

# ADVENTIST REVIEW

WEEKLY NEWS AND INSPIRATION FOR SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

JULY 26-AUGUST 2, 1990



GC  
BULLETIN  
10



*We Shall  
Behold Him*

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*Crowds eager to hear  
the new GC-president,  
Robert Folkenberg,  
jam into the Hoosier  
Dome Sabbath  
morning.*

# The Fifty-fifth: Session of Surprises



By **William G. Johnsson**  
*Editor*  
Adventist Review

**M**ark up the fifty-fifth General Conference session as one of the most notable in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was a session of surprises—open, unpredictable, with each day bringing new developments.

Many delegates and visitors felt that God broke through at the fifty-fifth session. I did. So unexpected, so major, were some of the changes that they could not have been engineered by merely human means.

This isn't to suggest that God had not been working in prior assemblies of the world church, or during the past five years. Rather, the Lord in His sovereign freedom and wisdom chose to demonstrate His leading of the church by intervening in a manner that surprised all of us.

The session began in unusual fashion. When the council convened for its formal opening Thursday afternoon, July 5, Dr. George Rice delivered a short but searching address that called the leadership to repentance and reformation. He reminded us of the 1901 General Conference session, when the Lord stood ready to pour out His Spirit on the church, but

we turned away. "It didn't happen in 1901. Will it happen in 1990?" he asked. (For the full address, see *Bulletin* No. 2, pp. 26, 27.)

The following day started low-key but developed into high drama, with anticipation and tension. Before the session closed for lunch, word came from the Nominating Committee that a report would be made at 2:00 p.m. That, of course, would be a recommendation for the president of the General Conference.

But 2:00 p.m. came and passed with no report to the session. Then 3:00 p.m. and finally 4:00 p.m., when the session was to close to give the delegates time for Sabbath preparations. Again word from the committee: "Please stay in session; expect a report shortly."

So the session returned to the agenda. Delegates tried to concentrate on items of business, but they were distracted: the Nominating Committee's impending report had taken over. A delegate arose on a point of order. Although it was getting late, he said, delegates wanted ample opportunity to debate the Nominating Committee's recommendation when it came. Another delegate complained

about the encroachment on Sabbath preparation. Finally the chair set aside the agenda, and the session turned to singing and earnest prayer.

About 5:15 p.m. newshound Carlos Medley hurried in, shaking his head. "I can't believe it," he whispered to me. "I can't believe it, but the word is that it's Bob Folkenberg."

I was stunned. Not because Elder Folkenberg isn't a leader of ability and spirituality, for he surely is, but because he was outside "the system"—not a General Conference officer, division president, or even union conference president. If before Indianapolis someone had asked me to compile a list of 50 names for the General Conference presidency, Robert Folkenberg's wouldn't have appeared.

And, I believe, the choice was as surprising to Folkenberg as it was to me.

So somewhere around 6:00 p.m. (I lost track of the time) Friday evening, July 6, the fifty-fifth session elected a new world president for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. There was no debate; the vote was unanimous.

As delegates left to hurry Sabbath preparation, I sensed a mood of lightness and wonder, a feeling that something new had happened, a possibility that maybe the Lord had broken through to us, that He had answered the earnest prayers of thousands before and during the session.

## A Positive Spirit

That mood continued through the week. The session took up items charged with emotion, items that could have split



Left: Garwin McNeilus donated gifts of \$1 million to projects in Nepal and the U.S.S.R. Middle: Neal C. Wilson (right) hands Robert Folkenberg a \$1 million gift from the McNeilus family for the new radio station in Italy. Right: Robert Folkenberg (left) introduces Geoffrey Church, a student at Southern College from mainland China, who became an Adventist by listening to Adventist World Radio broadcasts.

the council in rancorous debate—a formula for determining representation at GC sessions, the ordination of women, the function of women pastors. Strong speeches were made; strong feelings were expressed. But the spirit of the fifty-fifth session remained sweet. I saw little “bloc” voting, little racial divisiveness.

Pain there was, as some leaders weren't returned to office. Pain there was, as the plan to downsize the General Conference staff by 20 percent began to take effect.

That reduction, however, is part of the new thing of Indianapolis. As the church has grown worldwide, so has its headquarters staff. We have come to a parting of the ways: either massive growth of the General Conference to allow for adequate representation from each of the divisions or downsizing. Elder Neal C. Wilson initiated the process of headquarters reduction, and Elder Folkenberg, who had advocated it for years, implemented it at the fifty-fifth session.

Nothing was cut-and-dried at Indianapolis. Certainly not the nominating process. At least one major recommendation from the Nominating Committee was challenged from the floor of the session, referred back to the committee, reconsidered, and changed.

I enjoyed the fifty-fifth session. Although the *Adventist Review* staff worked long hours getting out the daily *Bulletins*, slept little, and ate on the run or not all; although we missed many of the meetings and came away dead tired, I was exhilarated.

Not only because the fifty-fifth was a reporter's dream—full of news, full of surprises, full of drama—but because the fifty-fifth revealed to me and to all that this church, *my church*, functions as an open, fair, democratic church. A church open to each person, regardless of race, language, gender, or age. A church open to change.

And—a church open to God.

## Two Peaks

Two peaks, one at each end, framed the fifty-fifth session. The first I have already described—that drama-packed Friday, July 6. The second stood at its close, on the final Sabbath morning, with

more than 40,000 people crammed into the Hoosier Dome.

I sat with Noelene on the front row, in the block of seats reserved for the *Adventist Review*. There on the platform sat the General Conference officers, the five general vice presidents, and the 11 presidents of the divisions of the world church.

The new General Conference president sat there also. At 49 he was youngest of the entire group. One week before, he had been plucked out of the ranks, called to lead the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Articulate, an ideas person, one year ago—in June 1989—*Ministry* had published his major, controversial article “Church Structure—Servant or Master?” in which he challenged the church to change.

“When I prepared that article I was advised: ‘If you publish that under your name, it will be political suicide,’” he had told me earlier in the week.

Some suicide!

Now he arose to speak. He is our president. Although he had been in office but a week, although past president Neal C. Wilson's contribution to the world church is enormous, he had won—quietly, calmly, and confidently—the respect and acceptance of the session.

Elder Folkenberg's sermon, based on the convention's theme “We Shall Behold Him,” painted a picture of the Adventist Church in the 1990s. He didn't

intend to set out a program in the address, he told us, but he gave us a vision and a dream. A vision of a church unified but not uniform, a church motivated by mission, a church of openness and compassion, a church that fulfills Christ's prayer for unity in John 17. (See *Bulletin* No. 9 for the complete sermon.)

It was a moving, impassioned sermon, punctuated often by applause from the huge assembly. And the loudest, most sustained applause came in response to his call for the church to permit her youth full participation in life and leadership.

We shall behold Him, said the speaker—in the glorious Return, so long awaited.

But, he said, we have beheld Him—in His mighty acts in the church, working through the men and women of God and the people of a past generation.

Even now, he went on, we behold Him—in the life and work of those who love Him and who give themselves in service for others.

And I would add—we have beheld Him this week at the fifty-fifth session. God broke through politics and processes, through traditions, structures, and expectations.

I have the sense that, after the fifty-fifth, General Conference sessions, so many as we will have until Christ comes back, will not be quite the same. Leaders will long remember its message: “Be prepared for surprises!”

## THANK YOU!

Many people working around the clock made possible the 10 *Bulletins* of the General Conference session.

During the session we closed our editorial office at GC headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, and divided our staff. While most worked out of our office in the Hoosier Dome, Eugene Durand and intern Debra Clark joined the night crew at the *Review* and Herald Publishing Association, Hagerstown, Maryland.

