

Adventist Review

General Paper of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

July 7, 1985

The Day in Review

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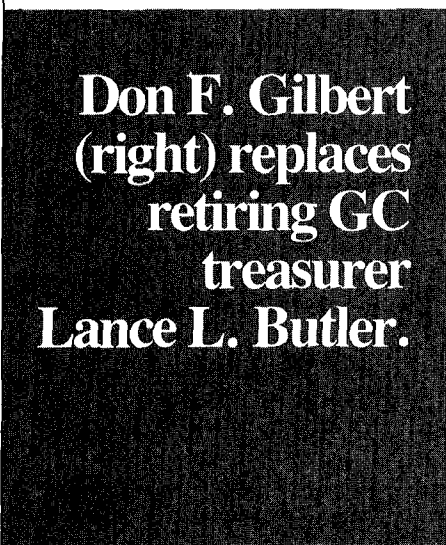
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Devotional message

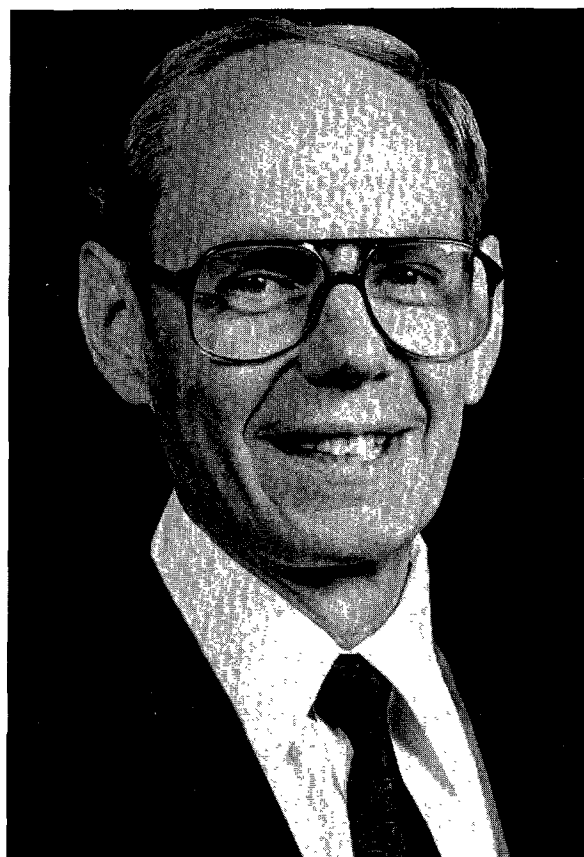
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**GC secretary
G. Ralph
Thompson
(left) returned
to office at the
fifty-fourth GC
session.**



**Don F. Gilbert
(right) replaces
retiring GC
treasurer
Lance L. Butler.**





THE DAY IN REVIEW

Friday, July 5
By Kenneth Holland

On this last working day of the fifty-fourth session of the General Conference, I found the delegates and other attendees expressing mixed emotions as they contemplated descending from a mountaintop experience.

There was sadness at the prospect of saying farewell to friends, some of whom would soon be thousands of miles away; there was the anxiety of making preliminary preparations for the Sunday departure from New Orleans; there was also the joy of anticipating the Sabbath feast of spiritual food, especially the always colorful and emotional mission pageant on Sabbath afternoon.

Many of the delegates voiced the conviction that this session was much more than a business meeting. Partly because of an extraordinary, scholarly, and helpful Ministerial Council of 36 wide-ranging seminars, plus solid Biblical preaching and beautiful music, the session quickly developed into an occasion of worship and celebration of all that the remnant church stands for. Each day's sermons, reports, and music brought a sense of confirmation of the Christ-centeredness of our beliefs and practices.

On Thursday evening, reports from the Middle East Union, the South African Union, and the Inter-American Division thrilled the audience. Of special interest was the fact that Middle East College is still functioning in troubled Beirut, Lebanon; in fact, it just graduated its largest senior class. The Inter-American Division, which presented its always colorful report, looks forward to reaching 1 million members sometime in 1986. It is already the largest of all divisions.

David R. Syme, of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, and who just arrived in New Orleans from a trip to Ethiopia, said today that providing food to a famine-stricken land such as Ethiopia is fairly easy to do, but it has potential



The Ellen G. White Estate presented a plaque to Arthur White, grandson of Ellen White, in recognition of his completion of the six-volume story of her life. From left to right are R. W. Olson, secretary of the Ellen G. White Estate, Frieda and Arthur White, and Kenneth H. Wood, chairman of the White Estate board of trustees. (Neal C. Wilson's head can be seen in the center.)

dangers. "The danger with relief," he said, "is that people become dependent on it and don't develop their own initiative and self-reliance. In order for people to become self-reliant they need to be trained. This isn't easy. It is complex because it involves human behavior change."

Syme said that 85 to 90 percent of the aid to Ethiopia is reaching the people. "The government has extended considerable courtesy to us," he said, "so we can operate our program within the guidelines they have set."

This morning Henry M. Wright, president of the Allegheny West Conference, located in Columbus, Ohio, presented a stirring devotional in which he issued a warning against twisting Christianity to meet human weakness. He said, "God understands how narcotic and disorienting sin can be as this church, growing by 1,000 members a day, fights off the disarming effects of many cultures and varying social mores." Tonight at seven-thirty Charles D. Brooks, General Conference field secretary, will hold a consecration service for the 2,300 delegates and thousands of visitors.

During a farewell service this morning President Neal C. Wilson paid tribute to 17 retiring General Conference workers. Immediately afterward the delegates were informed that today, July 5, was Elder Wilson's birthday, and appropriately the audience sang "Happy Birthday" to him.

By means of an antenna perched atop the Hyatt Regency Hotel, next to the Superdome, a group of Adventist amateur radio operators have been in contact with hundreds of persons in countries throughout the world in the past ten days.

More than 500 amateur operators have called the station, which is located in a room on the twenty-seventh floor of the hotel. Most have sent greetings to the fifty-fourth world conference of the church or given messages to delegates.

Directed by Ed Peterson, of Washington, D.C., president of the Adventist Amateur Radio Association, the center allows hobbyists a chance "to have a link between the overseas delegates at the conference and their families back home."

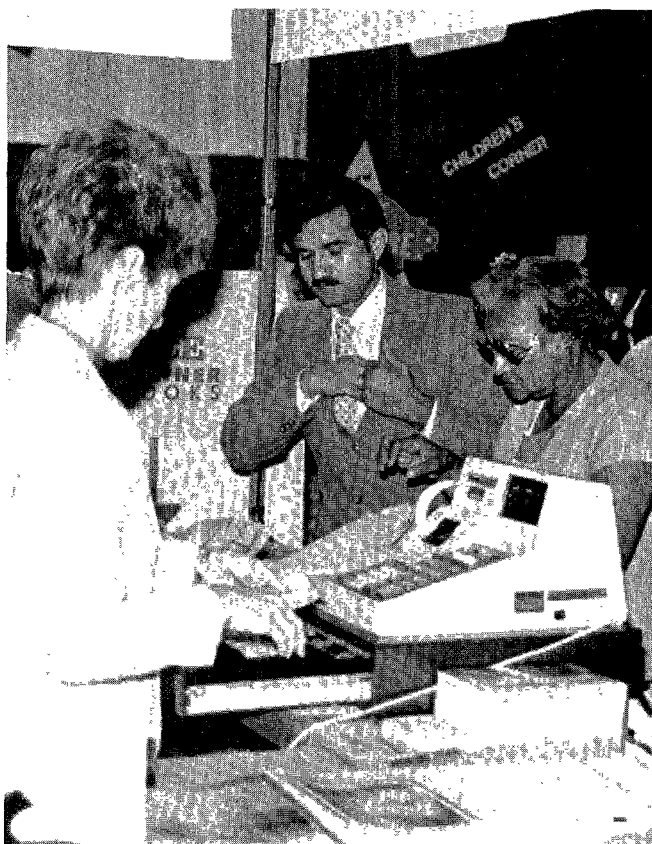
Media coverage phenomenal

According to Robert W. Nixon, General Conference communication director, local radio and television coverage has been phenomenal. More than 25 interviews and feature stories have appeared in New Orleans newspapers and on radio and television programs. These are in addition to short items of a news nature. All three TV stations covered the opening-day ceremonies, as well as events of the second day.

In addition, news releases have been sent by wire from Nixon and his staff to 600 U.S. news services and 150 services in Canada. In fact, all the major wire services in the world have access to some of the more newsworthy happenings at the session.

The prestigious *New York Times* carried the story of Elder Wilson's reelection and a United Press International picture of the parade.

Many newspapers are carrying Neal Wilson's position statements on racism, drugs, peace, and home and family. ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) has been featured at least eight times by local TV stations. Hundreds of stories have been sent to hometown U.S.A. newspapers.



Personnel from the Adventist Book Center, on the arena floor, report that their most sought-after item is the new Adventist hymnal.

Serving as news director is Herbert Ford, vice president for development, Pacific Union College. Ford has put in several 18-hour days in an attempt to keep up with increasing demands by the media for more news of the session. He directs a staff of approximately 40.

Stories of the convention have been carried by the *Washington Post*, the *Washington Times*, the Black News Network, and the Spanish News Agency. Telexes have been sent to key newspapers in the United States, Canada, and overseas by Adventist journalist Christian Schaeffler.

In addition, a staff of 15 under the direction of Dr. Donald Dick, of Southern College, prepared nightly news programs for the Adventist Radio Network and Adventist World Radio.

Reactions of delegates

Since Kenneth H. Emmerson, former General Conference treasurer, had been an active participant in General Conference sessions during the past 27 years, I asked him whether this session differed from previous ones. His comment: "I believe there is much more open discussion here; it's a sign of the times." He added, "I've admired the calmness and the courtesy of the chairmen as they handled emotion-packed questions from the floor."

Edwin L. Ermshar, administrator of the Ukiah (California) Adventist Hospital, said: "This General Conference session has been an amazing cultural experience—the concerts, the art exhibit at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, the 'Living Waters'

multimedia presentation, the *Ages of Man* sculpture by Alan Collins, of Loma Linda University. I was pleased with the quality of music in every meeting. There was no religious rock here—it's a credit to our church."

Orville Woolford, headmaster of the John Loughborough School in London, England, felt that the seminars for ministers were outstanding. The two he liked best were "Improve Your Preaching," by Benjamin Reaves, and "Understanding Youth," by Kay Kuzma.

Florence Arnold is a member of the Scarborough church in Tobago, West Indies, where she is a leader of junior Adventist youth and a Sabbath school superintendent. Florence, who came to New Orleans with a group from her church, was absolutely thrilled with the colorful evening International Festival of Mission reports from the various divisions. "I am so proud of what our church has done even in the most difficult places of earth. What a marvelous way to spend an evening—listening to the music, hearing division reports, and enjoying the international fellowship."

Edilma Clarke, age 20, is a student at Long Island University in New York and a member of the Mount of Olives church in Brooklyn. As a youth observer she found the General Conference session to be very businesslike, but "the program is very balanced. There are devotionals, preaching, musical programs, and films that give us a remarkable view of what the church is doing worldwide." She said, "Although this is my very first General Conference session, I'm sure it won't be my last."



Retiring General Conference staff members were honored on Friday morning during a break in the proceedings of the business session. Mrs. Neal C. Wilson presents flowers to Mrs. A. J. Patzer and speaks a few words of appreciation. Elder Patzer has been assistant to the General Conference president since 1979, and also served as Elder Wilson's assistant when he was General Conference vice president for North America.

Visiting the booths

No one attends a General Conference session without spending considerable time visiting the booths, where the various segments of the church tell the story of their activities. Booths offer a gold mine of information; they display an amazing richness in the great variety of the activities of our world church. For example:

A visit at the Breath of Life booth, with C. D. Brooks, speaker for the telecast and evangelistic outreach, reminded me that although the telecast is the youngest member of the radio-television family in the United States, it has proved to be one of the most effective in soul winning.

Recently a new 200-charter-member Breath of Life church was established in Washington, D.C., as a result of the telecast and reaping meetings.

One of the most popular of all booths was that of the Adventist Book Center, which was staffed by employees of the Pacific Press and the Review and Herald publishing houses. According to representatives Bob Gorton and Doug Anderson, the new hymnal has been the best seller by far; other popular items included C. Mervyn Maxwell's two-book set, *God Cares*, a commentary on the Biblical books of Daniel and Revelation; the Spanish *SDA Bible Commentary*, volume 4; *Steps to Christ*; the records and tapes of Celebration, which include some of the finest music of the

session; the *Adventist Review Bulletins*; the adult Sabbath school quarterly; and *In the Beginning*, the lesson help for the third-quarter Sabbath school lessons.

Adventist Book Center personnel expect a total sale of \$225,000.

Evangelist Kenneth Cox's Dimensions in Prophecy booth informed us that everyone can win souls to Christ by using his 30 new 50-minute video evangelistic presentations in homes or in church meetings.

The video series is a dynamic, multimedia, vision-packed evangelistic program using thousands of beautiful color slides as background to Elder Cox's lectures.

A newcomer to the Adventist world is the newsletter of the Adventist Computer Society. If you are a computer owner, you may want to get in touch with the publishers at P.O. Box 1235, South Lancaster, Massachusetts 01561, U.S.A.

Items of interest

■ For the first time in nearly 40 years a world conference of our church received an official report of the church's work in China. "There are many encouraging experiences and many faithful church members in China," said W. K. Chang, of Hong Kong, who presented the China Mission report.

Chang said that Adventists are permitted to worship in churches on Saturday and that many members meet in worship services in homes.

■ In another report Mikhail Kulakov, president of the Association of Seventh-day Adventists in the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, said Adventists are building churches and baptizing members throughout Russia.

"By God's grace, more than 4,000 persons have been baptized since September, 1982," said Kulakov. "In 1984 a total of 19 new churches were built. There are more than 32,000 Seventh-day Adventists in the Soviet Union."

■ Delegates will not soon forget President Neal C. Wilson expressing deeply felt appreciation for the many church members who have told him that they pray for him as our world leader.

■ No one near the Superdome could miss the large banner on a bus proclaiming "Free Glaucoma Screening Clinic, sponsored by the Christian Record Braille Foundation" (Lincoln, Nebraska).

■ A New Orleans newspaper, the *Times-Picayune*, carried the following colorful account of the session: "This week the Superdome is host to a different bunch of Saints [the New Orleans football team is called the New Orleans Saints].

"Instead of collarbone-crunching tackles, they advocate spiritual harmony. Instead of sideline cocaine rumors, they spread strict antidrug edicts. And rather than black-and-gold uniforms, they wear the native garb of the 184 countries from which they come."

■ Although television is taking the place of reading for millions, sales of Adventist literature in the past five years have topped the \$805 million mark, according to Louis A. Ramirez, world director of literature sales for the church.

Ramirez reported that 11,951 full-time literature evangelists are engaged in selling Adventist literature in scores of countries. In addition to their sales of books and magazines, he stated, they gave away 36 million pieces of literature in the past five years. □

Thirteenth business meeting

Fifty-fourth General Conference session
July 4, 1985, 2:00 P.M.

Session proceedings

ALF LOHNE: [Opened the business meeting.]

M. C. VAN PUTTEN: [Opening prayer.]

ALF LOHNE: We do have some big items left on the agenda. First, we will have several visual reports. [Video reports were shown from Loma Linda University, Oakwood College, and the Geoscience Research Institute.]

I now call on Dr. F. Don Yost to present his statistical report. [Dr. Yost's report appears on pages 28-31 of *Bulletin* No. 6.]

Thank you for this interesting and factual report. Now I call on Elder Wernick for our next agenda item.

F. W. WERNICK: There is one *Church Manual* item that was referred back to the General Conference officers. This item concerns the form of organization in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It states the facts about our organization and brings the *Church Manual* into harmony with the Constitution and Bylaws regarding the relationship of the General Conference, its divisions, unions, and local fields.

Following this statement is a rather lengthy one regarding the institutions of the church and their relationship to the organization. The second paragraph sparked considerable discussion and was referred back for further study. The General Conference officers asked the *Church Manual* Committee to restudy the particular issue that seemed to cause difference of opinion, that of placing health-care institutions in the same relationship to the church as educational and publishing institutions.

We must remember that the *Church Manual* involves the world field and that whatever it states has an impact on the whole world. Our health-care institutions are presenting a vital message, a message that is a part of the three angels' messages to the world. It has been stated here that it would be very difficult to accept making health-care institutions different, in their relationship to the church, from our other institutions.

The fact that some institutions in North America employ a majority

of non-Adventists poses a legal threat. It was the *Church Manual* Committee's opinion that we should not make a distinction in the relationship to the church between health-care institutions and other institutions. The statement is worded in such a way that we think it fairly states that this relationship is a vital part of the church, and yet it treats all the institutions in the same way.

The rest of the statement consists of two quotations from Ellen White in regard to the General Conference and its relationship to the world. W. L. Johns, who is the head of our General Conference Legal Service, will make a statement on this subject.

W. L. JOHNS: To give perspective to the issue that is before this floor, it is appropriate to recognize that the medical ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church came into being largely through the inspiring efforts of Ellen G. White. It was \$1,000 from her own pocketbook that sent young Dr. Kellogg to Bellevue for his medical education. It was Ellen White who had the vision to create the Battle Creek Sanitarium. Again it was Ellen White who pioneered in the creation of Loma Linda.

I think we can say that she was the one who created the concept of the health ministry of the Seventh-day

Adventist Church, not only as the right arm of the church but also as the entering wedge of the gospel.

