, except the two unions in South Africa, thus augmenting its responsibilities, challenges, and goals. More than 157,000 people have been baptized during the One Thousand Days of Reaping, and the division expects its final figures to be even higher.

One of the division's thrilling stories of evangelism comes from the citywide crusade conducted in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, in April, 1983, by Randy Stafford. Thousands of people attended the meetings, and at the end of the series 1,350 were baptized—the largest single baptism in the history of Bulawayo and of the Zambesi Union.

The Zambesi Union then invited Stafford to Harare, capital of Zimbabwe. They secured the city's sports arena for the series. Some 836 people were baptized. No wonder that the division made Randy Stafford a permanent part of its working force, serving the East African Union as Ministerial secretary.

**Good news from the Euro-Africa Division.** The Euro-Africa Division set a goal of 65,000 baptisms for the quinquennium. By September 30, 1984, 65,363 people had been added to the church in that division. Records show that the soul-winning results during this quinquennium have been among the best ever in the division's history. Adventist work is making good progress in Europe, both in the non-Socialist and Socialist countries. Growth is seen in membership increase and in soul-winning outreach in the division's European and African countries.

**Good news from the Southern Asia Division.** Division president Gerry Christo could relate tales of internal political uncertainty, population explosion, perennial poverty, natural calamities, chaos, confusion and agitation, and upheavals—political, racial, and technological. But he also has good news.

At the time of the 1980 General Conference session Southern Asia membership stood at 103,741. Now membership is close to 155,000, a division increase of about 50 percent. (The Bangladesh Union shows a net increase of 106 percent). And so there is good news in Southern Asia in the church's witness, growth, nurture, and stewardship.

**Good news from the Northern European Division.** With the loss of West Africa at the last General Conference, Northern Europe became in membership the smallest division in the world field. But *non multa sed multum*—not many but much, not quantity but quality—says division president Jan Paulsen. Northern Europe began the quinquennium with a reduced membership of 41,255, but had a net growth of 6 percent, thus ending the quinquennium with 43,669. Northern Europe faces a peculiar challenge with respect to the advance of the Advent message, but the leaders

and workers are faithfully giving their witness, and God is blessing.

One trend in Northern Europe that brings great joy is the increased laity participation in evangelistic outreach. Young people are becoming involved, and new and innovative ways are being found for witnessing.

There is also good news in Northern Europe in the proposed territorial expansion of the division. As the result of the reconfiguration of the territories making up the two European divisions, Northern Europe will now share with Euro-Africa a much more balanced distribution of administrative units as well as membership. This ends the question of whether Northern Europe's size makes it viable as a division.

**Good news from the Far Eastern Division.** Korea and Japan left mission status to become the first union conferences within the division. The Korean Union Conference, with 65,000 members, is a strong, aggressive evangelistic union. The laypeople joining hands with the ministry have become a potent force in evangelistic outreach. The Japan Union Conference, with 11,220 church members, underwrites a strong educational, health-care, and publishing program. The General Conference has tapped the strength of the Far Eastern Division to help staff several interdivision posts, with the Philippines providing the largest number of interdivision missionaries from the Far East.

**Good news from the Australasian Division.** The largest geographical expanse of any division is found in Australasia. One hundred years ago Adventist work began in the division. The church has experienced solid, steady growth throughout the mainlands of Australia and New Zealand, and burgeoning growth throughout the islands. The independent country of Papua New Guinea, with nearly 80,000 members, is the most rapidly growing union in the division. Some 137 missionaries serve in 14 different countries of the division.

Where would you find the largest Polish-speaking Adventist church in the world? Not in Poland but in Melbourne, Australia. Where would you expect to find the only Greek-speaking Adventist congregations outside of Greece? In Sydney, Australia (there is also a Greek company of nine in Melbourne). The Australasian Division passed its goal of 25,000 for the One Thousand Days of Reaping six months early, and is projected to top the 30,000 mark.

**Good news from the Inter-American Division.** Only in superlative terms can one describe the accomplishments of Inter-America during the past quinquennium. Every year of the quinquennium a new world record in baptisms was established. The most outstanding year was 1984, with 81,854 people added to the church. In this quinquennium 348,726 new members were added to the church. This figure represents an increase of 78,941 baptisms, or 20.3 percent, over those of the previous five-year period, which in itself had been an unprecedented achievement.

Every week of this quinquennium, 1,341 new believers were added to the church in Inter-America. Church membership in the division has now grown to 832,908, a net gain of 36.9 percent over the past five years. Division officers predict that membership will pass 1 million by 1987. The ratio of Adventist population in the division is now 1 to 23. More than 529 new churches were organized during this period, an average of 105.8 new churches every year. As of December 31, 1984, Sabbath school membership in the

Inter-American Division reached 1,005,003. This represents an increase of 42.6 percent over the previous period.

**Good news from North America.** I believe it was in the providence of God that the Second Advent Movement began in North America. Something in the psyche of the nineteenth-century North American settlers lent itself to the birth of Seventh-day Adventism. Unbound by church tradition, they possessed the adventurous spirit of the frontiersman. Every division of the world field owes a great debt to North America, for the message spread from here out to all the continents and the islands of the sea.

We hear all kinds of things about North America. Let me assure you that God is at work here, too. You cannot talk long with division president Charles Bradford without hearing about the Caring Church strategy, which focuses on the local church and the fulfillment of its mission to proclaim the good news of salvation. Bradford's goal is that every church in North America be a Caring Church.

During the quinquennium 181,416 members were added to the church in North America, and the division membership moved from 585,050 to 676,204, an increase of 15.6 percent during the past five years. While North America's ratio of membership to the world field might be decreasing, its percentage of giving to the General Conference budget remains close to 80 percent. About two thirds of all interdivision missionaries come from North America. It is still a land of many cultures and ethnic groups, the fastest-growing being the Hispanic group, which now numbers about 43,000 members.

**Good news from other entities.** We shall also receive reports from the three attached unions—Middle East Union, South African Union, and Africa's Southern Union. Without a division home, these unions come under the direct supervision of the General Conference. We do not consider this the best arrangement and hope to arrive at some adequate solution during the coming quinquennium.