Photographers Joel Springer and Meylan Thoresen, directed by Kit Watts, worked 18-hour days to bring readers the color of the session.

Proceedings of the session came from the General Conference Secretariat. Directed by Don Roth, a team of workers recorded and transcribed all speeches from the floor. Don was assisted by *Review* and *Herald* copy editor James Cavil and others in preparing these verbatim remarks for publication, correcting grammar, eliminating repetition, etc. The *Adventist Review* printed the Proceedings without change from this Secretariat team.

To everyone who helped in this marathon, pressure-packed effort, my sincere appreciation.

—William G. Johnsson

# General Conference/Division Officers and Departmental Directors Elected to Serve 1990-1995 (Consolidated Report)

During the course of the General Conference session *Adventist Review Bulletins* printed reports from the Nominating Committee as these were voted by the delegates. However, these reports were partial and subject to further modification. For example, a person elected to a position might decline or subsequently be elected to another position. The following list shows the final slate of officers and departmental directors.

## GENERAL CONFERENCE

*President:* Robert S. Folkenberg  
*General Vice Presidents:* Matthew Bediako, Robert J. Kloosterhuis, Kenneth J. Mittelreider, Leo Ranzolin, Calvin B. Rock  
*Vice Presidents assigned to divisions:* Bryan Ball, George W. Brown, Maliakal E. Cherrian, Ottis C. Edwards, Bekele Heye, M. P. Kulakov, Edwin Ludescher, A. C. McClure, Jacob J. Nortey, Jan Paulsen, Joao Wolff  
*Secretary:* G. Ralph Thompson  
*Undersecretary:* Fred G. Thomas  
*Associate Secretaries:* Harold W. Baptiste, M. T. Battle, Larry R. Colburn, Mario Veloso, Ted N. C. Wilson  
*Treasurer:* Donald F. Gilbert  
*Undertreasurer:* Donald E. Robinson  
*Associate Treasurers:* Karl H. Bahr, George H. Crumley, Robert E. Osborn, Rowena Rick, F. Martin Ytreberg  
*General Field Secretaries:* Charles D. Brooks, George W. Reid, Ralph S. Watts, Jr.  
*Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries Director:* Clarence E. Bracebridge  
*Archives and Statistics Director:* F. Donald Yost  
*Auditing Service Director:* David D. Dennis;  
*Associates:* O. Richard Caldwell, H. Robert

Gadd, Eric A. Korff, Wayne Vail; *Area Directors:* Coenraad J. Haupt, Daniel E. Herzel, Philip R. Just, Richard Salsbery  
*Church Ministries Director:* Israel Leito; *Associates:* Malcolm J. Allen, Donald E. Crane, Karen Flowers, Ronald M. Flowers, Charles J. Griffin, M. E. Joiner, Ng Gan Theow, Calvin Smith, Virginia Smith, Michael H. Stevenson  
*Communication Director:* Shirley Burton  
*Education Director:* Humberto M. Rasi; *Associates:* Victor S. Griffiths, Agripino C. Segovia  
*Health and Temperance Director:* Albert S. Whiting; *Associate:* Thomas R. Neslund  
*Ministerial Association Secretary:* W. Floyd Bresee; *Associates:* Carlos E. Aeschliemann, James H. Zachary  
*Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director:* B. B. Beach; *Associates:* Roland R. Hegstad, Gary M. Ross, Mitchell A. Tyner  
*Publishing Director:* Ronald E. Appenzeller; *Associates:* Jose Campos, Rudi H. Henning  
*Trust Services:* G. Tom Carter; *Associates:* David E. Johnston, Alan W. White

## DIVISIONS

### Africa-Indian Ocean

*President:* Jacob J. Nortey  
*Secretary:* Caleb O. Adeogun  
*Treasurer:* Donald H. Thomas  
*Field Secretary:* David R. Syme  
*Auditor:* Thomas P. Miller  
*Church Ministries Director:* Carlyle M. Bayne  
*Education Director:* Phenias Bahimba  
*Health and Temperance Director:* Gaspar Colton  
*Ministerial Association Secretary:* Walton S. Whaley  
*Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director:* Japheth Agboka

*Publishing Director:* Dale L. Thomas  
*Trust Services Director:* Marenus R. DePaula  
*International Food Service Director:* David R. Syme

### Eastern Africa

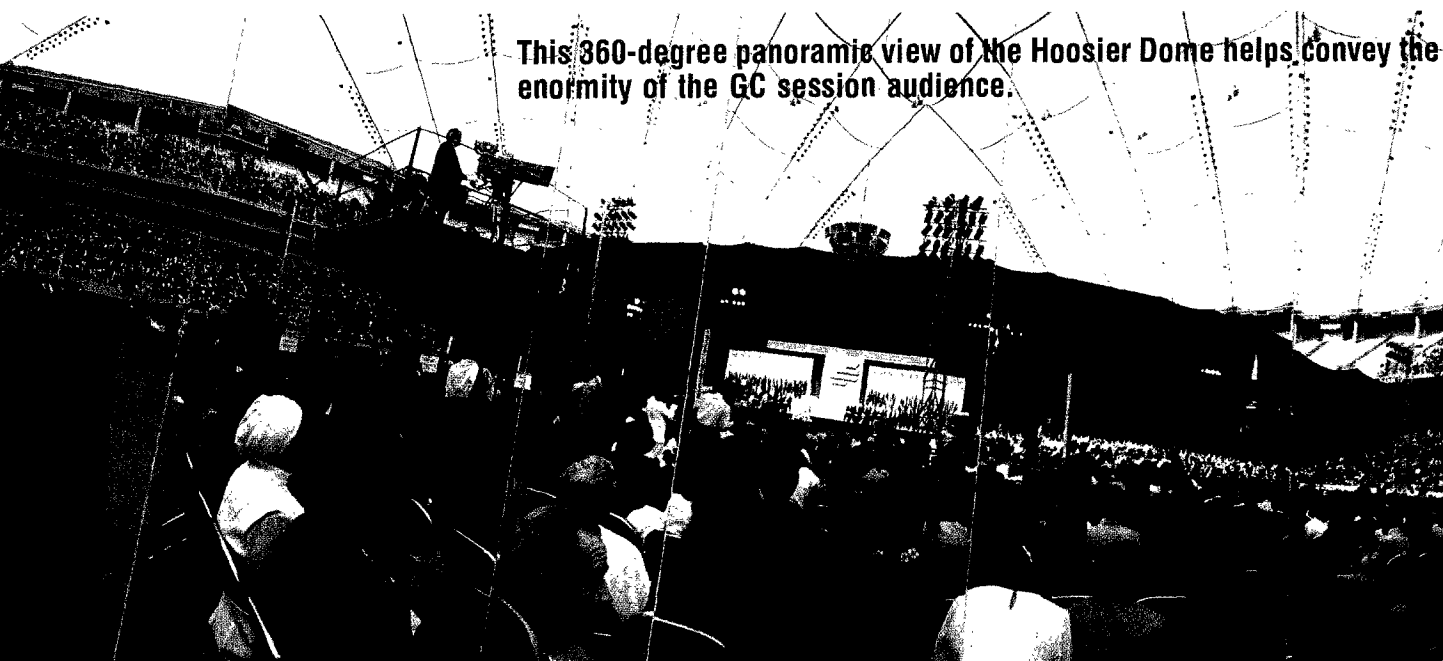
*President:* Bekele Heye  
*Secretary:* L. D. Raelly  
*Treasurer:* Gary DeBoer  
*Field Secretaries:* D.W.B. Chalale, Harry D. Dumba, Heikki J. Luukko  
*Auditor:* Hans Sakul  
*Church Ministries Director:* Solomon Wolde-Endreas  
*Communication Director:* Zablon F. Ayonga  
*Education Director:* T. H. Nkungula  
*Health and Temperance Director:* Saleem Farag  
*Ministerial Association Secretary:* Baraka Muganda  
*Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director:* Zablon F. Ayonga  
*Publishing Director:* Leonard Masuku

