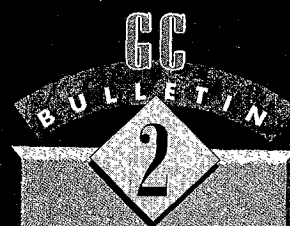


ADVENTIST REVIEW

WEEKLY NEWS AND INSPIRATION FOR SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

JULY 8, 1990



*We Shall
Behold Him*

The Day in the Dome
pages 5, 9

◆
Secretary's Report
page 12

◆
Session Proceedings
page 16

◆
Treasurer's Report
page 20

*Robert S. Folkenberg,
former Carolina Conference
president, was elected
president of the General
Conference on Friday,
July 6.*

Folkenberg Elected General Conference President

Marathon nominating committee session ends with clear choice.

In a surprising turn of events, delegates at the fifty-fifth General Conference session in Indianapolis elected Robert S. Folkenberg, president of the Carolina Conference, as the fifteenth world leader of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Friday, July 6. Folkenberg replaces Neal C. Wilson, who has served 24 years at the General Conference—12 years as vice president for North America, and 12 years as General Conference president. At 49, Folkenberg becomes one of the youngest presidents of the Adventist Church, whose current membership stands at more than 6 million.

Folkenberg's nomination came after an eight-hour Nominating Committee session that began at 8:00 a.m. The unexpectedly long sitting meant that the afternoon business session had to be extended for more than one hour, encroaching into Sabbath preparation time for the delegates. Several times during the afternoon, the regular business of the session was put on hold as delegates prayed for God's guidance over the elective process. When the final ballot was taken in the Nominating Committee, Folkenberg was elected by a wide margin.

The choice surprised many church leaders and observers, including Folkenberg himself. "It is hard to believe this day has come," he said immediately following the vote, "especially when one considers the breadth and depth of my predecessor. I've learned to appreciate Elder Wilson for his ability to remember names, places, and events, and for his keen grasp of the intricacies of culture and geography."

Before the floor vote, Wilson appealed to delegates to give Folkenberg their prayerful and undivided support, taking special care to make it clear that he felt no anger over the decision of the

committee. He offered this quote from Ellen G. White: "Christ prayed that His followers might be one. . . . Those who desire to see this prayer answered, should seek to discourage the slightest tendency to division" (*Evangelism*, p. 213).

Coincidentally, Folkenberg was chairman of the 200-member Nominating Committee that eventually elected him. The daylong process was marked by careful review and evaluation, says Desmond Hills, Trans-Australian Union



Robert S. Folkenberg, at 49, becomes one of the youngest General Conference presidents in the history of the Adventist Church. Previously he served the Inter-American Division for 19 years.

president, who served as vice chairman of the committee. Many potential candidates came under consideration. By early afternoon, after a thorough discussion and three balloting, the committee came up with its first nomination. The candidate declined the position, however.

After 3:00 p.m., the committee reconvened, and a new slate of candidates was considered. As Folkenberg's name was placed in nomination, he was immedi-

ately replaced at the chair by vice chairman Hills.

Serving as secretary of the committee was Benjamin Reaves, president of Oakwood College. "I am impressed by the [elective] process," he said. "Considerable care was taken to let everyone speak his mind. This was the democratic process clothed in the Christian spirit. Most people on the Nominating Committee were convinced that the Lord had taken hold of developments. There was an overwhelming sense of divine leading."

Expressing similar sentiments, Hills said: "It was pleasing to see the vote of unity that came in the choice. The church is really braced for a change in the 1990s. There will be a continuing reevaluation of the size and structure of the church."

Reaction to Folkenberg's election came swiftly. "There's no way that anyone could have predicted the outcome of this election," one church leader said, reflecting the thinking of many others. "This was truly a providential event."

Evaluating the new president's attributes, Hills says that "Folkenberg will bring keen insights to his position. He is young, bilingual, and has served for 19 years in the Inter-American Division."

Reaves said, "Robert Folkenberg will bring strategic skills to the job. He is concerned with organizational planning and the development of people, ensuring a system of responsibility and accountability. He is articulate, alert, and a solid mainline Seventh-day Adventist."

The new president himself is sure about the source of his strength: "It should be clear by the events of today that the real General Conference president is the Lord Jesus Christ. There's no problem or challenge that God cannot solve. With God we can do anything."

By Carlos Medley, news editor, Adventist Review.

Profile of a President

by William G. Johnsson

On July 6, Robert Stanley Folkenberg woke up president of the Carolina Conference. By evening—in a startling turn of events—he had been elected president for the world Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Pastor Folkenberg is six foot five and 49 years old—the youngest General Conference president since A. G. Daniells 89 years ago. And he is the first GC president to come to office directly from the conference level since the church reorganized in 1901.

Robert Folkenberg is air transport rated, the highest license for pilots. He also holds a commercial helicopter rating and is certified for scuba diving.

And Chapel released 12 records of his baritone solos—in English and Spanish.

Who is this man who breaks the mold in so many respects?

Our Hispanic brothers and sisters will tell you. They lined up en masse to give him *abrazos*, smiling and laughing, upon his election to the GC presidency. Conversation both ways was in Spanish.

Robert Folkenberg has spent 30 of his 49 years in Inter-America. “I grew up speaking Spanish as much or more than English,” he says. Born in Puerto Rico of missionary parents, he later moved with them to Cuba. Following completion of his college degree at Andrews University, he and his wife of three weeks went out on missionary assignment themselves—to Panama. They spent 19 years in overseas service.

During that period Elder Folkenberg carried increasingly heavy responsibilities, eventually assuming the office of president of the Central American Union Mission and finally becoming assistant to the president of the Inter-American Division.

His roots in the Seventh-day Adventist

Church are deep. He is a fourth-generation Adventist minister, and his son Robert is also a minister. His wife, Anita, is the daughter of former GC treasurer Kenneth Emmerson. When Robert and Anita left for Panama in 1966, the combined mission service of the two family trees was 91 years.

Folkenberg is known as an ideas person. He was directly involved in formulating Global Strategy and the McBride Report, which is the basis for plans to downsize the General Conference.

Excerpts from an exclusive *Adventist Review* interview:

My dream: “I hope to bring men and women together to give highest priority to our chief objective—which is the gospel commission.”

Structure: “Structures must be subservient to mission.”

Streamlining: “Downsizing the GC is essential. We have to take steps to build trust. We must make our conduct match our message.”

Leadership: “At headquarters we must remember that we are here to serve the church, to meet their needs, to raise their sights. We must be servant leaders. We need total openness.”

Delegating authority: “I believe strongly in delegating authority. But those to whom authority is delegated must not be given so many responsibilities that the quality of their work is impeded.”

Christ: “His presence—we in Him and He in us—that is the basis of all we do.”

How others see Robert Folkenberg:

Son Robert: “He has an incredible gift of administration. He just has it, without having taken courses.”

Daughter-in-law Audrey: “His greatest strength is how he deals with people. He is so friendly and open.”

Thousands of Adventists have been praying that God would draw near at this GC session. In a manner altogether unforeseen, Robert Folkenberg has come to leadership. Elder Folkenberg, the prayers of these dear people will continue as you take up your heavy tasks.

GC SNAPSHOT



The Sahmyook University choir from Korea performs at the opening of the business session on Friday.

William G. Johnsson is editor of the *Adventist Review*.

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Neal C. Wilson— Church Statesman



By William G. Johnsson
Editor
Adventist Review

Elder Neal C. Wilson knew me before I knew him.

We first met in 1975 on the campus of Andrews University, shortly after Noelene and I had returned from India. I saw him coming and recognized him; I knew he would not know who I was. But he walked up to me, put out his hand and said, “Hello, Bill, how are you?”

Wilson’s ability to remember faces, names, and personal details is extraordinary, unparalleled in my experience. This gift, which he must have cultivated, stems from a deep interest in people. On the personal level he is warm and unhurried—it might take you weeks to get to see him, but he would never cut the visit short.

That encyclopedic, computer-precision brain masters agendas and issues. After Neal Wilson surveys a matter, going around pros, cons, and options, every base is covered.

I think that history will recall this man of many gifts as not only a strong leader but an outstanding one—one of the Adventist greats.

He led the world church for nearly 12 years. His centralized, activist style thrived on problem solving. The range of concerns through which he guided the church is startling in scope, variety, and lasting impact:

□ **Doctrine:** Wilson presided over the first major restudy of SDA beliefs in nearly 50 years, culminating in the adoption of the 27 fundamentals of belief at the Dallas General Conference session in 1980. These statements are a theological landmark for Adventists.

□ **Minorities:** During his 16 years as General Conference vice president for North America, Wilson put himself on the line in favor of the full participation of Blacks in the life and work of the

church. As president of the world church he continued to press for a community of equality and justice.

□ **Church growth:** “It’s harvest-time,” he declared as he assumed the mantle of the GC presidency. Growth became the watchword of the next 12 years: Adventists stretched toward a goal of 1,000 accessions per day, reached it, went beyond, and now have passed 1,500 a day.

□ **Crisis:** Wilson confronted a series of major problems—challenges to Adventist understanding of prophecy and



Former General Conference president Neal C. Wilson led the world church for nearly 12 years.

the heavenly sanctuary, and to Ellen White’s writings; and financial crises in the Davenport investments and the bankruptcy of Harris Pine Mills. But he refused to be deterred: resilient and tenacious, he pressed on.

□ **The media:** Wilson was quick to grasp the potential of the mass media for propagating the Adventist faith. Under his direction the church established the far-reaching short-wave radio outreach

on Guam, and embarked on a similar scheme for Italy.

□ **Structures and organization:** The Wilson presidency spelled out the role and function of the General Conference and its divisions, cleared the way for full division status for North America, and, in a major reorganization, combined five departments into one—Church Ministries. Likewise he led in restructuring the church in Africa, Europe, and Southern Asia.

□ **Scholars:** Although Wilson is not an academic, he is comfortable among scholars. He fostered research, high tech medicine, gathering of data, and input from experts in the church’s decision-making.

□ **Women’s roles:** As NAD and GC president, Wilson encouraged a greater role for women in the work of the church, opening doors for women to serve in gospel ministry and as local church elders.

□ **Global Strategy:** Always looking ahead, Elder Wilson has pointed the way for the nineties—a global strategy for global mission.

Beyond these individual accomplishments, however, Wilson functioned as a world leader. He is as much at home in Africa, India, or South America as in the United States. He represented the church with dignity and grace as he met heads of state. He is wise with the wisdom that comes from loving people as people.

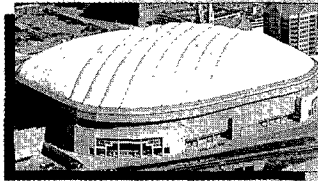
And, in one of the final actions of his presidency, the General Conference session voted in a new division July 5—the Soviet Union!

We worked together in the ministry of the *Adventist Review*. As chairman of the AR editorial board he gave me counsel, but he did not try to interfere in running the church paper. Although he did not always agree with everything we put in print, he supported the *Review* and staff privately and in public.

Nearly two years ago I stood atop Mount Kilimanjaro with Neal Wilson. The climb up was tough, exhausting. I admired the spirit of this man who sets his face unrelentingly toward the goal.

Last Thursday Neal C. Wilson turned 70. Like Moses, his eye is not dimmed or his strength abated. He still has much to give to the church he has served so well.

The Day IN THE Dome



JULY 6, FRIDAY

*The fifty-fifth
GC session will
have to wrestle
with issues
about the
amount of
diversity the
church can
tolerate.*

Slightly more than 100 years ago, in a Midwestern city called Minneapolis, some 300 delegates and guests attended the first meeting of a gathering that to many of those present may have been "just another General Conference session." Yet that session has become recognized as a landmark in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Today (July 5, 1990), in a Midwestern city called Indianapolis, nearly 2,000 delegates and many thousands of guests are gathering to attend the first meeting of a General Conference session that could well become a similarly significant event in the church's history. In fact, I would suggest that in a number of ways the church is at a crossroads in its experience.

Since the 1888 GC session, the Adventist Church has grown from a relative handful of members to an organization of more than 6 million, with more than 111,000 denominational employees. In a sense, part of the work of the fifty-fifth GC session will be to determine just which of the approaches that served so well when we were a small denomination are still effective as our church becomes a denomination of significant size.

No longer is the church primarily an organization confined to North America. The church is far more diverse than it once was. The fifty-fifth GC session will have to wrestle with issues about the amount of diversity the church can tolerate. Too much openness can destroy its identity and negate its mission; too little can make it incapable of ministering to the bulk of the society in which it finds itself.

And the fifty-fifth GC session will more than ever test the church's resolve concerning repre-

sentative government. No longer does North America have the voting bloc that it once enjoyed. When other sections of the world vote items not wanted by North America—or refuse to vote items that North America does want—just how will the North American church respond?

How much should the church change with the times, and just which components of belief and practice can change without negating the church's reason for existence? How much emphasis should we place on continuity and how much should we advocate innovation? How much should our decisions be based on pragmatism and how much should they reflect a consistent application of theology?

Why do we see an aging membership—and leadership—in the "home field"? Why is there seemingly a shortage of talented people to move into leadership roles? Why is the church growing so rapidly in the "developing" countries while so nearly static in the "Western" countries?

These are the kinds of issues that the fifty-fifth GC session will be addressing, even though most of the items will not appear on the agenda. In general these issues will be addressed indirectly. The decisions made about topics seemingly unrelated to those just enumerated will meld together to show a pattern of where the church is going. But let's get back to this first day of the fifty-fifth General Conference session.

A General Conference session is a potpourri of business session, convention, family reunion, cultural exhibition, old-time evangelistic campaign, and much more. It's more an experience than an event, and it isn't easily described.

I look around at the huge crowds of people outside the Hoosier Dome and in its corridors and see badges identifying them as delegate, delegate-at-large, guest, visitor, staff. I can't help thinking of the cost of convening such a session. (Since costs are borne by so many entities, no figures are available, but the amount is certainly in eight digits.)

Would the church's interests be better served if GC sessions were business-only sessions, with no provision for attendance by any but the delegates? It's a question that has been asked many times and

by James Coffin
Editor, Signs Publishing
Company
Warburton, Victoria, Australia

for which there's no definitive answer. But such a change is unlikely. Voting any major change at a GC session is difficult enough; voting major changes to the session itself might prove an impossibility.

My reverie is interrupted as I meet a friend whom I haven't seen for years. And before I've finished listening to the latest happenings in his family, I spot another friend whom I haven't seen for even longer.

General Conference sessions are great times of reunion. Yet it suddenly strikes me that they are much more that way for denominational employees (particularly those who have worked in a number of places and for many years) than for the average church member; they are also more that way for the long-time member than for the new member.