Church leaders in the U.S.S.R. will report on Adventist work, which is moving forward steadily, there. We also expect an update on Adventist work and people in mainland China, where many are being won to the Lord.

**World baptisms and membership.** This quinquennium, 1980 to 1984, has been the most productive and successful evangelistic outreach period in the history of the church.

With the launching of the One Thousand Days of Reaping, we have witnessed a marvelous upsurge of evangelistic activity in every division. Nothing in recent times has galvanized the church to action more than this call and challenge. Reports will show that under God we have indeed reached and surpassed our goal of 1,000 per day for 1,000 days—more than 1 million people brought to Christ during this period.

From January 1, 1980, to December 31, 1984, 1,692,105 people were added to the church, an increase of 461,902 over the previous quinquennium. World membership grew from 3,308,191 at the end of 1979 to 4,424,612 by the end of 1984, an increase of 1,116,421 during this quinquennium.

Worldwide we had an average annual growth rate of 6 percent, the second largest five-year growth rate period in our history. (The highest was 1950 to 1954, when we had a 6.3 percent annual average growth rate.)

The division reports of this General Conference session



tell us unmistakably that God is with His people, that the church is on target to accomplish the mission that He has set out for it to perform, and that "we have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."

### From everywhere to everywhere

The good news about our missionary program is the growing number of home bases among erstwhile mission divisions. While the old historical home bases of Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and North America still contribute heavily to the church's missionary program, other countries are making their own particular contributions, not only to the programs within their divisions but also to other divisions around the world. And so the group of regular missionaries from divisions other than North America is growing year by year, 472 as of December 31, 1984.

In addition to the regular missionaries sent out, are the volunteers, especially from North America, who make up the Adventist Volunteer Service Corps (AVSC), Special Service, student missionary, and Sustentation Overseas Service (SOS) groups. Records show that their numbers are increasing year by year. These short-term missionaries fill an important gap in the overall mission program of the church, and we are very thankful for their contribution.

Our summary of missionary departures shows the following for the quinquennium 1980-1984:

New workers	1,508
Returning missionaries	1,804
Student missionaries	968
Adventist Volunteer Service Corps	274
Sustentation Overseas Service	298

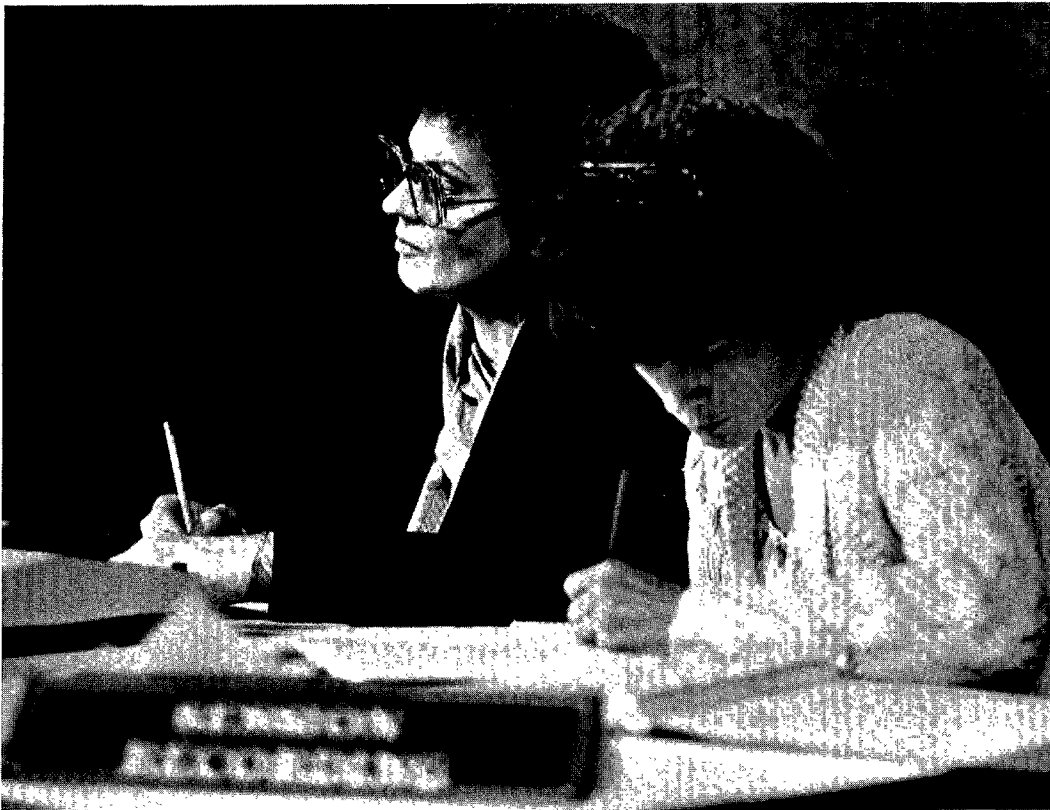
Special Service (1,452 plus 123 elective) 1,575  
 Nationals returning 196  
 This gives us a grand total of 6,623 missionary departures for the five-year period.

**Student missionaries.** We are very proud of the contribution that student missionaries have made to the world mission program. As a matter of fact, our best missionaries are those who served previously as student missionaries. They do not experience the cultural shock and do not take as much time to be oriented to new conditions as those who have never had the opportunity of going abroad and serving in countries as student missionaries.

**Archives and Statistics.** Closely related to the Secretariat is the Office of Archives and Statistics, established as the Archives in 1973 and combined with the Statistics Office in 1975. Its staff, under the direction of F. Donald Yost, produces the *SDA Yearbook*, processes church statistics, preserves General Conference files, assists church leaders and scholars in historical research, and provides early SDA documents and periodicals to research centers and heritage rooms.

Statistical and *Yearbook* work date back to the past century. The analysis of financial statement information began about 1905. Records management and archives functions did not originate at the General Conference until 1973.

The *Annual Statistical Report* (now in its 122d year) brings together data submitted by all conference and mission organizations as well as by GC departments. This 40-page report provides information about churches, membership, contributions, workers, departmental activities, institutions, and the geographic and linguistic scope of SDA work.