The history of the health-care ministry of the church can be characterized as colorful, many times controversial, but at all times contributory to the church. As a matter of fact, using a legal expression, "but for" the health ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, I can only wonder what kind of a church we would have today in the world. I think it would be substantially different and not better. We all are rightly thankful for the health message and the health ministry of this church.

The issue before you today is whether or not the health ministry should be characterized as another kind of ministry in its own definition, apart from the traditional literature, educational, or pastoral ministry of the church.

It is fair to point out that in the climate in which we live in 1985, there are legal secular forces, not just in the United States, but throughout the world seeking to redefine the church for us. There are those who say that the church is no more than the congregation on the corner and its pastor.

There are those who say that a pastor should not be free to select a secretarial assistant irrespective of denominational affiliation.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, on the other hand, has taken the position historically that *church* has a much broader definition. If an institution were not the church, we would not be actively involved in its ministry.

It is appropriate that we reexamine what our philosophical goals

are, as well as our legal needs. I would submit that the amendment to be put before you from the *Church Manual* Committee accomplishes the basic goals of the concerns that have been expressed earlier without compromising the fundamental legal position that this church has had historically.

Specifically, if we specify a different ministerial role for our health-care institutions today, we run the risk of undercutting their very legal framework. In this country and elsewhere we have health-care institutions whose articles of incorporation and bylaws use medical-ministry language so important to this church historically. We must not pull the rug on these legal positions.

It is important that we not be swept aside by concerns that our health ministry is not everything we might like. Realistically, the church preaches and teaches and embodies an ideal while living in the real world. And so it must carry on all phases of its ministry as best it can under the circumstances and in the environment where it functions.

The percentage of Seventh-day Adventist employees has been mentioned, but there are other ministries also that cannot claim solely Adventist employees. I wish you could have attended with me a recent meeting of one division of the Adventist Health System and heard the evangelistic outreach of that organization. I think you would share my feeling that anything done here today should only encourage, and not discourage or isolate, that specialized ministry.

There has been some concern that if we don't separate the health-care



Southern Asia choir sings in Telegu. "People call it 'the language of heaven,'" says outgoing division secretary E. A. Hetke. "That's because it's too difficult to learn on earth."

ministry into a nomenclature of its own, apart from the other traditional ministries of the church, the impact might negate our legal positions in other cases that are pending. I can assure you that the church is being assaulted in its definition of what a church is in other arenas, also.

I also believe we should address principles and philosophies, and not legal expediences. We must not react here for the entire world church simply to maintain a defense mechanism to hopefully preserve a posture in some potential litigation. I can assure you we need strong underpinnings from this organization to assert our traditional posture of all the ministries of the church.

I believe that the discussion I have already heard has been healthy for this church. I think it is time that we see exactly where we are and where

we are going. It is important that an amendment not erode our current position, but whatever action is taken, that we recommit ourselves immediately to reevaluating, reestablishing, and determining new ways to expand and impact positively on this traditionally foundation ministry of this church.

F. W. WERNICK: I move that this document be accepted. [Motion was seconded.]

LOUIS VENDEN: In the proposed amendment to the *Church Manual* under consideration it appears that in our organization there are four constituent levels, rather than five, as our manual has led us to understand in years past.

I believe this new understanding has been helpful. There are some important and very logical reasons for this change. I believe we will

experience some further confusion if we do not also, in some appropriate way, recognize that there are, in fact, five levels of administrative function. The division does constitute an administrative entity. I believe the division should be defined a bit more specifically as representing an administrative sublevel of the General Conference, with responsibility assigned to it in designated geographical areas.

F. W. WERNICK: The phraseology used here, "divisions are sections," is taken from the Constitution and Bylaws and is accurate. There is administrative responsibility delegated to the division for geographical areas. Perhaps it could be said that divisions are sections of the General Conference with administrative responsibility assigned to them. This is the correct relationship. They are not separate units from the General Conference. They are the General Conference in their area. The distinction between a division committee and the committee at headquarters is that the headquarters committee does operate for the world field.

LOUIS VENDEN: We do have two levels of administration. Elder Baasch used the word *sublevel*.

F. W. WERNICK: The divisions are given administrative responsibility. In the case of the North American Division, the General Conference Committee has assigned administrative responsibility to a special group of officers and departmental men for North America. But they are still a part of the General Conference, as is the case with all divisions.

LOUIS VENDEN: It seems to me that the adding of the word *administrative* as suggested does help to clarify the confusion. I would strongly urge that three very important paragraphs from *Testimonies*, volume 9, pages 260, 261 be included in the *Manual*. They provide a more detailed exegesis of Ellen White's understanding than in the quotation we have.

F. W. WERNICK: I think we would be happy to do that. We may have to condense it, but I can understand the point you are making.

JOHN STEVENS: I am grateful to Elder Wernick, who assured me two days ago that there would be ample time for full discussion on a certain paragraph. Inasmuch as I don't want to curtail any support for the motion, I would appreciate being given an opportunity to speak in opposition to it prior to the calling of the question.

Before the delegates vote in support of the motion on the floor, I think they should be aware of another option. I would like to

introduce a substitute motion, which can be thrown on the screen for everyone to view.

I am very grateful for the points that were brought to focus by Attorney Johns. He made it very clear that the General Conference desires to keep all institutions on the same level. He has also indicated that the medical work is the "right arm of the message" and "the entering wedge." I don't know how we can make the "right arm" and "entering wedge" the body itself. The body is not an entering wedge, but an arm is. The arm is a small portion of the body. The theology is in question.

This is not just a matter of legal problems. The wording before us in effect says that all the institutions are the body.

[Elder Stevens' proposed amendment was projected on the screen and seconded. After considerable discussion it was defeated.]

HAROLD J. LANCE: I am a lay member of the General Conference Committee for North America. I think the discussion we have had points out a very specific issue to which the church needs to address itself.

The tension that we face is that medical institutions are operated presently in a way that causes potential problems. Wage scale is one. Another is management-level employees who are not Seventh-day Adventists. There are other areas also that create potential serious legal problems. Since the body has rejected the substitute amendment, I think it is incumbent that if the present amendment is passed, the church take significant leadership in seeing that these medical institutions are operated in a way that causes us no embarrassment. [Applause.]

ALF LOHNE: We are now ready to vote on the motion before us. [Motion was voted.]

We now have a report from our World Foods Service. [The World Foods film was shown.]

A statement on the Spirit of Prophecy has just been distributed. Since you have not had this in hand, I think it would be appropriate to read it before discussion.

R. F. WILLIAMS: [Read the Spirit of Prophecy statement, which can be found in the Actions section.] I move the adoption of this statement. [Motion was seconded.]

ALF LOHNE: Elder Wernick would like to make an explanatory statement before this item is discussed.

F. W. WERNICK: I think in every General Conference session since 1888, and even perhaps before that, a statement has been voted to express the church's confidence, belief, and trust in the counsels that

ADVENTIST SCRAPBOOK

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Blacks advance at GC sessions

General Conference sessions have been important landmarks in the rise of black Seventh-day Adventists to positions of leadership in the church. The positive role of these meetings can be traced back to the 1918 session, which marked the appointment of the first black General Conference officer, William H. Green, as secretary of the North American Negro Department.

Then for several decades no Afro-Americans were chosen for top executive positions. Since 1950, however, every one of these gatherings has witnessed the rise of black leadership:

1950—First black General Conference field secretary, George E. Peters.

1954—First black General Conference associate secretary, Frank L. Peterson; first black associate secretary of the Ministerial Association, E. Earl Cleveland.

1958—First General Conference session with a large number of black delegates and visitors.

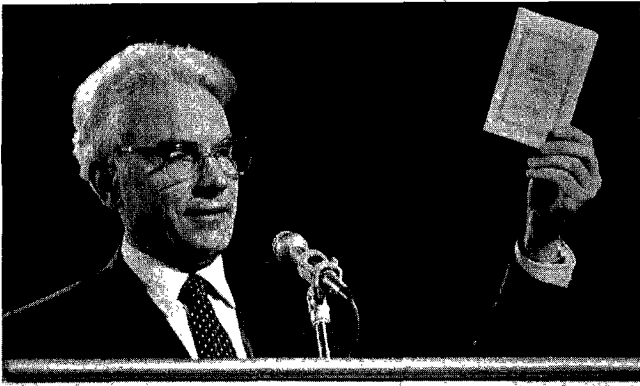
1962—First black General Conference vice president, Frank L. Peterson.

1966—First black departmental secretary of a division (Northern European), Maurice T. Battle.

1970—First black secretary of worldwide General Conference Department (Stewardship and Development), Walter M. Starks.

1975—First black secretary of a division (Afro-Mideast), Maurice T. Battle; first black general vice presidents of the General Conference, C. Dunbar Henri and G. Ralph Thompson.

1980—First black General Conference secretary, G. Ralph Thompson; first black president of the North American Division, Charles E. Bradford; first black president of an overseas division (Afro-Mideast), Bekele Heye.



THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Mikhail P. Kulakov, delegate from the U.S.S.R., shows the audience a Morning Watch calendar printed in his country. He also showed a Bible, hymnal, and magazine for ministers that have been printed in Russia, where there are about 32,000 SDAs.

have come to us through the Spirit of Prophecy. This statement is before you. It is a short one and includes recommendations that would help the church.

JOHN T. KNOPPER: We are fully in harmony and in support of this statement. I feel that this is one of the factors that keeps Seventh-day Adventists united throughout the world. I have two questions. First, do we have plans to put this statement into the hands of every single Seventh-day Adventist around the globe? Second, can even more favorable financial support be given to limited language areas? I am a publishing man and am interested that as many Spirit of Prophecy books as possible be available in non-English areas of the world. I know, for instance, one field where recently 5,000 copies of *The Great Controversy* were published, 100 percent financed by lay members because the publishing house did not have the funds.

W. D. EVA: I am a member of the White Estate Board but am a little disappointed in this statement. Should we not add at the beginning of the second paragraph a thought that is very prominent in the writings of Mrs. White? The paragraph begins, "We thank and praise God for the unparalleled influence of this gift in exalting the Scriptures as the standard of character." I am in full harmony with that, but before the Scriptures exalt the standard of character, the glorious salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross should be presented. No one exalts our Saviour in the way Sister White has, and I am sorry that this was edited out of the copy, and I move that suitable wording be inserted as point number one.

F. W. WERNICK: We will be

most happy to include it. I think you have a good point. A longer document was studied but was shortened to a little more readable length.

M. L. MILLS: I just hope this statement is not considered lightly or just laid aside as another common document. Truly we have come to a time when we need to give greater support to the Spirit of Prophecy. This is no time to apologize for this gift. We need now to promote it more for reading by our people.

I am also certain that "Roots Countdown," a planned study of the Ellen White biography set, will be of immeasurable help in bringing unity into our churches. I just want to give my support to this statement.

I think our overseas division officers should be reminded that there is a plan to assist with the translation of the Spirit of Prophecy books into the various languages and that the General Conference is very anxious and very willing to give this financial assistance. I think our budget is something like \$160,000 a year. We do urge the translation of these books into languages in which they are not yet available.

F. W. WERNICK: This gift to this church is one of the most precious things God has ever done for us. I also refer to the volumes that Elder Arthur White has written, the Ellen White biography. Studying them is a splendid way to become acquainted with the history of the church, and I would certainly recommend that every member, who possibly can, purchase them. They are invaluable to an understanding of what the Seventh-day Adventist Church really is all about.

JOHN T. KNOPPER: Often small publishing houses subsidized with translation funds produce a first printing, but the income from sales is so low and the profit margin

so narrow that there are no funds for a second printing. Often that one printing is the last, and the next generation is deprived of these books, because no further subsidy is available. Small unions are often disadvantaged financially.

F. W. WERNICK: The budget provided to the White Estate and the Spirit of Prophecy Committee is not large enough to do all that has been suggested. It does provide assistance for translating new volumes, and this is disbursed as requests are received. We believe the circulation of the books should be the responsibility of the divisions.

C. T. RICHARDSON: I speak here from the viewpoint of a layman. I am concerned that it is difficult to obtain and circulate the books of Ellen White at a price affordable by the national peoples of French-speaking Africa. Most of the French translations and publications are done in Europe in very expensive bindings for African believers. By the time copies of *The Great Controversy* or *The Desire of Ages*, for example, arrive in Africa, they may cost our teachers the equivalent of a month's salary. Can the White Estate or any other department help provide a very cheap newsprint French edition of some of Ellen White's books?

F. W. WERNICK: One of the reasons for condensed versions of some of Ellen White's books is to reduce them in size, with the essential message left intact, so they can be reprinted more economically. This deserves more study.

M. L. MILLS: One reason for publishing the condensation series of the Spirit of Prophecy books is to reduce the cost, with the Third World in mind. I am very aware of the tremendous expense to these people who buy her books.

PEDRO GELI, JR.: I would like to commend you on this excellent statement. Experience has shown that wherever the people have strong faith in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, the Lord blesses. Scripture says, "Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper." I think it would be even stronger if it included literature evangelists with administrators, pastors, and evangelists.

C. T. RICHARDSON: I am not familiar with the condensed versions. They would be very appropriate, I am sure, if they were printed in a quality that is affordable in these countries. If the condensed versions are printed in the same bindings and the same quality paper as is done in Europe, indeed if they are printed outside of Africa, they will still be prohibitively expensive in Africa. I believe that the English

newsprint paperback editions of 15 years ago sold for perhaps a dollar or two. Hardback French versions that come to Africa sell for at least \$20 or \$25 per volume for the identical book. I think many of our African brethren would like to have full versions in French in a very inexpensive binding.

F. W. WERNICK: Some way must be found to circulate these volumes more widely.

ALF LOHNE: I am glad that Elder Kulakov, of the Soviet Union, is responding to my request. He will speak about what they are doing in the U.S.S.R.

M. P. KULAKOV: I would like to say a few words in support of this Spirit of Prophecy statement. We think it is very important for the church to translate the Spirit of Prophecy books and to encourage our people to read them. The church in our country experiences many blessings from the books of the Spirit of Prophecy. We translate all these books into Russian and then type them. All our ministers and many of our church members enjoy them very much. We praise the Lord for this wonderful gift that keeps the church united and gives perspective to our work.

ROLF KVINGE: First, I want to support the plan for subsidies for translation and distribution of the Spirit of Prophecy books. It is a pity that we are not able in some countries to supply our members with Ellen White's most common books. So I urge the General Conference and the White Estate to try to find ways to increase subsidies for this purpose.

[Motion was voted.]

ALF LOHNE: Now we understand that Dr. Leshner is here from the Nominating Committee, and he has a report for us.

W. R. LESHNER: I am glad to tell you that the Nominating Committee is nearing the completion of its work. We just have a couple of departments to meet with tomorrow morning, and then we will bring in our final report. Some of the names have been coming in so fast that we have difficulty keeping up with the record, so we are still in process at the moment.

Dr. Samuel Young, associate secretary of the Nominating Committee, will bring us the report at this time.

[The Nominating Committee report is found in the Actions section. A motion was made to accept the report, and it was seconded and voted.]

MRS. BERNADINE ROCKWELL: [Benediction.]

ALF LOHNE, Chairman
R. F. WILLIAMS, Secretary
D. A. ROTH, Proceedings Editor

Session actions

The Form of Organization in the Seventh-day Adventist Church—Church Manual Amendment

Voted, To amend CM, pp. 53-55, The Form of Organization in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as follows:

FOUR CONSTITUENT LEVELS IN THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST ORGANIZATION

Among Seventh-day Adventists there are four constituent levels leading from the individual believer to the worldwide organization of the work of the church:

1. The local church, a united organized body of individual believers.

2. The local conference or local field/mission, a united organized body of churches in a state, province, or territory.

3. The union conference or union field/mission, a united body of conferences or fields within a larger territory.

4. The General Conference, the largest unit of organization, embraces all unions in all parts of the world. Divisions are sections of the General Conference, with administrative responsibility assigned to them in designated geographical areas.

"Every member of the church has a voice in choosing officers of the church. The church chooses the officers of the state conferences. Delegates chosen by the state conferences choose the officers of the union conferences, and delegates chosen by the union conferences choose the officers of the General Conference. By this arrangement every conference, every institution, every church, and every individual, either directly or through representatives, has a voice in the election of the men who bear the chief responsibilities in the General Conference."—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, pp. 236, 237.

THE CHURCH'S INSTITUTIONS

Within these four constituent levels the church operates a variety of institutions. Seventh-day Adventists see in the gospel commission and the example of the Lord and His apostles the responsibility of followers of Christ to serve the whole man. In their world outreach they have therefore followed the pattern of their beginnings in the development of educational, health-care, publishing, and other institutions.

In Seventh-day Adventist theology and philosophy of church operation, such institutions have been from their inception integral parts of the church, direct instruments in the carrying out of its divine commission. Therefore, the Seventh-day Adventist Church makes use of its denominationally owned and operated institutions such as health-care institutions, publishing houses, and schools as integral parts to fulfill health, literature, and teaching ministries; therefore, they are indispensable to and inseparable from the church's total ministry in carrying the gospel to all the world.

The multiple units of the world church, whether congregations, conferences, health-care institutions, publishing houses, schools, or other organizations, all find their organizational unity in the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, in which they have representation. Through them the world Church reaches out in the name of Christ to meet the needs of a distraught world.