The Indianapolis Hoosier Dome, where the session is convening, is a massive canvas-covered stadium that teems with some 60,000 people when the city's football team—the Colts—are doing well. The first day of the GC session won't require that number of seats. However, seating for the 2,000 or so delegates, with spouses and children, fully covers the playing field, which has had its artificial turf rolled up and carpet rolled out in its place.

Several thousand Adventists fill the lower stadium seats to observe the business sessions and to listen to the spiritual presentations and the music—which is always a GC session highlight. Although the seating in huge sections of the stadium is unoccupied now, few seats will be left when the weekend crowd arrives. Some 40,000 are expected to attend. (About one third of the seats in the stadium are behind the stage that sits on ground level.)

As I settle into my chair to wait for the first meeting of the session to begin, I make a few mental notes concerning my surroundings. The theme for the session is "We Shall Behold Him." At the back of the stage and leading all the way across it are the flags of the countries in which the Seventh-day Adventist Church has an established work. Few national flags are not present.

As a delegate I have seating relatively close to the platform. Yet the speaker seems lost in the vast expanse of the stadium. I'm grateful for the two huge video screens that give me an image to look at that is in keeping with the size of the stadium.

The meeting begins with congregational singing, musical items, prayer, a welcome, and a spiritual presentation by Dr. George Rice, associate secretary of the Ellen G. White Estate.

Dr. Rice's presentation is titled "It Did Not Happen in 1901. Will It Happen in 1990?" Using as his text Revelation 18:1, Dr. Rice discusses the latter rain, why it hasn't fallen, and what needs to be done if it is to fall. He says that God's agenda for the 1901 General Conference session contained two items: reorganization of the church's structure (which was completed) and the outpouring of the Spirit (which as yet remains undone).

"There is a feeling of expectancy pervading the church," Dr. Rice says, describing the desire of many to experience the latter rain. He then challenges the church's leaders. "We want revival. We want leaders to guide this church. . . . Leaders, you can make it possible for the church to realize this aim. . . . Why must

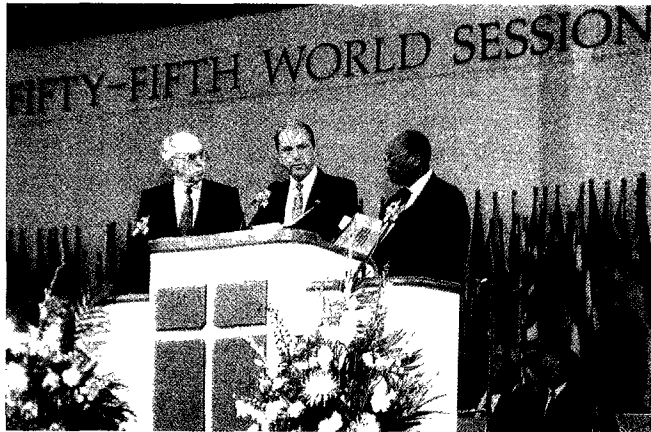
others. Dr. Lyn Behrens, president-elect of Loma Linda University, who earlier offered the opening prayer, provides visual relief to the sea of otherwise male faces. While the male-female ratio on the platform for this meeting is not typical of that found in the delegations, women clearly play a limited role in the upper echelons of Adventist Church government.

After the formalities of seating the delegates and calling the meeting to order, six new unions are officially voted "into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church." Three of the unions have been formed because of the pressures brought about by rapid growth.

The former Colombia-Venezuela Union Mission became the Colombia Union Mission and the Venezuela-Antilles Union Mission on March 6, 1989. The former Franco-Haitian Union Mission became the French Antilles-Guiana Union Mission and the Haitian Union Mission on March 21, 1989. And the former Eastern Africa Union Mission became the Eastern Africa Union Mission and the Uganda Union Mission on January 1, 1987. Since that time the new Uganda Union has more than doubled its membership.

The other three new unions are in the U.S.S.R.—the Baltic and Byelorussia, Moldavian, and Southern. In addition to recognizing the three new unions, the session approves the formation of a U.S.S.R. Division. In providing background detail to these moves, Pastor Harold F. Otis notes that some 55 people are attending the GC session either as delegates or as musicians—by far the largest contingent from that nation ever to attend.

A welcome from Indianapolis mayor Hudnut provides a pleasant diversion from the formalities of church business. The mayor, a clergyman by training, uses his theological understandings to lighten the occasion. "I think it very generous of you to allow a Presbyterian to welcome you," he says, smiling. Then he carries his humor a bit further by assuring those present that he is confident that some-



Enoch Oliveira, general vice president; Harold Otis, special assistant to the president; and G. Ralph Thompson, GC secretary, introduce the new U.S.S.R. Division to the GC session delegates.

we linger here when you can lead us into the Promised Land? Leaders of the church, we plead with you, take us home."

As Dr. Rice speaks, my mind wanders momentarily as I survey the platform party. It is made up of all the GC vice presidents (division presidents are also vice presidents of the GC) plus a few



General Conference departments, services, and divisions erect display booths in the convention center while delegates register in the hall next door. Geoffrey Church, a student at Southern College, is helping construct the college's booth.

where long before Creation he was predestined to be here at this moment making this presentation!

In presenting a "key to the city" to General Conference president Neal C. Wilson, the mayor notes that today—July 5—is Elder Wilson's birthday.

Inevitably, one of the favorite topics of informal discussion among delegates is whether Elder Wilson will be re-elected. He gives every indication of being willing to serve another term (he's still younger than a recent president of the United States who didn't have the benefit of the Adventist health emphasis!). He appears to be in fine health (a couple of years ago he was one of the oldest persons ever to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's 19,000-foot peak). And he obviously is a man who enjoys his work. Should age be a consideration? And which should be given greater priority: concern for continuity or concern for change? Many delegates are asking such questions of themselves and of each other.

However, I don't have long to mull over the future of the GC presidency, as the first meeting of the fifty-fifth GC session is drawing to a close and the various division delegations will meet in caucus to select the members of the

Nominating Committee to which they're entitled. The South Pacific Division, for which I am a delegate, is entitled to only eight members on the 224-member Nominating Committee. Nevertheless, it takes us well over an hour to make the selections. I wonder about the divisions that are entitled to a large number of nominating committee members. We missed supper; will they miss breakfast too?

Back in the main arena the evening meeting is under way. Elder Wilson has chosen to limit the oral portion of his presentation and use the medium of video to report on what the church is doing and to challenge all Adventists to reach for higher goals. Again, music is a major element and adds much to the meeting.

I am unable to attend the Friday morning devotional given by Elder Robert Spangler. However, others clue me in on what he had to say about the various roles of the Holy Spirit.

The first items of business on Friday are the General Conference secretary's and treasurer's reports. Elder G. Ralph Thompson tells of the church's achievements and of many things yet to be achieved. Elder Don Gilbert outlines details of the church's financial picture. As Elders Gilbert and Thompson speak, I repeatedly find my mind wandering to what may be going on in the Nominating Committee.

It was just announced that the Nominating Committee has chosen as chairman Elder Robert Folkenberg, president of the Carolina Conference and one who has served outside North America for a number of years. Assisting him as secretary is Dr. Benjamin Reaves, president of Oakwood College.

At noon the chairman of the morning's business session, Elder Calvin Rock, says he has word that the Nominating Committee work is going well. He promises that the first Nominating Committee report will be given when the meeting reconvenes at 2:00 p.m.

At lunchtime there is much speculation at many a table as to what the Nominating Committee's report will be. But at 2:00 p.m. when the business session resumes, nothing whatever is said about the Nominating Committee. So, as my deadline arrives and I pass this report to

Why do we see an aging membership—and leadership—in the "home field"?

Why is there seemingly a shortage of talented people to move into leadership roles?

the staff of the *Adventist Review*, I'm frustrated that I still don't know who will be president of the General Conference for the next quinquennium. But at least by not being able to tell you, I help you as readers get a sense of the suspense that the delegates at the session feel at times.

ADVENTIST REVIEW

General paper of the
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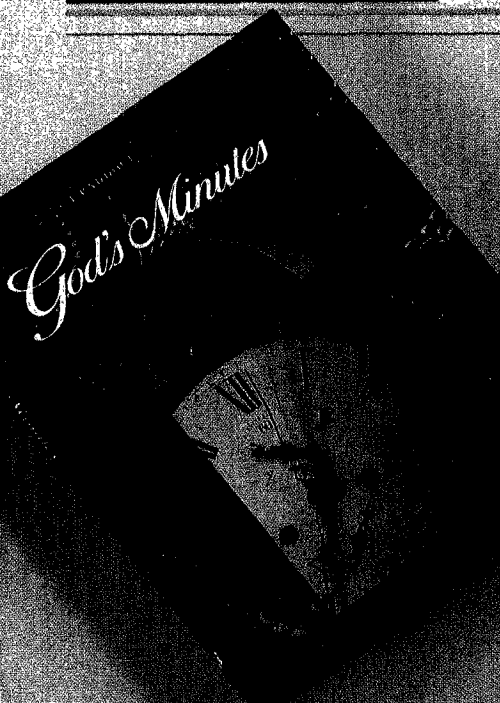
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FAMILY READING



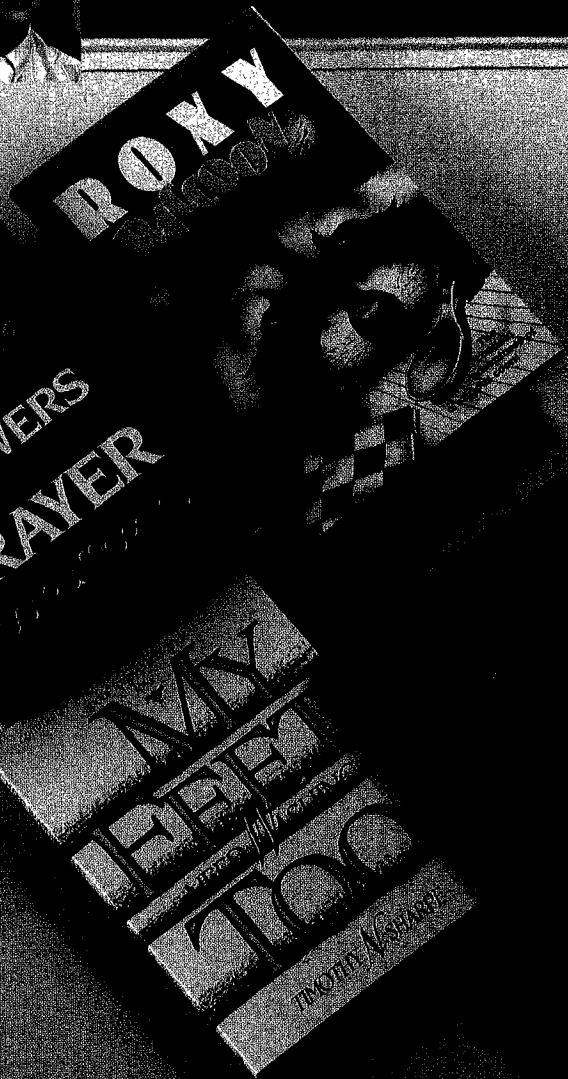
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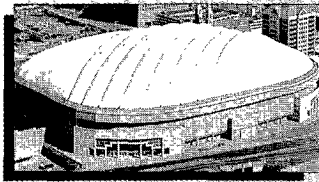
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The Day IN THE Dome



JULY 7, SABBATH

*The election of
a new presi-
dent came as a
shock to many,
even though
some predicted
that a change
was coming.*

As I arrive at the dome at about 3:30 p.m., the session is discussing business as usual, but I get the impression that something much bigger is going on. I have just been to the newsroom and production offices of Adventist Radio Network and Adventist World Radio. There is excitement, concern, and a sense of expectation. Everyone is talking about the Nominating Committee, speculating as to who will be the next president. Names and rumors are flying back and forth, but no one seems sure of anything. I return to the dome.

This is my first General Conference session and everything is new to me. I'm trying to understand, to get a grasp of what is going on—but only one thing is obvious: This is big!

At 4:00 p.m., when the business session is supposed to end, the delegates receive an announcement: The Nominating Committee still has not reached a decision. Could delegates please remain in session? The delegation complies with the request. Later I learn that it is very unusual for the Nominating Committee not to have reached a decision on the office of president by noon.

As the session begins going over proposed changes in the General Conference Constitution, one of the items on its agenda, I get the feeling that they are having a hard time concentrating on the business before them. At 5:10 one delegate comes to the microphone to suggest a moment of prayer. The Nominating Committee's long delay in coming to a decision convinces everyone of the need for special spiritual guidance. Everyone kneels and prays silently.

At 5:15 the delegates begin singing. They sing to pass the time, but I think there is more to it than that. There's a certain strength that comes from joining together, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms," in song.

At 5:25 the phone on the platform rings. The platform chairman, Robert Kloosterhuis, answers it as the entire delegation waits, breathless. He hangs up, and announces that the Nominating Committee has made a decision, and that they are on their way to the dome. After what seems like an eternity, the members of the committee file into the meeting hall.

The vice chairman of the Nominating Committee, Desmond Hills, president of the Trans-Australian Union Conference, ascends the rostrum and announces that the 226-member committee is ready with a partial report: it recommends Robert S. Folkenberg, president of the Carolina Conference, as the new president of the General Conference.

Then follows a brief résumé of Folkenberg, presented by Elder A. C. McClure, president of the Southern Union: Folkenberg began his ministry in the eastern part of the United States as a singing evangelist followed by 19 years of service in the Inter-American Division. During this time he served as a pastor in Panama, president of the Honduras Mission, and president of the Central American Union Mission in Costa Rica. Before becoming president of the Carolina Conference, he served as assistant to the president of the Inter-American Division. Both Folkenberg and his wife, Anita, are bilingual. They are both also children of Adventist missionaries.

Following the brief biography, Elder Wilson makes a spirited call for unity. "The person who is nominated needs our strong, prayerful, and undivided support," Wilson says. "He's going to need it."

As the vote is taken, nearly all stand in favor. Elder Folkenberg is the next president of the General Conference.

"No one can fill the place of Elder Wilson," he says in his first remarks as president. "This is a heavy burden, but the real president of Seventh-day Adventists is the Lord Jesus Christ."

The election of a new president came as a shock to many, even though some predicted that a change was coming. What impresses me most about the process is the smoothness of the tran-



By Nina Martinez
Assistant director of news and information for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency

sition. Unity is the key word on the platform today.

Reaction to the election of the new president seems positive. "We believe that God was leading" is a phrase I hear often. I can't help wondering what impact this will have on women. My hope and prayer is that women will soon be given their full rights within the church, and that they will soon have more representation on the platform, in committees, and all through the structure of our church.

Friday Night Vespers

Sundown Friday brings the business day to an end and signals the beginning of the Sabbath celebration. A musical program, including a group from the Ukraine dressed in colorful native costumes and playing string instruments, sets the tone for the vesper service.