**Mary Haloviak and Jeanette Calbi are among the group of secretaries who record and transcribe the business session proceedings.**

Related publications include North America's "Summary of Progress" and the "Annual Council Statistical Report."

Another aspect of statistical work focuses on the financial condition of church organizations. Each year the auditors submit reports for about 1,650 institutions and organizations worldwide to the Office of Archives and Statistics, giving information from balance sheets and income and expense statements. Detailed summaries and cross summaries, once prepared by hand, are now computer-generated and provide four-year comparisons with ten significant financial indicators for single organizations and for groups of organizations.

Four large vaults and some overflow storage now house the records of the General Conference. Minutes dating from 1863, correspondence dating from 1887, and financial statements dating from about 1906 are but a few of the record series carefully inventoried. Many are available for research use. Accessibility of these and other records has been enhanced by the GC's new Tandem mainframe computer. For example, more than 2,000 pages of GC session and GC Committee minutes spanning 1863 to 1907 are now on the computer. Formerly the actions of these years were virtually inaccessible because there was no index. Now they are fully available through word searches, and printouts of desired pages are easily obtained.

Staff members have conducted assigned research in the following topics within the past five years: church organization, tithing, Ballenger's sanctuary theology, and the role of women in the church. Major studies by Andrews University graduate students deal with W. W. Prescott, L. R. Conradi, L. Flora Plummer, E. A. Sutherland, G. H. Bell, A. F. Ballenger, Newbold College, Adventism in West Africa, Indonesia Union College, and the church's relationship to polygamy.

The future completeness of archival holdings is assured through a strong records management program. Recent files and documents are regularly transferred from GC offices to the vaults, where they are carefully accessioned, stored, and made available as needed. Since January, 1981, about 850 retrieval requests have been filled by the archives staff, while some 750 accessions have enlarged this rich historical collection. Among the significant aspects of the records management program are the microfilming of the GC's vital records and the accumulation and preservation of denominational property records. The purposes of the records management program are to aid each office in operating more efficiently, to protect and preserve important documents, and to capture the history of Adventism as it daily unfolds at world headquarters.

Another goal of Archives and Statistics is to enlarge the holdings of research centers and heritage rooms, as well as our college libraries, by providing microfilm copies or originals of early SDA pamphlets, periodicals, books, and reports. In 1980 the microfiche available numbered 5,853. Today they number 9,960. In addition to more than 28 periodicals, these fiche include rare books, the *SDA Yearbook*, statistical reports, Sabbath school lesson quarterlies, and the card index to the *ADVENTIST REVIEW*. This office has also shipped more than 800 books and pamphlets, selected by the White Estate, to the church's eight Ellen G. White-SDA Research Centers and 15 heritage rooms, to enhance their ability to serve the research needs of students

and workers in their divisions. Some of these books and pamphlets were donated from the libraries of retired or deceased workers.

Finally, Archives and Statistics each year publishes the denominational directory, the *SDA Yearbook*. Although production was fully automated in the early 1970s, not until last year were the updating and typesetting functions brought onto the GC's computer, saving both cost and production time. The 1985 *Yearbook* was the first in history to exceed 1,000 pages—one indication of the organizational growth of the church.

In addition to the in-house functions, the Office of Archives and Statistics provides counsel and expertise for conference organizations and institutions in the areas of denominational research, statistical analysis, and records management. It serves as a major center for the collection, preservation, and use of a wide range of information vital to the health and growth of the church.

### Reaching the unreached

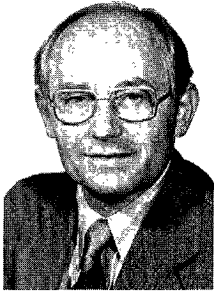
As we look toward the challenge of the future, we face the tremendous task of reaching the unreached in the many cultures, subcultures, groups, and subgroups within nations. We face the challenge of pioneer work among these peoples, and I would like to appeal to younger workers to lift their sights and see the thrill, drama, and excitement of beginning new work among groups that have not yet responded to the gospel call. Denominational leaders at all levels will have to orient their thinking toward this particular kind of outreach.

As we thank God for what He has done for us in the past, and in particular during the One Thousand Days of Reaping, we must turn our eyes toward the unfinished task and what God is willing to do for us in the future, because in spite of all that we have reported and will report during this session, multiplied millions have never heard the gospel story.

What success we are reporting is not to lull us into complacency and a feeling of ease—we have touched the needs of the world with just our fingertips. It is simply to give us courage to lay bigger plans, to move forward, to help finish the work of the gospel in this our day.

In 27 countries the Seventh-day Adventist Church has absolutely no work. In a number of others we have a mere presence. Many others have established work in only a certain section of the country, but in other parts we have scarcely anything. So the work is still a long way from being finished. Our list of current calls shows a need for 196 regular interdivision missionaries of various categories and 124 short-term missionaries, plus calls for nationals to return to their home divisions.

**Good news for the future.** We as the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the people of God, have come this far by faith. As we review our past accomplishments and stand on tiptoe looking toward the future, what do we visualize? One thing is sure: The same God who was with us in the past is with us in the present and will be with us in the future. For God is the leader of the Advent Movement. As someone has said: "The church's whispers must become shouts, her lethargy must become enthusiasm, and her subdued light must become a beacon upon the hilltops of the world." Let us renew our dedication to the task of finishing the work of the gospel. Now is the time, and we are the people. □



# THE DAY IN REVIEW

**Sabbath, June 29**

**By B. B. Beach**

As I write these lines, I'm sitting at the ADVENTIST REVIEW table below the pulpit in the Superdome arena. We are about an hour from sundown, when the Sabbath will begin, but the ADVENTIST REVIEW day in New Orleans has already begun. My first impression is one of overpowering size. I'm overwhelmed by the dimensions of the session venue. From where I sit in the middle of the arena, I look up to the apex of the Superdome's ten-acre roof—a distance equivalent to some 27 stories above me.