### Euro-Africa

*President:* Edwin Ludescher  
*Secretary:* Ulrich Frikart  
*Treasurer:* Erich Amelung  
*Auditor:* Jean-Claude Halm  
*Church Ministries Director:* Carlos Costa  
*Communication Director:* John Graz  
*Education Director:* Ronald Strasdowsky  
*Health and Temperance Director:* Jochen Hawlitschek  
*Ministerial Association Secretary:* Johannes Mager  
*Religious Liberty Director:* Gianfranco Rossi

### Far Eastern

*President:* Ottis C. Edwards  
*Secretary:* Tong C. Kim  
*Treasurer:* Ian E. Grice



This 360-degree panoramic view of the Hoosier Dome helps convey the enormity of the GC session audience.

*Field Secretaries:* Gordon E. Bullock, Pyung Duk Chun  
*Auditor:* Barrie N. Collins  
*Church Ministries Director:* David Wong  
*Communication Director:* G. Ray James  
*Education Director:* Shozo Tabuchi  
*Health and Temperance Director:* Kathleen H. Kuntaraf  
*Ministerial Association Secretary:* Violeto F. Bocala  
*Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director:* Minoru Inada  
*Publishing Director:* Russell C. Thomas  
*Trust Services Director:* Peter Foo  
*International Health Food Association Director:* Masao Uruma

#### **Inter-American**

*President:* George W. Brown  
*Secretary:* Agustin Galicia  
*Treasurer:* Ramon H. Maury  
*Field Secretary:* Silburn M. Reid  
*Auditor:* Eugene A. Blackman  
*Church Ministries Director:* Sergio Moctezuma  
*Communication Director:* Leslie V. McMillan  
*Education Director:* L. Herbert Fletcher  
*Health and Temperance Director:* Elie Honore  
*International Health Food Director:* Sidney Cole  
*Ministerial Association Secretary:* Jaime Castrejon  
*Publishing Director:* Ricardo A. Rodriguez  
*Trust Services Director:* Leslie V. McMillan

#### **North American**

*President:* A. C. McClure  
*Secretary:* Harold Baptiste  
*Treasurer:* George H. Crumley  
*Field Secretaries:* Robert L. Dale, Manuel Vasquez  
*Church Ministries Director:* J. Lynn Martell  
*Communication Director:* Owen A. Troy  
*Education:* Board of Higher Education Executive Secretary: Gordon Madgwick  
*K-12 Board Executive Secretary:* Gilbert L. Plubell

*Health and Temperance Director:* Stoy E. Proctor  
*Ministerial Association Secretary:* William C. Scales, Jr.  
*Office of Human Relations Director:* Rosa T. Banks  
*Publishing Director:* Robert S. Smith

#### **South American**

*President:* Joao Wolff  
*Secretary:* Edwin I. Mayer  
*Treasurer:* Ruy H. Nagel  
*Field Secretaries:* Enrique Becerra, Floriano X. dos Santos  
*Auditor:* Roald N. Wensell  
*Church Ministries Director:* Henrique Berg  
*Communication Director:* Assad Bechara  
*Education Director:* Roberto C. de Azevedo  
*Health and Temperance Director:* Tito M. Rodriguez  
*International Health Food Association Director:* Benjamin Reichel  
*Ministerial Association Secretary:* Jose A. Justiniano  
*Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director:* Assad Bechara

#### **South Pacific**

*President:* Bryan Ball  
*Secretary:* Athal H. Tolhurst  
*Treasurer:* W. Thomas Andrews  
*Field Secretary:* Arthur J. Ferch  
*Auditor:* Max Mitchell  
*Church Ministries Director:* Bryan Craig  
*Communication Director:* Raymond L. Coombe  
*Education Director:* Gerald F. Clifford  
*Health and Temperance Director:* Donald E. Bain  
*Health Food Director:* E. W. Grosser  
*Ministerial Association Secretary:* P.E.M. Roennfeldt  
*Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director:* Raymond L. Coombe  
*Publishing Director:* Bruce Campbell  
*Trust Services Director:* James L. Lansdown

#### **Southern Asia**

*President:* Maliakal E. Cherian  
*Secretary:* Lowell C. Cooper  
*Treasurer:* Johnson Koilpillai  
*Auditor:* I. Nagabhushana Rao  
*Church Ministries Director:* C. C. Nathaniel  
*Communication Director:* P. D. Kujur  
*Education Director:* K. Jesurathnam  
*Health Director:* V. Thansiana  
*Ministerial Association Secretary:* John M. Fowler  
*Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director:* Maliakal E. Cherian  
*Publishing Director:* T. R. Gill  
*Trust Services Director:* Johnson Koilpillai

#### **Trans-European**

*President:* Jan Paulsen  
*Secretary:* Karel C. van Oossanen  
*Treasurer:* Anna-Liisa Halonen  
*Field Secretary:* W. John Arthur  
*Auditor:* Graham M. Barham  
*Church Ministries Director:* James M. Huzzey  
*Communication Director:* Rajmund Dabrowski  
*Education Director:* Orville Woolford  
*Health and Temperance Director:* Peter Bone  
*Ministerial Association Secretary:* A. David C. Currie  
*Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director:* Rajmund Dabrowski  
*Publishing Director:* Kaj Pedersen

#### **Union of Soviet Socialist Republics\***

*President:* M. P. Kulakov  
*Secretary:* V. P. Krushenitsky  
*Treasurer:* Aleksander A. Pankov  
*Church Ministries Director:* Grigorii V. Kochmar  
*Education Director:* Rostislov Volkoslavsky  
*Ministerial Association Secretary:* Mikhail P. Kulakov

\*Note: Publishing Director will be filled later by the Division Committee.



# Fifteenth business meeting

*Fifty-fifth General Conference session, July 13, 1990, 2:00 p.m.*

J. MAGER: This will be the last business meeting of the fifty-fifth General Conference session. We discussed and disputed, we agreed and disagreed. We voted and refused. We sang and prayed together in one spirit. We all experienced in the past few days the uniqueness of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church.

B. THORP: [Announced the opening song.]

A. PATZKE: [Prayed in the German language.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: It always requires a large group of people to make a convention like this happen. I turn now to D. E. Robinson, the session manager.

D. E. ROBINSON: Seven years ago I started working on this General Conference session. [He introduced three officials from Utrecht, Netherlands, where the General Conference session of 1995 will be held.]

It's very difficult to choose from among the list of those who have carried extremely heavy burdens. We will bring a number of those individuals to you to thank them. [He introduced the following people who assisted in the management of the session: K. H. Bahr, Linda de Leon, A. D. Fautheree, D. Hoagland, Mary Huggard, Nancy Humphrey, D. L. Jones, F. L. Jones, Millie Kurtz, Evadeane Peters, M. Seard, Doris Siegel, Paula Townsend, J. Vuko, J. Walden, C. Wall. Also introduced were pages from Southwestern Adventist College and Andrews University.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: This afternoon you have seen the people behind the scenes and some in front of the scenes. But you know, it always takes a head to run it. Before you today you have the head that ran it. Now, there were many necks here that turned that head sometimes, and there were many bodies (we saw many of those here), but I think we need to give a very special tribute to the person who had to make the final decisions, D. E. Robinson. [Applause.]