GENERAL CONFERENCE THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY

The General Conference is the highest organization in the administration of the church's worldwide work, and is authorized by its constitution to create subordinate organizations to promote specific interests in various sections of the world; it is therefore understood that all subordinate organizations and institutions throughout the world will recognize the General Conference in session, and the Executive Committee between sessions, as the highest authority, under God, among Seventh-day Adventists. When differences arise in or between organizations and institutions, appeal to the next higher organization is proper till it reaches the General Conference in session, or the Executive Committee at the Annual Council. During the interim between these sessions the Executive Committee shall constitute the body of final authority on all questions where a difference of viewpoint may develop. The committee's decision may be reviewed at a session of the General Conference or at an Annual Council of the Executive Committee.

"I have been shown that no man's judgment should be surrendered to the judgment of any one man. But when the judgment of the General Conference, which is the highest authority that God has upon the earth, is exercised, private independence and private judgment must not be maintained, but be surrendered."—*Ibid.*, vol. 3, p. 492.

Spirit of Prophecy Statement—1985 General Conference Session

Voted, To adopt the following statement regarding the Spirit of Prophecy:

We today express our deep gratitude to God for the continuing presence of spiritual gifts among His people, and particularly for the gift of prophecy as manifested in the life and writings of Ellen G. White.

We praise and thank God (1) for the fact that this gift points unerringly to Christ's great sacrifice for

the sins of the world, and for its tender and moving appeals that lead and draw us to His cross and to Him as our substitute and surety, (2) for the unparalleled influence of this gift in exalting the Scriptures as the standard for character, the revealer of doctrines, and the test of experience, (3) for the aid this gift has provided, and continues to provide, in helping us to understand God's eternal purposes and the certain working out of His will in the great struggle between good and evil, and (4) for the instruction, counsel, warnings, and reproof provided

Nominating Committee Report—12

Voted, To approve the following final report of the Nominating Committee:

General Conference

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries Director: Charles D. Martin

Adventist Personnel Service: George R. Ramsey
Associate Directors, Communication: Shirley Burton, Victor H. Cooper, Tulio R. Haylock, Owen A. Troy

Associate Directors, Education: George P. Babcock, Victor S. Griffiths, Agripino S. Segovia

Associate Directors, Publishing: Rudi H. Henning, Richard L. McKee, Robert S. Smith

Associate Director, Trust Services: Wyman S. Wager
Associate Directors, Health and Temperance: E. E. Carman, Iris Hayden, Rudolph E. Klimes, Raymond L. Pelton, Stoy Proctor, Elizabeth Sterndale, Gary B. Swanson, Albert S. Whiting, DeWitt S. Williams

Associate Secretaries, Ministerial Association: Carlos Aeschlimann, J. David Newman, Arturo E. Schmidt, J. Robert Spangler

Associate Directors, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty: Gordon O. Engen, Roland R. Hegstad, Neville O. Matthews, Gary M. Ross, Mitchell A. Tyner.

Africa-Indian Ocean Division

Auditor: Wayne Vail
Publishing Director: Dale L. Thomas

Eastern Africa Division

Treasurer: Ronald Lindsey

Far Eastern Division

Treasurer: Ian E. Grice
Auditing Service Director: R. Martin Moores
Church Ministries Director: Gilbert J. Bertochini
Spirit of Prophecy Director: Larry R. Colburn

North American Division

Associate Director, Church Ministries: Samuel D. Meyers

South Pacific Division

Associate Director, Church Ministries: A. Barry Gane
Trust Services Director: A. W. White

Southern Asia Division

Communication Director: D. S. Poddar



A computer quiz at the Home Study International booth challenges Michaela Castan, a student from Loma Linda, California.

through this gift, and for its decisive influence in guiding the church through the years and in creating and maintaining the remarkable organizational and doctrinal unity of the church.

In the light of these considerations,

We urge church administrators, church pastors, and other leaders by precept and example to encourage church members to study earnestly the inspired counsels and follow carefully the practical instruction and principles for daily living that these counsels contain.

We call upon evangelists, pastors, and lay preachers to make extensive use of the Ellen G. White books in their soul-winning endeavors.

We call upon our education directors, school administrators, and teachers in our educational institutions by precept and example to encourage students to study the Ellen G. White books and the other rich, inspired materials available in the Ellen G. White-SDA Research Centers.

We urge administrators, physicians, nurses, and other workers in our health-care facilities to study and honor Ellen G. White's counsels as they relate to the operation of our medical institutions.

We encourage non-English-language divisions to continue the well-established program of translating the Ellen G. White books into their various languages.

We urge all union and local conferences and missions to give careful study to the selection and appointment of persons with ability and enthusiasm to promote the writings of Ellen G. White in the churches and institutions within their territories.

We urge our publishing houses to translate and publish the Ellen G. White books, and we encourage our literature evangelists and church members everywhere to give these volumes wide circulation.

We encourage our publishing houses, where feasible, to translate and publish the new six-volume Ellen G. White biography, and we urge ministers and church members to read the volumes and to note carefully "the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history" (*Life Sketches*, p. 196).

Nominating Committee Report—11

Voted. To approve the following partial report of the Nominating Committee:

General Conference

Assistant Treasurer: John F. Wilkens

Associate Directors, Church Ministries: Thomas M. Ashlock, George E. Knowles, Samuel D. Meyers, Samuel F. Monnier, Gilbert J. Bertochini, Charles L. Brooks, Helen C. Craig, Leo R. Van Dolson, Richard E. Barron, Michael H. Stevenson, Leslie H. Pitton, Donald E. Crane, Paul G. Smith, Betty Holbrook, Leo Ranzolin, Perry F. Pedersen, Ronald Flowers, Karen Flowers

Associate Director, Health and Temperance: Stoy E. Proctor

Associate Director, Health and Temperance, Nursing: Elizabeth Sterdale

Euro-Africa Division

Publishing Director: Karl Widmaier

Northern European Division (Trans-European Division)

Ministerial Association Secretary: Mark Finley

South Pacific Division

Communication and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director: R. L. Coombe

Adjourned.

ALF LOHNE, *Chairman*
ROY F. WILLIAMS, *Secretary*
J. W. BOTHE, *Actions Secretary*
BETTY PIERSON
Recording Secretary

World Foods Service

Report presented at the General Conference session.

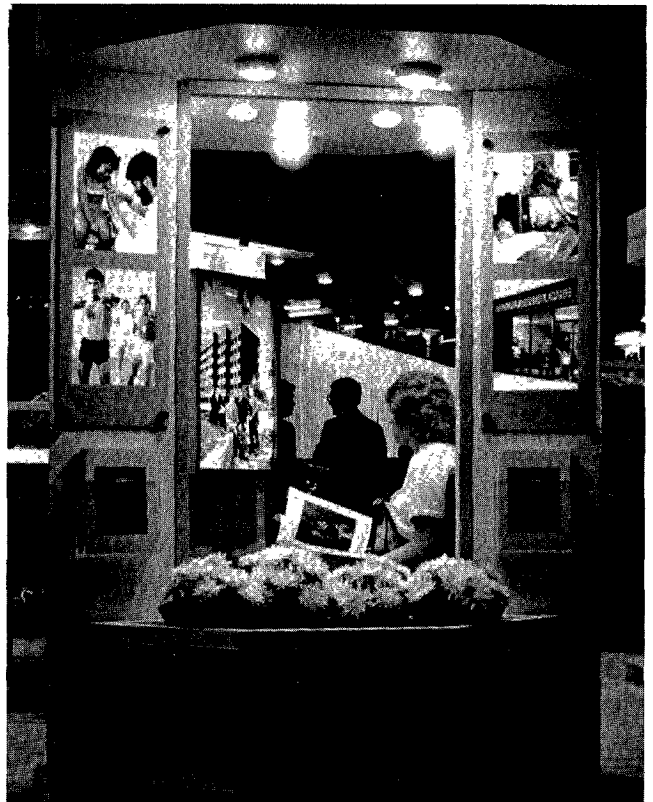
By ERIC C. FEHLBERG
Director



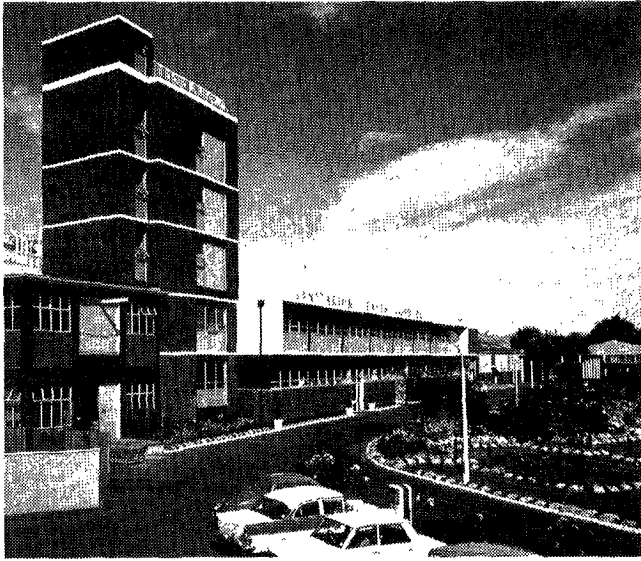
The General Conference World Foods Service is happy to present this report to its meeting of shareholders. Although individual Adventists have no financial investment in the ever-enlarging group of Adventist food industries around the world, the denomination manufactures, markets, and retails its food products worldwide.

During the present quinquennium appropriations by various food companies to the work of the church totaled some \$35.5 million. In many areas it has been necessary to expand facilities, purchase new ones, and acquire more sophisticated equipment.

In the Northern European Division Granose Foods in Great Britain is enjoying expansion and growth under a new management team of Britons. In Denmark the Nutana Company reports



Personnel from the Adventist Health System are on hand during the hours booths are open to answer the questions of visitors.



This quinquennium the Sanitarium Health Food Company provided almost one third of the Australasian Division budget. Pictured is the company's Christchurch, New Zealand, factory.

escalating sales, and during the quinquennium under review had to expand its already large production and warehouse area. Nutana first expanded its interests into Norway—where 1983 saw a sales increase of some 40 percent, and 1984 growth figures were similar. Then, because of Nutana's influence, Esdakost of Sweden was established. More recently, the Finn-Nutana operation was begun in Finland. And presently Nutana is expanding yet another branch in Holland.

The hub of the Adventist food industry in the Euro-Africa Division is the De-Vau-Ge Food Company of Germany. Phag Food Factory in Switzerland, once considered scarcely viable, has grown into a very profitable unit. The Pur-Aliment factory in France also is developing into a small but very viable institution. And a new Adventist food industry was established in 1984 in Spain, under the name Grente de Granovita.

In the Far Eastern Division the San-iku Foods Company of Japan is making its presence felt even in America, exporting sizable quantities of soymilk products under various brand names. The Korean Food Factory, established in 1978, is gradually becoming known. And small food plants operate in conjunction with Adventist institutions in the Philippines, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

After a painstaking evaluation the Loma Linda Foods board voted to consolidate its Mount Vernon, Ohio, plant with the one in Riverside, California, and move into a much wider range of products that would appeal to the general public in North America. We are optimistic that in the years ahead Loma Linda Foods will be a strong influence in the marketplace and a tremendous blessing to the church in North America.

In the South American Division the past decade has seen Superbom products finding their way to the foremost shelves of the supermarkets. Recently the company acquired another organization within Brazil that specializes in soybean products. The Granix Food Company in Argentina is establishing itself well despite economic reverses in the country. In mid-1984 production began at a second facility in Boredero. The Granix company also operates a small satellite factory in nearby Uruguay. And small food production plants operate at River Plata College in Argentina and at the Centro de Educación Superior Union in Peru.

The consolidation and development of the food industry in the Australasian Division has been phenomenal during the past quinquennium. Sanitarium Health Food Company plants in both

New Zealand and Australia have been expanded and had many new items of technology introduced. This quinquennium the food industry provided almost one third of the division budget each year.

The small food factory in Egypt has passed through a difficult time but currently is moving confidently toward greater success. In the vast Southern Asia Division Adventists have one small food plant, at Spicer College.

The Inter-American Division Food Company operates five branches in four countries, all of them on a profitable basis. The year 1984 saw a new breakfast-cereal plant installed in Jamaica that has enough capacity to supply the needs of Jamaica and the Caribbean Islands. Alimentos Colpac has expanded to satisfy the demand for its products in Mexico. The factory in Colombia is planning to open a vegetarian restaurant.

Adventists operate a chain of retail health-food stores and vegetarian restaurants around the world that served more than 45 million customers during the quinquennium. These stores not only provide a wide range of healthful foods but also show how interesting a vegetarian diet can be if properly prepared. These restaurants and shops bring Adventists close to the public and to those who are searching for truth.

One of the objectives of the World Foods Service is to encourage development of products appropriate to these disadvantaged areas. We need to move into these areas, establish viable industries, and manufacture products that are inexpensive and produced from products already integral to the regular diet. This is the mission field of the future for the World Foods Service. □

Risk Management Services

Report presented at the General Conference session.

By STANTON H. PARKER
Director



As more than 2,400 delegates meet in New Orleans for the fifty-fourth General Conference session they mirror the dramatic changes that have occurred within the global community and the Adventist Church since the first GC session, in 1863. No longer confined to the Northeastern United States, the church has representatives from 190 countries. Numbering 3,500 in 1863, the church is more than 4 million strong today.

How does the church minister to the needs of a global community that numbers 4.8 billion and stretches to every corner of the earth?

In 1983, 22,873 church buildings, with a capacity for nearly 4.5 million people, stood as beacons of Adventist Christianity in action. The total estimated value of these buildings reached \$1.3 billion.

From the early days of Adventism, Christian education has been an integral part of the church's ministry. The first Adventist school,

Battle Creek College, initiated a worldwide system that in 1983 was educating 653,000 students in 5,350 secondary and primary schools, colleges, and universities.

Christian health care is another major component of Adventist outreach. Battle Creek Sanitarium, the church's first hospital, was the forerunner of a family of 155 hospitals and sanitariums worldwide. The church's concern for the physical body is dispensed from sophisticated acute-care hospitals, mission launches, remote clinics, and even suburban shopping centers. Total assets of the Adventist Health System/United States alone exceeded \$1.6 billion in 1983.

Television, radio, videocassettes, and satellites as a means of mass communication are bold new methods of outreach when compared with the methods of early Advent preachers. The gospel commission to go into all the world seems suddenly more possible than ever.

Other components of church ministry include food factories, publishing houses, and even furniture manufacturing.

Indeed, the work of the church is "big business," as defined by the corporate world. It is estimated that the denomination's total cost of property and liability risk protection exceeds \$50 million annually. Certainly the hundreds of diversified offices and corporations operated by the church today reflect a much more complex system of outreach than church pioneers would have ever dreamed possible or probable.

To those who are stewards of these assets, it is a sobering challenge to make certain that the work of the church is protected from financial catastrophe that might slow down or even entirely thwart the church's mission.

Risk Management Services of the General Conference (formerly known as Insurance Service) was created in 1935 to assist Adventist institutions in planning for the unexpected. Risk management programs (including insurance and other creative methods of handling denominational risks) are evaluated and implemented by a team of nearly 150 risk management specialists. Working from the General Conference complex and service offices in California, Georgia, and England, these professionals assist local administrators with their stewardship responsibilities.

Since the 1980 General Conference session, Risk Management Services has been quietly working behind the scenes to make certain that the church's outreach not be needlessly diverted.

In 1981 Risk Management Services responded to a major fire at Atlantic Union College that destroyed the science building. The loss, which was the church's largest property claim, resulted in a \$1.8 million insurance payment. Today a new building stands in its place to continue the work of Christian education.

Medical malpractice judgments awarded by United States civil courts are reaching new highs. During 1984 one malpractice claim, currently being appealed, resulted in a \$3 million judgment against an insured physician. If upheld it will be a new record for Risk Management Services for a single liability claim.

And on March 21, 1985—a school day—Calgary Junior Academy was reduced to a mass of smoldering ruins. Miraculously all students and staff escaped the inferno, but the destruction of the school will exceed \$1 million in insurance dollars.

These large dollar claims, and other low-cost, high-frequency claims, would have had a tremendous financial impact on the church had it not been for an effective risk management program. Money would have had to be diverted from operating funds, and the work of the church would have slowed.

As Risk Management Services celebrates its fiftieth anniversary it is proud to be a part of the financial services of the denomination. Though the size and scope of the church have changed dramatically since 1863, the message of God's love for the global community is still the same. Risk Management Services is working hard to make certain that the church's business crises don't derail the good news message. □



The Fourth of July in New Orleans. Above, as part of the division's report, representatives from Inter-America display national costumes worn for festive occasions. Below, "Uncle Sam" (Horace Shaw, of Berrien Springs, Michigan) greets GC attendees in celebration of United States' Independence Day.

Pacific Press Publishing Association

Report presented
at the General
Conference session.

By E. M. STILES
President



Pacific Press began the quinquennium serving primarily the needs of Canada, the central and western United States, and the Inter-American Division. Sales of all products at the end of 1980 stood at \$22,755,052, falling to \$21,673,485 in 1981. Circulation of the Spanish-language missionary journal *El Centinela* increased to a record 550,000 subscriptions as demand kept pace with the vigorous evangelistic thrust in the rapidly growing Inter-American Division. A significant investment had been made to establish Pacific Press de México, but the Mexican plant in 1981 did not have the capabilities to produce the majority of the books and periodicals needed in Mexico and other Central American countries.