This colossal indoor stadium is providing superb facilities for the GC session. The regular Superdome staff itself consists of 130 people. The GC session staff is made up of 150 volunteers and 450 technical staff. This complex operation is under the direction of Donald Robinson, who as session manager is doing a great job. Imagine serving at lunch today 8,000 meals at a rate of 50 to 60 people a minute. That is not "small potatoes"—to use a culinary expression. The air conditioning is not only a welcome *boon* after the *bane* of the oppressive heat and humidity of the walk from the hotel, but a dire necessity, for otherwise the interior of the Superdome would probably cloud up and produce rain!

While the summer climate in New Orleans leaves even a Washingtonian limp, the city is one of the most fascinating in

America. It is full of beguiling and engaging contradictions in both appearance and character. Its pre-Easter Mardi Gras ("fat Tuesday" before Ash Wednesday) carnival is legendary. It is appropriate for a world church, bringing together delegates from some 175 countries, to meet in a cosmopolitan city. New Orleans has evolved a unique culture, blending African, European, and American heritages. In 1840, during the cotton boom of the first half of the nineteenth century, New Orleans was the fourth port in the world. Despite economic decline, today it is still the second United States port in the value of foreign commerce. It continues to occupy a strategic position, commanding on a sharp river bend (one of its names is "Crescent City") the mouth of the great Mississippi River system, which drains the interior of the United States.

In New Orleans everything tends to be hot—the temperature, the politics, the seasoning in the local cuisine, and the music, which ranges from Afro Caribbean, gospel, cajun, zydeco, blues, soul, and rockaboozie to opera (New Orleans had the first opera house in North America). But tonight the musical sound is different. It is not "hot," but soul warming and uplifting. Song leader John Read is leading out in a vespers program. He sings a duo with his son David (accompanied on the piano by his wife). From the United States comes the Chuck Fulmore trio. The 25-member SDA Student Association Singers from South Africa sing, with deep feeling, the Lord's Prayer in the Zulu language. Pastor Francisco Priano sings "Vesper Hour" in Spanish, and, from the United States again, the powerful 45 voices of the Hinsdale Male Chorus are joined by soloist Mary Sogard.

This afternoon I decided to visit the First International Exhibit of Adventist Art at the French Market in the Hyatt Regency Hotel. This provides a little cultural repast and aesthetic refreshment. Some 200 works exhibit the artistic legacy and promise of Adventist paintings in oils, watercolor, batik, and acrylic, and sculptures in alabaster, clay,



**Alf Lohne and Lowell Bock, General Conference vice presidents, listen attentively to proceedings of the first business meeting.**

and wood by several dozen independent SDA artists. I enjoyed looking into an Adventist mirror held to church history, Biblical doctrines, and contemporary society.

A separate section of the exhibit presents an interesting history of Adventist artifacts (about 50 in all), ranging from Uriah Smith's toolbox (he is said to have been the first SDA artist) to the star from Edson White's *Morning Star* evangelistic boat.

We all remember the great theme song of several previous General Conference sessions—"We Have This Hope." It takes a little time—at least a few days—to get into the spirit of a new song. But not so with Brad Braley's 1985 session theme song "Christ Our Hope Forever." It is an instant success. Not a "smash hit," but much better, a triumphant affirmation and invitation to all, as "forward in faith we go."

Platform chairman R. W. Taylor, secretary of the Australasian Division, steps up to the pulpit, and the consecration service is under way. Pastor W. Talemaitoga ("Tali" to his friends) offers the invocation in the Fijian language. Merl Morgan prepares us for the consecration message by singing "Bring Back the New Again."

Morris L. Venden, pastor of Southwestern Union College church, uses the story approach to tell us about the eschatological wedding feast to which all are invited. In harmony with the session motto, he lifts up *Christ* as *our* only *hope* for pardon, justification, and sanctification. He develops the old Adventist theme of Christ's righteousness *for* us and *in* us. Indeed, there is no other way and no other name. This is the exciting news: "The robe is just as free as the invitation to the wedding feast." The robe does not get you in, but it keeps you from being cast out! What a simple message, but it is our hope forever.

This is the tenth General Conference session that I have been privileged to attend from the first day to the last. I find many differences between this session and previous ones. The first difference is the very size and quality of the facilities and the number of participants. The first session I attended met in the new Sligo Seventh-day Adventist church, with fewer than 1,000 delegates. Today we are occupying half the Superdome, and 15,000 are present in this largest inside meeting place in the world. Some 65 booths and display areas feature the kaleidoscope of Adventist activities around the circle of the globe.

For the first time the secretariat and other offices and departments associated with the running of the session can stay in eye and ear contact with what is happening on the floor. From distant offices and box suites the support staff is "present" in the arena through closed-circuit television, telephones, and walkie-talkies. The impact and input of the electronic media are helping bring the Superdome giant down to human dimensions and make the session a success. You may be hundreds of yards away from the speaker, but the giant screens reveal to you the details of his facial expressions, even the odd drop of perspiration on the cheek!

Another first is the simultaneous translations that are being provided. English is not the "dead Latin" of the Adventist Church; it is the traditional lingua franca. However, other languages are important also, and the world church must see that "linguistic justice" is done.

The use of the lights is most effective. It is helpful to have spotlights focused, not only on the platform as at past

sessions, but on speakers at microphones on the floor who are participating in business session discussions.

Another felicitous innovation was the striking of a special medal for the fifty-fourth session featuring our abiding hope in Christ and His soon coming. Participants are able to buy this pleasing memento of the session.

### Electronic voting

An innovative "first" is the electronic voting system used by the Nominating Committee. What a time-saver this represents when more than 200 positions, with all the voting and balloting involved, need to be filled.

Another helpful new arrangement is the sending of the documentation and draft statements to delegates *before* the session in order to give them the opportunity to be better informed and adequately prepared for the work of the session. Ignorance has never been bliss.

After a rather short night (one has to find some time to write!), I'm attending the Sabbath school program under the direction of retiring GC Sabbath School director Howard Rampton. The Rainbow Choir from Korea (10- to 15-year-olds) is singing. Beautiful children. I'm delighted they are here. It was not easy for us to get government authorization for them to come all the way to America. Not only singers but child preachers are on the platform. Thirteen-year-old Luis Bon ("good"), from the church school on the Philippine Union College campus, really has the gift of preaching. When it comes to style and persuasiveness, well, some of us older preachers could pick up a homiletic point or two.