Elder George Brown, president of the Inter-American Division, speaks on the theme of the Sabbath. "The Sabbath reminds us that our God is Creator, our God is Redeemer of our lives, and our God will make all things new," he says.

Sabbath Morning

Warm hugs and handshakes make this

At 5:25 the phone on the platform rings. The platform chairman, Robert Kloosterhuis, answers it as the entire delegation waits, breathless.

Sabbath special to me. Being a pastor's kid, I have left more friends behind than I can count. But during the past few hours I have seen more old friends and teachers than I have seen in my entire life. I am not the only one in that situation. Smiles can be seen on faces everywhere as old friends meet after years of separation. I have fun just watching

people let out a howl as they embrace long-lost friends.

I go to the youth Sabbath school in time to hear Steve Apatow tell about his 6,000-mile bike ride, which ended here in Indiana in time for the session. Steve is a 27-year-old Olympic trainee in cross-country skiing and rowing. He started his adventure on May 6 in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, headed west to Oregon and California, and then swung back to Indiana. During his trip he promoted a healthy Adventist lifestyle and abstinence from alcohol and other drugs to school and youth groups across the country.

Ken Rogers, youth pastor of the Collegedale Seventh-day Adventist Church, gives the lesson study, encouraging the young people to a life of service. Alyse Bieber, 17, and Virlyn Tejada, 16, both from Kansas, think Sabbath school was great. "We've had fun this morning," Alyse says. "But we definitely need more programs for the youth. We've been here all week, and this is the first program that's been just for us."

After the lesson I quickly make my way to the main auditorium. At 11:15 a.m. the dome is already packed. I find



Review and Herald production crew worked nights during the GC session to produce the daily *Bulletins*.

an empty seat and look out on the audience. I have never before been to church with so many other Adventists in my life. An estimated 30,000 people are in attendance.

At 11:30 Elder Wilson rises to greet us. He reads a message from President Bush to the session, praising Adventists for their work in the areas of education, health care, and emergency relief during times of disaster.

Before introducing the new president of the General Conference to the congregation, Wilson takes a moment to present Elder Folkenberg's parents and in-laws: Elder and Mrs. Emmerson (the parents of Anita Folkenberg, his wife) and Elder and Mrs. Stanley Folkenberg (Robert's parents). In his remarks regarding the new president, Wilson makes reference to his creative skills:



One of the booths features materials devoted to reaching the Jewish population with the Adventist message.

"Bob is a very creative individual who has given me 10 times more things than we can implement. He has tremendous capabilities in management and administration . . . he's action oriented . . . and Bob, this church needs you."

As Robert and Anita Folkenberg come to the podium following the introduction, there is a standing ovation and photographers swarm the platform area. Once again Elder Folkenberg expresses his dependence on divine help: "The real president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the Lord Jesus Christ. . . . We may be tempted to focus on our vast



The Trans-European Division booth features colorful dolls and photographs showing the gospel work spreading throughout the wide variety of countries it represents.

diversity, but I would urge you to focus on the foot of the cross."

Elder Gilbert, in calling for the offering, suggests a figure of \$1 million for a short-wave radio station to be built in Italy. Allen and Andrea Steele, manager and director of development, respectively, at KSDA in Guam, then give a brief report of the operation of their station, sharing testimonies from listeners. Since the Guam station opened in March of 1987, they have received 32,000 letters from 114 countries, they say. Fourteen thousand requests have come in for Bible courses; and in Burma 177 people have been baptized because of the broadcasts.

It is past 12:30 p.m. as Elder Ralph Thompson, secretary of the General Conference, begins his sermon. "Look at your watches," he says as he begins, "and forget them for the next hour, because we're not going to be tyrannized by time when we're dealing with eternity." His sermon centers on the Bible and its meaning for us today. "The Bible is divided into three parts," Thompson says, "the Old Testament, which promises a Saviour to come; the Gospels, which declare that the Saviour is here; and the rest of the New Testament, which promises that the Saviour will return."

If the church service were a game by the Indianapolis Colts football team, it definitely would be described as going

into overtime. It is about 1:40 p.m. as the benediction is offered.

And so the curtain falls on my 24-hour segment—a period in which we have seen a truly historic development in the recent history of the Adventist Church. Surely, the church stands poised for new challenges and new directions in the 1990s.



Cerrina Otieno, a visitor from Nairobi, Kenya, enjoys the GC session while dressed in her native costume.



By G. Ralph Thompson
Secretary of the General Conference

It's Beginning to Rain

In Joel 2:23 we read of the imagery of the former and latter rain. It is familiar to Seventh-day Adventists. We believe that the former rain represents the work of the Holy Spirit upon our hearts, bringing about conviction and a desire for cleansing from sin; the latter rain represents the power of God, the Holy Spirit, being poured out upon His people who are going out to share God's truth.

As I look at the works of God, I believe *it's beginning to rain!* In some places of earth there are gentle drops. In others, a downpour.

Our hearts are encouraged by what we have seen and heard. Let me share some highlights from around the world.

It's Beginning to Rain in the Far Eastern Division

Nationwide crusades in the Philippines made church history there. Twenty-seven pastors baptized more than 3,000 new Adventists in one day; and 30,000 people joined the church there in a six-month period.

One hundred years ago in the Far Eastern Division (FED), Abram LaRue was the first Seventh-day Adventist within FED borders. Today there are more than 800,000 members! AWR-Guam began broadcasting in 1987 and now covers the entire Far Eastern Division.

During the past quinquennium almost 250,000 people have been baptized!

It's Beginning to Rain in the Eastern Africa Division

Exciting things are happening in the Eastern Africa Division. At the end of 1989 the Eastern Africa Division led the entire world in baptisms for one year with 131,823!

Showers of blessings have been falling all over the division during the past quinquennium. In Ethiopia approximately

2,400 persons were baptized during Harvest 90. We entered Djibouti, the Republic of Somalia, and Zanzibar.

It's Beginning to Rain in the Trans-European Division

With successful evangelistic crusades in England, Poland, Sweden, Yugoslavia, Copenhagen, and Hungary, God has indicated that the Holy Spirit is working in this division.

Interesting stories of progress and God's special blessings come out of every union of the division. Breathtaking developments are taking place in Eastern Europe, impacting Hungary, Poland, and Yugoslavia.

It's Beginning to Rain in the Euro-Africa Division

The Euro-Africa Division is comprised of four countries in Eastern Europe, 16 in Western Europe, and six in Africa—encompassing a great variety of cultures, languages, and traditions. In this division new work has begun in Gibraltar, Malta, and Liechtenstein. All these were previously unentered territories.

The Euro-Africa Division has organized what they call a "Mobile Evangelism Institute," which has three goals: (1) to train workers and laity for evangelism—with the principles of church growth; (2) to experience a revival in the churches where the institute takes place; and (3) to win people for the kingdom.

In the cities of Vienna, Zurich, West Berlin, Marseilles, and Porto (Portugal), where 150 pastors attended these institutes, approximately 230 persons were baptized. This is marvelous indeed!

December 29, 1986, was a red-letter day for the church in Italy. The SDA Church was given official recognition by the Italian government.

At this session we will be hearing quite a bit about Adventist World Radio-Europe. We are praying that more than \$7 million will be given for this station to broadcast our message to Eastern and Western Europe, the Soviet Union, the Middle East, and North Africa. And what fantastic changes have taken place in such Eastern European countries as the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Romania. There are new challenges, new wonders, new accomplishments ahead. Yes, it's beginning to rain in the Euro-Africa Division!

It's Beginning to Rain in the South Pacific Division

Raindrops turned to a downpour on August 19, 1989, when 4,564 souls were baptized in Papua New Guinea on one day, in one place, surpassing Pentecost. Fascinating has been the story of God's blessing on His work in the South Pacific Division—especially in the island fields of this vast territory.

Did you know that the South Pacific Division now reports the highest density of Adventists of any of the world divisions—one Adventist for every 114 of the population? The story of this past quinquennium in SPD has been the phenomenal growth of the church in the island nations compared with the far slower growth in the homelands of Australia and New Zealand. But it is these two countries that bear the economic load, the financial challenge, of underwriting the mission advance in these islands.

During this quinquennium the message entered the formerly unentered territory of the Torres Strait islands. Praise the Lord!

It's Beginning to Rain in the Southern Asia Division

What a challenge Southern Asia presents to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Language fails to do justice to the tremendous challenges we find in India, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Islamic republic of Maldives. Once again during this quinquennium I have had the privilege of visiting the Southern Asia Division. One cannot help being impressed with the diversity of culture, language, and religion.

There are 15 recognized official lan-

guages in India, with about 1,962 languages spoken as mother tongue.

The church in Southern Asia has a membership of 165,000 members, upon whom the challenge of evangelizing the millions of that country falls. We rejoice for the 45,000 who were baptized during the quinquennium. When we take into consideration that this quinquennium the division operated from a smaller territorial base, this figure is quite commendable—as it equals the previous quinquennium, which included Pakistan, Burma, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.

It's Beginning to Rain in the Inter-American Division

In the Inter-American Division everyone becomes an evangelist. Church membership in Inter-America at the end of the quinquennium reached 1,177,964, an increase of 40 percent over the previous unprecedented quinquennium. This was an average of more than 6,000 new members added to the church every month of the quinquennium. To God be the glory!

The Inter-American Division is a young division. Sixty-five percent of its church membership is made up of young people between the ages of 13 and 30. What an army of youth!

It's Beginning to Rain in the Middle East

The Middle East covers three continents—Europe, Asia, and Africa—and constitutes one of the greatest challenges to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. With a ratio of one Adventist to every 45,000, the church faces a gigantic task within the territory that gave birth to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Yet even here it is beginning to rain. Church growth in the Sudan has been steady and impressive, with membership of more than 3,000 and with churches organized in Kuwait and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

It's Beginning to Rain in China

Not very much is said about the church in China, but from the reports coming out, we can say that the church is very much alive and that it is beginning to rain. From reliable information that we have received, we believe there are more than 70,000 Sabbathkeeping Adventists in China. In one section there are now

more than 2,000 Sabbathkeeping Adventists.

It's Beginning to Rain in the Two Unions of the Republic of South Africa

It was my privilege during October and part of November of last year to spend three weeks in South Africa and to observe the “winds of change” blowing. During this period of political and social change, great challenges face our people as they plan for the advancement of the work in both unions. It is good to note that by the end of this quinquennium, 10,348 persons were baptized in the Southern Union.

It's Beginning to Rain in the Great South American Division

Whenever one sets foot on the territory of the South American Division, one immediately experiences the thrill, the anticipation, the heartthrob of thousands of dedicated Adventists who crowd into thousands of churches from one end of the division to the other, intent on doing business for God.

Once again during this quinquennium the plan of action included the three phases *sowing, reaping, and keeping*, built around the local congregation.

Sabbath school membership now numbers more than 1.1 million members. Here is a division in which young people make up 70 percent of the membership.

Did you know that in Bolivia the Adventist Church is the largest Protestant church, and that in Peru we are the second-largest? Yes, it is raining all over the South American Division, where approximately 400,000 people were baptized during Harvest 90.



Delegates listen intently as reports are presented at the opening of the General Conference session on Thursday.

It's Beginning to Rain in the North American Division

It is also beginning to rain in the North American Division. In the great country of Canada—and specifically in French-speaking Quebec City, where God is doing a tremendous work—church growth has reached 233 percent in the past five years. Percentage-wise, literature sales in the province of Quebec lead the entire division.

There was a solid growth of 10 percent in church membership during this quinquennium, with 743,023 at the end of 1989. In the area of finances, there was a 30 percent increase in tithe this quinquennium over the former five-year period.

The North American Division, in positioning itself to meet the opportunities and challenges with which it is confronted, has developed what it calls a “Relational Model of Evangelism and Church Fellowship,” comprising five areas:

1. *Reaching* the growing population with special focus on the large urban centers.

2. *Linking* local congregations and conferences with specific world mission projects.

3. *Creating* vital and dynamic worship, fellowship, and service in Bible-based, Christ-centered congregations.

4. *Reclaiming* inactive and former church members.

5. *Multiplied* points of people contact by a planned process of church planting.

It's Beginning to Rain in the Africa-Indian Ocean Division

The Lord has significantly blessed the work in the Africa-Indian Ocean Division during this past quinquennium. At the end of 1984 its membership was 489,053, an increase of 50 percent since its creation in 1981. Now the membership of the Africa-Indian Ocean Division registers 777,225 (as of December 31, 1989), which is a 60 percent membership net growth from 1984. This is marvelous indeed!

The Adventist University of Central Africa is playing a major role in the preparation of young people to take their place in the work force of the division. In Guinea, where ADRA has been the only SDA presence, nine individuals recently

accepted Jesus Christ, seven of whom were Muslims. In Mali a recent baptism brought our membership there to 59 persons. In Niger the government has officially recognized the Seventh-day Adventist Church so that our membership of 18 members is now free to worship and carry on church activities in that strongly Muslim country. In Burundi, since the reopening of our work, all the provinces have been entered and have a church presence.

Evangelism among the Pygmies has accelerated. In Zaire we have about 150 members. In Rwanda we now have about 600 members, and a few in Cameroon.

In Togo rapid church growth is taking place. On the island of Mayotte, of the Comoros Islands, a lay preacher/carpenter has entered to start new work there. In Chad, where there have been civil difficulties for years, there is now renewed interest in evangelism.

In the Congo, where the Adventist Church has not been recognized in the past, we received good news in April 1990 from a government official saying "At last your church is free." We thank the Lord for religious freedom there.

It's Beginning to Rain in the U.S.S.R.

What a fantastic thrill it has been to see the providences of God and His work in the Soviet Union.

My wife and I had the privilege in May 1989 to pay another visit to the Soviet Union, meeting with our believers and our church leaders to discuss the constitution and bylaws of the General Conference session with reference to their becoming a division of the world church.

During the past two years we have shipped 30,000 adult Bibles and 18,000 children's Bibles to our members in the U.S.S.R. We have been given permission to begin a health center in Moscow. Our seminary is doing extremely well, with 23 full-time students who board at the school and nearly 100 students who study by correspondence. Our seminary farm has been a powerful witness in the Soviet Union. And during 1989, baptisms doubled, with more than 3,000. Yes, *it's beginning to rain* all over the great Soviet Union.

World Baptisms and Membership

During this quinquennium, 1984-

1989, we have witnessed one of the most dramatic evangelistic explosions in our church's history.

At the end of 1984 our world membership totaled 4,424,612. By December 31, 1989, our world membership reached the thrilling total of 6,183,585, an increase of 1,758,973 during this quinquennium. These figures show that we had an average annual growth rate of nearly 7 percent. This is the largest five-year growth rate period in our history. The year 1989 marked the historic achievement of the largest number of accessions to the church in a single year of our history, with a total of 577,105 new members. And if we added the unknown thousands of people baptized in China, the figure would be far higher.