In 1982 world economic developments played a significant part in dramatically changing the future of the Pacific Press. The sudden devaluation of the Mexican peso and other Latin American currencies meant that the countries within the Inter-American Division could no longer afford to import large quantities of products from North America. Newly enforced foreign exchange regulations further altered the demand for Pacific Press products in other countries.

These developments forced the Inter-American Division and Pacific Press to make a critical decision. Somehow the Inter-American Division had to satisfy its continuing needs and commitments, and Pacific Press had to discover ways to adjust to a 34 percent



Eight months after Pacific Press construction began, all the employees were settled in the new building in Nampa, Idaho.

reduction in product demand. Pacific Press had a double burden in that large inventories of products once destined for Inter-America could not be absorbed by the relatively small Hispanic market in North America.

The Inter-American Division decided to form its own publishing organization. Later in 1983, after much study, church leaders agreed that the Pacific Press should continue as a combined publishing and printing plant. In June, 1983, the constituency reluctantly agreed to sell the Mountain View plant and use the funds to establish a smaller, more efficient plant on a site central to its marketplace, where it could have the greatest economic advantage.

In the same month an agreement to sell the Mountain View property to South Bay Construction, Inc., was signed. After completing the sale of the Mountain View property, the board voted on December 8, 1983, to accept the recommendation of the board-appointed site-selection committee and relocate the Pacific Press near Boise, Idaho.

An appropriate site fronting Interstate 84 in Nampa, Idaho, was approved by the Pacific Press board of trustees on January 20, 1984. On March 1, 1984, Idaho governor John Evans, General Conference officers, community dignitaries, board members, and friends of Pacific Press attended groundbreaking ceremonies at the new site. Concrete footings for the new plant were poured on June 8, 1984, with completion of the manufacturing section of the new plant scheduled for November 1, 1984. Office sections were scheduled to be completed during January, 1985. Plans were made to move all departments except printing operations from Mountain View into temporary quarters in Boise, Idaho, 16 miles from the construction site. Printing operations were to continue in Mountain View until the manufacturing area was completed in Nampa.

On June 13, 1984, Pacific Press began to ship products from Boise, making the publishing house the largest mailer in the State of Idaho.

On December 7, 1984, at 1:48 P.M., the last of the 260 truckloads of equipment and inventory left Mountain View bound for Nampa. Eighty-one years earlier, on that same day, the Pacific Press board had voted to accept the five acres donated by Mountain View city fathers and to take options on other property to enable the plant to relocate from Oakland to Mountain View, California.

Proceeds from the sale of the Mountain View property were in hand prior to the close of 1984. Also, at the end of 1984, an industrial development bond issue was sponsored by the city of Nampa, Idaho, making possible the consolidation of \$6 million of debt with a floating interest rate, which can never exceed 75 percent of prime rate.

During the Christmas holidays finished goods inventory, shelving, and mailing equipment were moved from the temporary site in Boise to the newly completed warehouse at the new plant. On January 7, 1985, shipping operations began from the new plant in Nampa. During December and January, equipment hookups were completed in the bindery, and the Heidelberg sheet-fed press was installed. On January 9, 1985, the first product to be manufactured at the new Idaho plant was delivered to marketing. It was George Vandeman's newest book, *The Telltale Connection*.

On February 10, 1985, eight months after construction began, all departments and personnel were settled in the new plant. This achievement is a tribute to the Pacific Press team of employees, who have worked together tirelessly to make the newly located Pacific Press strong and responsive to the needs of a growing church in this modern age.

Pacific Press is committed to retiring the debt quickly while providing for our constituencies the full array of literature at reasonable and appropriate prices. With a modern, efficiently designed plant located in an area where operating costs are reduced, with creative and highly skilled men and women dedicated to using their varied talents to hasten the Lord's return, the future is indeed bright for the Pacific Press. □

Review and Herald Publishing Association

Report presented
at the General
Conference session.

By HAROLD F. OTIS, JR.
President



When we look at the history of the Review and Herald Publishing Association from 1980 to 1985, we have to conclude that this has been a period of transition, as well as progress.

On March 20, 1980, the Review family was enlarged by a merger with the Southern Publishing Association. This gave us a combined work force of 427 employees, operating from Nashville, Tennessee, and Washington, D.C. On October 16, 1980, a joint constituency voted to sell the Nashville plant and make plans to relocate the combined publishing house in Hagerstown, Maryland. Six weeks later, unsolicited, a buyer came forward to purchase the Nashville facility and much of its equipment—for the asking price. This was further indication to us that the Lord was leading in this new venture. We consolidated operations and moved more than 100 tractor-trailer loads of inventory and equipment, along with 55 families, from Nashville to Washington, D.C.

The crowded conditions and increased work load quickly pointed up the need for a more efficient facility. One year after the vote to merge, we purchased a 130-acre farm on Interstate 70, near Hagerstown, Maryland, and began site preparation and sending out bid packages on the proposed plant. On December 7, 1981, a contract was signed with Perini Construction of Hagerstown, and nine months later Maryland's governor Harry Hughes, along with Neal C. Wilson, chairman of the Review and Herald board, pressed the buttons that started the new web press printing at the Hagerstown facility. Three hundred and fifty tractor-trailer loads later we had completed our exodus from Washington and celebrated our grand opening on July 24, 1983.

The new plant has proved more efficient than we ever dreamed it would be, and financial savings have exceeded our expectations. Studies completed previous to the move showed that we could expect to save \$1 million annually in payroll costs alone. As of August 31, 1984, the publishing house employed 158 fewer employees at a savings of more than \$29,350 weekly, or \$1,526,200 annually. At present the Review and Herald is producing a larger volume of business than did both houses individually prior to the merger—with 36 percent fewer employees.

Throughout this transition period we have endeavored to meet the printing needs of the church. Over the past quinquennium we have been busy building not only new buildings but new products as well. We are deeply involved in publishing 75 new textbooks for the

North American Division's education department. This represents a heavy initial investment that should pay dividends for years to come. We also are introducing a new church hymnal, the first in more than 40 years. This product will be officially introduced at the 1985 General Conference session in New Orleans.

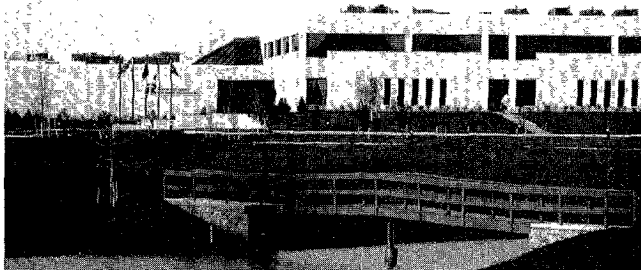
In an effort to bring greater unity to the missionary outreach of this church, the Review and Herald relinquished its missionary journal *These Times*. Although we regretted losing this award-winning journal and its staff, we saw merit in a unified missionary magazine outreach for the North American Division. This represented more than \$1 million in sales loss for the Review and Herald. We are excited, however, about our new health journal *Vibrant Life*, which replaces *Your Life and Health*. Our denominational health journal celebrates its one hundredth birthday in September, 1985. The new direction that this journal has taken is bringing an exciting response from Adventist health-care institutions as well as from individual subscribers, who see its new format (combining medical advice and inspiration) as an ideal witnessing tool. Other new publications over the past five years include *Cornerstone*, our youth quarterly; *Pathfinder*, a journal for our Pathfinder members; and *Celebration*, a new Sabbath school planning tool for the North American Division.

The quinquennium began with Duncan Eva as chairman of our board. Just after the merger of the two houses Elder Eva resigned his chairmanship, and Neal C. Wilson became our chairman. Elder Wilson's foresight and unwavering leadership proved a valuable asset to the publishing house through the building project and subsequent move. We will always be indebted to him for his time and effort in guiding us through this critical period in Review and Herald history. In January, 1984, when Elder Wilson requested that he be replaced as chairman, we were pleased to have Kenneth Mittleider pick up the reins that Elder Wilson laid down. Elder Mittleider's genuine interest in the publishing work of this denomination and his particular enthusiasm for evangelism have made him an excellent choice. In February and early March of this year Elder Mittleider demonstrated his love for winning souls by conducting a four-week evangelistic campaign at the publishing house. Sixteen people were won to Christ as a result of this campaign. We are also involved in community service programs such as stop-smoking clinics and cooking schools.

The success of any church institution is dependent upon the blessing of the Lord and the support of its workers. Our most valuable asset at the Review and Herald is our employees. They have given unselfishly in numerous ways over the past five years, and their dedication has been an inspiration to us all.

We are also indebted to our Adventist Book Center staffs and the publishing leaders of the five unions we serve in North America. Because of their individual untiring efforts the publishing house is in a strong financial position to face the challenges of the future.

Yes, we are enjoying our new home in a rural location, where our employees can raise their families in an ideal setting, but most of all we are ready to serve the church as never before. With increased efficiencies and an almost unlimited capacity, we eagerly anticipate the part we will play in finishing the Lord's work on earth. □



Review and Herald employees enjoy their new rural location.

Session speeches translated into eight major languages

By PAUL RICHARDSON

When the Heralds, from Newbury Park, California, sang the chorus to "Lift Up the Trumpet" in five languages Sabbath evening, they sang in less than half the tongues being spoken daily this General Conference session.

"On the floor each day," said Charles Taylor, language translation director, "we have electronic translation for eight major languages—and some in their own delegation areas are translating for each other into specific dialects."

Five AM and five FM frequencies are being filled by teams of two translators to each frequency. In all, close to 80

volunteers take their turns giving simultaneous verbatim coverage of what's being said from the main platform or floor.

"In the early sessions we didn't need this kind of assistance," reflected Taylor, a multilingual man himself. "Ours was an English-speaking membership with the majority of delegates speaking one language."

The one vernacular worked even when Adventism was reaching its arms around other continents. Then, English-speaking missionaries were delegates, and very few indigenous members were present.

But Adventism grew into a

world church, and in 1970 at the GC session in Atlantic City, New Jersey, the first radio translation was used.

Each day delegates can hear their language through their personal headsets or ones lent to them during the ten-day session—French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, or Czechoslovakian. Sign language for the hearing-impaired also is provided.

"It's intense work to provide simultaneous translation," said Taylor. "Each person speaks for about 30 minutes and then is relieved by the second person in the translation booth for that language."

"We informed the division secretaries about a year ago that we'd be providing this service to the delegates," Taylor said, "so they would know what to expect and would be able to understand the language of the business being transacted."

"In fact, we almost considered having everyone wear headsets during the business sessions so that each could speak in the language he/she felt most comfortable with—and all would understand," he added. "That's the way it's done in the United Nations and the World Council of Churches sessions. Maybe in the next sessions that will be a change everyone will see."

Paul Richardson is vice president for development of Quest International in Yakima, Washington. He did some free-lance writing for the ADVENTIST REVIEW during the General Conference session.



"We do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God" (Acts 2:11). Clockwise, from top left: An intrigued delegate understands the proceedings because of the work of language translators; Francis Augsburg, North France Conference president, addresses French-speaking delegates via radio; translation for the deaf was available at most meetings, including the women's meetings Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings.



Born to proclaim the blessed hope

Devotional message
presented
Thursday, July 4,
1985.

By JOVAN LORENCIN
*President
Yugoslavian Union
Conference*



The Seventh-day Adventist Church was born to proclaim the blessed hope. To proclaim it to whom? To what world?

A child is born in some quarter of this globe. He is surrounded with poverty. His parents struggle for survival. They simply have no food to feed themselves or their children. The future holds no hope for them. Mouths to be fed become more numerous every day. Resources and soil for tilling shrink before the exploding world population. Goodwill toward man frequently weakens because of its abuse and misuse. The prospect for this newborn baby and his parents is dark indeed.

Another child is born. He is not in danger of early death because of the lack of nourishment. But his prospects for life are poverty and few joys. His only comfort is that he is not alone—millions share the same fate.

Another child is born. But he is not wanted. He is the unwelcome product of a game of pleasure. Although he does not yet understand the meaning of life, he senses he is in the way. From the very start he struggles for acceptance, first in his own home and then in society. What does the future hold for him, who begins life at such odds? Why is life so cold, selfish, and cruel? He asks this question of many others who pass through the same experience.

Another child is born. From his early days he learns of a supreme being called God or Allah or something like that; that this being is a stern, unforgiving judge who punishes the disobedient with great severity. If man wants to make a success of life, he must subject himself unconditionally to that supreme being and his earthly representatives.

On the other side of this spectrum are the children who are told that no supreme being exists to whom we owe our existence. We are the product of slow, progressive changes that have occurred in our universe through millions of years. As far as we know, we are the most intelligent beings in this universe; we have not discovered others yet. Everything depends on us. Only we, who have developed reasoning powers, can direct the future of human society. Life is a struggle for survival. In the animal world this struggle is primitive and cruel. In human society it is more refined and to

a great extent controlled by reason, except when animal passions hold sway. If one's life is threatened, his duty is to struggle for survival, using all kinds of weapons at his disposal, including sophisticated ones, thus fulfilling the basic law of evolution—the survival of the fittest.

The only thought that disturbs this kind of man is that in the process he can destroy himself. He is uncertain of the origins of life, but one thing is sure: Everything and everyone goes into the dark, cold grave. If that journey is collective, what does it matter! However, there is hope; if man extinguishes life on earth there is always the possibility for the evolutionary process to start all over again! The present is ours, so let's get as much out of it as we can.

Another child is born into the home of a privileged few. He is wanted. From the very start he is surrounded with plenty and riches. In comparison with the majority of the world's population, he is already living in a paradise. He does not care much how this earth came into existence or what the future of this globe is. He is satisfied with life, and if it continues as it has, that is all he expects. At times he is disturbed by some strange feelings of fear and sometimes by the emptiness of his soul, but fortunately there are so many things around him that take his attention that he soon feels comfortable again. He lives in the blessed hope that the good life will continue during his lifetime.

A wanted child

And yet another child is born. He is a wanted child. Soon he is told that we owe our existence to a great Creator called the God of love; that people are the special object of His love and care; that He expects these people, formed in His own likeness, to treat fellow beings with love and respect, as He treats us; and that a rebellion is going on in the universe. He is told that sin is the cause of death. But also that hope exists for humanity. This hope does not come from what man can do, but from what the Creator has done for His creatures. By His unselfish sacrifice, motivated by love, He opened the possibility for man to live again in a world that knows only one motivating power in life—love. Man—God's creation—will be spiritually recreated, again to reflect the character and glory of the God of love.

Precious few live who form this picture of the world from their childhood. This is strange, for it is contained in the most widely distributed and read Book in the world—the Bible.

The babes have grown to manhood. This world is full of differences, inequality, and contradiction. What is the future, the hope, of this Planet Earth? Only fifteen or twenty years ago many spoke as optimists of the future. Today more and more are pessimists.

The movement and the church to which you and I belong has a message of hope for this world. It is extremely optimistic! Although the world is in crisis, the end is life, life more abundant in the earth made new. So says the sure Word of prophecy.

Our hopes are not based on cunningly devised fables, but on the most sure Word of prophecy. The Bible's words are not tested by generally accepted scientific methods, but by our living according to the pattern given in the Divine Revelation.

To modern man—uncertain of his origins and his destination, increased with riches and stricken with poverty,

enlightened with knowledge and perishing because of ignorance—God’s Divine Revelation speaks with assurance and authority.

Jesus’ words “I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live” come with special meaning and power to bewildered and frightened men and women of the modern age. Yes, modern men have faith, and must have faith; otherwise they are in a hopeless condition. But our faith is good only to the extent the object of our faith is good.

He whose object of trust is Jesus has a sure anchor for his soul, an anchor that goes within the curtain of the heavenly sanctuary (Heb. 6:19). He follows Him in His work as the great high priest in the courts above, and expects His return to this earth, when He shall come again, not as a man, or as high priest, but as King of kings and Lord of lords, as the ruler and God of the universe. Listen to His promises:

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. . . . I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:1-3).

“We would not have you ignorant, brethren,” wrote the apostle Paul, “concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord” (1 Thess. 4:13-17, R.S.V.).*

Talking about the resurrection, God’s Word continues: “For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and

This movement was raised up by God for a special mission.

this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ‘O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?’ . . . But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 15:53-57, R.S.V.).

This hope was burning in the hearts of all those who believed God’s promises. Listen to Job! “For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself,

and mine eyes shall behold, and not another” (Job 19:25-27).

Here is the testimony of the apostle Peter: “The Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up. . . . But according to his promise we wait for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:9-13, R.S.V.).

Through the eyes of God’s prophet

Let us see that new earth through the eyes of God’s prophet: “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.’ And He who sat upon the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ Also He said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true’ ” (Rev. 21:1-5, R.S.V.).

My friend, either you believe God’s promises or you do not. Your lifestyle will be in harmony with your belief or unbelief. Where do you stand? What do God’s promises mean to you? Nothing? Some useful encouragement that you can use now and then? Or everything?

This church did not come into existence accidentally. It came at a time and for the purpose revealed in God’s Prophetic Word. There are many good churches in the world today. May God bless them in their endeavor to help people in different sections of society; but this movement was raised up by God for a special mission. It is to proclaim to all the world this blessed hope—hope for every child of humanity: rich or poor, educated or ignorant, accepted or rejected by society. Hope that our Redeemer and High Priest, Jesus, can and longs to forgive our sins if we come in repentance to Him; hope that He can give us power to change our life, and that we can become loving and lovable beings; hope in His soon coming to make an end to the misery that sin has caused in this world.

How well it is stated by Paul in Titus 2:11-14: “For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds” (R.S.V.).