C. E. Bradford, president of the North American Division, in his mission appeal, points out that the United States is a true mission field, even with regard to work traditionally associated with the word *mission*, as, for example, he tells of the programs and institutions for American Indians in Arizona and elsewhere.

Delmer and Betty Holbrook, with their usual flair, present the Sabbath School lesson in dialogue style, including the closing consecration prayer.

Before the sermon Elder Alcides Campolongo, from Brazil, is introduced; he also offers the benediction. During his ministerial-evangelistic career he has baptized 8,500 people (yes, the figure is correct; I haven't added a zero!). He is much in demand for weddings and has so far performed 450 marriages.

I have had to move from the REVIEW table because with the sound system arranged this morning to reach up into the Superdome balconies, we get such an echo effect below the pulpit that I can't understand what the speakers are saying. I'm watching the rest of the morning service from the VIP/Protocol Box Suite. Here I can hear and even see much better, even though I'm a couple hundred yards from the platform.

A high point of the Sabbath morning worship service is the Adventure in Faith offering for the new shortwave radio station in Guam.

The offering reported by the ten world divisions comes to \$3,938,270, just over half of which was contributed by the North American Division, including a check for more than \$30,000 from the students and educators of the Pacific Union.

*The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal* represents a great





Top, Charles L. Brooks, chairman of the session music committee, and the Los Heraldos del Rey quartet introduce the session theme song, "Christ Our Hope Forever," by Brad Braley. Braley and his wife, Olive, accompanied them. Bottom, a map at the booth of La Voz de la Esperanza, the Spanish Voice of Prophecy, shows the countries where the program is broadcast.

publishing success story. During the Sabbath morning service Neal C. Wilson, president of the General Conference, receives the first copy from Harold Otis, Review and Herald Publishing House president. The first printing of 100,000 copies was sold out before the books were actually available, and the second printing of 100,000 copies sold out immediately. These were the largest first printings of any SDA hardbound book.

Both the Aeolians and the New England Youth Ensemble are famous Adventist music groups. However, when two such gifted choirs and orchestras combine their talents in a production of Handel's "The Heavens Are Telling," you have the ultimate in an anthem of praise in preparation for the sermon by G. Ralph Thompson, secretary of the General Conference.

With well-chosen words (the British educational background is helpful here), Elder Thompson points forward to the best days ahead for the Advent Movement. Unconditional surrender to the Lord of all (or else He is not at all Lord) is the nonnegotiable demand in this great hour of Adventism.

Science, evolution, or civilization cannot change moral dwarfs; only the new birth in Christ can do this. The solution to the fate of the world is not found in man moving into space, but in God splitting the heavens and returning to this world in power and glory to establish His kingdom. Responding to the powerful appeal, delegates, guests, and attendees solemnly stand in prayer and consecration.

Sabbath afternoon we all witness a celebration of the evangelistic explosion that took place during the 1000 Days of Reaping. The pageant begins with the Garden of Eden and the Fall of man, then progresses through selected events of the great controversy, climaxing in the 1000 Days of Reaping. Stories of heroism, miracles, and triumphs fill the annals of the Advent people during the past three years. Narrated pantomime recounts the many evangelistic victories in country after country.

### 1000 Days of Reaping

Has the 1000 Days of Reaping campaign been a success? As yet, no total report exists. We wait excitedly to hear the results from the division presidents. Have we reached the goal of 1 million baptisms (a thousand a day for a thousand days)? In 1960 we were baptizing less than 250 a day, in 1970 we were getting close to 450 every day, and in 1980 we reached more than 750. That is progress. What will the period 1983-1985 show? As every division and attached-union president gives his report I'm getting more and more all atwitter with evangelistic fever. We are going to go over the top!

Inter-America leads the way with 231,682 baptisms. M. P. Kulakov reports 4,000 baptisms in the U.S.S.R. Neal C. Wilson receives back the evangelistic torch with which the church membership was challenged, and it is passed on to a young Filipino child evangelist. Then W. P. Quigley announces the grand total of 1,171,390, while the audience rises to its feet and bursts out the paean of praise and triumph "To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Hath Done." With our General Conference president, I'm overcome with emotion.

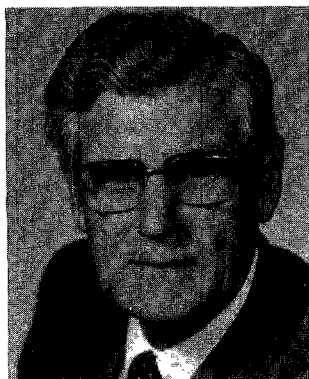
We seem today to be taken and lifted from one mountaintop experience to another. No sooner do we reach the evangelistic summit concluding the 1000 Days of Reaping than we are enthralled by a powerful and dramatic monologue presentation of the book of Revelation, with background voice and instrumental music, peals of thunder, and other sound and lighting effects. The Apocalypse presents many dramatic tableaux, and Michael Baptist gives a superb performance of this prophetic drama of warning, encouragement, and promise. He brings to life John the revelator's appeal, prepared by Rodney Vance, chaplain of Columbia Union College.

After looking back to the apostle John's dramatic Revelation and experiencing the thrilling climax of the 1000 Days of Reaping, the delegates look to the future. It is most fitting indeed at the close of Sabbath afternoon for all to commit themselves in unison to Harvest '90 and to Jesus, the Lord of the harvest, through prayer, sacrifice, and consecration, with the goal of doubling by 1990 the strength of the church. That is a worthy conclusion to a thrilling day of challenge, inspiration, and consecration. I'm proud and happy to be a Seventh-day Adventist. □

# Much for which to be thankful

Report of the General Conference treasurer presented Friday morning, June 28, 1985.

By LANCE L. BUTLER  
Treasurer



As we consider the world in which we live and contemplate the changing and unpredictable economic situations that prevail in so many countries, and as we review our financial operations during the last quinquennium, we have so much for which to thank the Lord. Despite these changing conditions, we have been able to carry forward progressive programs on all fronts. Certainly financial conditions are becoming more complex and more complicated, placing greater pressures on administration at all levels. However, we have a unique and, indeed, divinely designed system of finance that is able to adapt remarkably well to changes and to minimize the impact of adverse trends on the church's program. One of the special features of our system is its ability to share the resources of the church—for the strong to help the weak. This system is under pressure from both inside and outside the church. At this time, when the challenges and opportunities have never been greater, it needs our loyal support.