During the quinquennium ending in 1984, accessions to the church numbered 1,692,105. During this quinquennium ending in 1989, accessions numbered 2,383,451, an increase of 691,346 over the previous quinquennium.

Here is something that ought to stir your emotions. This quinquennial figure of accessions of 2,383,451 for the 1985-1989 quinquennium equals almost exactly the total worldwide membership of our church in 1973!

Missionaries on the March

This past quinquennium has witnessed the movement of missionaries from one division to the next and from one union to the next, for we have *interdivision* and *intradivision* missionaries. I still believe that it is a good thing to have workers coming from different cultural backgrounds working together in cross-cultural contexts in which cross-fertilization of ideas, methods, and outreach occurs. Will we always have a need for missionaries? I hope so, even though changing times demand a new breed of missionaries: well-qualified experts in their fields, willing to work with the people and leaders of the church in the country to which they are assigned—not necessarily in supervisory positions, but as workers together for God.

In addition to our regular missionaries who go out, we have a large number of short-term missionaries whom we now categorize under two headings: AVS, Adventist Volunteer Service; and AYS, Adventist Youth Service.

We appreciate the work that our growing number of short-term missionaries do. But of course, we applaud those who go out under the regular service program to stay longer and to serve at their post of duty for a regular term, which is still six years with a two-month furlough every 22 months.

Our summary of missionary departures, both interdivisional and intradivisional, shows that during the past quinquennium, the number of new missionaries sent out totaled 1,621 and returning missionaries numbered 1,950. AVS workers totaled 2,145; AYS workers, 1,275; and 135 nationals returned to their home divisions.

Archives and Statistics

The Office of Archives and Statistics gives attention to several distinct Secretariat functions: record keeping, church statistics, and the production of the *SDA Yearbook*. In addition, it handles statistics based on financial statements and reproduces historical documents, periodicals, and books on microfilm for research centers. It serves both the General Conference and the North American Division directly and assists the other divisions as needs arise.

Among the various sections of work in Archives and Statistics, probably the earliest one was the publishing of the *SDA Yearbook*, an annual directory of church organizations and institutions with listings of most categories of denominational workers. It first appeared in 1883, a slim volume of 72 pages. Our most

GC SNAPSHOT



The labyrinth of the registration process was exhausting for delegates, visitors, and even children.

Recent, the 1990 edition, contains 1,040 pages and lists close to 60,000 names in its two workers' directories.

The newest function of this office is the management of the General Conference records center, which receives correspondence, reports, special files, documents, personal collections, and samples of audiovisual and printed items, and houses them in a well-equipped vault. Before 1973 the basement vaults of the Takoma Park headquarters were used by different administrative groups, but now all GC records not in frequent use are held in the Records Center.

The Records Center also houses the Archives, a repository for the historic records of the General Conference. The diversity of services performed by GC and NAD personnel is reflected in these records, as well as in the topics in which research is carried out by headquarters staff and visiting scholars. Among the major topics assigned to the staff during this past quinquennium were: (1) the background for the famous 1888 General Conference session; (2) the establishment and termination of the North American Division about 75 years ago; (3) women and ministry in past years; (4) the Adventist response to various financial crises; and (5) a listing of "firsts" in nineteenth-century Adventism.

Among the statistical functions of the Office of Archives and Statistics is the *Annual Statistical Report*, now in its 127th year. It epitomizes the efforts of scores of Secretariat and Treasury employees throughout the world in gathering and reporting the numbers of churches, members, employees, institutions, and contributions, as well as other information.

Toward a Global Strategy

At this session we will be launching into Global Strategy, a plan for reaching the unreached people groups around the world. We will be hearing more about this next Sabbath. The grand design is to establish an Adventist presence in areas in which the church has not yet penetrated. This, in some ways, will initiate changes in our outreach, our budgeting, and our use of financial and human resources; it will mean a possible reassignment of budgets and a new way of eval-

uating the effectiveness of our outreach and witness. We will be looking at our global mission from new, different, and fresh perspectives. And Global Strategy will not just be a slogan for the next five years; it will be our constant objective until the work is done.

This decade of the nineties will be an exciting and challenging time for the church, with the cataclysmic changes in Eastern Europe and the swiftly moving events that overtake each other. We will have to grapple with new approaches to meet these changing times.

We have noticed from our report that the rapid growth of the church is in what we call "the developing countries of the world," as compared with the more developed countries. While we all rejoice at the great influx of members, some people have become quite concerned about the economic challenges and the implications that all of this means for the future. The question of *money* versus *members* has arisen. The developing world with the largest number of converts and members does not have the economic strength that the developed countries with the smaller

membership has. Who then should control the church—those with the *money*, or those with the *members*? Tough, sensitive, critical questions these are—but they are being asked.

Some people have become a bit nervous about what all of this means. We will have to face up to these challenges and, above all, keep the unity of the church unbroken—for we cannot afford to fragment into national churches. This miracle of a united worldwide Seventh-day Adventist family will have to be maintained at all cost. We will have to make some necessary accommodations, but our first priority will be to keep the unity and oneness of the church unbroken.

We as Seventh-day Adventists must be incurable optimists, for the future is as bright as the promises of God. And while there will be difficulties and problems in the future, yet under the blessing of God and the outpouring of the latter rain the work of this church will end in a tremendous blaze of glory!

And so *let it rain!* "Mercy drops round us are falling, but for the showers we plead."



Single, but Not Alone.

A quarter-million single adults belong to the Adventist Church. That's enough to fill the Indianapolis Hoosier Dome four times and still leave thousands in the street. So you're not alone.

In fact, you'll find yourself in good company at hundreds of activities sponsored by Adventist Singles Ministries. National conferences, spiritual retreats, and sporting trips plug you into a network of friendships that reach across America.

Local prayer groups provide havens of nurture and understanding. Seminars help with divorce recovery and single parenting. Since there are so many of us, we don't have to face our challenges alone.

Write or give us a call, and we'll tell you more about the fellowship we offer.

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Adventist Singles Ministries

First business meeting

Fifty-fifth General Conference session, July 5, 1990, 3:00 p.m.

J. R. SPANGLER: We welcome you to this General Conference session. When one examines the history of our church and compares our early beginnings with today, one cannot help coming to the conclusion that Revelation 14:6, 7 is being fulfilled. The command to go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people has been taken seriously by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

You see the standards of the various divisions and the attached unions. When you see the various nationalities, and when you listen to the languages, truly we are a world church. We thank God for the way the Holy Spirit has led and has touched and influenced hundreds of thousands of lives who have become a part of the great Advent movement. So we welcome you to the fifty-fifth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. We welcome you to a foretaste of heaven, where we are renewing acquaintances and making new friends.

We welcome you to an event where delegates and visitors have the opportunity of seeing how God's church organizational structure functions. God has been good to us as a people and has led us into this form of church government, which has been so mightily blessed by His Holy Spirit.

We welcome you to a conference where each evening you will hear and see reports of the progress of the church in every part of the world. We welcome you to a session where preaching, praying, and music will play a very important part of each day's program. Above all, we welcome you to join with others in praying daily for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on this General Conference session.

The chairman for our business session this afternoon is Enoch Oliveira, one of the vice presidents of our General Conference.

The devotional speaker this afternoon is Dr. George Rice, an associate secretary of the White Estate, a person with a broad background in pastoral work, teaching, and evangelism. George Rice is a man of God, one who is deeply concerned over the need for the Holy Spirit's latter-rain power to come upon each one of us and our entire church.

B. L. ARCHBOLD: [Announced the opening hymn, "Crown Him With Many Crowns."]

B. LYN BEHRENS: [Opening prayer.] Father, we have come to this place from the east and west, north and south of this earth, representing Your church family upon this earth. We are diverse in our language, cultural background, life experiences, and responsibilities, yet we are united as individuals loving You as our Creator and our Saviour, and as a church family we are eager to seek and to do Your will. We have come to behold You. We celebrate Your goodness and leading in our midst, and we have come as individuals for spiritual renewing and for new vision. Close out the distractions of this world with its hustle and bustle. Envelop us with a spiritual quietness in which we can hear Your still small voice. Charge our intellect with heavenly wisdom so that we will do Your will as we conduct the business of this conference, selecting leadership and making wise decisions. Fill the emptiness of our lives with Your Holy Spirit, that we may be of one accord in this place. Grant, Father, that as we behold You we will be changed into Christlikeness and be ready to greet You at Your coming. We ask all this in Christ's name. Amen.

GEORGE RICE: [Presented the devotional message that appears in *Bulletin 2*, p. 26.]

NEAL C. WILSON: Our speaker for the opening devotional this afternoon has made it clear that revival and reformation must start with leaders. At the very beginning of this session we have been confronted with a serious challenge. We can do something like this in a perfunctory manner, mechanically, but that is not God's appeal to us. Is there such a thing as denominational pride? Unjustified pride? Do you think so? God says there is. You say that we are rich. That's the message of Laodicea. God says differently. Is there such a thing, is it possible that there may be such a thing, as denominational self-sufficiency? Look at this great assemblage of God's people here, and this is but a token of the great family of God around the world. Doesn't it bring into our hearts some kind of self-sufficiency when we seem to have everything that we need and are welcomed into this beautiful city? My fellow

leaders, this church needs to be aware of the dangers of denominational self-sufficiency.

On behalf of my fellow leaders, G. Ralph Thompson and Donald F. Gilbert, my colleagues in Washington, our fellow leaders of our world divisions and the attached unions, it is to us that the question has been posed, and on behalf of you I

would like to answer. Is there such a thing as a false sense of denominational success? God says, "You had better repent." It is a serious thing. It is hardly possible for a human being to respond in a way that I am sure the Lord would want. We are also told that it is dangerous to ask for the Holy Spirit, the latter rain of the Holy Spirit, unless we have first experienced the former rain of the Holy Spirit. Confession, repentance, and reformation come as a result of entering into that experience with Christ under the former rain. Then with hearts and lives cleansed, and with denominational pride, denominational self-sufficiency, and a false sense of success taken away, we are ready to be filled with the latter rain. That's what you and I need today. Do you agree? Let's pray.

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Christ our Lord the way has been opened for us to the throne of forgiveness, cleansing, and power. How grateful we are that we have received this challenge. We realize the complacency that there is, the worldliness. We realize those feelings that are unworthy of a true follower of Yours. Lord, please forgive. Forgive us as individuals, but also, Lord, forgive us as a body this afternoon. Put us in a position where humbly we can reach heavenward for the promised blessing for that which You have said we need, and we need it now, today. Please, Lord, make it real to us. Take us, Lord, cleanse us, use us for Your glory. May this fifty-fifth session of the General Conference become a dynamic source of blessing and strength and spiritual power to the entire world church. Amen.

M. H. STEVENSON: [Announced special music, vocal

soloist Alexander Henderson, "The Holy City."]

ENOCH OLIVEIRA: In His providence God has brought us together from many nations to this international gathering. We trust the meetings that we are going to have in this place will bring bountiful blessings to each one of us, blessings to the church as a whole. We have many reasons to praise the Lord for His goodness throughout the past quinquennium. Since our last session, held in New Orleans, God's leading hand has been manifested in a clear way in our Harvest 90 program.

Now I'd like to call upon G. Ralph Thompson, General Conference secretary, to read the official call.

G. RALPH THOMPSON: The General Conference Constitution, Article IX, Section 1, reads as follows: "This Con-

ference shall hold quinquennial sessions at such time and place as the Executive Committee shall designate and announce by a notice published in the *Adventist Review* in three consecutive issues at least four months before the date for the opening of the session." [Elder Thompson reported that the official call was published January 25, February 1, and February 8, 1990, in the *Adventist Review*.]

Article III, Section 3(a), of the General Conference Constitution provides that members of the General Conference Executive Committee shall be delegates-at-large to the session. The present membership of the General Conference Committee is 370. Of this number, 325 are present at this time.

Sections 4 and 5 of Article III provide for the appointment of regular delegates by union conferences and divisions. These delegates have been duly appointed in harmony with the constitution. A total of 1,674 regular delegates have been accredited by their respective organizations. Of those, 1,144 are present at this time. With the 325 delegates-at-large, we have a total of 1,469 delegates present.

This is the basic group of delegates provided by the constitution to initiate the work of the session. We present this delegation to you at this the first business meeting of the fifty-fifth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

ENOCH OLIVEIRA: I declare the fifty-fifth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists open for business.

G. RALPH THOMPSON: Article III, Section 3(c), provides that four delegates-at-large may be appointed from each division, without regard to membership, and one additional delegate for each 200,000, or major fraction thereof, of the division membership. These delegates by constitutional provision are to be appointed by the division committees and ratified by the General Conference in session. The divisions have appointed a total of 68 delegates under this provision. A total of 61 are present at this time.

There is one further group of delegates present. Article III, Section 3(b), provides for the appointment of delegates representing the General Conference institutions, departments, and other interests of the church. The number of delegates thus seated shall not exceed 25 percent of the total number of the delegates otherwise provided for. The number of delegates otherwise provided for, in harmony with the constitution, is 2,116. The maximum number of delegates under this 25 percent provision is therefore 529. We bring you the recommendation of the General Conference Committee that 413 be seated under the constitutional provision. This now makes a grand total of 1,943 delegates in attendance at this fifty-fifth General Conference session. [The motion to ratify these delegated credentials was made, seconded, and voted.]

The next item of business is to vote the daily program schedule. The five pages of agenda are in the hands of the delegates. [The motion to approve the agenda was made, seconded, and voted.]

The next item of business is the election of the standing committees. [The motion to approve the standing committees was made, seconded, and voted.]

At the conclusion of this session, the divisions will be meeting to nominate their quota of the Nominating Committee.

ENOCH OLIVEIRA: There are several important items to present this afternoon. Our secretary, G. Ralph Thompson, is going to introduce these items.

G. RALPH THOMPSON: I would like to call upon M. T. Battle, associate secretary of the General Conference, to bring us a report on a new union mission.

M. T. BATTLE: I count it an honor to present the new union. In 1984 the East African Union Mission, which included Kenya and Uganda, requested the Eastern Africa Division to give consideration to forming a separate union for the work in Uganda. The appointed commission gave study to this request, and recommended the approval of the organization of the Uganda Union Mission. With great pleasure I move that we accept the Uganda Union Mission into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. [The motion was seconded and voted.]

G. RALPH THOMPSON: Leo Ranzolin, associate secretary of the General Conference, will introduce the dividing of the Colombia-Venezuela Union.

LEO RANZOLIN: At the request of the Inter-American Division in 1988, a survey commission met to study the feasibility of dividing the Colombia-Venezuela Union into two new unions. Their recommendation was sent to the General Conference, and on March 9, 1989, the General Con-

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More than 1,900 delegates were in attendance when G. Ralph Thompson, GC secretary, officially seated the delegates at the opening of the session.

ference Committee approved the formation of the Colombian Union Mission and the Venezuela-Antilles Union Mission. I recommend to this body that we accept these two new union missions into the sisterhood of unions.