This morning there was one additional name that should have been read. B. Reaves, secretary of the Nominating Committee, will bring that name to us.

B. REAVES: Inadvertently this morning a name included in the Nominating Committee report was not read. I move the election of the following person to occupy the position indicated: director, Health and Temperance Department, Southern Asia Division, V. Thansiamia. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

ELIZABETH STERNDAL: [Called attention to the need for the church to make certain that they use creative ways of putting women on the executive committees, and that there are women in the union committees and conference committees.]

P. A. GORDON: Since 1867 we have passed

special resolutions and recommendations regarding the Spirit of Prophecy. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has been especially blessed by this gift. The resolution is found on pages 20 and 21 [of the agenda and support material]. I move the adoption of this resolution. [Motion was seconded.]

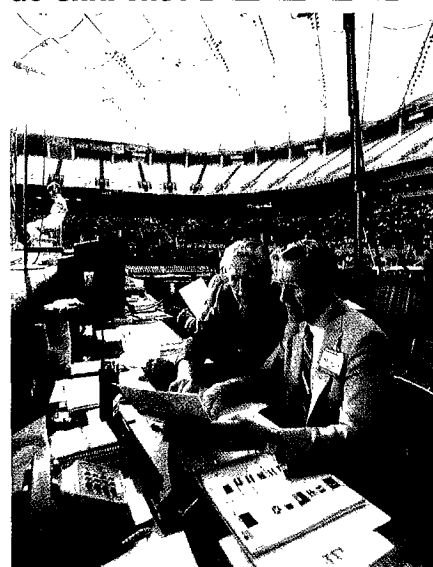
J. N. COFFIN: [Presented a revision in the resolution's wording, which was seconded and voted.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: All in favor of the motion to adopt this Spirit of Prophecy resolution, signify by raising the hand. All opposed, the same sign. It is carried.

B. B. BEACH: We have a number of special guests, and we welcome them to this General Conference session: A. Goldie, representing the World Baptist Alliance, one of the top officials of the international umbrella organization of Baptists; I. Patterson, representing the Church of the Brethren; Mary Beth Neal, representing the Religious Society of Friends; and V. Burferd, representing a fellow Sabbathkeeping church, the Church of God (Seventh Day). We're delighted that they are here, and they will be with us during the Sabbath. [Applause.]

I. LEITO: [Outlined the responsibilities assigned to the associates in the Church Ministries Department.] The Nominating Committee this morning discussed various names and decided on these for the various functions: child ministries, Virginia L. Smith; family life, Karen Flowers, R. Flowers; personal ministries, M.

## GC SNAPSHOT



Jim Harris (left) and Gil Bertochinni help control the flow of participants onto the platform.

E. Joiner; Sabbath school, C. Griffin, C. Smith; stewardship, D. Crane; youth ministries, M. J. Allen, G. T. Ng, M. H. Stevenson.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: The next agenda item is 312 [revision of "The Communion Service," *Church Manual*, pages 78-82].

C. D. WATSON: I move that we accept this recommendation. [Motion was seconded and, after much discussion, voted.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: I am very pleased today to have the privilege of introducing to you another man that I consider a dear personal friend, C. Hodges, who is the deputy assistant secretary of state for the United States.

S. YOUNG: We owe to our chairmen the success of this meeting. It has not been an easy job to be chairman. I hope that you will join me in expressing appreciation for them.

C. HODGES: [Benediction.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER, *Chairman*  
S. YOUNG, *Secretary*  
D. A. ROTH and C. D. WATSON,  
*Proceedings Editors*

## Session actions

*Fifty-fifth General Conference session, July 13, 1990, 2:00 p.m.*

### Resolution on Spirit of Prophecy—1990 General Conference Session

*Voted.* To approve the statement Resolution on Spirit of Prophecy—1990 General Conference Session as follows:

Ever since 1867, resolutions of gratitude to God for the rich spiritual gifts that He has bestowed on His church have been voted at General Conference sessions. Among the leading gifts for which the church has given thanks has been His Inspired Word. Today, when Satan is seeking to deceive, if possible, even "the very elect," we give continued thanks to God for the guidance given to us through Him in the Holy Scriptures. The "sure word of prophecy" is indeed "a light that shineth in a dark place" (2 Peter 1:19).

"In His Word, God has committed to men the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are to be accepted as an authoritative, infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the revealer of doctrines, and the test of experience" (*The Great Controversy*, p. vii).

We are grateful to God not only for giving us the Holy Scriptures but also for giving us the last-day manifestation of the gift of prophecy in the life and work of Ellen G. White. Her inspired writings have been invaluable to the church throughout the world in countless ways—exalting the Bible as the inspired word of God; encouraging Bible study; establishing the faith of God's people in its promises; promoting a spirit of devotion and sacrifice; aiding in the development and organization of an international body of believers; expanding world outreach; providing guiding principles for the op-

eration of publishing, medical, and educational institutions; and guarding and unifying the church.

Above all, her writings point to Christ's great sacrifice on the cross, which leads people to become citizens of the kingdom of grace that His atonement has made possible and which prepares them to meet the Saviour in peace at His second advent. As a result of the blessings that have accrued when we have followed inspired counsel, we have learned how wise and practical is the instruction that has come to us through inspiration.

Now we have reached a most interesting and significant moment in history when much of the counsel on health, temperance, and other topics given us long ago has been supported by science and become popular with the general public. This challenges us to renewed study of and fuller appreciation for the extensive body of counsel entrusted by God to the remnant church. We believe the time is here to take the fullest advantage of this inestimable treasure of truth given for our guidance.

In the past, General Conferences in session have voted recommendations that urged wider translation, distribution, and use of the writings of Ellen G. White. We, the delegates to the fifty-fifth General Conference session, wish to affirm and give added emphasis to these recommendations. But, more important, we reaffirm our acceptance of this counsel from God and commit ourselves to live by the principles contained in it. We pray that God will pour out His Holy Spirit in latter-rain power on the church, thus hastening the glorious day of our Lord's return.

## The Communion Service— Church Manual Revision

*Voted, To revise Church Manual, pages 78-82, The Communion Service, to read as follows:*

### The Communion Service

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church the Communion service customarily is celebrated once per quarter. The service includes the ordinance of foot washing and the Lord's Supper. It should be a most sacred and joyous occasion to the congregation, as well as to the minister or elder. Conducting the Communion service is undoubtedly one of the most sacred duties that a minister or elder is called upon to perform. Jesus, the great Redeemer of this world, is holy. The angels declare: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come." Therefore, since Jesus is holy, the symbols that represent His body and His blood are also holy. Since the Lord Himself selected the deeply meaningful symbols of the unleavened bread and unfermented fruit of the vine and used the simplest of means for washing the disciples' feet, there should be great reluctance to introduce alternative symbols and means (except under truly emergency conditions) lest the original significance of the service be lost. Likewise

in the order of service and the traditional roles played by the ministers, elders, deacons, and deaconesses in the Communion service, there should be caution lest substitution and innovation contribute to a tendency to make common that which is sacred. Individualism and independence of action and practice could become an expression of unconcern for church unity and fellowship on this most blessed and sacred occasion. Desire for change could neutralize the element of remembrance in this service instituted by our Lord Himself as He entered upon His passion.

The service of the Lord's Supper is just as holy today as it was when instituted by Jesus Christ. Jesus is still present when this sacred ordinance is celebrated. We read, "It is at these, His own appointments, that Christ meets His people, and energizes them by His presence" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 656).