This hope is built, not on human promises or on scientific discoveries, but on the promise of the great living God, the Almighty Creator, and the promises of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. To him be glory now and forever! *Maran Ata*—“the Lord is coming.” “Even so, come, Lord Jesus!” □

* Texts credited to R.S.V. are from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyrighted 1946, 1952 © 1971, 1973.



THE DAY IN REVIEW

Sabbath, July 6
By Russell Kranz

So that's the fifty-fourth that was.

The New Orleans session is over now, and the massive Superdome is left to its usual round of secular pursuits, circuses, shows, and Saints.

It's a pity, though.

From a distance, no building looked better suited for a gathering of Adventists—all those fresh-faced, neatly dressed expectant believers swarming into their gigantic intergalactic spaceship, purring on its pad, ready for blastoff to the black hole behind Orion.

Unfortunately, though, the monster never got off the ground, and the passengers evacuated the craft and went home to wait for the fifty-fifth and work for Harvest '90. A great deal of excitement filled the air as end-time of the church gathering approached. Business was done, interminable discussion ceased. The final report was given. Rain fell in downpours to promise spiritual refreshment on the last Sabbath of the great feast.

It soon became evident that big things were planned for the closing 24 hours. A full symphony orchestra was performing on stage when I entered the stadium at six-forty-five Friday evening. On asking someone, "Who is this? What is their name?" I was told in a loud whisper, "A group from St.-Saëns." No musician, however, could mistake the crashing organ chords in the spectacular final movement from St.-Saëns' Third Symphony. Step by step the vast audience of 15,000 rose to further heights of anticipation. Music worked its old magic. Ysis Espana tugged at the heartstrings singing "O How He Loves You and Me."



T. H. Nkungula, Eastern Africa Division education director, and his family took part in the Sabbath morning mission emphasis.

Oakwood College choir's unaccompanied "Alleluia" left an indelible impression. Then Orlo Gilbert and the orchestra from Southern College presented a fantasy on "Laest uns Erfreuen." Christian Edition, a male choir from southern California, changed key, then picked up volume and momentum in the last stanza of their rendition of "It Is Well With My Soul."

Despite deficiencies in the sound system, everyone was entranced by this time. The climax came when the Southern College orchestra and massed choirs under direction of Harold Lickey sang the Beethoven "Alleluia" and followed it with trumpet fanfares and a spine-tingling rendition of the session theme song, "Christ Our Hope Forever."

The meeting rolled on with preliminary features in a variety of languages. We were reminded we could expect a special blessing, and the Angklung bamboo orchestra responded with their own unique interpretation of "Showers of Blessing."

Love knows no bounds

Taking Jeremiah 31:3 as his text, Charles D. Brooks, speaker for the Breath of Life telecast, asserted that there never has been a time when God has not loved His own. Since God is eternal, His love knows no bounds. He is everlastingly ours. Through all of human history, He is on our side despite our misgivings, failures, and inconsistencies. "To say that God ever gives up the remnant church," Brooks said, "is sheer blasphemy." Despite human imperfections, the church is still precious in the Lord's sight. In his inimitable style, Elder Brooks drew some illuminating analogies, including a choice one of the Adventist Church as "an aggravated whale thrashing about trying to get rid of barnacles on its body." In another rhetorical burst, he described present problems as "many little clouds" that soon would vanish into thin air when the true spiritual saints go marching in to the kingdom.

Brooks's confidence was reassuring, but was he being too polemical? To draw so much attention to the little clouds could have an adverse effect. I particularly appreciated the final emphasis on the need for Christians to stay close to God. In the final judgment, everything goes; only love remains. There is therefore no need to fear the future. "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in" (Ps. 24:9). And when He comes, His throne, which is the throne of everlasting grace and enduring love, will be set up on the earth.

Elder Brooks's "namesake," Charles L., brought the message to a fitting conclusion with a most expressive rendering of the familiar gospel song "Under His Wings," which with its question "Who from His love can sever?" perfectly matched Jeremiah's conviction that God has drawn us with strong cords of love.

Sabbath morning, officials estimated attendance considerably higher than the previous week. By the time the Sabbath school commenced, seats were difficult to find in the delegates' arena, and soon the second and third level of the Superdome were filled. People started to occupy higher levels. Someone estimated that 40,000 people were in the congregation.

The music fest continued, with choirs, orchestras, soloists, instrumentalists. From 8:30 until 9:00 A.M. a



Leo Van Doison, left, associate director of the General Conference Church Ministries Department, led the discussion of the Sabbath school lesson on July 6. His "class" consisted of Arthur J. Ferch, author of this quarter's Sabbath school lesson quarterly on the book of Genesis, Sergio Moctezuma, Arlel Roth, Rosalie H. Lee, Rajama Sharalaya, Donald Lowe, and Solomon Wolde-Endreas.

continuous stream of musicians moved on and off stage. All that marred the performances was, alas, increasingly ineffective amplification. At times, distortion, echo, and time lapse made hearing impossible. And when Sabbath school commenced, speech was equally adversely affected.

Sabbath school was a time to meet people. We were introduced to the General Conference Sabbath School Department staff, and to members of the Cuban delegation, who were received with enthusiastic applause. In the missions report Elder and Mrs. Kenneth Mittleleider introduced us to real live missionaries, including Dr. Tommy Nklunga, his wife, Alice, and family. When Tommy was a 15-year-old boy he walked 400 miles from his home in Malawi to attend Solusi College. Later he traveled to Avondale College, Australia, to complete his B.A. in theology, and there I had the privilege of teaching him. Nothing deterred Tommy from obtaining a doctorate from Andrews University, and now with his wife, who acquired a Master's degree in nutrition, he continues to contribute to church work in a most effective manner in the Eastern Africa Division.

The Sabbath school lesson provided associate General Conference Sabbath School director Leo Van Dolson with an opportunity to question Dr. Arthur Ferch, author of the current Sabbath school lessons. Being an expert in Old Testament studies, and in apocalyptic, Ferch is well equipped to deal with the links between Genesis and Revelation. One of the best contributions to the panel discussion that followed came from an old friend, Don Lowe, Sabbath school director of the Trans-European Division. Don saw in the story of Jacob's ladder a "beautiful parable of the inseparability of God and man—God reveals Himself at the point of our greatest need."

But the spiritual high point of the entire session must have been Elder Neal Wilson's worship service sermon. Speaking in quiet tones and mastering microphones and a sound system so overbearing it threatened to ruin everything that was amplified, he expressed pastoral concern and deep under-

standing of the desires of each church member and delegate as he pleaded for the church to experience more grace and more power, both of which are found only in Jesus Christ. It is more important to know *why* Jesus came than *how* He came. The good news consists not of statistics, or reports, or of anything we do, but of what God has done and can do for us, with us, and in us. Only when Adventists are seen to have been with Christ will the message sound throughout the world. We must remain united in Christ. Nothing should separate us from each other and from Him, whom to know is "life eternal." He is the balm in Gilead. There is "none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." He can change us as the disciples were changed.

Elder Wilson urged stability and internal consistency within the church. Above all, we are called to be Christians, to stand firm in the faith. "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Response to the president's appeal was widespread and genuine. We knew he hit the nail on the head, yet in a way that elicited response and commitment.

Although the rush to meals was as great as ever, there was time to compare notes with tablemates. Roberto Conrad, of the Brazil Voice of Prophecy, told me of the 400 stations on which he broadcasts, of the wide coverage and choice time slots given to his program, particularly up-country, where high-standard tapes are always in demand. All Roberto appeared to know about my home country, Australia, was koala bears, kangaroos, and Walter Scragg, our division president. American marketing techniques were evident when we chewed muesliriegal with milk and honey and were reminded on the back of the packaging that we ought to "try reading the Bible for a sweeter life." With the help of New Life Guides, all would be made plain. Dr. Odira, an Adventist surgeon from Nairobi, Kenya, shared medical experiences with us, and retiring South American communication director, Assad Bechara, talked shop.

Before we had finished eating, a musical extravaganza had



Several Adventist entitles sponsored various types of health screening and preventive treatment during the GC session. John Hope, operator of the mobile medical-dental unit of the Southwest Region Conference, said that the purpose was "to complement the local medical community by providing health education and awareness to persons who otherwise could not afford to pay for it." If health personnel detect a major medical problem, the person is advised to seek professional treatment.

begun. From two-fifteen to four the enthusiastic audience listened spellbound as the very cream of Adventist talent sang and played. The standard of performances was so high that it would be difficult to pick out one from another. I detected a return to more conservative music. It was a joy to hear straight a cappella choral singing. The massed choir and Southern College symphony orchestra provided a fine basis on which to build.

Again amplification marred the sound, but one overall impression of the New Orleans General Conference will be its glorious music. President Neal C. Wilson expressed a common opinion when he said he wondered whether the music of heaven could eclipse what he had heard here.

Two voices I shall never forget are those of basses Ivan Kasonov, from the U.S.S.R., and Wintley Phipps. Words cannot describe the richness, resonance, and timbre of their sound. It just has to be heard.

Mission pageant

At 4:00 P.M. sharp the pageant of missions commenced. And what a pageant it was! Associate Communication director Victor Cooper and his wife, Rhona, acted as masters of ceremonies, reading the script and tying the pieces together.

The history of Adventist missions was sketched. Pioneer missionaries were introduced, and slides and films provided visual background material. We learned that there were only 7,000 Adventists in the United States when Andrews sailed for Europe in 1874. Missionaries toiled for three years at Solusi, the first mission station in Africa, before a single convert was baptized. Doyle and Pauline Barnett described their lifework in China and the Far East. Dr. Hogganvik, from Norway, saw membership in Ethiopia grow from 400 to 35,000 during his years of service in that war-ravaged, famine-stricken country. In a powerful testimony the doctor thanked God and the church for the opportunity to help the sick and bring the gospel to people who did not know Christ.

Other missionaries followed, including those involved in

the Adventist Volunteer Corps, which Dick Barron described as "one of the best things that ever happened to the church."

Ex-champion boxer Johnny Jackson told how he had thrown away his boxing gloves to become a missionary, using the Bible as an offensive weapon. Johnny and wife, Ida, have spent 28 years in Africa.

Nowadays missionaries come from everywhere and go to everywhere. Any country is home base. Africans work in the Caribbean; Indians in the Philippines; Mexicans in Brazil—so it goes and so it grows. And to prove the point, missionaries from 130 countries joined the march of the nations.

As the colorful parade filled the stage and dazzled the audience, peals of applause echoed throughout the Superdome.

This was the penultimate climax. This was what Adventists are all about. Here before our very eyes was evidence of our mission. Here was proof of our calling.

General Conference secretary Ralph Thompson, sensing the moment, translated feeling into words and expressed the reason for our Adventist existence. The church's roots lie firmly embedded in Revelation 14. We do have an "everlasting gospel" to preach to all the world, "saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters" (verses 6, 7).

No mistake about that!

Thompson's appeal to serve demanded a reply, and when the choir and orchestra burst forth into Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" their paean of praise was on the lips of the whole vast throng.

Although division presidents pledged their dedication in the concluding meeting, no more needed to be sung or said.

The fifty-fourth awaits the fifty-fifth, and Harvest '90.

Meanwhile, we will continue to heed Christ's admonition "Occupy till I come."

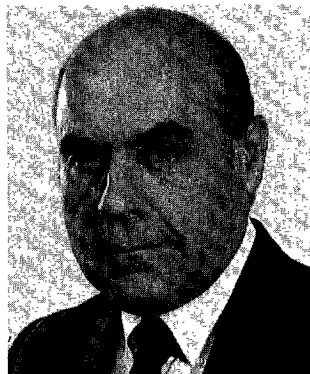
Goodbye, New Orleans!



Publishing Department

Report presented at the General Conference session.

By L. A. RAMIREZ
Director



With the commencement of the fifty-fourth General Conference session, the One Thousand Days of Reaping and the 1980-1985 quinquennium have come to a close. Seventh-day Adventists around the world have good cause to rejoice at the fulfillment of a prophecy that pertains to the publishing ministry of the remnant church: "More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications."—Ellen G. White, in *Review and Herald*, Nov. 10, 1885. Reports from around the world confirm that more than 1,000 souls were converted to the Advent message precisely a century after the Lord's messenger penned this prediction.

General Conference president Neal C. Wilson, at the outset of this quinquennium, arranged for GC vice president Lowell L. Bock to serve as counselor to a cluster of departments, including the Publishing Department. This arrangement has proved a benefit to the thrust and direction of the publishing work. Following are some of the noteworthy activities and attainments that have taken place in the publishing ministry during the course of this quinquennium.

Based on the counsel of Ellen G. White—"In this work every disciple of Christ can act a part" (*Christian Service*, p. 146) the call has been made for every church member, young and old, even boys and girls, to become part-time, some-time, free-time, any-time literature evangelists. More than 400 church members in Paris, France, are participating in free-time literature evangelism. This resulted in nine baptisms in two years. To involve more church members in the circulation of Adventist publications, emphasis was placed on small literature for cash sales.

Publishing leaders have become increasingly aware of the enormous production capacity of the 52 Adventist publishing houses around the world. More creative marketing, an increased number of literature evangelists, and an expanded network of retail outlets are giving greater exposure to Adventist literature in public places.

A 16-page insert in the *ADVENTIST REVIEW* of October 4, 1984, entitled "The Print Preachers' Story" featured the prominent role of the literature evangelist in the outreach of the church; it also helped to recruit many more workers.

Editorial

During this quinquennium the latest compilation from the writings of Ellen G. White—*The Publishing Ministry*—was released by the White Estate and published by the *Review and Herald*. This volume provides invaluable counsel for publishing

workers and lay members as the church enters into the final sowing of the gospel seed.

The publication of the condensed set of the Conflict of the Ages Series in five paperback volumes has been well received. The larger English subscription set will soon be released by the Pacific Press. Translation is proceeding apace into Spanish, Portuguese, and French. Wide distribution is predicted for these easy-to-read full-message books.

Periodicals have been updated and merged to expand circulation. The new *Signs of the Times*, still attractive but more economical, has been greatly facilitated by the merger. In South America the magazine *Decisao* has achieved single-copy distribution of 5 million. The 3,300 SDAs in Sweden circulated 500,000 copies of a special Autumn, 1984, issue of the missionary journal *Liv i Nuid!*

At the *Review and Herald*, *Your Life and Health* magazine has given way to *Vibrant Life*. The beautiful new health journal immediately increased in circulation by 60 percent. Italy's *Vita e Salute* ("Life and Health") magazine has reached a circulation of 75,000 copies. *Afritell*, for adults, and *Happy Ways*, for children, are now circulating in different parts of Africa.

The General Conference standing committee on secularism has prepared recommendations on writing and marketing Adventist publications to reach the secular-minded segments of society. Three series of books, in an illustrative format and dealing with the great-controversy theme and Biblical subjects, are being published in Europe and North America.

During this quinquennium five editorial councils were held, including the first ever under the auspices of the Spanish-Portuguese publication coordinating committee, in Rio de Janeiro. The all-Africa literature coordinating committee, the Far Eastern Division, and the two European divisions have launched a program to coordinate editorial and production work more closely. An international editorial council scheduled for 1986 will bring together the editorial expertise from the major publishing houses.

Marketing and distribution

In order to provide the North American and overseas divisions with more dependable and effective service from the General Conference, the Publishing Department arranged early in the quinquennium for each associate to be assigned specific geographical areas. J. C. Kinder was assigned the North American Division. J. N. Hunt, R. H. Henning, and C. M. Willis were each assigned certain world divisions. The untimely death of Elder Hunt, who was succeeded by R. E. Appenzeller, brought about a reassignment of liaison responsibilities.

The Publishing Work Task Force for the North American Division, under the chairmanship of Charles B. Hirsch, prepared a comprehensive study of the publishing work in North America. The 1984 Annual Council voted to establish a new Literature Ministry Coordinating Board, under the chairmanship of C. E. Bradford, president of the North American Division, to oversee the publishing work in North America. Several conference pilot programs are endeavoring to expand the circulation of small and medium-sized books to augment rather than to replace the successful Home Health Education Service credit sales programs.

On request of the General Conference Publishing Department, Nabil Razzouk, of Andrews University, prepared a marketing study dealing with various aspects of the Adventist publishing ministry. Results were shared with publishing leaders and administrators.

During this quinquennium Adventist publishing houses in Sweden, Denmark, England, and Holland organized successful book clubs.

Publishing houses

Within this quinquennium the church's three largest publishing houses—*Review and Herald*, Pacific Press, and Casa Publicadora (Brazil)—have relocated and modernized their manufacturing

plants—as have the Taiwan Publishing House and the Pacific Press branch in Montemorelos, Mexico. A publishing finishing plant was built in Tanzania, and another is under construction in Uganda.

It was decided that the North American Division, in keeping with the counsels of the Spirit of Prophecy, requires two strong complete publishing entities—the Review and Herald and the Pacific Press. The Inter-American Division Publishing Association now serves the Spanish-, English-, French-, and Dutch-speaking areas of the divisions' far-flung territory. A new IADPA/PPPA/NAD coordinating committee coordinates the editorial, production, and marketing activities in Inter-American and North American territories.

The church's 52 publishing houses and finishing plants around the world are poised and ready to produce the great quantities of literature needed to bring about the circulation of our publications "like the leaves of autumn." Several publishing houses in North America and Europe have begun to produce and market videocassettes and computer software products for distribution through the Adventist Book Centers.

The Christian Record Braille Foundation, a GC institution, has increased its distribution of large-print material to the blind, visually impaired, and physically handicapped.