GEORGE W. BROWN [president, Inter-American Division]: I take great pleasure and joy in moving that these two unions be accepted into the sisterhood of unions of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. [The motion was seconded and voted.]

NEAL C. WILSON: It was my very happy privilege last week to pay a courtesy call on the mayor of Indianapolis. This gentleman is a graduate of Princeton University, as well as the Union Theological Seminary. As a minister of the gospel, he has served as pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis. He has also served in Congress, representing the Eleventh District of this state. In 1975 he was asked to give leadership to the city that is the host city for our fifty-fifth General Conference session. Since that time, this city has made remarkable progress. More than \$2 billion has been spent to develop the urban areas of this city.

It is my very happy privilege this afternoon to introduce to you the Honorable William Hudnut, the mayor of the city of Indianapolis. [Applause.]

WILLIAM HUDNUT: President Wilson, delegates to this very important fifty-fifth world session of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists, ladies and gentlemen, I think it is very broad-minded of you to let a Presbyterian come and welcome you. When this Hoosier Dome was built, many people thought it would be empty forever if we did not have a professional football team to play in it. Fortunately, we do have a professional football team called the Indianapolis Colts. We host large conventions, including many religious conventions and assemblies that meet here year-round. And we are grateful that you have chosen Indianapolis for this session of your General Conference. We are glad to have you. We are proud to have you here. We feel privileged to have you here. We are grateful for the representatives of your denomination who are right here in Indianapolis and who are very special to us and who are conducting a ministry of compassion and healing here in the city of Indianapolis. But to all of you, as you come from all around the world, thousands upon thousands of you coming from 190 countries to our community, we say, Thank you for being here. We hope you'll enjoy your stay in Indianapolis. We want to do everything we can to make your visit a pleasant one. We are grateful for you. We are also grateful for the Seventh-day Adventist Indiana Academy. Their youth use anti-drug and peer-prevention programs to help other young people learn to say no to drugs. They counteract and discourage drug abuse, which is ruining many young lives. [Applause.] We also say thank you for what you are doing around the world. Finally, let me say that although we would have been very happy to present each one of you

with a key to the city, I present to your president, and through him to all of you as a token of our hospitality and gratitude for your being here, a key to the city of Indianapolis. [Applause.]

NEAL C. WILSON: On behalf of the delegates here, it is certainly a privilege and an honor to accept this token of what we have experienced—the friendship of the city of Indianapolis. Mr. Mayor, we want to congratulate you again and thank you for the friendship of your city. [Elder Wilson then presented the major copies of *The Desire of Ages* and *Seventh-day Adventists Believe . . .*]

ENOCH OLIVEIRA: [Presented another item from the Inter-American Division.]

G. RALPH THOMPSON: Leo Ranzolin, associate secretary of the General Conference, will report the division of the former Franco-Haitian Union Mission.

LEO RANZOLIN: At the request of the Inter-American Division, a survey commission met in 1988 to study the feasibility of dividing the Franco-Haitian Union into two new unions. This recommendation was sent to the General Conference Committee, which voted to approve the formation of the Haitian Union Mission and the French Antilles-Guiana Union Mission. It gives me great pleasure to recommend that we accept these two new union missions into the sisterhood of unions around the world.

GEORGE W. BROWN: The Franco-Haitian Union Mission has been one of the fastest growing unions of our division. On March 21, 1989, we reorganized that union into the Haitian Union Mission and the French Antilles-Guiana Union Mission. At present the Haitian Union has a membership of 140,000 baptized members and 235 organized churches, making it the largest French union in the world. I move that these two unions be accepted into the sisterhood of unions of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. [The motion was seconded and voted.]

First business meeting

Continued

Fifty-fifth General Conference session, July 5, 1990, 7:00 p.m.

MALCOLM GORDON: [Directed the song service and led in the opening song.]

E. E. CLEVELAND: [Opening prayer.]

J. R. SPANGLER: We welcome you to the second part of the opening of the fifty-fifth General Conference session. This is a continuation of the 3:00 p.m. meeting. Later we will have the report from our General Conference president, Neal C. Wilson. You will be thrilled over what he has to say and to show us.

NEAL C. WILSON: Nine years ago I began developing a special affection for our brothers and sisters in the Soviet Union. I have seen miracles of grace and the power of the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in these modern times. In the U.S.S.R. we now have a harmonious, united church family with love and respect for each other. God can do more than human beings think possible.

I also deeply appreciate the cooperation that we've had from the authorities of the U.S.S.R. They have treated me personally with great courtesy and every kind of kindness and respect. And as we have carefully moved along, one door after another opened, until this evening it is my very happy privilege to introduce something that I consider a modern miracle taking place in the Seventh-day Adventist Church around the world.

I call on H. F. Otis, special assistant to the president, to introduce the leaders of the unions in the U.S.S.R.

H. F. OTIS: We're delighted that the Soviet Union has permitted us to bring 55 individuals to this General Conference session. A total of 36 of them are delegates. [The five presidents of the Russian, Ukrainian, Baltic and Byelorussia, Moldavian, and Southern unions were introduced. Applause.]

I move the acceptance of these five unions into the sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church from the great country of the Soviet Union. [The motion was seconded and voted.]

G. RALPH THOMPSON: We now have a recommendation from the General Conference Committee that these five new unions will make up a new division—the U.S.S.R.

NEAL C. WILSON: God has done much more than we asked for in the U.S.S.R. God always allows the cup of blessing to overflow, and before you leave this fifty-fifth session, you will hear more about what the Lord has done and is doing and what is projected in the future. I am very happy that we are recommending the organization and the acceptance of a new division.

G. RALPH THOMPSON: The General Conference Committee has recommended the approval of the organization of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Division of the General Conference and its five union conferences.

I have the great joy and privilege to move that this new division be accepted as part of the General Conference. [The motion was seconded and voted.]

There is another motion I would like to make—that the delegates from these new unions and the new division be seated as part of the worldwide session of the General Conference. [The motion was seconded and voted.]

The delegation to this session represents 6,183,585 members of the Adventist family at the end of 1989. This is the true working force of the church. Of this number, 111,140 are full-time workers on the payroll of the church. Time moves inexorably on, and as it does, between these quintenniums, some of these workers fall asleep in Jesus, and close their earthly ministry. During the past five years a large number of workers, including retired personnel, have died. We miss their friendship and their fellowship, their support and dedication to the cause they loved. But we confidently expect to meet them again at the resurrection morning. It would be appropriate for us to stand for a few moments of silence in tribute to these fallen warriors of the cross and to their families. [The audience stood in silent commendation.]

D. BIRKENSTOCK: [Benediction.]

ENOCH OLIVEIRA, *Chairman*
G. RALPH THOMPSON, *Secretary*
C. D. WATSON and D. A. ROTH,
Proceedings Editors

L. L. BUTLER: [Call for offering and offertory prayer.] [At this point W. T. Clark, Annette Stephens, J. R. Spangler, and M. J. Murray participated in an informal celebration in honor of Neal C. Wilson's birthday.]

MALCOLM GORDON: [Announced special music, vocal soloist Marshall Kelley.]

J. R. SPANGLER: This evening we have three individuals who would like to say a few words. R. H. Carter, president of the Lake Union; Luther R. Palmer, president of the Lake

Region Conference; and John Loor, president of the Indiana Conference.

R. H. CARTER: Welcome to this our great family reunion, the fifty-fifth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. How fitting that we meet in the territory of the Lake Union Conference, where the ancestors of our faith, including Ellen and James White, J. N. Loughborough, and Uriah Smith, lived and labored a number of years ago. From their ranks was sent John Nevins Andrews, the first Seventh-day Adventist missionary. Our pioneers built Battle Creek College, which later became Emmanuel Missionary College, and is now Andrews University.

LUTHER R. PALMER: I extend to you a warm welcome and pray that the sweet Spirit of God will rest on each one of us as we embark on this great adventure, the General Conference session of 1990.

JOHN LOOR: It is a real privilege this evening to join with pastors Carter and Palmer in welcoming you to the heartland of the United States of America. The very heart of beautiful Indiana is Indianapolis itself. We welcome you to Indiana. We welcome you to Indianapolis! We are delighted to have you here.

NEAL C. WILSON: It doesn't seem quite right to have a General Conference session without Charles L. Brooks. Charlie has stood by my side so many times in large evangelistic meetings in various parts of the world. What an inspiration he has been to me, that voice, his personality. Charles L. Brooks sleeps today, but he has left a legacy. Tonight I want to pay tribute to him and to his dear wife, Gladys.

ISRAEL LEITO: [Introduced the General Conference session theme song, "We Shall Behold Him," which was sung as a solo by Wintley Phipps, accompanied by pianist Marianne Scriven. The song appears in *Bulletin* No. 1, p. 12.]

ENOCH OLIVEIRA: It is my joy and privilege to introduce to you our world leader, Neal C. Wilson. Elder Wilson is

going to present his keynote address, the report dealing with God's work around the world during the past quinquennium and the challenges and opportunities we have ahead of us.

NEAL C. WILSON: In the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, it is my happy privilege tonight to greet each one of you with very sincere Christian affection.

It is truly a great occasion for us to be here together. I thank God tonight for His providence in bringing you safely, and I praise His name tonight for His great salvation.

I'm so very pleased too that we can have with us Mrs. Dollis Pierson, one whom I know you love and whom so many of our dear people around the world would like to honor tonight. Mrs. Pierson, won't you please stand? [Applause.]

My report is in two parts. The first part has to do with Global Strategy. [This part of the report appears in *Bulletin* No. 1.] The second part of my report is a 56-minute video that we will see shortly. At this time I want you to have something in your hands tonight that will describe Global Strategy, and the role that each one of us can have. Now, while this booklet is being given out, I want you to listen to the voice of Brother Stout. Brother Stout came from Cuba about a year ago. [Juan Francisco Stout, vocal soloist, accompanied by the Montecorelos University band, presented a musical interlude as the document was being distributed.]

ENOCH OLIVEIRA: We have a response in the form of a motion to place before you, and Elder Thompson is going to read it.

G. RALPH THOMPSON: Whereas the primary mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to preach the everlasting gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and to teach the commandments of God to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, and whereas the threat of secularization, materialism, the difficulty of fully utilizing all the gifts of the Spirit, and the reluctance to make organi-

zational adjustments in order to meet current opportunities have all combined to endanger the Seventh-day Adventist Church and divert us from our global mission and the reason for our existence, and whereas this fifty-fifth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is God's highest representative assembly and voice of authority on earth and, as such, provides the best opportunity to reassert the primacy of the mission and message of the church, it is voted that we accept and enthusiastically endorse the concept of Global Strategy as voted by the 1989 Annual Council, and that we mobilize every believer and all church organizations and institutions in achieving our global mission.

I move it, Brother Chairman. [The motion was seconded and voted.]

VIDEO PRESENTATION: [The Global Strategy video was presented at this time.]

ENOCH OLIVEIRA: This was a thrilling, moving report. I am proud of being part of this great Adventist family. Now we have the names recommended by the divisions for the Nominating Committee. Elder Thompson will present the Nominating Committee.

G. RALPH THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, the names recommended by the various divisions to comprise the session Nominating Committee can be placed in your hands as we vote them. I would like to move that these names comprise the Nominating Committee for the fifty-fifth session of the General Conference. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

MRS. SARAH KABU: [Benediction.]

ENOCH OLIVEIRA, *Chairman*
G. RALPH THOMPSON, *Secretary*
C. D. WATSON and D. A. ROTH,
Proceedings Editors



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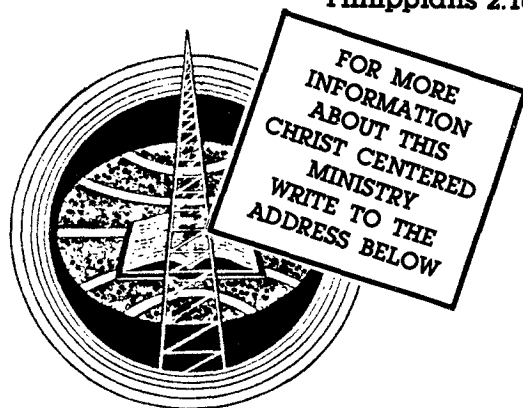
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Faithful Stewards



By Donald F. Gilbert
Treasurer

Financial reports often appear to be simply a collection of numbers and figures. But this financial report represents more than its various sums—it represents the great faithfulness of God's people.

In the midst of world turmoil, rapid change, and economic uncertainty, God's people have continued to give faithfully, generously. And the treasury staff at all levels of church organization senses the precious privilege of handling these sacred resources, receiving them, and then expending and distributing them according to

Tithe and Offerings Per Capita
World Consolidated Total

Years	Tithe and Offerings	Membership	Per Capita
1984	\$709,919,430	4,424,612	\$160.43
1985	731,464,528	4,725,891	154.80
1986	790,812,155	5,038,671	156.90
1987	845,843,171	5,384,417	157.10
1988	895,492,837	5,749,735	155.70
1989	953,134,989	6,183,585	154.14

church policy and the decisions of appropriate church committees.

While the church has faced several major financial challenges or crises during this past quinquennium, we have received renewed evidence of God's hand leading in this church, including unparalleled membership growth and expansion into new areas.

Funding Avenues

Funding for the church comes from three major avenues: tithe, freewill offerings (nontithe), and Ingathering. Each church entity, from local congregations to conferences or missions, unions, and divisions, forms part of a financially linked world church. Through the Seventh-day Adventist Church's system of sharing resources, whether tithe or

nontithe, the church is able to finance a world outreach in an efficient and equitable arrangement. The church is also enabled to enter new areas, as Divine Providence guides, in making the good news of salvation available to all nations, kindreds, tongues, and peoples.

The funds to each level of the world organization are vital to the accomplishment of spiritual and humanitarian objectives through pastoral, educational, medical, and publishing work. This combined total of \$953,134,989 in 1989 includes both capital additions and regular operating funds. Financial support may have been in the form of money, rice, yams, or eggs in a basket. (See Tithe and Offerings Per Capita chart.)

Funds that come to the General Conference averaged 17.8 percent of the total world tithe and offerings for this quinquennium. General Conference funds to be shared with the world field is a decreasing percentage of the total world funds, from 22.3 percent in 1984 to 16.7 percent in 1989. (See Tithe and Offerings GC Funds chart.) This financial report will be restricted to the moneys that have come to the world headquarters office for distribution to the world field and for the office

headquarters programs. Appropriations to the world field include General Conference institutions, world divisions, the

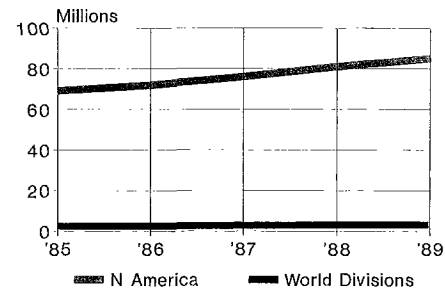
North American Division, and the General Conference headquarters.