**Announcing the Communion Service.**—The Communion service may appropriately be included as part of any Christian worship service. However, to give proper emphasis and make Communion available to the greatest possible number of members, usually it is part of the Sabbath worship service, preferably on the next to the last Sabbath of each quarter.

On the preceding Sabbath an announcement should be made of the service, calling attention to the importance of the forthcoming Communion, so that all members may prepare their hearts and make sure that unresolved differences are put right with one another. When they come to the table of the Lord the following week, the service then can bring the blessing intended. Those who were not present for the announcement should be notified and invited to attend.

**Conducting the Communion Service.**  
—*Length of Service.*  
—Time is not the most significant factor in planning the Communion service. However, attendance can be improved and the spiritual impact increased by:

1. Eliminating all extraneous items from the worship service on this high day.
2. Avoiding delays before and after the foot washing.
3. Having the deaconesses arrange the emblems on the

Communion table well beforehand.

**Preliminaries.**—The introductory portion of the service should include only very brief announcements, hymn, prayer, offering, and a short sermon before separating for the washing of feet. More worshippers will be encouraged to stay for the entire service if the early part of the service has been brief.

**Foot washing.**—Men and women should be provided separate areas for the foot washing. Where stairs or distance is a problem, special arrangements should be made for the handicapped. In places where it is socially acceptable and where clothing is such that there would be no immodesty, separate arrangements may be made for husband and wife or parents and baptized children to share with each other in the foot-washing ceremony. To encourage shy or sensitive people who may view the selecting of a foot-washing partner as an embarrassing experience, church leaders should be designated whose responsibility during the foot washing is to help such persons find partners.

Before the service, deacons and deaconesses should prepare basins, towels, and water at a comfortable temperature for the foot washing. Soap and an extra basin should be available for washing the hands afterward.

**Bread and Wine.**—A hymn may be sung during the reassembly of the congregation as the officiating ministers or elders take their places at the table on which the bread and wine have

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been placed, and the deacons their places on the front row of the church. The covering over the bread is removed. A suitable passage of Scripture may be read such as 1 Corinthians 11:23, 24; Matthew 26:26; Mark 14:22; or Luke 22:19, or a brief sermon may be given at this point in the service rather than earlier. This can be especially effective if the sermon emphasizes the meaning of the bread and wine so its message is still fresh in the minds of participants as the emblems are being distributed. Those officiating normally kneel while the blessing is asked on the bread. The congregation may kneel or remain seated. Most of the bread to be served is usually broken ahead of time, with a small portion left on each plate for the elders or pastors to break. The minister and elders hand the plates containing the bread to the deacons, then the deacons serve the congregation. During this time there may be a choice of special music, testimonies, a summary of the sermon, selected readings, congregational singing, or meditative organ or piano music.

Each person should retain his or her portion of the bread until the officiating minister or elder has been served. When everyone has been seated, the leader invites all to partake of the bread together. Silent prayers are offered as the bread is eaten.

The minister then reads a suitable passage such as 1 Corinthians 11:25, 26; Matthew 26:27-29; Mark 14:23-25; or Luke 22:20. Leaders kneel as the prayer is given over the wine. Again, deacons serve the congregation. Activities such as those

suggested during the passing of the bread may be continued at this time. After the officiating ministers or elders have been served, all worshipers partake of the wine together.

An optional method is for the bread to be blessed and broken; then the bread and wine are placed on the same tray and passed to the congregation. The worshiper takes both from the tray at the same time. The bread is eaten, followed by silent prayer. Then after prayer over the wine, it is taken, followed by silent prayer. Where pews or seats are equipped with racks to hold the wine glasses, the collection of glasses is unnecessary until after the service.

**Celebration.**—The service may close with a musical feature or congregational singing followed by dismissal. However it closes, it should end on a high note. Communion should always be a solemn experience but never a somber one. Wrongs have been righted, sins have been forgiven, and faith has been reaffirmed; it is a time for celebration. Let the music be bright and joyous.

## GC SNAPSHOT



Karen Flowers shows visitors a wall hanging at the GC Women's Ministries Advisory booth that portrays women's service to the world church.

## GC SNAPSHOT



Cooperation brings beautiful music from tuned steel drums as performed by a group from Trinidad and Tobago.

An offering for the poor is often taken as the congregation leaves. After the service the deacons and deaconesses clear the table, collect glasses, and dispose of any bread or wine left over by burning or burying the bread and pouring the wine on the ground.

**Who May Participate.**—The Seventh-day Adventist Church practices open Communion. All who have committed their lives to the Saviour may participate. Children learn the significance of the service by observing others participate. After receiving formal instruction in baptismal classes and making their commitment to Jesus in baptism, they are thereby prepared to partake in the service themselves.

“When believers assemble to celebrate the ordinances, there are present messengers unseen by human eyes. There may be a Judas in the company, and if so, messengers from the prince of darkness are there, for they attend all who refuse to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. Heavenly angels also are present. These unseen visitants are present on every such occasion” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 656).

“Christ's example forbids exclusiveness at the Lord's Supper. It is true that open sin excludes the guilty. This the Holy Spirit plainly teaches. But beyond this none are to pass judgment. God has not left it with men to say who shall present themselves on these occasions. For who can read the heart? Who can distinguish the tares from the wheat? ‘Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.’ For ‘whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.’ ‘He that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.’ . . .

“There may come into the company persons who are not in heart servants of truth and ho-



## GC SNAPSHOT



**Brothers Fred, Don, Ken, and their mother, Florence Thomas, have given collectively more than 135 years of mission service in Africa. Mrs. Thomas and her husband first went to Kenya in 1924. Currently Fred is undertreasurer of the GC; Don is treasurer of the Africa-Indian Ocean Division; and Ken teaches mathematics at Andrews University.**

liness, but who may wish to take part in the service. They should not be forbidden. There are witnesses present who were present when Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and of Judas. More than human eyes beheld the scene" (*ibid.*).

**Every Member Should Attend.**—“None should exclude themselves from the Communion because some who are unworthy may be present. Every disciple is called upon to participate publicly, and thus bear witness that he accepts Christ as a personal Saviour. It is at these, His own appointments, that Christ meets His people, and energizes them by His presence. Hearts and hands that are unworthy may even administer the ordinance, yet Christ is there to minister to His children. All who come with their faith fixed upon Him will be greatly blessed. All who neglect these seasons of divine privilege will suffer loss. Of them it may appropriately be said, ‘Ye are not all clean’” (*ibid.*).

**Unleavened Bread and Unfermented Wine.**—“Christ is still at the table on which the paschal supper has been spread. The unleavened cakes used at the Passover season are before Him. The Passover wine, untouched by fermentation, is on the table. These emblems Christ employs to represent His own unblemished sacrifice. Nothing corrupted by fermentation, the symbol of sin and death, could represent the ‘Lamb without blemish and without spot’” (*ibid.*, p. 653).

Neither the “cup” nor the bread contained elements of fermentation as on the evening of the first day of the Hebrew Passover all leaven, or fermentation, had been removed from their dwellings (Ex. 12:15, 19; 13:7). Therefore, only unfermented grape juice and unleavened bread are appropriate for use in the Communion service; so great care must be exercised in providing these elements. In those more isolated areas of the world where grape or raisin juice or concentrate is not readily available, the conference office will provide advice or assistance in obtaining it for the churches.