Adventist Book Center ministry

In response to the appeal from General Conference president Neal C. Wilson, Adventist Book Centers have placed special emphasis on the use of small missionary literature to be carried in "dedicated pockets" and "dedicated purses" of church members. Thus, large quantities of attractive, inexpensive Spirit of Prophecy books were distributed by ABCs, literature evangelists, and church members. In the Lake Union more than 500,000 copies of *Cosmic Conflict (The Great Controversy)* have been distributed. The South American Division is intending to circulate 1 million copies of *The Great Controversy* during the course of 1985. The Review and Herald Publishing Association, with excellent support from Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries members, distributed approximately two million copies of *Happiness Digest (Steps to Christ)*. Approximately 4.5 million copies of *The Great Controversy* in various languages and formats have been circulated during this quinquennium.

Adventist Book Centers are establishing church-sponsored mini-ABCs as satellite outlets for the retail sale of trade literature. As a result, we have 483 newly established mini-ABCs in Brazil,

123 in the Philippines, and hundreds more in Europe.

The outreach of Adventist Book Centers has been expanded through the placement of small literature/magazine racks in strategic public places. The Northern California Conference has installed 275 bookracks in Adventist and non-Adventist professional offices. (ABC manager Craig Klatt feels that it is possible to triple this number.) Members of the Upward, North Carolina, church have 200 missionary magazine racks set up in towns and surrounding communities. As a result, missionary activity and soul winning is flourishing.

Literature evangelism

In order to assist literature evangelists to become more effective in their ministry, the GC Publishing Department during this quinquennium has produced the following training aids: five videocassettes in English, by W. A. Higgins, produced in cooperation with the Lake Union; seven videocassettes in Spanish, by Benjamin Riffel; four videocassettes in the Every Member series, produced in cooperation with the GC Communication Department; audiovisual programs, by Rudi Henning ("Like a Mighty Army" and "Train for Success"), translated into eight languages; the Cassette Seminar series, which has been expanded to five sets; and, in cooperation with Home Study International, an updating by R. E. Appenzeller and Patti Hare of the Home Study course for literature evangelists.

Leadership (books 1 and 2), *Salesmanship*, and *Recruiting* have been written by C. M. Willis. The Sell to Save series, written by R. H. Henning on Christian salesmanship, is now available in six languages.

In this quinquennium, Publishing Department reports have included quarterly graphs to supplement the customary sales statistics, in order to reveal both long- and short-range trends in sales distribution and in recruitment of new workers.

GC Publishing Department reports are not only based on U.S. dollar values but denote units of large-, medium-, and small-size books, Bibles, and periodicals. This permits more equitable comparisons with performance in former years and with other areas of the world field, notwithstanding devaluations, fluctuations of exchange rates, and so forth.

In keeping with administrative counsel and budgetary limitations, Publishing Department bulletins have been streamlined and reduced in number. The *Literature Evangelist* is now a bimonthly, and the *Publishing Digest* and the *Adventist Book World* are issued



When the Brazil Publishing House in São Paulo held an open house, 5,000 people toured its facilities and purchased its products.

Five-year summary of publishing ministry world field 1980-1984

Literature evangelist soul-winning activities

Pieces of literature given away	36,033,631
Bible school enrollments	2,807,421
Interested persons attending church	984,267
Former SDAs contacted	1,487,525
Prayer in homes	6,866,570
Bible studies given	4,364,690
Baptisms	112,059

Publishing houses

Quinquennial sales	US\$768,894,054
Number of employees	2816
Number of publishing houses	52

Literature evangelists (1984)

Full-time literature evangelists	11,951
Part-time literature evangelists	3,407
Student literature evangelists	7,000
Publishing Department leaders	932
Total	23,280

Adventist Book Centers

Adventist Book Centers	285
Total sales of trade literature	US\$341,000,000
Total subscription literature sales	US\$464,483,606

quarterly. All three publications have strongly supported and promoted the soul-winning concept of the One Thousand Days of Reaping.

Contributions to the J. N. Hunt Memorial Fund have permitted the construction of housing for literature evangelists in Bombay, India, and several LE projects in Africa.

Literature ministry seminaries (in permanent buildings) are operating in Italy, Spain, and in the Philippines. Three more are under construction, two in the Philippines and one in Zimbabwe. These seminaries are staffed with competent instructors to train hundreds of new literature evangelists every year. Literature evangelist intensive training schools are operating successfully in various parts of the world to develop literature evangelists as professionals. In the Austral Union such schools have increased the number of full-time literature evangelists from 141 to 456 in the course of the past three years.

Since the organization of regional conferences in 1945, the regional publishing departments have delivered more than \$55 million worth of literature, and more than 33,000 people have been recorded as baptized. Regional publishing directors promote primarily a cash program based on small units of sale, and they seek total mobilization of church members to proclaim the coming of the Lord.

About 7,000 young people are working at the front line every year as student literature evangelists. Their main concern is to gain a Christian education and to bring to their fellow citizens the Adventist message through the printed page. In a time when parents find it difficult to come up with school fees, these young people earned about 13,000 scholarships by selling truth-filled literature for almost \$50 million, thus gaining an education that cannot be obtained in the classroom alone.

A special literature evangelist vanguard ("Avanzados") is at work in unentered territories of Spain. This method has produced a church with 30 to 60 members every year. In the past five years Spanish literature evangelists have achieved 253 baptisms.

Mose Pacheo, a rich real estate dealer in Angola, lost all his possessions during the war and returned to Portugal as a refugee. Now a successful literature evangelist, he has led more than 40 persons into the Adventist Church.

As a result of literature ministry, 112,059 baptisms were reported in this quinquennium, compared to 85,135 in the previous five-year period. We rejoice over this increase.

Even as we celebrate the fulfillment of the prophecy that "more than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications," there still remains the call by Ellen G. White for Adventist believers to scatter our truth-filled literature "like the leaves of autumn."

May the Holy Spirit richly bless us during the great Harvest '90 campaign. May we arise and circulate the printed page "like the leaves of autumn" to alert the multitudes to the second coming of Jesus as Lord of lords and King of kings. □

Youth Department

Report presented at the General Conference session.

By LEO S. RANZOLIN
Director



Ellen White saw the potential of young people: "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!"—*Counsels to Parents and Teachers*, p. 555.

This message has echoed through the world since the inception of Missionary Volunteers, now Adventist Youth (AY), in 1879 and the birth of the Youth Department in 1907. The great army is very much alive in all divisions of the world church, with more than 2 million youth and nearly 300,000 Pathfinders.

In order to train and inspire this great army, the department has focused the past five years on seven major areas of youth ministry—The Seven Modules for Youth Involvement in the Eighties: organization, leadership, commitment, worship, discipleship, fellowship, witness. Each has been designed to strengthen youth ministry in the churches and on academy and college campuses.

Senior youth ministry

Jim Harris and his secretary, Sylvia Dennis, have directed senior youth ministry for ages 16 to 30. Active youth society members total 1,452,722 in 40,617 Adventist Youth Societies, an average of 36 per society. Their motto: "The Love of Christ Constraineth Us."

One of our major tasks has been to strengthen the AY Society in the local church. Besides the Sabbath school program the society offers an opportunity for training, participation, and sharing.

Youth Evangelism: During the One Thousand Days of Reaping, a goal of 533,650 new members was set by youth directors. By the

end of 1984, 410,625 youth had been baptized as a result of the Youth Spiritual Commitment Celebration and youth evangelism. Worldwide, 677,748 young people up to 30 years of age were baptized. In the South Pacific some 2,600 people accepted Christ in Voice of Youth meetings and Revelation Seminars. Koinonias, Mother's and Father's Day evangelism, and Operation Balm for memorial weekend were developed by the South American Division. Bernie Donato, Far Eastern Division youth director, reports that children and junior preachers in the Philippines are winning people for Christ. During the John Carter meetings in Manila, youth from Australia and the Philippines assisted.

Youth Congresses: The quinquennium has been marked by major congresses. The United Youth Congress gathered 4,000 black youth delegates in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1984, with more than 20,000 on Sabbath, reports Daniel Davis. In 1982 one conference in São Paulo, Brazil, had a gathering of 22,000 youth. More than 1,700 European youth met at Exeter, England, under the leadership of Jim Huzzey and Nino Bulzis. More than 5,000 youth delegates, and on Sabbath 15,000 people, met in Mexico City to "Sow Love" for the second Pan-American Youth Congress. Claudio Belz, Israel Leito, Les Pitton, and the General Conference Youth Department worked together on this congress, which featured the involvement of young people in short mission projects such as building and repairing churches and camps, helping the needy, donating blood, and sharing their faith. Three union congresses were held in the Philippines, and others in Korea, Japan, and Indonesia. Trans-Tasman, Trans-Australia, and Papua New Guinea Union congresses launched the United Nations International Year of the Youth in January, 1985. Indian Ocean and Central Pacific unions also held youth congresses, according to Mario Valente and Ken Martin. Bill Edsell and Phaize Salhany are planning the first African congress in Nairobi, April 8-12, 1986.

Resource Materials: The *Youth Baptism Celebration Guide*, the *Youth Directors Planning Guide*, and the *Senior Youth Leadership Training Course*, written by James Harris, were prepared to lead youth to baptism and to guide youth leaders in all facets of their ministry. The *Bible Doctrines Course* prepares new Master Guides and AY leaders. Voice of Youth evangelistic sermons have been revised by Lew Lansdown in Australia and have helped to spark a revival in youth evangelism. *The Marked Bible*, developed by Gertrude Battle, longtime Bible worker, and Norman Middag, will train youth to mark their Bibles and witness for Christ. A big first for senior youth ministries has been the Youth Awareness Seminar videocassette series on the topics of Marriage, Sexuality, Dating, and Ellen White and Youth, prepared by Delmer and Betty Holbrook, Alberta Mazat, Juliette Van Putten, Paul Gordon, and Roger Coon.

Junior youth ministry

Mike Stevenson, world Pathfinder director, and his secretary, Elsie Russell, have led in the tremendous growth of junior ministry. In many parts of the world membership has doubled and tripled. We have 13,000 clubs and 300,000 Pathfinders.

This growth has been sparked by a series of international camporees conducted by seven divisions. Attending at Brisbane River in Australia were 4,000 Pathfinders; Oaxtepec, Mexico, 3,700; Iguassu Falls, Brazil, 3,700; Phuket, Thailand, 700; Monoblet, France, 700; Victoria Falls and Mafeking in Southern Africa, 5,000; and Tygh Valley, Oregon, U.S.A., 4,000. These events evoke fabulous memories for thousands of our children and some nightmares for their leaders! In all these events 1,230 made decisions for baptism, most of whom are now baptized. That's evangelism!

Preparations are underway for the largest gathering of Pathfinders in history. Under the leadership of Norman Middag, Les Pitton, and North American youth leaders, more than 20,000 Pathfinders will meet July 31 to August 7 at Camp Hale in Colorado. Using the

theme "Adventures in Service," a new initiative to challenge junior youth to carry the gospel of Jesus will be launched.

Juniors are the largest source of baptisms for the church, and evangelists are using Pathfinder clubs in evangelistic campaigns. Pathfinders have been featured in thousands of column inches in newspapers, and in hours of TV and radio reports. They gather food for the needy, visit the sick, help during floods and disasters. In Costa Rica they form the special emergency unit of the president.

During the quinquennium juniors completed 327,391 AY classes and earned 700,000 Pathfinder Honors. More than 30,000 have been invested as Master Guides and 87,876 have taken leadership training courses.

Pathfinding has come of age; it is big business in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Mike Stevenson reports that a total of 640,002 young people ages 10 to 16 attended 8,706 camps at the 186 permanent campsites. Worldwide, 61,204 made decisions for Christ, with hundreds baptized. This is evangelism!

We pay tribute to Ken Martin, Lew Lansdown, and the Australasian team for piloting the *Teachers Resource Manual for Pathfinders* on behalf of the General Conference Youth Department. Pathfinder Fair, Camporee, and Master Guide manuals make up just a few of the many resources for junior youth ministry prepared by Mike Stevenson. A distribution center at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, provides all resource materials for the North American Division. Other divisions use the same plan to help in the tremendous growth of Pathfinders. *Guide* and *Pathfinder* magazines serve junior youth.

Adventist Youth volunteer ministries

Richard Barron and his secretary, Sheila Matthews, have sparked the campus and volunteer program for youth. At the Annual Council in Manila the AYVSC (Adventist Youth Volunteer Service Corps) plan was born, opening the doors for any youth 18 to 30 to serve this church.

During the past five years approximately 5,000 volunteers served the church in all divisions as student missionaries, as Taskforce Volunteers, and in PRISMA (Adventist Youth Project of Integration and Service) or Humanitas. Since the first student missionary went to Mexico in 1959, young people have accepted this challenge to service. Nancy J. Vyhmeister and Madeline S. Johnston prepared a new student missionary manual, *GO!*

Led by the North American Division youth ministry, new frontiers have been opened in secular campus ministry. Several universities in North America sponsor chaplains to minister to the thousands of young people and establish chapters for witnessing on campus. Campus chaplains also have ministered in universities at Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea.

Magazines such as *Insight*, *College People*, and *Collegiate Quarterly* have made their mark on college campuses in North America. *Mocidade* in Brazil, *Juventud*, published in Argentina for the Spanish world, *Encounter* in England, and *Expressao Jovem* in Portugal, are a few of the magazines speaking to youth today.

Youth directors, pastors, and campus chaplains have received professional training through Youth Ministry Seminars sponsored by the General Conference in cooperation with the divisions and with help from Bailey Gillespie and Ricky Williams, of Loma Linda University, and Des Cummings, Jr., until recently of Andrews University. Ten-day seminars have been held in Europe, Southern Asia, and North America this quinquennium.

National Service Organization

Although there has been no military draft in the United States during this past quinquennium, Charles Martin, director; James Harris, assistant director; and their secretaries, Clarice Antor and Ruby Phalen, have found it difficult to keep up with Adventist military personnel and their Sabbath problems. They have continually worked to assist with these problems and keep in touch

with church members serving in the military, as well as with our military and civilian chaplains.

An annual chaplains' conference held in the United States enables Adventist military and Veterans Administration chaplains to meet for spiritual growth. Each year a retreat in Berchtesgaden, Germany, gathers Adventist military personnel in Europe. Attendance ranges from ten to 250, with programs planned for children.

A computerized mailing list of more than 1,000 Adventists in the military is continually updated, with all receiving church papers, including *Adventist Review*, *Insight*, *Signs of the Times*, *Message*, and *Listen*. They are also sent Sabbath school quarterlies and a special newsletter, *For God and Country*. Currently 34 Adventist military chaplains and six civilian chaplains work with our members in the military, assisting in every possible way.

During this quinquennium special attention has been given to the preparation of our youth for the military draft when it again may be in operation in North America. The Conscience Project—a ten-hour, action-packed seminar—has been developed. This training program makes use of slide/cassette presentation, motion pictures, role playing, a computer game, and other means of reaching draft-age young people in North America. The Conscience Project, when conditions call for its use, will supplement the reactivated Medical Cadet Corps program to prepare youth for the future.

An historic tribute

As I finish this report I must pay tribute to my associates: Richard E. Barron, James H. Harris, Charles Martin, and Mike Stevenson; to Leslie Pitton and his secretary, Lillian Elliott, who (assisted by Norman Middag) have directed the North American Division youth ministry these past five years; to my administrative secretary, Betty Brooks, who has faithfully helped me through this quinquennium; to our division youth directors: Ron Baird and Justin Singh (Southern Asia), Claudio Belz and Assad Bechara (South American), Nino Bulzis (Euro-Africa), Bernie Donato (Far Eastern), Bill Edsell and Phaize Salhany (Eastern Africa), Jim Huzzey (Northern European), G. D. Karst (Middle East Union), Israel Leito (Inter-American), D. M. Malotle (Southern Union Mission, South Africa), Ken Martin and Lew Lansdown (Australasian), Mario Valente and Danny Davis (Africa-Indian Ocean); to our General Conference adviser, Enoch Oliveira, and General Conference President Neal Wilson for their counsel and support. Thanks also to Jim Joiner, our editor and treasurer for the department; to Norman Middag, who directed our publications and shared his talents with the North American Division, and to their secretary, Rachel Child.

I appreciate my youth correspondents: Marit (Holland), Cynthia (England), Stefan and Iris (Germany), David and Medgee (Australia), Fe (Philippines), Sonja (U.S.A.), Clara (Antigua), Tuvako (Tanzania), Regina (India), Demilson and Amilton, and dozens of others from Brazil and other countries.

Thanks to all leaders of youth, and to Erwin Ferris for his inspiring stories of youth evangelism in the South Pacific. And to Eldine Dunbar, Theodore Lucas, and John Hancock—fellow former world youth directors—and to all other General Conference associates. To my faithful and dedicated wife, Lucila, and my children, for their love and understanding. They taught me how to work with youth!

As I look into the future I remain confident because I have a "built-in video" in my mind that provides an "instant replay" of thousands of faces and smiles of youth all over the world who love the Lord and are witnessing for Christ—thousands of youth who want to give their lives in service to God, who are the present and future of this church. Thank You, Lord, for making youth ministry possible in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Thanks, my wonderful youth, for being you!

Maranatha! Youth can make it a reality! □

Why did they come?



Neva and Jim Brackett, Frederick, Maryland

Jim, a pastor, and his wife, Neva, have been to several General Conferences. This time they took in the pre-session meetings, too. "We enjoyed the seminars very much," he says. "Wish we could have gone to 20 or 30 of them." The Bracketts, with their daughters Kim and Kathy, have enjoyed the evening meetings and, of course, seeing old friends.