Tithe

Tithe forms the basic funding of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The church has adopted specific tithe usages based on Scripture and the writings of Ellen G. White. Through the composite understanding of this instruction, a world church financial policy has developed.

Tithe from the North American Division comprises nearly 97 percent of all tithe received by the General Conference. The NAD's tithe, compared to total tithe received in the General Conference, has decreased slightly from 97.6 percent in 1985 to 96.8 percent in 1989. Foreign currency exchange rates may

Source of Tithe Funds to GC For World Work



cause a significant change in the equivalent U.S. dollar amount from outside U.S. dollar currency areas. Earnings of members, purchasing power, and costs also differ for each area of the world. (See Source of Tithe Funds to GC chart.)

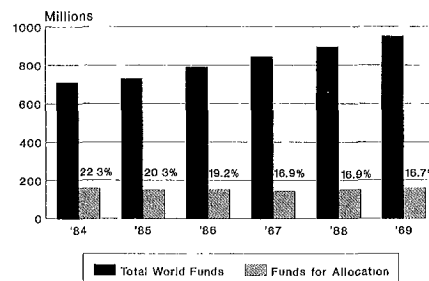
The percentage of tithe that forms the General Conference budget is distributed as follows:

1. Support to world divisions provides additional resources beyond their own self-support capacity to carry on existing work. It helps them meet the expanding growth into new areas or new people groups and the urgent challenge of global mission. Windows of opportunity occur for brief periods of time. Openings for the church today may close tomorrow and urgently call for resources.

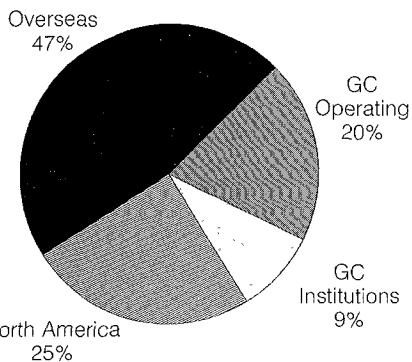
2. The North American Division receives the largest support to assist with the many programs within that division. This division also contributes most heavily to the General Conference and world field.

3. General Conference institutions and General Conference office programs

Tithe and Offerings GC Funds as a Percentage of World Funds



**1989 Tithe Distribution
General Conference
Total Disbursement—\$98,368,680**



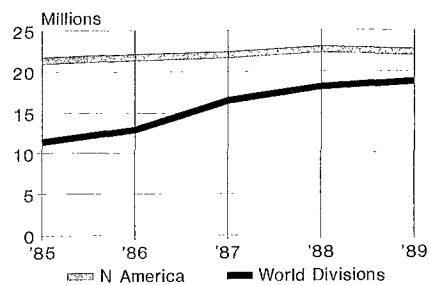
and administration constitute a continuing demand on available funds.

4. The South Pacific, Euro-Africa, and Trans-European divisions have developed relatively strong home base resources. These are important to the world church. However, this part of the world church financial picture is not included here. (See 1989 Tithe Distribution chart.)

Nontithe Offering Funds

Offering, or nontithe, funds are received through designated world offerings, specific member donations, and earnings from investment funds designated for the General Conference assign-

**Non-Tithe Funds
World Mission Funds Received**



ment. The major source of nontithe funds is the World Mission Fund, which includes the specific world offerings and the Sabbath school mission offerings. Combined nontithe funds received from the world field from 1985 until 1989 have increased by 26 percent. (See Nontithe Funds chart.)

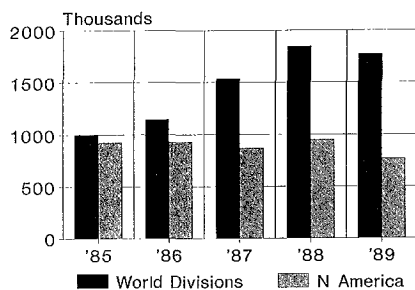
□ **World Mission Fund** giving from divisions outside North America has increased by 63 percent during this period, while NAD's increase is slightly less than 6 percent. The major portion of the World Mission Fund comes from the Sabbath school mission offerings.

□ **Sabbath school mission offerings** for the first 12 Sabbaths of a quarter provide the largest and best established Seventh-day Adventist way of support for world mission.

□ **Thirteenth Sabbath mission offerings** include two parts—25 percent for the special projects and the balance for regular mission offering. This special support offering has increased by 26 percent during this quinquennium.

□ **Sabbath School Investment** (a joint commitment of member with God) has shown a significant improvement both in the North American Division and the world divisions.

**World Mission Fund
Annual Sacrifice Offering**



□ **Birthday-Thank offerings** have increased measurably in the world field while decreasing significantly in the North American Division. Encouragement is needed to improve this offering. We are all thankful for each year of life and for the daily blessings from the Lord.

□ **The Annual Sacrifice Offering** has been a traditional world church offering since the Annual Council of 1922. A new plan for the Annual Sacrifice Offering has been established for the Global Strategy program. Specific needs will be the future focus, reaching out to the expansion of God's work in global mission. (See World Mission Fund, Annual Sacrifice Offering chart.)

□ Another important world offering to support specific needs for the church is the **Missions Extension Offering**. Rotated to the divisions of the world field, it provides new buildings; expansion of health, education, and publishing; new evangelistic centers; and other related types of development and support. A very modest increase was realized in all areas of the world field.

Nontithe funds are distributed to the world field and also provide part of the

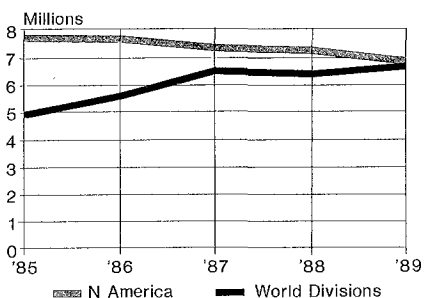
operating appropriations for General Conference institutions such as Andrews University, Loma Linda University, and Oakwood College. All of these institutions serve the world. A significant amount of nontithe funds is utilized in the North American Division. The General Conference has limited flexibility with tithe and nontithe funds to assist the church in meeting the needs throughout the world to carry out God's mission.

Ingathering

The third major avenue of income to the church is Ingathering. It provides funds for community outreach, educational programs, and medical work (including medical personnel and facilities), as well as ADRA programs. The distribution of Ingathering funds is established in the budget for the year in which they were received. This results in a difference of funds distributed compared to receipts. The balance as excess, or overdraft, is carried forward to the new year.

Church policy states that all Ingathering funds belong to the General Conference. In turn, Ingathering funds are reverted to the world divisions either by designated percentages or direct appropriations. Ingathering brochures and promotional material costs are paid from other funds and are not subtracted from the Ingathering receipts. Ingathering in

Ingathering Received



the world field has increased, while in North America it has declined. (See Ingathering Received chart.)

Special Appropriations

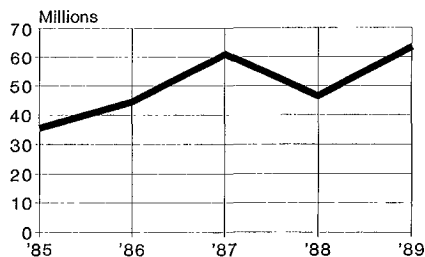
The General Conference designates funds from the specified nontithe offerings and Ingathering as special appropriations. These funds are set aside as non-operating and are designated in the General Conference annual budget for

specific projects such as buildings, acquirement of land, equipment, or working capital. Examples include two new universities in Africa being developed over a number of years, and a clinic in Djibouti. The amount distributed annually varies based on funds available. For the years 1986 to 1989, the amount distributed averaged approximately \$10 million per year.

Investments and Cash Management

The General Conference has a very effective investment and cash management program to maximize the earnings on funds managed for the world church.

General Conference Managed Funds
Total Combined Earnings



Funds managed include those originating in the General Conference, retirement funds, those held in trust, and from other denominational entities, for a present total in excess of \$650 million. Serving the world in money management is a major task and responsibility.

Harris Pine Mills Estimated Financial Settlement March 31, 1990

Funds Due GC at Bankruptcy:	
GC Line of Credit and Loan	\$13,000,000
Interest Paid 1987-1990	2,592,019
Accounts Settlements	196,353
Branch Plant Closure	800,000
Total Contingent Loss	16,588,372
Source of Funds to Pay Loss:	
GC Securities	
Fluctuation 1986-1989*	\$12,700,000
Trustee Interim Payment	1,000,000
Pendleton Land Sale	493,068
Due From Trustee—Est.	2,226,270
Pendleton Land for Sale	1,000,000
Estimated Loss Recovery Source	17,419,338
* Net Applied to Replace Securities Fluctuation Funds Allocated	
	830,966

(Estimated Maximum Loss to Church: \$11,870,000)

Earnings from funds held by the General Conference and not specified to be added to those held for specific purposes provide additional funds for special appropriations. This source of money has added substantially to the General Conference world budget. (See General Conference-managed Funds chart.)

Some years the earnings from GC-owned funds have added \$4 to \$7 million to the world budget for special appropriations. The General Conference also provides this service to the world church for holding and managing funds not currently being used, or current short-term operating funds. (See General Conference-owned Funds chart.)

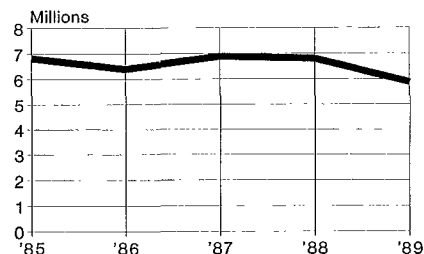
Harris Pine Mills

Harris Pine Mills is a company that has been a blessing to schools, students, and dedicated employees. It is estimated to have provided \$50 million worth of student employment and facilities during its existence. Sad was the day in December 1986 when the General Conference was forced to close Harris Pine Mills' doors in bankruptcy. Heavy indebtedness, an oversupply of inventory, and a downturn in the national economy resulted in a church position to seek legal means to protect the church's assets. The church determined from the beginning that all creditors should be paid. This was done, preserving the good name of the church.

The initial indebtedness exceeded \$53 million, \$13 million of which was due to the General Conference. When assets were sold by the trustees to pay creditors, the General Conference stated publicly that all creditors would be first for receiving payment. This has resulted in a loss to the General Conference of approximately \$11 million. Final settlement is not complete as of this date. (See Harris Pine Mills chart.)

Money for this church loss came from income earned through General Conference-invested funds. The use of this money to reimburse Harris Pine Mills' losses did not reduce the operating funds for the world field. However, this

General Conference Owned Funds
Earnings Available for World Budget



money would have been available for the world field for special projects if the loss had not occurred.

Other uses have been found for church-owned buildings formerly occupied by Harris Pine Mills. Some of these changes are evidence of God's miraculous ways. Not all business ventures are guaranteed permanent financial success. But we have endeavored to learn from this sad experience to reduce debt and maintain close financial awareness of existing and possible future problems and to improve financial controls. We thank the Harris family for their gift, which has blessed so many people for so long.

Auditing Service

The church maintains a worldwide staff of competent, qualified professional auditors. General Conference Auditing Service provides financial and policy audits of the highest quality. They meet the standards of the profession, coupled with a spiritual dedication to the mission of the church. Audit reports, auditor opinions, and recommendations for improvement or corrections are a great blessing to this church in producing reliable financial records and reports.

General Conference Office Building

The concept to replace the General Conference complex established in Takoma Park, Maryland, in 1905 began during the previous quinquennium. Once approved, the new office complex was built, and relocation began in June 1989. The final cost of the new office building was nearly double the original estimate projected in 1985, when the plan was proposed. In fact, in 1986, when pre-construction estimates indicated the real cost, the General Conference Committee in Spring Meeting, with world leaders present, discussed the financial implica-

New Church Headquarters Building Construction and Equipment 1984-1990

Building	\$27,136,648
Land Improvements	1,010,105
Equipment	502,920
Land Purchased in 1969	750,829
Furniture and Equipment	4,431,065
Off-Site Road Assessment—Est.	787,398
Project Costs	\$34,618,965
Source of Funds:	
Sale of Old Building, Phase 2	3,160,903
Sale of New Hampshire Land	1,134,762
Special Gifts	2,224,217
Specified Investment Income	5,832,600
GC Special Building Funds	6,050,000
Risk Management Investment	1,500,000
Special Appropriation	1,000,000
Earnings From Building Funds	2,285,418
Building and Equip. Depr. Funds	6,431,065
Sale of Buildings, Phase 3—Est.	5,000,000
Project Source of Funds	\$34,618,965

tions and the sources of funds. During this meeting, approval was given to go forward with an estimated project cost of \$25 million. Three years later it was changed to \$30 million.

The building is 300,000 square feet, with a construction cost of \$66 per square foot. The total cost—including land, land improvements, off-site costs, government requirements, and equipment—is in excess of \$34 million. (See New Church Headquarters Building chart.)

Loma Linda Foods

Loma Linda Foods, a General Conference institution of long standing, was

originally established by the Pacific Union Conference in 1905. Several offers were received from interested buyers to purchase the soy-based infant-formula division. Church and business leaders studied the value of Loma Linda Foods and the capacity of the church to make it a strong, financially viable institution, as well as how best to make use of the resources of the church. After considerable discussion, a decision was reached to sell the infant-

formula division, the name Loma Linda Foods, and the manufacturing facilities to Nutricia, a Holland-based company, for \$16,873,000.

Subsequently, Worthington Foods, a Seventh-day Adventist member-owned institution, purchased the vegetable protein and soy milk divisions of La Loma Foods (the new name following the sale of Loma Linda Foods) for \$6 million.

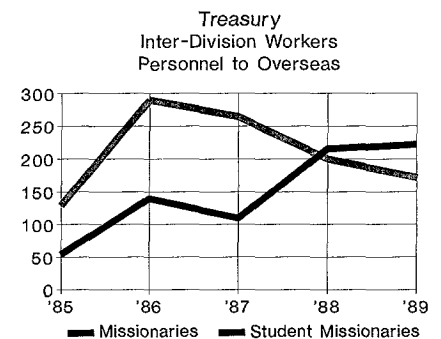
Vegetable protein foods continue to be manufactured by many church-owned plants. The nonmeat diet is strongly encouraged throughout the world. The sale of Loma Linda Foods does not diminish

our emphasis for healthful living. This is part of our God-given message.

Proceeds from the sale of Loma Linda Foods have been placed in a quasi-endowment fund, with earnings to be used in the world church Global Strategy thrust. (See GC Corporation of SDA chart.) God has opened many doors, and we believe this is a time to act. When God opens a door of opportunity, we need to respond.