**A Memorial of the Crucifixion.**—“By partaking of the Lord’s Supper, the broken bread and the fruit of the vine, we show forth the Lord’s death until He comes. The scenes of His sufferings and death are thus brought fresh to our minds” (*Early Writings*, p. 217).

“As we receive the bread and wine symbolizing Christ’s broken body and spilled blood, we in imagination join in the scene of Communion in the upper chamber. We seem to be passing through the garden consecrated by the agony of Him who bore the sins of the world. We witness the struggle by which our reconciliation with God was obtained. Christ is set forth crucified among us” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 661).

**Ordinance of Foot Washing.**—“Now, having washed the disciples’ feet, He said, ‘I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.’ In these words Christ was not merely enjoining the practice of hospitality.

More was meant than the washing of the feet of guests to remove the dust of travel. Christ was here instituting a religious service. By the act of our Lord this . . . [expression of humility was made a sacred] ordinance. It was to be observed by the disciples, that they might ever keep in mind His lessons of humility and service.

“This ordinance is Christ’s appointed preparation for the sacramental service. While pride, variance, and strife for supremacy are cherished, the heart cannot enter into fellowship with Christ. We are not prepared to receive the communion of His body and His blood. Therefore it was that Jesus appointed the memorial of His humiliation to be first observed” (*ibid.*, p. 650).

In the act of washing the disciples’ feet, Christ performed a deeper cleansing, that of washing from the heart the stain of sin. The communicant senses an unworthiness to accept the sacred emblems before he or she experiences the cleansing that makes one “clean every whit” (John 13:10). Jesus desired to wash away “alienation, jealousy, and pride from their hearts. . . . Pride and self-seeking create dissension and hatred, but all this Jesus washed away. . . . Looking upon them, Jesus could say, ‘Ye are clean’” (*ibid.*, p. 646).

The spiritual experience that lies at the heart of foot washing lifts it from being a common custom to being a sacred ordinance. It conveys a message of forgiveness, acceptance, assurance, and solidarity, primarily from Christ to the believer, but also between the believers themselves. This message is expressed in an atmosphere of humility.

**Who May Conduct Communion Service.**

—The Communion service is to be conducted

by an ordained minister or a church elder. Deacons, although ordained, cannot conduct the service, but they can assist by passing the bread and wine to the members.

**Communion for the Sick.**—If any members are ill or cannot for any other reason leave the home to attend the Communion service in the house of worship, a special service in the home may be held for them. This service can be conducted only by an ordained minister or a church elder, who may be accompanied and assisted by deacons or deaconesses who assist in the regular service.

Adjourned.

K. J. MITTLEIDER, *Chairman*  
SAMUEL YOUNG, *Secretary*  
FRED G. THOMAS, *Actions Editor*  
FAY WELTER, *Recording Secretary*

### Revision of Action

The session action “**Representation of Delegates by Church Entities and Gender**” (*Bulletin No. 5*, p. 11) was editorially revised to read as follows:

*Voted*, To request the standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee to give study to providing a satisfactory method whereby delegates of the various church entities may be elected by the constituencies of those entities, rather than appointed, and that study be given to assuring proper representation professionally, ethnically, ideologically, and by gender.

# GC Leaders Target Concerns for the Adventist Church



By Neal C. Wilson  
Former GC President

*Responding to social issues frequently raised in the United States and overseas, General Conference leaders released the following statements during the fifty-fifth session of the church. Although these statements were not discussed or voted by the session, they fairly represent the position of the church.*

## Ban on Sale of Assault Weapons to Civilians

Automatic or semiautomatic military-style weapons are becoming increasingly available to civilians. In some areas of the world it is relatively easy to acquire such guns. They show up not only in the street, but in the hands of youngsters at school. Many crimes are committed through the use of these kinds of weapons. They are made to kill people. They have no legitimate recreational use.

The teachings and example of Christ constitute the guide for the Christian today. Christ came into the world to save lives, not destroy them (Luke 9:56). When Peter drew his weapon Jesus said to him: "Put your sword back in its place. . . . All who take the sword will die by the sword" (Matt. 26:52, TEV). Jesus did not engage in violence.

The argument is made by some that banning assault weapons limits the rights of people and that guns do not commit crimes, but people do. While it is true that violence and criminal inclinations lead to guns, it is also true that availability of guns leads to violence. The opportunity for civilians to acquire by purchase or otherwise automatic or semi-automatic assault weapons only increases the number of deaths resulting from human crimes. Possession of guns by civilians in the United States has increased by an estimated 300 percent in the past four years. During the same

period there has been a staggering increase in armed attacks and resulting deaths.

In most of the world such weapons cannot be acquired by any legal means. The church views with alarm the relative ease with which they may be acquired in some areas. Their availability can only open the possibility of further tragedies.

Pursuits of peace and the preservation of life are to be the goals of Christians. Evil cannot be effectively met with evil, but must be overcome with good. Seventh-day Adventists, with other people of goodwill, wish to cooperate in using every legitimate means of reducing, and eliminating where possible, the root causes of crime. In addition, with public safety and the value of human life in mind, the sale of automatic or semiautomatic assault weapons should be strictly controlled. This would reduce the use of weapons by mentally disturbed people and criminals, especially those involved in drug and gang activities.

## Pornography

Diverse courts and cultures may debate the definitions and consequences of pornography (the literature of sexual deviance), but on the basis of eternal principles, Seventh-day Adventists of whatever culture deem pornography to be destructive, demeaning, desensitizing, and exploitative.

It is *destructive* to marital relationships, thus subverting God's design that husband and wife cleave so closely to each other that they become, symbolically, "one flesh" (Gen. 2:24).

It is *demeaning*, defining a woman (and in some instances a man) not as a spiritual-mental-physical whole, but as a one-dimensional and disposable sex object, thus depriving her of the worth and

the respect that are her due and right as a daughter of God.

It is *desensitizing* to the viewer/reader, callousing the conscience and perverting the perception, thus producing a "depraved" person (Rom. 1:28, NEB).

It is *exploitative*, pandering to prurience, and basely abusive, thus contrary to the golden rule, which insists that one treat others as one wishes to be treated (Matt. 7:12). Particularly offensive is child pornography. Said Jesus: "If anyone leads astray even one child who believes in Me, he would be better off thrown into the depths of the sea with a millstone hung around his neck!" (see Matt. 18:6).

Though Norman Cousins may not have said it in biblical language, he has perceptively written: "The trouble with this wideopen pornography . . . is not that it corrupts, but that it desensitizes; not that it unleashes the passions, but that it cripples the emotions; not that it encourages a mature attitude, but that it is a reversion to infantile obsessions; not that it removes the blinders, but that it distorts the view. Prowess is proclaimed, but love is denied. What we have is not liberation but dehumanization" (*Saturday Review of Literature*, Sept. 20, 1975).

A society plagued by plunging standards of decency, increasing child prostitution, teenage pregnancies, sexual assaults on women and children, drug-damaged mentalities, and organized crime can ill-afford pornography's contribution to these evils.

Wise indeed is the counsel of Christianity's first great theologian: "If you believe in goodness and if you value the approval of God, fix your minds on whatever is true and honourable and just and pure and lovely and admirable" (Phil. 4:8, Phillips). This is advice that all Christians would do well to heed.

## An Affirmation of Family

The family tie is the closest, the most tender and sacred, of any human relationship on earth. God instituted the family as the primary provider of the warm and caring relationships for which the human heart yearns.

In the family circle, deep and abiding needs for belonging, love, and intimacy are met in significant ways. God blesses the family and intends that its members

will help each other in reaching complete maturity and wholeness. In the Christian family, the personal worth and dignity of each member is affirmed and safeguarded in an environment of respect, equality, openness, and love. In this intimate circle the individual's earliest and most lasting attitudes toward relationships are developed and values are conveyed from one generation to another.