Natalie Tomlinson, Little Rock, Arkansas

"I thought this might be the last GC nearby—maybe the last one ever, if the Lord comes—and I just wanted to get to see it. Seeing all these Adventists from all over makes you realize just how big the church is."



Robbie Kellogg (center), Corinth, Mississippi

Robbie, 13, came to General Conference as part of a special Sabbath school project his church was conducting. "General Conference is a nice place to be," says Robbie, pictured here with Luther Palmer, 10, and Dal Nelmes, 13. And what does he think of the Superdome? "It's big," he says, "too big for me."

Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries, International

Report presented at the General Conference session.

By KENNETH H. LIVESAY
Executive Secretary-Treasurer



You will find them in the cities, in the country, in the classroom, in the professional office—in all walks of life. They are church elders, Sabbath school teachers, members of conference committees, and leaders in civic affairs. They speak at camp meetings and church services, conduct Bible studies and Revelation seminars. They support Christian education and their local church, and cooperate with the Adventist Church. They work in health care, nursing homes, and medical offices, own dairy and chicken farms, sell automobiles and real estate. They have struggling businesses, thriving enterprises, and multimillion-dollar corporations. Witnessing about Jesus is their way of life, and helping people is a part of their daily ministry.

They must be recommended by their local church, approved by the local conference, and endorsed by the union conference. Their membership must be approved by a committee composed predominantly of Adventist laypersons.

Who are these people? Members of Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries, International (ASI).

Around the turn of the century Ellen White wrote about church members representing Christ on a daily basis. For any mission to be accomplished, people must be trained. So Madison College was founded in 1904 to train laypersons, emphasizing that they work for God but be supported by their own skills or profession.

There were successes and failures. The lay missionaries felt the need to come together to encourage one another and share spiritual insights. So in 1908 Madison College hosted the first meeting for self-supporting missionaries. This became an annual event.

Lay outreach grew so strong that laypersons and church officials agreed this organization should become a part of the General Conference. The mutual interest increased until 1947, when the General Conference formed an association now known as Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries, International.

Because of worldwide interest in the lay organization the 1984 Annual Council voted that ASI become an international association of the General Conference. There are some 700 active ASI members in North America and more than 40 members in the British Union chapter. Recent correspondence indicates that ASI will soon expand to three more divisions.

For 38 years ASI has had an office, executive secretary-treasurer, and staff at the General Conference in Washington, D.C. The ASI National Executive Committee is composed of laypersons and conference employees. The United States has chapters of the national organization in each union conference. ASI conducts two conventions each year—chapter meetings in the spring and a national convention in the fall. These conventions include both spiritual and professional seminars, the latter dealing with topics such as tax problems, labor relations, and accounting problems.

ASI's objective is to encourage and promote privately owned institutions, enterprises, and businesses to unite their efforts with church-operated work to share the gospel in their own communities and throughout the world. Its constitution requires members to be in harmony with church standards and to cooperate with church administrators, ministers, and members, and with the people of their communities.

One ASI member recently reported six Revelation seminars run by ASI members in his conference. Another ASI businessman conducts four to six evangelistic campaigns annually. Still another operates a body shop and pastors a church. Several privately owned health reconditioning centers emphasize natural remedies. Two of these institutions have raised up five churches as a result of their outreach.

Several schools include work-study programs in their curricula, demonstrating that the Christian philosophy of Madison College is still very much alive. We recently visited one of the privately owned academies, a school of 36 students. Work was in progress when we arrived, but the manager decided to call a special meeting in the chapel. I can still see the choir (the entire student body) joyfully singing, still dressed in their work clothes. With the motto "To know God and make Him known is our work," this school exemplifies the work of hundreds of other dedicated ASI members.

And what motto could sum up the work of ASI? Perhaps nothing better than this: "ASI is sharing Christ in the marketplace." □



Henry and Robin Martin, of Auto Martin, Ltd., Grants Pass, Oregon, tell ways in which they share the love of Christ.

Christian Record Braille Foundation

Report presented at the General Conference session.

By H. H. VOSS
President



“For I was blind, and you visited me . . .”

“I was deaf, and you heard my pleas for help . . .”

Allow your mind to wander to the glorious gold-paved streets of the New Jerusalem. Your journey on earth is finished; Jesus has called you to Paradise. Along with the redeemed, you rejoice and sing hosannas to the wonderful Saviour.

Walking with others through the city, you spot a person who looks somewhat familiar, yet somewhat different. Stopping, you inquire, “Aren’t you the blind man who lived near me in Arkansas?” The man replies, “Yes, I’m the one who used to be blind before Jesus opened my eyes and gave me heaven. Praise the Lord!”

You are puzzled. “How did you learn about Jesus Christ without your sight?” you ask. Not wasting a breath, the man replies, “I was visited often by a district representative from Christian Record Braille Foundation, who offered me free books and magazines I could read in braille and listen to as well. This representative prayed with me, read my mail to me, took me shopping and to church. He also invited me to attend national camps for blind children and adults, where I discovered God in nature, too. He treated me like a human being, like someone important. He told me what heaven would be like. The thought of being able to see meant everything

then. But to behold the lovely countenance of Jesus means even more now. If it were not for Christian Record Braille Foundation . . .”

“For I was blind, and you visited me . . .”

Continuing your stroll, you notice a young woman sitting alone listening to birds chirp joyously in perfect harmony. To you that seems odd. You’ve heard sounds like these since you were a baby. Then she relates her story.

“The first sound I ever heard was the blaring of trumpets when Christ descended from His throne. You see, I was born deaf; I never heard the voice of my mother or the happy calls of my children. But hearing Jesus speak now is the loveliest voice of all.”

How did she know so much about Jesus? you wonder.

“I was introduced to Him by reading the *God’s Way* Bible lessons for the deaf supplied by Christian Record Braille Foundation. Later they also sent videotaped sermons using sign language. These lessons and tapes made a relationship with Jesus seem so down to earth. If it were not for Christian Record Braille Foundation . . .”

“I was deaf, and you heard my pleas for help . . .”

Since 1899 Christian Record Braille Foundation, owned and operated by the General Conference, has brought hope and inspirational reading enjoyment to the blind and deaf. Current statistics reveal that more than 79,000 sight- and hearing-impaired people in 90 countries are receiving Christ-filled reading materials and other assistance from Christian Record each month.

Because of the generous support of Adventists and the general public, Christian Record supplies every service free to its recipients. Most couldn’t afford to pay for them anyway. *Free* of cost, however, does not mean *cheap* in quality, as the following comments from grateful clients indicate:

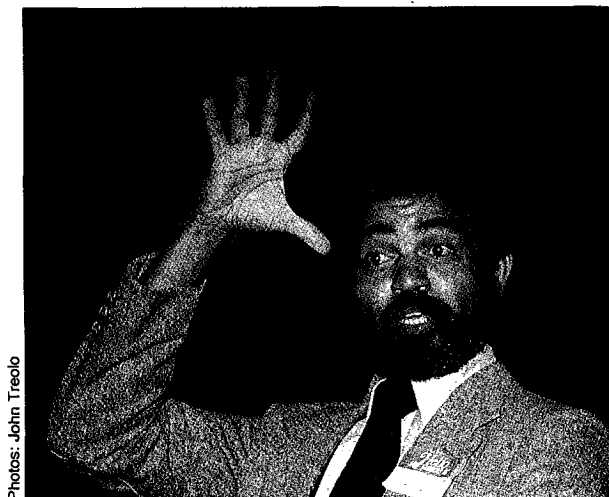
“What a lonely world I would be in if I didn’t get your cassettes and records. Keep them coming.”

“I am so excited about the new Bible lessons for the deaf in *God’s Way*. I am hoping that in the future there will be more Adventist books for the deaf.”

“Thank you for *Steps to Christ* on cassette. I played it several times. It was such a pleasure to be able to get all of the thought without the struggle [of squinting to read inkprint]. I enjoy my Sabbath school lessons [in recorded form] also.”

Each service offered by Christian Record is designed to introduce Jesus Christ to the blind and deaf, improve their relationship with Him, and ultimately, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, extend an invitation to become a part of God’s remnant church.

During the past 86 years countless blind people have accepted the teachings of the Adventist Church through our Bible correspon-



Photos: John Treolo

Left: Thompson Kay signs at services for the deaf. Right: Blind children enjoy CRBF’s summer camp at Foothills Camp in Alberta.

dence school, National Camps for Blind Children program, magazine and book ministry, or personal visitation offered by the 100-plus district representatives who work for Christian Record throughout North America.

When Christ commissioned us to go into all the world, surely He included the disabled population. Working hand in hand, Christian Record and the Seventh-day Adventist Church can help the blind and deaf "see" and "hear" the One who will someday remove all traces of physical affliction.

"I was blind . . ." "I was deaf . . ." "You visited me and heard my pleas for help." Christian Record Braille Foundation—a special ministry for special people. □

Home Study International

Report presented
at the General
Conference session.

By D. W. HOLBROOK
President



In 1984 Home Study International celebrated 75 years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. During those years more than 200,000 students in 60 countries have taken courses from Home Study. HSI makes a Seventh-day Adventist education available to students who are unable to attend the classroom. By taking courses with HSI, these students keep that vital connection with Christian education.

In an effort to discover the most pressing needs, HSI representatives have become members of church educational bodies and have visited colleges, academies, and camp meetings, searching for an answer to the question How can HSI help you? Home Study continues to offer K-12 and college courses to Seventh-day Adventist students, and has initiated several new programs.

Families who live in areas far removed from a day academy often are reluctant to send their 12-, 13-, and 14-year-olds to a boarding academy. APLE (Alternative Programs for Learning Enrichment) was organized to keep these children in the church school system by allowing eight-grade church schools to add ninth grade, nine-grade church schools to add tenth, and ten-grade schools to add eleventh and twelfth. Schools using APLE will have a hybrid curriculum composed both of courses taught by a resident teacher and HSI correspondence courses supervised by the school's staff.

Students enrolled in a 12-year program where HSI supplies the majority of the last year of study will receive HSI's State-of-Maryland-approved high school diploma. APLE has also been designed to answer the problems of a senior academy wanting to enrich its curriculum. For the 1985-1986 school year several schools have

been selected as part of a pilot program planned to initiate and test APLE procedures.

Children in public schools

Because of finances, geography, or other factors, a certain number of Seventh-day Adventist children do not or cannot go to a church school. Because public schools in North America legally are unable to teach Christianity, these students are missing the most crucial instruction of their lives. HSI can give students in public school the opportunity to bring intensive Bible instruction into their homes. All HSI Bible courses correlate with Bible classes taught in the Adventist church school system.

Continuing education

Many people come into the church as adults with little background in either the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy. Personal Bible study and church and Sabbath school attendance help, but many adults still feel the need for the foundation laid by formal Bible education. To meet this need, Home Study International has developed a new audit program designed especially for the adult learner, in which new Adventists can study Bible courses similar to those taught in Adventist colleges.

The face of HSI has changed during the past five years. To reflect the true nature of our church and its world service, Home Study Institute is now Home Study International. To meet the growing professional demands in education, the credentials of all HSI teachers have been upgraded. Both our elementary and junior high supervisors have Master's degrees and years of teaching experience. All HSI college teachers have Master's degrees—and many have Ph.D.s—and our secondary teachers are credentialed secondary teachers, endorsed in the subject area they grade.

The year 1980 began a season of revision and improvement of all HSI's course offerings. To date, 95 percent of the courses have been revised and updated. HSI also has added two important new courses: Adventist History, written by Ronald Graybill, with the cooperation of the Biblical Research Institute; and a new kindergarten course to help parents get their children on the right track by the use of mind-, character-, and spirit-building techniques. It also provides an excellent preparation for first grade.

HSI is proud of its professional and educational accreditation, granted by the General Conference Board of Regents and the National Home Study Council (the recognized accrediting body for correspondence schools), which was renewed in 1983. HSI has been approved by the State of Maryland to offer a high school diploma. In order to conform to State of Maryland regulations on the postsecondary level and to offer courses acceptable to all major colleges and universities in the United States, HSI's college division affiliated with Columbia Union College in 1984. HSI maintains close contact with State requirements and college curricular demands in order to best fulfill the needs of students.

A recent HSI high school graduate, Diana Green, achieved national recognition early in 1985 when she was named "Outstanding Home Study Graduate of the Year" by the National Home Study Council. Diana, the daughter of a missionary family currently serving at the Adventist University of Eastern Africa, in Kenya, was honored at a special Congressional reception in Washington, D.C. Diana, a straight-A student, says, "I've never regretted taking two years of high school by correspondence. College is much more rewarding because now I really know how to study."

During the next quinquennium, HSI will continue to analyze the role it has played and to explore new ways in which to help fill gaps in the church's educational system. We already have a few suggestions on the examination table: a program (leading to an eventual degree) for wives of ministers and seminary students, and a Master's degree offered, in conjunction with Andrews University, to students unable to come to the United States for all of their graduate work. □

Fourteenth business meeting

Fifty-fourth General Conference session
July 5, 1985, 9:00 A.M.

Session proceedings

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Our hearts were stirred during the morning devotional. Now we must go right into our agenda. Many agenda items remain for this last business day. We must move through a number of items so the church may be better prepared to carry out its mission.

JOHN W. FOWLER: [Opening prayer.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: The first item is from a special committee that prepared a paper on Sabbath observance, which has been studied by many different groups.

While the church does not wish to legislate in this matter, we constantly are asked for guidelines, and I believe these will be very helpful. We do not desire to discuss this document today, but I would like it recorded in the minutes that it has been received.

W.R.L. SCRAGG: I agree with this very fine document, but it does create a problem for the Australasian Division. There is a long tradition of Ingathering on Sabbath in this division. My first Ingathering experience as a child was on Sabbath. We have always thought of it

as a ministry. While I understand the position that other divisions take, I do wish the document would not imply that those who Ingather on Sabbath are in some way morally inferior.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: With your consent and permission, I would like to ask the editorial group to look at a change in wording that would meet your thinking.

EVERET W. WITZEL: I appreciate your desire to move on with minimal discussion of this document, but I want to call to your attention the importance of this topic in our hospitals.

It is very important that acute-care institutions meet the physical needs of people where they are. But it is equally important that they uphold the Sabbath as a sign of God's creatorship.

J. ANDREW HAMLIN: This document reflects a great deal of time and effort on the part of the committee charged with its preparation. I appreciate the many hours required of all the committees that have prepared materials for our discussions. I rise now, however, to express great concern over the propriety of accepting this report as an officially recognized statement of this body.

The Sabbath is one of God's

precious gifts to mankind and is one of the most important and distinguishing tenets of our faith. God blessed the Sabbath day and told us to keep it holy, but it soon was burdened with detailed rules that became law.

We are presented with 17 pages of what essentially are "rules" for Sabbath observance. I am deeply concerned about the wisdom in adopting this report, the effect of which will tend to codify behavior and establish law. I move that this entire document be referred back to the committee for further study, to be returned to this assembly in 1990. [Motion was seconded.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: I am going to ask Elder Wilson to make a statement.

NEAL C. WILSON: My fellow delegates, it was not intended that we would adopt this statement at this session, but only that it be shared with the delegates.

This document has been prepared and refined with the very widest possible worldwide counsel and was quite thoroughly discussed at Annual Council. Perhaps other refinements may still be made as we advance in the precious experience of true Sabbathkeeping.

We have responded to a worldwide expression of need for some guidelines, not for the purpose of judging others, but to avoid a position of neutrality as a church. This morning I think we should simply record that the report of this commission, at the recommendation of the Annual Council, has been shared with the delegates and will continue to be studied. I doubt that a General Conference session

will ever really make a definitive statement. I see nothing to be gained by bringing a statement back in 1990, which really again would only state a philosophy. [Motion was defeated.]

JOHN STEVENS: I rise to support the acceptance of this document as suggested guidelines and certainly not policy.

M. P. KULAKOV: It is very important to encourage our members everywhere to use God's gift, the Sabbath, and to keep this commandment. This document in the form in which it is presented makes me very uncomfortable because in the particular area in which I live and work it may create many problems.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: I am going to ask Elder Wilson to make a statement that may care for the situation you have referred to.

NEAL C. WILSON: I think you understand why I made my previous statement. I seriously doubt that we want to have a document of this nature voted by a General Conference session. It would be considered by some to be a "law" of the church that everyone should be judged by, regardless of local circumstances. On the other hand, we have felt that it was quite proper and very appropriate for certain guidelines to be shared.

Brother Kulakov and our world leaders were present at the 1984 Annual Council when it was endorsed. We have been very sensitive to some of the matters our brother has stated, and considerable softening was done in response to suggestions. Again I appeal that no action be taken here today. The document from the Annual Council is in the hands of the delegates as counsel, and that is sufficient.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: The chair is going to rule that this item not be discussed further. What has been requested has been accomplished, as the General Conference president has stated.

The next item is to express gratitude to individuals who have loved their church and given their lives to its work.

NEAL C. WILSON: Elder L. L. Bock and others who have worked with him have a presentation to share with you. I know you will wish to join us as we express respect and appreciation, recognizing and honoring a group of dedicated workers. [The following retirees were honored at this time: Elder and Mrs. J. W. Bothe, Elder and Mrs. L. L. Butler, Elder and Mrs. R. B. Caldwell, Elder and Mrs. D. R. Christman, Elder and Mrs. K. H. Emmerson, Dr. and Mrs. M. G. Hardinge, Dr. and Mrs. C. B. Hirsch, Elder and Mrs. Alf Lohne,



The globe that pinpoints Adventist missions and institutions around the world made its first appearance at the 1936 General Conference session in San Francisco. Pearl Patzer (in white blouse, with back to camera) is hostess at the central exhibit, where the globe is displayed.