The quinquennium started with a surge in interest rates and inflation, reaching record levels in some important economies; and these brought their own set of problems that did not leave the church entirely unscathed. It was a time of uncertainty. And this included the North American Division, the major source of denominational funds. One economist described the economy as being "sick," adding, "Who knows whether it will be terminal?" Since that time interest and inflation rates have declined to more sustainable levels, but not in all countries. Even in the most stable, confidence is cautious regarding the future.

One of the outstanding features of the financial scene during this past quinquennium has been the national currency exchange relationships. An increasing number of countries, some of them major sources of denominational funds, during the past few years have frozen their currencies so that they could not be exported. Some of these countries have previously been net exporters of denominational funds, and this has brought considerable difficulty and even perplexity as to how the work can be maintained. It has restricted the flow of funds to needy areas. In other instances our publishing work, lacking overseas exchange, has all but dried up. Some of the world divisions have to wrestle with the problem of having most of the currencies in their division frozen. This also has reduced some of the funds that otherwise would have been available for the General Conference world budget.

Another significant factor has been the exchange rate, particularly in relation to the U.S. dollar. Usually we expect the rate to move up and down, but during the past few years the U.S. dollar has

maintained an unexpected and unusually long upward trend against practically all other currencies. This also has reduced income to the General Conference after several years of continued growth, as the Sabbath school and other mission offerings, and to a lesser extent overseas tithe, are major sources of funds.

During this period we have endeavored to maintain the level of appropriations to the divisions in U.S. dollars, though in the budget for 1985 there was a small revision downward in the actual U.S. dollars provided. However, this did not result in a decrease in appropriations in local division currencies. Please note in the following table the changes that have occurred in the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar (the currency of the General Conference) and the currencies of the divisions and unions attached directly to the General Conference. Perhaps a note of warning is not out of place regarding the impact on division income when the U.S. dollar retreats, as it will eventually.

Division/Union	Currency	Jan. 1, 1981	Dec. 31, 1984	Percentage Change
Far Eastern	S\$	2.10	2.14	1.90
Australasian	A\$	.8547008	1.20	40.40
Euro-Africa	Sfr	1.60	2.40	50.00
Southern Asia	Rs	7.75	12.00	54.84
Middle East Union	CY£	.3448276	.6134969	77.91
Northern European	£	.4347826	.8620689	98.27
Africa-Indian Ocean	CFA	205.00	440.00	114.63
Eastern Africa	Z\$	.625	1.47	135.20
South Africa Unions	R	.7518797	1.95	159.35
South American	Cr\$	70.00	3,000.00	4,185.71

As we present these figures in dollars and cents in this report, we acknowledge their inability to express their true value adequately, because they represent a worldwide church and many different currencies; and some of these figures cover an extended period of time. They are, of course, expressed in United States dollars. Very often their real value in their local setting is very different from the way they appear when converted to U.S. dollars. Also, if the figures relate to an earlier period, inflation should be taken into account. These limitations must be borne in mind, recognizing that we are reporting on a worldwide church and not one division or one country.

The General Conference itself presents its financial report for each preceding year to the Spring Council of the General Conference, in harmony with denominational policy requirements. This council is held in early April each year. The reports are carefully reviewed and adopted at that time. Separately you will be receiving a copy of a report covering the financial reports for the years 1980 to 1984 inclusive, and the auditor's report thereon.

## Tithe

The tithing system is the foundation on which the financial structure of the church rests. Early in our history this system was adopted and endorsed by inspired counsel. It has been of inestimable blessing to the church. In fact, it is hard to imagine just where we would be without it. As we prepare this report, we do not have the final figures for tithe of the world field for the year 1984; so we will report up to the end of 1983. From the year 1863, when the denomination was organized, till the end of 1983, the total amount of tithe received in the world field was \$5,465,568,409. During the years 1979 to 1983 inclusive, the amounts received were:

1979	\$353,075,613
1980	392,394,117
1981	419,609,530
1982	425,439,226
1983	422,796,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,013,315,186</b>

Thirty-seven percent of the total tithes received by the church throughout its history was received in the above five-year period.

This compares with 36 percent in the last session report. There is a downturn in tithes in 1983 as compared with 1982, which may be accounted for by the strong U.S. dollar that naturally reduces the amounts from the world field. Tithes are received in the approximate proportions of three fifths from the North American Division and two fifths from the other divisions.

After tithe, the second-largest source of income to the General Conference is mission offerings, of which Sabbath school offerings are the most significant. Following are the amounts received from the world field during the quinquennium:

1979	\$30,702,347
1980	34,142,091
1981	35,311,470
1982	32,945,363
1983	31,369,093

A high point was reached in 1981, and since then the amount has been declining each year. Most of this is accounted for by the strong U.S. dollar that has reduced the amount reported from world divisions, but the amount reported from the North American Division has also shown an actual decrease.

Taking a longer view, using tithe as a yardstick and looking at total mission funds as a percentage of tithe, we read the record as follows:

Year	Percent
1930	64.5
1940	45.4
1950	36.0
1960	28.3
1970	22.0
1980	18.0
1983	14.5

These facts should challenge us in relation to our response to our commission to take this message to all the world.

### Income and appropriations

In the year 1900 the total income from the world field for tithes and world mission funds amounted to \$661,968. By 1940, a date well within the memory of many here today, this had increased to \$11,899,189. In 1980 the total had multiplied to \$463,311,104. By 1983 this income amounted to \$484,472,675. In addition to the

above, in 1983 \$187,027,506 was given for uses within the divisions.