Transportation (TRIPS)

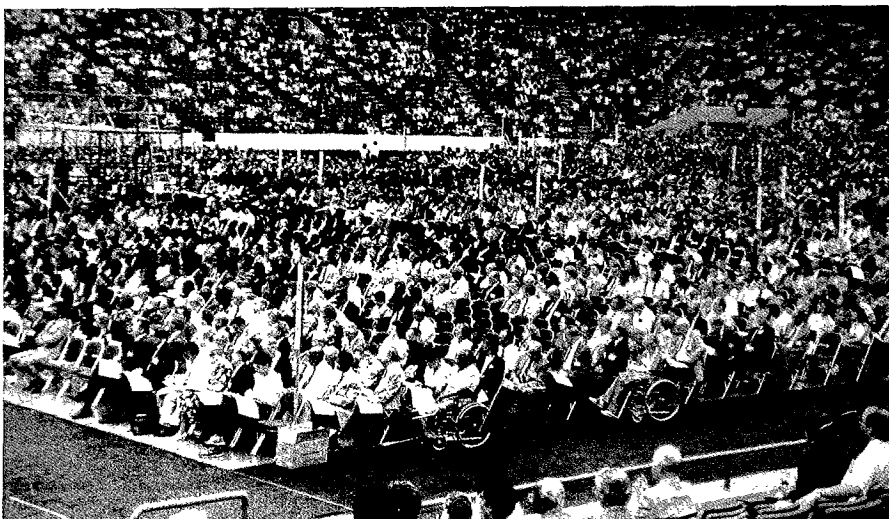
When Solusi College in Zimbabwe, Africa, calls an overseas worker and the position is filled, there are many financially related details to handle. Arrangements for attending mission institutes,



visas, tickets, immunizations, visits to family, transfer to new payroll, shipment of personal effects, and many other services. The office that handles this work is called TRIPS—Transportation of International Personnel Service. Each year an average of 400 total shipments are handled by our two warehouses in Baltimore and San Francisco.

An international remuneration plan for interdivision workers has been established and is handled through the General Conference Treasury. Changes in currency rates, inflation, available local supplies, and a list of other items are part of the calculation and constant attention for missionary remuneration. This plan will make transfer of interdivision worker budgets easier to accomplish in the global mission.

There is a trend toward increasing the number of missionaries from homelands other than North America. This has resulted in a small decrease of missionaries with the North America Division as home base. (See Treasury chart.) TRIPS has involvement with all international personnel.



Thousands of delegates, guests, and visitors crowd into the Indianapolis Convention Center to register for the fifty-fifth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

**GC Corporation of SDA
Global Strategy Endowment Contributions
May 1990**

Loma Linda Foods, Inc., Stock	\$ 1,126,400
Gain on Sale of Loma Linda Foods, Inc., Stock	9,603,373
Gain on Sale of La Loma Foods, Inc., Stock	2,587,418
1989 Endowment Earnings	1,150,471
1990 Endowment Earnings to Date	437,007
Total Fund Balance as of May 1990	<u>\$14,904,669</u>

A Great Blessing and Privilege

A great blessing and privilege for God's family is to distribute funds to the world field for its operating expense, special projects, special outreach efforts, and support of interdivision workers. There has been a consistent increase of funds available to the world field up through the year 1988, with a slight decline in 1989.

The increased distribution to the world field is not sufficient to keep up with inflation and growing needs. Therefore, it has become increasingly important for the overseas fields to encourage their own levels of self-support and for partially supported missions to become conferences and share the blessing of contributing to world church support. "If all, both rich and poor, would bring their tithes into the storehouse, there would be a sufficient supply of means to release the cause from financial embarrassment and to nobly carry forward the missionary work in its various departments" (*Testimonies*, vol. 4, pp. 475, 476).

Projection of World Tithe

It is marvelous to realize that there is one system of financial support for the church throughout the world. Tithe, mission offerings, local church, Ingathering—all are a part of the support of God's work in every location of the world. The support of missionaries, new outreaches, the capacity to develop schools, reaching out to share the message via radio, public evangelism, and the printed page—all are exciting opportunities. We think of the openings that are taking place in Africa and in areas that we call home divisions, such as the South Pacific, Euro-Africa, Trans-European, and North American

divisions. New openings! New opportunities!

God continues to open new ways for us to reach out.

At the same time, He opens new ways for us to be channels of financial support. As we personally increase our financial support, God will increase the resources. World tithe will nearly double in the next 10 years to more than \$1 billion. However, per capita tithe calculated on a worldwide basis is expected to decrease.


World tithe will nearly double in the next 10 years to more than \$1 billion. However, per capita tithe calculated on a worldwide basis is expected to decrease.

Tithe Projected for A.D. 2000

World Tithe:
1989—\$ 607,238,427
2000— 1,102,500,000

Tithe Per Capita:

1989—\$115.18 (based on 6,183,585 members)
2000— 94.00 (based on 12,305,000 members)

It is time for us to look more earnestly for the coming of the Lord. God's family is a channel of fulfilled promises that God made ("I will open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it") as we stretch our faith and prepare for God's soon coming. There will be an increased trust in God and an intensity in our own hearts and lives to see God's work accomplished. Happy will be the day when we can see our Saviour and say, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us" (Isa. 25:9). Until that time, we must continue to be faithful stewards. 

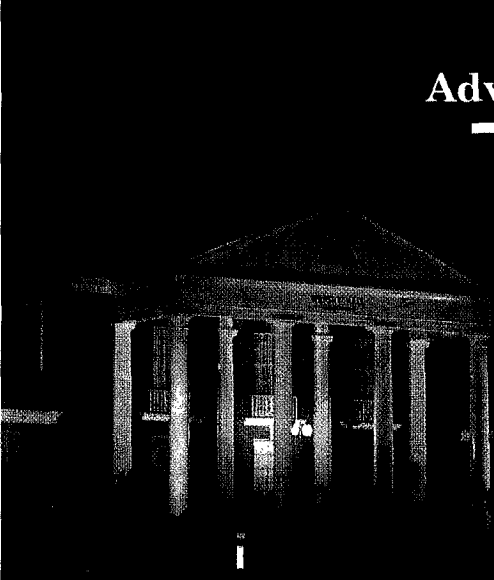
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It Didn't Happen in 1901! Will It Happen in 1990?

Devotional
message

presented

Thursday

afternoon,

July 5, 1990.

The topic assigned for this opening devotional message of the 1990 General Conference session certainly arouses curiosity! "It Didn't Happen in 1901! Will It Happen in 1990?" It naturally leads one to ask several questions: (1) What was it that did not happen in 1901? (2) If it was supposed to happen, why did it not take place? (3) If whatever it was is important to the church and its work, what must we do so it can happen? and finally, (4) Will it happen now—at the 1990 General Conference session in Indianapolis?

Let us take these four questions one by one and see if we can find some answers.

1. What was it that did not happen in 1901?

The logical procedure to follow in seeking answers to these questions is to go to someone who was present at the 1901 General Conference session and who was given insight into what took place and what did not take place at that meeting. Therefore, this devotional study deals with the experience of the 1901 session, and thus is historical in nature.

Ellen White was there and, as God's prophet, received communications from Him about that session. From what she says, it seems that God had *two items* on His agenda for the 1901 session. *One* was the reorganization of the church. As the session opened for formal business on April 2 and the chairman asked the delegates, "What is your pleasure?" Ellen White immediately went forward to speak.

She reviewed the course of the work over the previous decade, especially how leadership responsibilities had been handled by those who were at the head of the work. The prophet of God was not pleased with their record: "That these men should stand in a sacred place, to be as the voice of God to the people, as we once believed the General Conference to be—that is past. What we want now is a reorganization. We want to begin at the foundation, and to build upon a different principle" (*General Conference Bulletin*, 1901, p. 25).

Responding to the appeal of Ellen White, the agenda was set aside and the reorganization begun.

The *second* item can be found in Ellen White's report of a vision in which she was carried back

to the session of 1901 a number of months after it close. In this vision God revealed to her the blessing that heaven had been waiting to bestow upon the delegates, and the reasons that blessing was not given. The second item was the outpouring of His Spirit. But what God intended was not realized. She wrote: "And the Holy Spirit was not imparted" (*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 104).

The reorganization was completed; but the most important item on God's agenda, that one thing that would have enabled the church to fulfill its mission in the world, was not realized—the abundant infilling of God's Spirit, which would have climaxed in the latter rain experience. This item is still on heaven's agenda—marked number one. Nothing else supersedes it in importance.

2. Why did it not take place? Based upon the vision, Ellen White gives three reasons that the Holy Spirit was not given at the 1901 session as God wished. First, the men in positions of trust—the leaders—who had great light did not walk in the light. In the opening statement to the delegates regarding the need for reorganization, she pointed out that elements of unbelief existed at the Review and Herald Office and at the General Conference "so that the light that was given was not acted upon. It was assented to, but no special change was made to bring about such a condition of things that the power of God could be revealed among His people" (*General Conference Bulletin*, 1901, p. 23).

Second, "the break was not made" (*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 104). The leaders of the church remained adamant in their lip service to what God wanted them to do, but they refused to break free from the wrong position in which they were standing and to walk in the path that God had pointed out.

Third, "men did not humble themselves before the Lord as they should have done" (*ibid.*). They wove self and the desire for kingly power into their work. These were the reasons that the power of God's Spirit was not given at the 1901 session while "all heaven was waiting to be gracious."

3. What must we do so it can happen? As Ellen White reported the vision in which she saw what it was that God had wanted to do for the church at the 1901 session, she emphasized the



By George Rice
Associate Secretary
Ellen G. White Estate

role played by the leaders of the church. She described the scene in the Battle Creek Tabernacle as she saw it in vision—how prayer was offered, a hymn sung, and prayer offered again. She saw the assembled delegates moved by the working of the Holy Spirit and that a deep work of repentance was entered into. Some were even weeping aloud.

Then she saw one of influence arise. She does not tell us who it was. It could have been Dr. Kellogg, Elder Smith, Elder Butler, Elder Waggoner, or Elder Jones. But this man confessed before the whole assembly that he had harbored bitter feelings toward some who were present, and had felt no love for them. He had felt he was more righteous than they. But now, under the moving of God's Spirit, he saw his true condition. Then he went to these men one by one, extended his hand, and asked their forgiveness. They in turn responded, asking forgiveness. Others, in like manner, followed the example of this man of influence. Ellen White wrote: "It was a Pentecostal season. God's praises were sung, and far into the night, until nearly morning, the work was carried on" (*ibid.*, p. 105).

Then she makes this statement: "No one seemed to be too proud to make heartfelt confession, and those who led in this work were the ones who had influence, but had not before had courage to confess their sins" (*ibid.*).

Oh, what our history might have been! But listen to the prophet's words as she brings her description of what God had wanted to do to a conclusion: "Then I aroused from my unconsciousness, and for a while could not think where I was. My pen was still in my hand. The words were spoken to me: 'This might have been. All this the Lord was waiting to do for His people. All heaven was waiting to be gracious.' I thought of where we might have been had thorough work been done at the last General Conference, and an agony of disappointment came over me as I realized that what I had witnessed was not a reality" (*ibid.*, pp. 105, 106).

What can we learn from this vision about what God had wanted to do at the 1901 session? One thing is abundantly clear: if there is going to be a spiritual revival in this church that will lead to the outpouring of God's Spirit in the latter-rain experience, the leadership must as-

sume the responsibility of leading the church into this revival through the experience of repentance. Leaders in God's church, you cannot leave the final revival of primitive godliness that will accompany the latter rain, the revival that will immediately precede the coming of our Lord, to be initiated and carried forward by the laity. It is your responsibility to lead the church into this revival experience. You must be in the forefront.

This can be supported from both the Old and New Testaments. Let me simply point out that in all of the great revivals that we read about in the Old Testament, the leaders of God's people were out in the forefront of the experience. The dynamics of revival have not changed over the centuries because God has not changed.

4. Will it happen in 1990? Will God be able to give His people the outpouring of His Spirit that will culminate in the latter rain?—right here in Indianapolis? At this point in time we do not know. But let me give you this assurance: it is possible.

Let me share with you a key statement on God's willingness to give us His Spirit. "The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to as in the future; but it is the privilege of the church to have it now. Seek for it, pray for it, believe for it. We must have it, and Heaven is waiting to bestow it" (*Evangelism*, p. 701). There must be a conscious effort on our part to put ourselves into a relationship with God so that He will be able to entrust us with this Gift. For this reason God has laid down conditions upon which He will grant us this Gift: "But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing" (*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 121).

There must be a conscious effort on our part to prepare for the Spirit. "The church must arouse to action. The Spirit of God can never come in until she prepares the way. There should be earnest searching of heart. There should be united, persevering prayer, and through faith a claiming of the promises of God. There should be, not a clothing of the body with sackcloth, as in ancient times, but a deep humiliation of soul. We have not the first reason for self-congratulation and self-exaltation. We should humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God" (*ibid.*, p. 126).

What better time than this to respond to the instruction that God has given? Here we are, the greatest assemblage of world leadership that our church ever sees—the General Conference session. We will not see another gathering like this for another five years. We must take advantage of the opportunity that this meeting affords. The next few days are fraught with eternal consequences. Will we move now, as a world church, while all of our world leaders are assembled here, toward the realization of the promise that we can have the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that leads to the latter rain? Or will we delay, then scatter throughout the world field without the promised power animating our leadership and ministry? It cannot be business as usual. Thrilling changes in world affairs are beckoning us to step through doors of opportunity. But we will only be effective to the extent we seek and are filled with the Holy Spirit.

"There is altogether too little made of the work of the Holy Spirit's influence upon the church. Altogether too much dependence is placed upon the individual human agencies to bring success into the church. Where there is genuine piety in a church there will be a genuine faith in the manifestations of the Holy Spirit's efficiency. It is the depending so largely upon man and his supposed capabilities and his education and his knowledge that eclipses the Lord God" (manuscript 93, 1893).

Brothers and sisters, the eyes of a world church are focused on Indianapolis. There is a feeling of expectancy pervading the church. Will it happen, or will we go home from another General Conference session destined to remain in the world because we did not have the courage and faith to act?

We are all tired of this old world of sin, and we want to go home. The leaders can make it possible for the church to realize this wish. World leaders in our church, bring us to the throne of grace; humble yourselves together with us in God's presence; lead us in the confession of personal sins and sins that we have committed as a body. Do now what God showed Ellen White He wanted done at the 1901 session. Why must we linger on here when you can lead us across the Jordan? As a church we plead with you—lead us home.



We Shall Behold Him

In the Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Devotional

message

presented

Friday

morning,

July 6, 1990.