God also intends that a revelation of Himself and His ways be gained from the family relationship. Marriage, with mutual love, honor, intimacy, and lifelong commitment as its fabric, mirrors the love, sanctity, closeness, and permanence of the bond between Christ and His church. The training and correcting of children by their parents and the loving response of offspring to the affection shown them reflects the experience of believers as children of God. By God's grace the family may be a powerful agency in leading its members to Christ.

Sin has perverted God's ideals for marriage and family. Furthermore, the increasing complexity of society and the enormous stresses that fall upon relationships lead to crises within many families today. The results are evidenced in lives and relationships that are broken, dysfunctional, and characterized by mistrust, conflict, hostility, and estrangement. Many family members, including parents and grandparents, but especially wives and children, suffer from family violence. Abuse, both emotional and physical, has reached epidemic proportions. The rising number of divorces signals a high degree of marital discord and unhappiness.

Families need to experience a renewal and reformation in their relationships. This will help change the destructive attitudes and practices prevalent in many homes today. Through the power of the gospel, family members are enabled to acknowledge their individual sinfulness, to accept each other's brokenness, and to receive Christ's redemptive healing in their lives and relationships. Although some family relationships may fall short of the ideal, and restoration from damaging experiences may not be fully accomplished, where the love of Christ reigns His Spirit will promote unity and harmony, making such homes channels of live-giving joy and power in the church, and in the community.

## Homelessness and Poverty

In a world ravaged by sin, the bitter fruits of greed, war, and ignorance are multiplying. Even in "affluent societies" the homeless and the poor are growing populations. More than 10,000 people starve to death every day. Two billion more are malnourished, and thousands more go blind annually because of dietary deficiency. Approximately two thirds of the world's population remains caught in a cycle of hunger, sickness, and death.

There are some who bear liability for their condition, but the majority of these individuals and families are destituted by political, economic, cultural, or social events largely beyond their control.

Historically, those in such circumstances have found succor and advocacy in the hearts of the followers of Jesus Christ. Caring institutions are in many cases begun by the church and later assumed by government agencies, or vice versa. These agencies, aside from any ideological altruism, reflect society's recognition that it is in its own best interest to deal compassionately with the less fortunate.

Social scientists tell us that a number of ills find fertile ground in the conditions of poverty. Feelings of hopelessness, alienation, envy, and resentment often lead to antisocial attitudes and behavior. Then society is left to pay for the aftereffects of such ills through its courts, prisons, and welfare systems. Poverty and misfortune as such do not cause crime and provide no excuse for it. But when the claims of compassion are denied, discouragement and even resentment are likely to follow.

The claims upon the Christian's compassion are not ill-founded. They do not spring from any legal or even social contract theory, but from the clear teaching of Scripture: "He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8, RSV).

The fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah is precious to Seventh-day Adventists. We see our responsibility in this chapter as those raised up to be "The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in" (verse 12).

The call is to restore and "to loose the bands of wickedness," "to deal thy bread to the hungry," to "bring the poor that are cast out to thy house," and "when thou seest the naked, [to] cover him" (verses 6, 7). So as repairers of the breach, we are to restore and care for the poor. If we carry out the principles of the law of God in acts of mercy and love, we will represent the character of God to the world.

In effecting Christ's ministry today, we must do as He did, and not only preach the gospel to the poor, but heal the sick, feed the hungry, and raise the downcast (see Luke 4:18, 19; Matt. 14:14). But Matthew 14:16 explains that it was so that "they need not go away" (RSV). Christ's own example is determinative for His followers.

In Christ's response to Judas' feigned concern for the poor, "for you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me" (Matt. 26:11, RSV), we are reminded that it is the "Living Bread" that people most desperately need. However, we also recognize the inseparables between the physical and the spiritual. By supporting those church and public policies that relieve suffering, and by individual and united efforts of compassion, we augment that very spiritual endeavor.

## Stewardship of the Environment

As the industrial revolution peaked during the past century, smokestacks rising high into the air signaled progress, heralds of a golden age of prosperity and plenty. But no longer. Today, thinking people everywhere realize that uncontrolled technology has placed our entire environment in peril.

More than any other generation before us, we have pillaged the resources of our planet in an insatiable hunger for material comfort, gadgets, and new technologies. In our greed for more, we have wantonly exploited the earth as though its bounties were inexhaustible. We have in the process created hazardous products that defy safe disposal. Using the ocean as a giant garbage dump, we have acted as if it were a bottomless pit capable of absorbing unlimited refuse and sewage. On land, acid rain, a lethal shower of our own creating, descends upon lake and forest,

slowly killing off the fish stock and microscopic vegetation vital to the ecosystem. Our forests are dying. Our air is polluted. The protective ozone layer is threatened.

As our planet emerged from the hands of the Creator, He pronounced it both good and perfect. But through sin it became fragile—needing to be dressed and kept (Gen. 2:15). Instead, we have misused it for the sake of our own profit motive and selfish creature comforts. Our behavior is not only irresponsible—it becomes even immoral.

The crisis is not simply economic and political. It is also moral and spiritual, for it impinges on our relationship to our Creator as stewards of His creation (Gen. 1:26-28). With our strong belief in Creation—a doctrine that lies at the heart of the message of Revelation 14—Seventh-day Adventists should stand at the forefront of the struggle to save the planet. In our lifestyle, our personal witness, and every appropriate public forum, we ought to seek to raise the consciousness of all people regarding this creeping danger to the environment.

Many advanced societies not only squander their own resources, but draw from less-advanced cultures, depleting their national wealth, jeopardizing their futures, and creating economies dependent on the exploitation of diminishing resources. The church sees the world as a whole, and accepts the responsibility created by the command “Love thy neighbour” as including the need for all to govern the use of resources and preserve the environment without advanced societies protecting their economies and lifestyles at the expense of the less-advantaged areas.

Our belief in the imminence of the Second Advent does not diminish this responsibility, for Christ tells us to occupy *until* He comes (Luke 19:13). Ecological responsibility and the belief in the imminent Advent are not mutually exclusive. Both must characterize Adventists.

We call upon leaders in industry to act responsibly and morally—in the interest of both the present and future. We call upon local, national, and international governments and authorities to enact such appropriate measures as would ensure the safety and well-being of an environment on the brink of catastrophe.

We call upon all Adventists to highlight and, where necessary, recapture the meaning of Christian stewardship, and declare in word and life that this is still our Father’s world.

## **AIDS**

Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and associated conditions are spreading rapidly around the world. On the basis of statistical studies it is estimated that in the near future, in many countries of the world, every church congregation numbering 100 or more will include at least one member who has a friend or relative with AIDS.

AIDS is transmitted through two major sources: sexual intimacy with an infected person, and introduction of HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) contaminated blood into the body either through injections with unsterile needles and syringes or through contaminated blood products. AIDS can be prevented by avoiding sexual contact before marriage and maintaining a faithful monogamous relationship with an uninfected person in marriage, and by avoiding the use of unsterile needles for injections and assuring the safety of blood products.

Adventists are committed to education for prevention of AIDS. For many years Adventists have fought against the circulation, sale, and use of drugs, and continue to do so. Adventists support sex education that includes the concept that human sexuality is God’s gift to humanity. Biblical sexuality clearly limits sexual relationships to one’s spouse and excludes promiscuous and all other sexual relationships and the consequent increased exposure to HIV.