The Sabbath school offerings and other world mission funds, and certain percentages of the tithe, become a major part of the General Conference budget that is appropriated as equitably as possible over the world field. These appropriations since 1979 have been as follows:

1979	\$125,953,000
1980	125,236,000
1981	142,261,000
1982	152,572,000
1983	155,061,000
1984	158,050,000
1985	148,723,000

The decrease in 1985 from 1984 was owing mainly to the effect of the strong U.S. dollar on income received from overseas divisions. Only three times in the past 30 years have we recorded a decrease in the budget from the previous year. In 1959 there was a decrease of approximately \$750,000; in 1963 the decrease was about \$2 million; and in 1980 the decrease was about \$700,000 from the previous year.

### Denominational assets

Thus far we have reported on income to the church from areas other than institutions. We would now like to record the assets of the denomination, including institutions, worldwide. These have increased from the \$8.5 million that was reported in 1908. (See below.)

### Retirement fund

The Retirement Plan, which has been administered by the General Conference since 1911, provides for the financial needs of the retired and disabled workers of the North American Division.

The number of beneficiaries being served by the General Conference Retirement Office on January 1, 1980, was 6,178; on December 31, 1984, it was 7,873, an increase of 27 percent during the five-year period.

Retirement rates have been adjusted during the quinquennium in an effort to keep pace with the cost of living. Monthly benefits have increased approximately 34.4 percent during this time. Two retirement plans are operated by the North American Division of the

## Denominational Assets—World Totals

	1908	1940	1950	1980	1982
Conferences	2,236,625	11,283,506	44,623,311	615,259,809	635,448,210
Associations		15,689,019	23,266,226	669,031,878	897,620,858
Adventist Book Centers		567,483	2,464,180	45,716,270	46,208,834
Educational Institutions	1,339,422	10,489,474	37,840,181	588,937,285	649,883,811
Health Care Institutions	2,139,649	9,687,458	27,065,777	1,145,618,477	1,655,035,014
Publishing Houses	1,058,315	3,710,712	11,072,712	93,124,201	102,014,365
Industries (Food, etc.)		603,763	1,148,163	50,139,202	41,712,079
Radio-TV Evangelism			746,329	22,814,779	22,227,316
Temperance Societies				820,746	960,960
Servicemen's Centers				38,868	34,445
	6,774,011	52,031,415	148,226,879	3,231,501,515	4,051,145,892
Church Buildings	1,514,550	11,283,298	33,580,238	922,178,615	1,135,060,571
Ch. Sch. Bldgs. and Equipment	147,749	1,390,039	6,276,707	250,534,184	310,088,005
	1,662,299	12,673,337	39,856,945	1,172,712,799	1,445,148,576
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>8,436,310</b>	<b>64,704,752</b>	<b>188,083,824</b>	<b>4,404,214,314</b>	<b>5,496,294,468</b>



The registration line wasn't long at the time this photo was taken, but at times the area was full of incoming delegates.

General Conference. They are the General Retirement Plan and the Hospital Retirement Plan. The total income to the General and Hospital Retirement Plans during the five-year period amounted to \$341,487,927, and disbursements amounted to \$209,249,674. This resulted in a net increase of \$132,238,253 to the fund balances of the plans. The increases in the fund balances of the two Plans were as follows:

	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Percent</i>
General	\$ 31,418,529	51
Hospital	100,819,724	273

Total disbursements in 1980 amounted to \$33,357,698; in 1984, \$48,278,340, or an increase of 45 percent. Assistance on health-care expenses, Medicare premiums, and funeral expenses during the five-year period amounted to \$20,185,377.

The establishment of a new retirement plan for employees of health-care institutions was completed in 1980 in order to comply with Health, Education and Welfare regulations. This is referred to as our Hospital Retirement Plan. The assets of this new plan are held in trust and will provide a fully funded plan within 30 years. As a church, we have elected not to come under the provisions of the Employment Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), but our plan is in general compliance with the provisions of ERISA.

The General Retirement Plan was also revised extensively and became effective, as did the Hospital Retirement Plan, January 1, 1981. With extensive revision in the previous General Plan, its

policies are similar to those of the Hospital Plan and provide portability between the two plans.

### Investments

The General Conference utilizes a variety of investment vehicles in order to protect the assets of the church and secure a reasonable return. Denominational investment policies and guidelines are scrupulously followed in all investments made by the General Conference, and all investments are approved by the standing Investments and Securities Committee, which meets weekly.

Differing objectives govern the selection of investments, and three investment counselors are engaged to provide investment management with research and analysis.

In addition to specific investments for certain aspects, the General Conference maintains three unitized funds (Investment Fund, Income Fund, and International Fund), which operate similar to mutual funds.

The past five years have been progressive overall, but increasing interest rates and the strength of the dollar have had a negative effect over certain parts of the portfolios, particularly the International Fund in 1984.

The investment office handles General Conference funds, retirement funds, funds held in trust, and funds from divisions. The combination of these various funds amounts to a sizable amount of capital available for short-term and long-term investing.

### Transportation

The General Conference Transportation Service comes within the General Conference Treasury.

There is a continuing need to provide travel documents, tickets, and support for mission appointees and volunteers. Mission appointments include new appointments, those on furlough, and missionaries who are concluding their overseas assignment. Volunteer service is an increasing program including student missionaries, Adventist Volunteer Service Corps, and retired workers, called Sustentation Overseas Service. During this past quinquennium a total of 4,117 families or single workers were served by the Transportation Service.

Two fine warehouses with skilled staff, located in San Francisco and Baltimore, provided shipping and handling for more than 1,800 overseas shipments during the past quinquennium. These shipments include missionaries' personal effects and church equipment and supplies.

A number of our organizations in other countries send their workers for specialized training in the North American Division. These include medical personnel, teachers, and pastors. Liaison and logistic support, visas, and other documentation for them are handled by our office.

Many of the transportation service staff have served as missionaries, giving them a background in the needs of the world church. Each one has expertise in a specific area of transportation requirements. Constant effort is made to handle the transportation service with efficiency at the lowest possible cost.

### Harris Pine Mills

Harris Pine Mills was given to the church in 1951 by Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Harris. Mrs. Harris, still very much interested in the operation of the company, is a very special delegate to this session.