Ultimately we belong either to Christ or to Satan. This undeniable truth means that today, this moment, we are controlled either by Christ or by Satan. At the second coming of our Lord, those controlled by Christ will be saved, and those controlled by Satan will be lost. Our Lord stated emphatically: “No man can serve two masters . . . he will hate the one, and love the other” (Matt. 6:24). This clear-cut statement is alien to the thinking in today’s secular society. The question facing each of us is “Who is controlling me—Christ or Satan?”

C. S. Lewis dramatically puts it this way: “There is no neutral ground in the universe: every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan.”¹

Paul distinctly draws a line between two, and only two, types of life: “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit” (Rom. 8:5). We operate either under the law of the Spirit of life or under the law of sin and death (verse 2). There is no middle ground. The problem is that some of us don’t recognize the difference between the two sides! We need to evaluate carefully our thoughts, words, and actions to discover what they tell us as to which side we are on.

Involvement of the Holy Spirit

As a people we have not sensed the enormous importance with which Christ regards the role of the Holy Spirit in our salvation. Unless we receive the Holy Spirit, we will experience no conviction, no spirit of repentance, no new birth, no confession, no victory over sin, and no salvation! The ministry of the Spirit is as important as breathing. No breath, no life!

In His early ministry Jesus didn’t talk about the Holy Spirit. Why? In John 16:4 He stated, “These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you” (NASB). Then He added, “But now I am going to Him who sent Me. . . . It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you” (verses 5-7, NASB).

The term *Helper* (*paracētos*) reveals the marvelous truth that the Spirit doesn’t come to hurt, but to help. How does He help? Jesus emphasized five important ministries of the Holy Spirit.

1. Convicts the World of Sin

“And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin” (verse 8, NASB). Conviction must precede repentance. No conviction of sin, no repentance of sin. Only the Holy Spirit has the power to convict of sin. You can’t make yourself sense sin or feel sorry for sin!

The fact that there is such little evidence of repentance in the church is a strong indication of our misunderstanding of the importance of the Holy Spirit’s work. Jesus puts conviction of sin as the first work of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord gives a clear picture of true repentance: “Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations” (Eze. 36:31).

Who among us has experienced this quality of repentance? Who among us has been forced to cry out like those listeners at Pentecost, “What shall we do?” Who among us has had an experience similar to the Philippian jailer whose conviction of sin caused him to fall down before Paul and Silas and then to cry out, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16:30).

Repentance is more than an act—it is a lifelong attitude. We need it, not merely because of specific sins, but because by our very nature we are sinful, ever in need of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Only the ministry of the Holy Spirit produces repentance that results in self-loathing and leads to a determined resolution not to walk in the path of sin.

2. Convicts the World of Righteousness

Because Jesus was going to His Father, the world would be deprived of His presence. There would be no visible, audible pattern of perfect righteousness. So He promised the Holy Spirit to fill the void.



BY J. ROBERT SPANGLER

Former General Conference Ministerial Association Secretary and Editor of Ministry magazine

The Spirit accomplishes this task in two ways. First, as we study the life of Christ, the Spirit impresses us as to what righteousness really is. Beholding Christ is beholding righteousness. Second, the Spirit motivates and empowers a person to seek and accept this righteousness by faith alone in Jesus Christ. So while our Saviour is in the heavenly sanctuary ministering in our behalf, the Spirit can impute and impart righteousness to us.

Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit teaches us that we are justified by Christ's sacrifice and sanctified by His perfect life. Through the Spirit we have the experience of being "in Christ." When a person is in Christ, there is no room for false gods, worldliness, or any other carnally inspired ungodliness. Although we are still in sinful flesh, we have the absolute assurance of salvation through the perfect righteousness of Christ. In addition, we have the joyous experience of gaining victory after victory as we journey through life in Christ.

3. Convicts of Judgment to Come

The idea that the Holy Spirit convicts us of judgment to come is repulsive to the worldling. Surprisingly, many professed Christians, including many Adventists, also find it repulsive. In the garden, Adam and Eve tried to hide from judgment. Their descendants have been hiding from it ever since.

Chrysostom is quoted as saying: "Tell me, O man, since you know that you must stand before the judgment seat of Christ, how it comes about that you would rather speak of a thousand other matters than of this judgment? When you have a case before an earthly judge, then you think day and night about it, and converse about it everywhere as to how you may prosecute your cause. Yet you must do this before God the just judge, and give an account to Him of your whole life; but you never speak about the matter, and cannot indeed bear that anyone should begin to converse with you about it."²

Adventists have for the world a special message dealing with the investigative judgment. The truth is that the concept that everyone must face the judgment is blessing in disguise. Belief in a coming judgment is to the soul what pain is to the

body. Lepers, I am told, have little or no feeling in their affected parts. As a result they lose fingers and toes—because injuries to these parts are painless, they do not protect them adequately.

Pain makes us conscious of deeper problems, motivating us to go to a physician to find the cause. So with judgment! Judgment makes us conscious of sins committed, of our accountability, and of our lostness. It motivates us to seek the Great Physician for assistance.

4. Guides Into All Truth

"When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth" (John 16:13, NASB). There are five concepts inherent in these words of Jesus. First, throughout history people have asked the same question as Pilate, "What is truth?" Failure to understand that Christ is the center, the hub of all truth, leads to darkness, error, and finally death!

Second, only the Holy Spirit can enable us to understand the great truths of the Bible. Even believing the simple biblical record of such truths as Creation and the Flood requires the Holy Spirit's aid. We can neither receive nor understand the gifts of the Spirit without the Holy Spirit's functioning in our behalf.

Third, in this same passage Jesus teaches us that the Spirit "will disclose to you what is to come" (NASB). Thus the Spirit becomes a prophetic voice to God's servants.

Fourth, the Holy Spirit's work of guiding us into all truth involves His enabling us to detect Satan's subtle approaches and to resist Satan's power. If our Lord prayed earnestly to His Father for clear spiritual perception, how much more we need to do the same.

Fifth, the Spirit's task of guiding us into truth includes enabling us to internalize truth until it becomes a veritable part of every cell of our being. In the final analysis the seal of God is a settling into the truth. "Only when the truth is accompanied to the heart by the Spirit will it quicken the conscience or transform the life."³ The Spirit changes our weak, vacillating characters, giving them strength, stability, and steadfastness.

5. Glorifies Jesus

The final and foremost ministry of the

Spirit that I want to mention is His marvelous task of glorifying Christ in the minds of His followers (see John 16:14). It was the Holy Spirit who glorified Christ in the minds and hearts of the disciples after His ascension. "After they had received the baptism of the Spirit, they began to realize that they had been in the very presence of the Lord of glory. . . . His lessons, which they had but dimly understood, now came to them as a fresh revelation. . . ."

"It is as true now as in apostolic days, that without the illumination of the divine Spirit, humanity cannot discern the glory of Christ. The truth and the work of God are unappreciated by a world-loving and compromising Christianity."⁴ One of the reasons too few of us are excited and joyful about Jesus, the center of the Advent message, is that we lack the Holy Spirit's making Him real in our hearts and minds. It was at Pentecost that the disciples learned to glorify Christ.

The Spirit glorifies Christ not only in us but through us. A most marvelous way the Spirit glorifies our Lord is by engineering, through the new birth experience, the creation of the image of Christ in us. The Spirit brings about a change in us that is a marvel to the universe and a joy to our Lord's heart. What unfathomable influence we, the church, may have. What a mighty challenge we face! What an unbelievable privilege! God wants to take His church, His body—us, His people—and through us give a testimony not only to our family, neighbors, community, and our planet but to the very rulers, the managers, the leaders, and the powers and authorities in heaven!

Our Lord is thrilled that through the ministry of the Holy Spirit we depraved, fallen beings can be changed into His image! That's the ultimate purpose of His life, death, and resurrection! We have no power in ourselves to effect a change, yet if we submit to the Holy Spirit's power we can be transformed and bring glory and honor to our Lord.

¹ Quoted in M. Scott Peck, *People of the Lie: The Hope for Healing Human Evil* (New York: Touchstone Books, 1985), p. 83.

² *The Preacher's Homiletic Commentary: St. John*, p. 457.

³ *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 671, 672.

⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 507, 508.

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GC SNAPSHOT



South Pacific Division president Walter Scragg, right, presents a newly commissioned painting of Elmhaven to Robert E. Olson, retiring director of the Ellen G. White Estate, and Paul Gordon, newly appointed director. Elmhaven was the home of Ellen White while she lived in California.

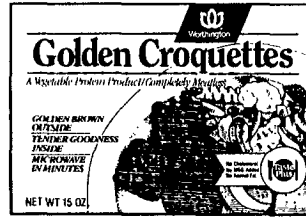
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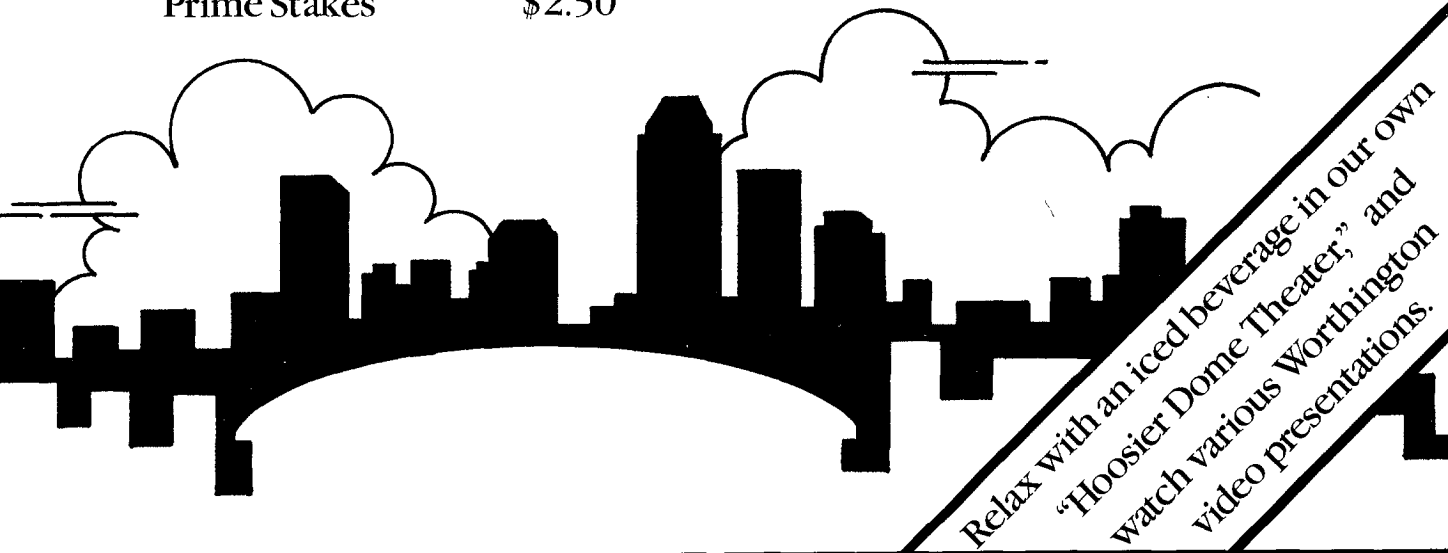


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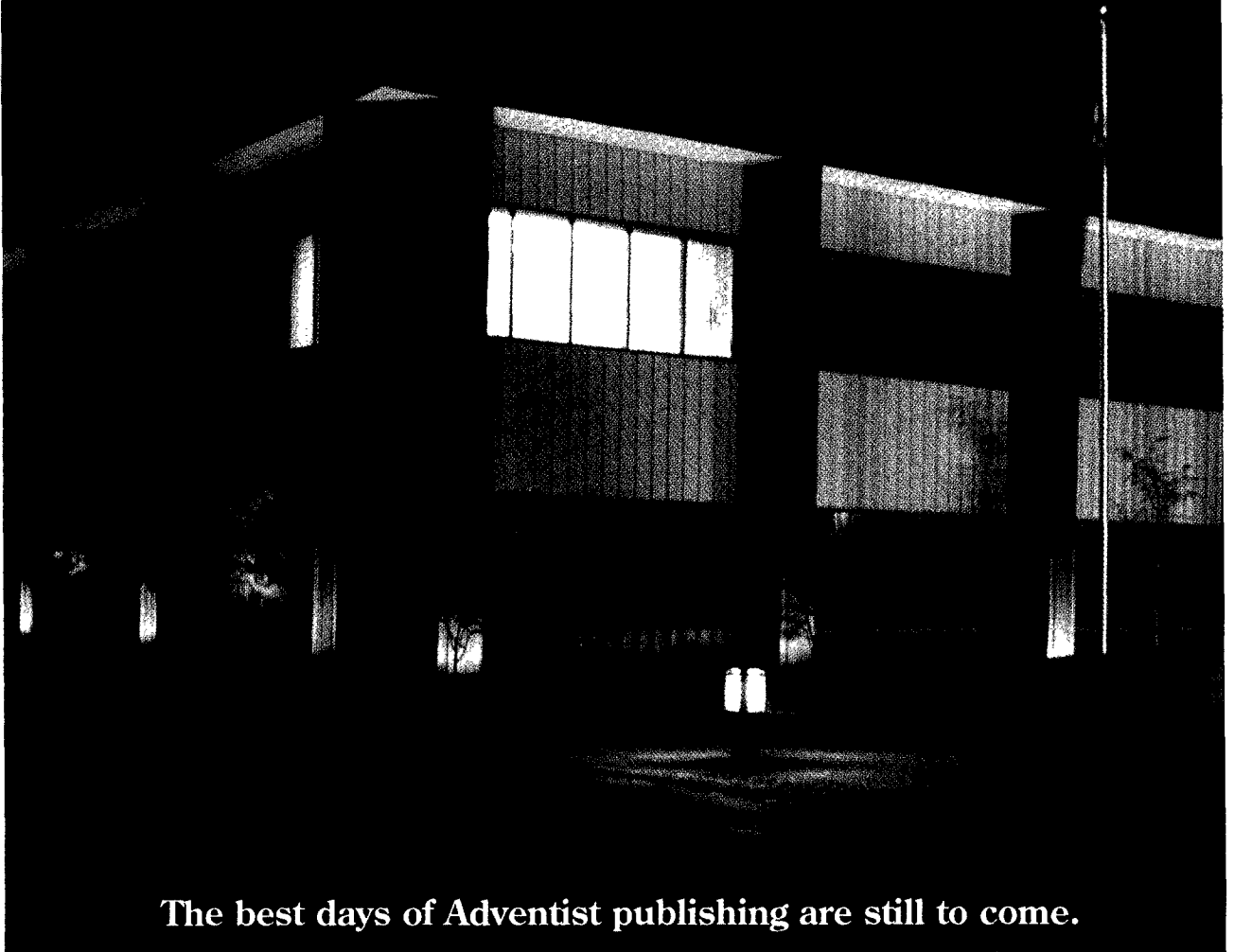
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