Craftsman donates session pulpit

Many came to the New Orleans Adventist convention by plane, many more by car, but Robert and Faye Murrell came from Miami, Florida, in their own homemade yacht called *The Desire of Ages*.

The Murrells, now retired, are members of the Miami Temple SDA church and are active members of Adventist Services and Industries (ASI). Bob has made pulpits for his local church, the Florida Conference, and the 1985 General Conference session.

"I asked President Wilson at the 1984 ASI convention if I could donate a pulpit to this session," said Murrell, "and he said Sure. So they sent me some specifications, and I followed them fairly closely. But I think the back of the podium (with several storage areas) is just as nice as the front! I'm sorry people can't see all of it."

Alice Lowe, Elder and Mrs. M. L. Mills, Elder and Mrs. A. J. Patzer, Elder and Mrs. W. B. Quigley, Elder and Mrs. L. A. Ramirez, Elder and Mrs. H. F. Rampton, Dr. and Mrs. R. L. Reynolds, Elder and Mrs. F. W. Wernick, Elder and Mrs. R. F. Williams, and Elder and Mrs. C. M. Willis.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Now I turn the chairmanship over to Elder Thompson for a very special feature.

G. RALPH THOMPSON: Yesterday was a special day in the history of the United States of America, Independence Day. Today, July 5, is also a very important day. It is the birthday of our General Conference president.

[The delegates sang "Happy Birthday" to Elder Neal C. Wilson in celebration of his birthday.]

NEAL C. WILSON: I had hoped to keep this fact quiet. I know the Nominating Committee has all our personal information, and the Secretariat is privy to many of our "secrets." Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

I have the privilege this morning of acting on behalf of Dr. Clinton Emmerson, chairman of the very special Weniger Award for Excellence Committee. Charles E. Weniger, whose life touched that of so many of us here, was a professor at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and at Pacific Union College for many years. A

small committee of individuals have wanted to perpetuate, not necessarily the name, but the qualities of this great man. This award is presented to an individual who has distinguished himself or herself in exemplifying excellence.

This morning it is a privilege to present this award in memory of a great teacher, an honored professor. I welcome to the platform Dr. Elton Wallace and Evelyn.

Dr. Wallace was born in Arizona in 1922. His father was a minister and a Bible teacher. During one of my early furloughs I met Elton at Lodi Academy, where I spent about six months of my freshman year. While at Pacific Union College he met a beautiful young lady, Evelyn Kraft. After graduating in 1943, they were married, and their lives have since been joined in service in many different places and many different interesting pursuits.

They spent nine years in Vietnam and seven years in the Philippine Islands, where he was chairman of the department of theology of the seminary, pastor of the college church, and founder and conductor of a male chorus known as the Ambassadors. They then spent eight years back at Pacific Union College, where Elton was chairman of the department of communication, the same department that had been founded by Dr. Charles Weniger.

Elton and Evelyn then went to Africa, where they served at Helderberg College, then in Zaire. Since 1979 Elton and Evelyn have been working together to establish the Adventist University of Central Africa on a beautiful campus in a lovely and delightful setting. They have just completed the first year of instruction. The committee for the Weniger Award for Excellence has given me the privilege of presenting this award. Elton and Evelyn, it gives me great pleasure this morning to present to you this beautiful award, the Charles Elliot Weniger Award for Excellence. [Award was presented.]

ELTON H. WALLACE: Evelyn joins me in saying Thank you. I am so grateful for the tribute that you have paid to Uncle Charles. He not only taught us speech; he taught us how to think, how to work, and how to live. I speak for the rest of his young disciples and nephews when I say he was a godly man, a Christian educator, and an exemplar of what Christian education must be.

NEAL C. WILSON: One story never seems to grow old, the story of Harris Pine Mills. I would like to remind you of the contribution this foundation has made particularly to our young people. I am so pleased

this morning that Mrs. Harris can be here.

Mrs. Harris, what a joy to have you with us this morning to receive the response of our delegates to your marvelous contribution to the church. [Applause.]

We also have with us our dear friends, Charles Nagele and his wife, Elder K. H. Emmerson is the chairman of the Harris Pine Mills board.

K. H. EMMERSON: It is certainly a distinct privilege to be connected with Harris Pine. It was more than 30 years ago that Clyde and Mary Harris had a dream, a desire to give something to this church that would be a living contribution, not just at one time but over the years. Their dream was to help young people gain an education and learn a work ethic. They thought one of the best ways was to give the product of their very lives as an ongoing memorial to their love for God and His church. Mary still lives in Pendleton and is still very much interested in Harris Pine Mills.

Charles Nagele, the first president, was with Harris Pine for some 29 years. They also still live in Pendleton. It is a real privilege to be a part of this church and to contribute to the education of our young people. The present administration, Charles Fry and his associates, are dedicated church members, and their greatest desire is to be a part of this church and to serve it well.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: We have a special item from Loma Linda University, which will be introduced by Elder D. W. Hunter, General Conference representative on the Loma Linda campus.

D. W. HUNTER: The medical staff at Loma Linda University School of Medicine recently started an outreach program that we feel will be very much of interest to many of you here today. Dr. Carrol Small will present this to you. Dr. Small, who has been in the employ of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 48 years, is still very active. He is perhaps the best loved, most respected teacher at Loma Linda University.

CARROL S. SMALL: Brotherhood is one of the mottoes of the Adventist fellowship. I am here to describe a means to that end that was not organized until just recently. [Film presentation of the Adventist International Medical Service was shown.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Another organization in the church has helped thousands, Home Study International. The president is D. W. Holbrook.

D. W. HOLBROOK: After years as chairman of our board, Dr. C. B.



Left: On behalf of Shepherdess International, Marle Spangler chaired the planning committee for meetings for women on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. **Center:** Wayne Hooper spoke about women's contributions to the new church hymnal. **Right:** Speaker on Wednesday morning at the women's meetings was Petra Sukau, health counselor and consultant for Tidewater Memorial Hospital in Tappahannock, Virginia. Attendance at the women's meetings grew each day, but averaged approximately 3,000.

Hirsch is retiring. We would like to present to him at this time the 1985 Independent Study Award for his lifelong commitment to Seventh-day Adventist education and his invaluable contributions to correspondence study. Our business manager, Charlotte Conway, will present to Mrs. Aline Campbell the Homer Teesdale Independent Study Award for more than a quarter of a century of dedicated service to Home Study International. [The report of Home Study International can be found on page 27 in *Bulletin* No. 8.]

CHARLOTTE CONWAY: On behalf of our entire staff, we want to thank Dr. Holbrook for 20 years of service in Home Study International. It is a rare pleasure to honor him. He is known not only at Home Study but also in international circles and nationally among independent educators. It is a great loss to us for him to leave. [Dr. Holbrook has been elected first director of the new General Conference Department of Church Ministries.]

NEAL C. WILSON: We want to take a few minutes this morning to say something special to several individuals. Two persons with me on the platform are people of vision and courage, because people said it couldn't be done, but they didn't believe that. They did it anyhow. They had a great burden to say something to the world that needed to be said, sharing the gospel with the masses by means of the new electronic media. I want to say something very special in recognition of both Elder and Mrs. William Fagal. You know them as the Fagals, the founders of Faith for Today.

With courage they stepped out. It took a lot at that time to keep it going, but it grew. Thank God, today there are thousands of people all over the world who have been blessed and led to Christ and who are a part of our fellowship because of the ministry of Faith for Today. Bill and Virginia, before this assembled group today, the delegates at the fifty-fourth General Conference session and many other friends who are with us, I want to thank you for what you have done.

W. A. FAGAL: We appreciate so much the goodwill offered in this meeting, and we want to tell you how grateful we are for the privilege of serving the Lord and our church and for the privilege of contributing our efforts to seeing the work go forward.

NEAL C. WILSON: Thank God for instruments of righteousness. Many of you are familiar with the



Among the session's unsung heroes were those coordinating and introducing proceedings on the platform. Israel Letto, from the Inter-American Division, introduced Tuesday evening musical numbers.

Quiet Hour, a radio program begun in the North Pacific area, which also grew and became a mighty ministry. J. L. Tucker, the man who had that vision, ministered as a pastor, a radio pastor, a writer, and an evangelist. Many thousands around the world have been blessed not only by his radio and television ministry but also by donated airplanes, motorcycles, Bibles, and so many other things.

Elder Tucker, you have been a great, great inspiration to many of us who are younger.

J. L. TUCKER: I made a covenant with God that if He would open the door of opportunity and furnish the money, I would do the work the best I could and never take a penny for myself.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Dr. Hirsch was chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and D. H. Baasch was secretary. We will hear the report of that committee.

D. H. BAASCH: We recommend that members for which a delegate can be appointed be increased to 5,000 or major fraction thereof instead of 4,300 or major fraction thereof.

MAJOR WHITE: I would like to express appreciation to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for its untiring efforts to bring to this session what they feel is a viable document. It is most difficult, actually nigh impossible, to present a Constitution and Bylaws that will please everybody.

I hope that by the next session we will realize the importance of laypersons in our church and will select an equitable number as representatives at the General Conference sessions.

C. B. HIRSCH: The committee recommended in Article V, Section 1b, to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee at the General Conference from 50 to 60, one third of which shall be laymen. This makes specific the number of laymen who will serve on the Executive Committee.

VERNON ALGER: One article also discusses the selection of directors and associates for several departments. Included are Lay Activities, Sabbath School, Stewardship and Development, and the Youth departments. Should that be changed because of the creation of the Church Ministries Department?

D. H. BAASCH: The action on the Church Ministries Department was accepted on the basis that the Constitution would not be changed until the 1990 General Conference session.

WILLIAM BLYTHE: I appreciate very much the free discussion on the floor of this convention. I am a layman who came to my first General Conference session as a delegate with some concern about the procedures. I must say that many of my concerns have been allayed, and I appreciate very much the processes that have been followed here. There has been a concern for lay participation, which I appreciate very much. I have a proposal that will help us focus the discussion on the floor at future General Conference sessions. Let me state it as a motion. I move that a section be added to the Constitution to read as follows:

"No later than 60 days before the date for the opening of the session, the Executive Committee shall provide to each delegate an annotated

agenda for the session. That agenda shall provide background information on the issues that motivated each agenda item." [Motion was seconded.]

NEAL C. WILSON: That is a good motion provided it does not eliminate the possibility of the later introduction of some particular item on which an action is needed.

WILLIAM BLYTHE: I agree with your recommendation and would be comfortable leaving that particular issue to the Editorial Committee.

LENARD JAECKS: This motion is a good motion, but I would like to express a caution. In future sessions we will need to make a better use of visuals. It is not wise to amend the Constitution from the floor late on Friday morning. The delegates ought to weigh amendments very carefully.

F. D. YOST: I also am very much in favor of the intent of this motion. I want to concur wholeheartedly with Dr. Jaecks's comment that we should not begin to introduce amendments to the Constitution from the floor at such a late hour.

B. B. BEACH: I would like to support what the previous two or three speakers have said. I am very concerned by the trend of amending the Constitution right here on the floor. Most organizations do not allow for amendments to a constitution, the fundamental document under which the organization works, without the revisions having been sent to the delegates previous

to the meeting. The concept of informing delegates in advance of proposed amendments is good. To start a procedure whereby we amend the Constitution quickly like this is a very dangerous trend.

RICHARD HAMMILL: I suggest that at the next session a proposal be presented outlining how amendments may be made and whether or not they may be made from the floor. If we do not make amendments in this way, it should be so stated.

M. L. MILLS: I am going to vote against this motion, but could not the one who made it, if it is defeated, move that the officers should place such material in the hands of delegates six weeks in advance of the session?

WILLIAM BLYTHE: I think the previous speaker made an excellent suggestion that I can approve. I propose to revise my motion. I move that this delegation instruct the General Conference Executive Committee to provide to each delegate at least eight weeks prior to the opening of the next regular session of the General Conference an agenda and supporting materials, including information on the motivating issues behind each item. Items that may be considered of emergency nature could still be added and brought to the session.

G. RALPH THOMPSON: That's a good recommendation. We are already working in its spirit. This is the first time in the history of a General Conference session that

delegates have had a formal agenda with all the background material. We mailed it six weeks in advance. We ourselves felt it would be good to send the proposed *Church Manual* changes, Constitution revisions, and model union and local constitutions to the delegates before the session. From an administrative standpoint this made sense. So we really do not need a constitutional provision. I am in favor of the recommendation. [Motion was voted.]

WILLIAM D. FELDER: I wonder if we could have a definition of "for cause" in the provision of authority of the Executive Committee to elect or remove officers?

NEAL C. WILSON: In the operation of an organization as large as the General Conference, individuals must be compatible, able to carry a full load, able to work as part of a team, and be effective in the field. Sometimes it is not in the best interest of the work for an individual without the above qualifications to continue. The only provision for correcting such a situation has been to ask them to resign or to reassign them.

WILLIAM D. FELDER: I certainly agree with that. My problem is that I would prefer that "for cause" be better defined, because a person could be removed for a frivolous cause.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Article XIII, Section 1d, will give you the assurance that you seek. A two-thirds vote is required. We have a motion to accept the Constitution revisions now as a complete document. [Motion was seconded and voted.] We have a guest to introduce.

NEAL C. WILSON: Fellow delegates, a distinguished guest is in our midst at this time. We are pleased that the president of the Lake Region Conference, Pastor Joseph, will introduce him.

CHARLES D. JOSEPH: I am happy to introduce Dr. Joseph Lowry, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Dr. Lowry has spoken on every continent in this world on behalf of the causes of humanity. He comes to us today to make a statement in appreciation of the work of our church in undeveloped countries.

DR. JOSEPH LOWRY: My brothers and sisters, let me express my appreciation for your church. I grew up in Huntsville, Alabama. Nothing in my life except my family and my local church has had a greater influence on me in regard to the community of faith and the Christian perspective than the presence of Oakwood College and the dignity and sincerity of its faculty and students. A recent visit to

Ethiopia, Kenya, and other sections of Eastern Africa made me graphically and personally aware of the large impact that your compassion and your outreach are having on the lives of my brothers and sisters and your brothers and sisters in that part of the world.

So I have come today to offer a commendation and to express thanks on that part of the community of faith that I represent to this great communion for your sense of stewardship and your commitment to mission in that part of the world. May God bless you for the efforts you are making to address the issues of hunger and human development in Africa and other Third World nations.

Let me also say that I appreciate it because we believe that hunger is just as much a matter of theology as it is of technology. We believe that addressing the issue of hunger is just as much a matter of morality as it is of machinery. So we thank you and commend you.

DUMITRU POPA: [Prayer in Romanian.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER, *Chairman*
D. R. CHRISTMAN, *Secretary*
M. T. BATTLE
and D. A. ROTH
Proceedings Editors

Actions from this business session will be printed in *Bulletin* 9.

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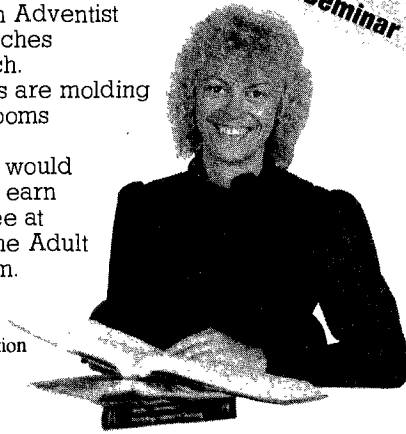
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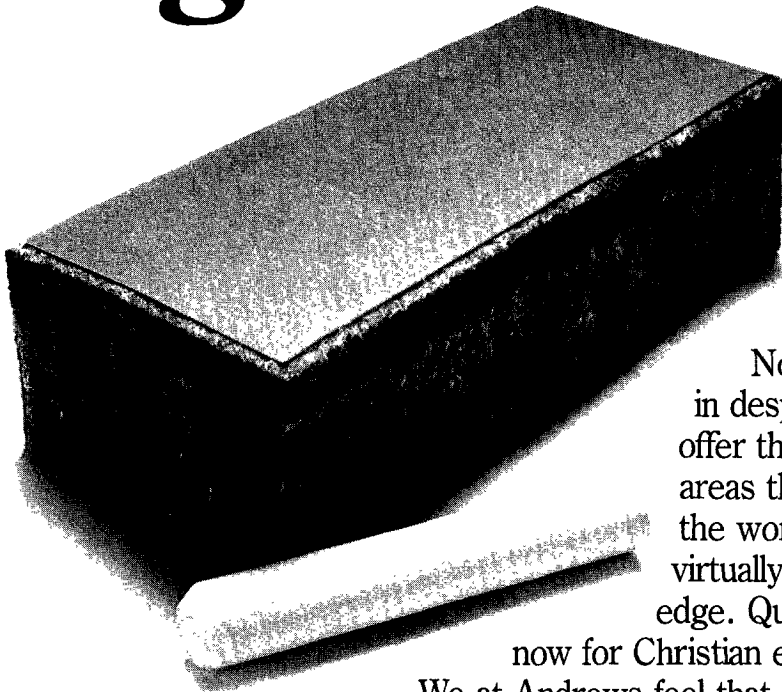
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