This business was built by many years of hard labor and sacrifice by both Mr. and Mrs. Harris. In making the donation, Mr. Harris requested that Charles Nagele, who at the time was secretary-treasurer of the North Pacific Union Conference, manage the company. For the next 28 years Elder Nagele guided the company to tremendous growth. In 1951 the company operated four plants: Pendleton, Oregon (the main plant); Alexandria, Virginia; Chicago Heights, Illinois; and Cleburne, Texas. Today we operate 26 plants in the United States.



The company is different in many ways. Back then the experts told us we could not shut down our dry kilns from Friday afternoon until Saturday night. They said it would ruin the lumber if it was cooled down and reheated before it was completely dry. Well, we have proved the experts wrong. Those kilns have not operated on Sabbath for the past 37 years, and we have not ruined any lumber.

Shortly after the church started operating the company, we launched our student-labor program. We were told that you cannot run a furniture manufacturing company with teenage labor. Well, we proved them wrong again. Today, much of our labor is being provided by the teenagers of this church. Our product lines are bedroom, dining room, and occasional household furniture; redwood patio and outdoor furniture; and umbrellas and replacement cushions in the outdoor and casual division. Our products are in the low- to middle-price bracket. Even with teenagers doing the majority of the assembly work, our customers tell us they have fewer quality problems with our merchandise than they do with most of our competitors' products. Without the blessing of the Lord, this could not be done.

Harris Pine Mills is different in another way: We manufacture a large part of our products from the forest all the way to the retail furniture store. Very few furniture companies of our size can say this. This gives us better control of our raw materials, which results in better service to our customers—furniture stores, home centers, building supply centers, and other outlets. Volume of these customers ranges from \$500 to \$5 million annually. In 1951 the total income of the company was \$4.2 million. The total income for 1984 was \$56,749,813. Income for the past five years totaled \$284,984,719.

In 1984 Harris Pine Mills employed 2,282 students and paid \$3,344,640 in wages. For the past five years the student payroll was \$15,300,662. Since 1951, when Harris Pine Mills was donated to the church, the student payroll has amounted to \$48,199,172. Payments to the General Conference the past five years total \$1,374,600; to other church entities, \$1,878,902. Payments to the General Conference since 1951 total \$6,871,824; to other church entities, \$4,955,941.

The management and employees of Harris Pine Mills are proud to be a part of the worldwide work of the church.

## General

At previous General Conference sessions several major church activities have been included in the treasurer's report, but on this occasion they will report separately. This is a reflection on their growth and development. You will be encouraged and blessed as they recount what they have achieved during the past quinquennium.

Trust Services will be reporting results that just a few years ago

we hardly dared to dream about. This is a very important part of the stewardship of that which the Lord has entrusted to us, and the spiritual life of the church is very closely bound up with faithfulness in stewardship.

SAWS has blossomed into ADRA and now is one of the recognized major private volunteer organizations on the international scene, highly respected and enjoying the confidence of donor agencies, both government and private.

Risk Management Services, which commenced insuring denominational risks in 1935, is celebrating 50 years of service this year—a tribute to its founder William A. Benjamin. It has developed into an outstanding organization, and the church is blessed to have at its disposal such an efficient organization staffed by competent and committed workers. Their contribution to the church has meant much, not merely in dollars saved, but in ensuring appropriate coverage against the risks to which the church is exposed.

Philanthropic Service for Institutions, after the investment of a tremendous amount of commitment, ability, and initiative on the part of Milton Murray, is now an essential part of the development and operation of all our institutions, most of whom now have established their own departments. This service has become all the more important in these days of financial stress.

## Conclusion

In the foregoing report we have briefly reviewed the progress of the church as far as it can be recorded in dollars and cents. As we look at these figures they make impressive reading. We are a large and complex organization. As we consider the beginnings of this church we have come a long way; the Lord has richly blessed us. We are grateful for the support of our faithful church membership and the dedication of the many church workers who have made this report possible.

After all, reports such as this are not what this church was established for. Perhaps we should pause and ask the significance of these figures. In the first place, how does Heaven regard them? Large as they are, how do they compare to what they would be if we all lived up to the light and the opportunities that we have had? Are they cause for self-satisfaction? Have we all made that degree of personal contribution that it is our privilege to make and that Heaven expects of us? In the calls and challenges from many places in the world we see administrations desperate for funds to carry on the task.

Second, none of these assets will be taken to the kingdom with us. The important assets are those in the secretary's report—men and women saved for the kingdom of God. Therefore, these wonderful resources are of value only as they are used in the great task of saving souls. If they are not so used, we are failing in our stewardship.

We have a wonderful organization and the grandest mission ever entrusted to mankind. If all were faithful in giving as they are able and all gifts were wisely and sacrificially used, what would be our present situation? Indeed, would we be holding this fifty-fourth session? "We need not tax ourselves with rehearsing how much has been given to the cause of God, but rather let us consider how much has been kept back from his treasury to be devoted to the indulgence of self in pleasure seeking and self-gratification. We need not reckon up how many agents have been sent forth, but rather recount how many have closed the eyes of their understanding, so they might not see their duty and minister to others according to their several ability."—*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 289.

This is the Lord's work. He is directing it and controls the affairs of men and nations. As His people respond He will open the way. We live in an exciting time in the history of the church. Our response to the challenge of the One Thousand Days of Reaping shown in the results being reported lift our sights above these smaller challenges as we thrill to being a part of God's work in these tremendous days. □

## Adventist Review



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# Some things never change

Skylines  
change overnight.

Kitty Hawk ingenuity now entertains space travel. Micro-computers hold billion-dollar corporations for ransom.

Yet in the midst of it all, some things never change. And at Florida Hospital in Orlando, it's our commitment to Christian nursing.

Florida Hospital is, today, the world's largest Seventh-day Adventist medical center (1,121 beds by 1985), performing more than 1,500 open heart surgeries each year, serving as a

regional kidney transplant center, and microsurgically restoring sight and reattaching severed limbs. Our long-standing dedication, coupled with a Christian atmosphere, makes us a caring place where *people* are special.

The future of medicine promises to be as optimistic as its past, and for Florida Hospital one thing will never change — our dedication to Christian healthcare. If you'd like to be a part of it, write to us: 601 East Rollins, Orlando, FL 32803.

**Florida Hospital**  
*Where people are special*

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