The Christlike response to AIDS must be personal—compassionate, helpful, and redemptive. Just as Jesus cared about those with leprosy, the feared communicable disease of His day, His followers today will care for those with AIDS. James advised, “What good is there in your saying to them, ‘God bless you! Keep warm and eat well!’—if you don’t give them the necessities of life?” (James 2:16, TEV).

## **Chemical Use, Abuse, and Dependency**

The Seventh-day Adventist Church,

officially organized in 1863, early in its history addressed the use of beveraged alcohol and tobacco. The church condemned the use of both as destructive to life, family, and spirituality. She adopted, in practice, a definition of temperance that urged “us to abstain entirely from that which is injurious, and to use healthful and nutritious articles judiciously.”

The position of the church with respect to the use of alcohol and tobacco has not changed. In recent decades the church has actively promoted anti-alcohol and anti-drug education within the church, and united with other agencies to educate the wider community in the prevention of alcoholism and drug dependency. The church created a stop-smoking program in the early 1960s that has had a worldwide outreach and helped tens of thousands of smokers to quit. Originally known as the Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking, it may well be the most successful of all cessation programs.

The creation of hundreds of new drugs in laboratories, and the rediscovery and popularization of age-old natural chemicals such as marijuana and cocaine, have now gravely complicated a once comparatively simple problem and pose an ever-increasing challenge to both the church and society. In a society that tolerates and even promotes drug use, addiction is a growing menace.

Redoubling its efforts in the field of the prevention of dependency, the church is developing new curricula for its schools and support programs to assist youth to remain abstinent.

The church is also seeking to be an influential voice in calling the attention of the media, public officials, and legislators to the damage society is suffering through continued promotion and distribution of alcohol and tobacco.

The church continues to believe that Paul’s instruction in 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20 is applicable today, that our bodies are the “temple of the Holy Ghost” and we should “glorify God” in our bodies. We belong to God; we are witnesses to His grace. We must endeavor to be at our best, physically and mentally, in order that we may enjoy His fellowship and glorify His name.

# Women's Issues Spark Debate

More than 50 people gave varying opinions on the amendment.

Two issues affecting women in ministry provoked long and lively debates at the General Conference session—the ordination of women and a *Church Manual* amendment affecting the responsibilities of unordained ministers.

By a vote of 1,173 to 377 the delegates decided not to authorize ordination for women pastors. The vote came early Wednesday morning, July 11, after more than three hours of discussion on the issue Tuesday afternoon.

The vote followed the recommendation of the 1989 meeting of the Commission on the Role of Women in the Church, which first presented its report to the 1989 Annual Council. The commission members concluded that even though they could not reach a consensus on whether Scripture or Ellen G. White spoke to the issue of women's ordination, ordaining women as pastors could provoke "disunity, dissension, and diversion from the mission of the church."

Before the vote, former General Conference president Neal C. Wilson traced the history of the recommendation. "At the request of the world body, there have been three different commissions that have studied this subject," he said. "This matter was discussed in a tangential way at the 1975 General Conference session in Vienna. . . .

"As we approached the 1985 General Conference session there was a renewed appeal that women be granted the privilege of being ordained," he said. "We called a commission of about 80 individuals from every division of the world church. There were persons selected to represent biblical exegesis, theology, church history, and other areas, such as knowledge in the writings of Ellen White. . . . At the present time we have about 50 . . . documents . . . on this particular subject by scholars in various parts of the world. . . . The commissions have felt that the proof was not strong enough to make any change in the ordination of women to the gospel ministry."

Delegates opposing women's ordination expressed their belief that the church has no biblical basis for the ordination of women pastors.

"I think it has been demonstrated clearly that there is not a biblical basis for the ordination of

women," said Ernesto Ugarte, a South American Division delegate. "Many take the ministry of Ellen White as a basis for the ordination of women. Let us not forget that Ellen White was never ordained, and the ministry that she exercised was given to her . . . by the Lord Himself."

Delegates supporting ordination of women expressed their belief that the Bible's silence allows the church to move forward in this area. Ed Motschiedler, a North American Division delegate, explained: "With no clear message from the Lord, the church should not legislate. I believe that divisions that would like to ordain women should have the right . . . to do that."

In another action related to the women's ordination issue, an amendment to the *Church Manual* that under certain conditions would allow qualified licensed and commissioned ministers to perform marriages spurred nearly nine hours of debate over two days before delegates voted their approval (776 to 494) late Thursday afternoon, July 12.

With the amendment, the *Church Manual* now states: "In the marriage ceremony the charge, vows, and declaration of marriage are given only by an ordained minister except in those areas where division committees have taken action to approve that selected licensed or commissioned ministers who have been ordained as local elders may perform the marriage ceremony."

The functions of organizing churches and conducting all ordination services will still be reserved for ordained pastors only.

More than 50 people gave varying opinions on the amendment. Proponents of the amendment saw the action as crucial in allowing women pastors to perform an essential function of ministry. Women pastors in North America have performed marriages, but now the *Church Manual* will allow it officially where divisions approve it.

Just before the vote, General Conference Ministerial Association secretary Floyd Bresee told the delegates, "North America has a great need. They are asking [the world church] for help out of the depths of their need. Please allow and encourage women in ministry. Can we on both sides give a little, meet in the middle, and go out from Indianapolis united on both sides?"

# Harvest 90 Reaches an Exciting Climax

*Church leaders announced that 2,503,142 people were baptized during the past five years.*

**F**ive years ago at the fifty-fourth General Conference session in New Orleans, the Adventist Church set a goal of 2 million baptisms as part of their Harvest 90 evangelistic thrust.

At the fifty-fifth General Conference session in Indianapolis, church leaders announced that 2,503,142 people were baptized into the church in the five-year period. According to General Conference vice president Kenneth Mittleider, that is more than 125 percent of the five-year goal. During the period 5,533 new Adventist congregations were organized.

The baptismal total represents 1,370 accessions per day to the Seventh-day Adventist Church during the five-year period, and compares with 1,011 accessions per day during the previous quinquennium. In 1989 alone accessions totaled 1,581 per day, Mittleider said.


The campaign climaxed on May 26 when churches around the globe conducted simulta-

neous baptisms that resulted in 117,206 people joining the church in one day.

Another high point occurred when church officials in the Soviet Union announced 11,117 baptisms for the five-year period, representing 277 percent of their goal.

"This campaign far exceeded our expectation," Mittleider said. "We put forth a faith goal, stretching what could be humanly accomplished. Only under the blessing of God could we bring this report.

"Church leaders know that when they have goals and objectives in soul winning, and get them across to our members," he added, "not only do baptisms take place; in addition, the percentage of those missing from our ranks is lower.

"Where we have an outreach, where we are expecting babies and have everything prepared to care for them, we're ready to nourish them," Mittleider said. "But when we make little or no preparation for those children, too many die of neglect." 

## GC SNAPSHOT



This booth, located in Exhibit Hall A, featured the work done by Hispanic Adventists.

**By Carlos Medley**  
*News editor*  
 Adventist Review

# Retiree Marks Eleventh Session as Delegate

*Merle Mills has been a delegate to every GC session held since 1946.*

**D**elegate-at-large Merle Mills has a unique perspective on the 1990 General Conference session: he has been a delegate to 11 General Conference sessions, more than any other 1990 delegate. Close behind with 10 sessions each as delegates are Alfredo Aeschlimann, W. W. Fordham, Kenneth H. Wood, and George Vandeman.

Aeschlimann, 86, is also the oldest delegate. He was first a delegate in 1936, but not at every session since. The postwar 1946 session, held in Sligo church in Takoma Park, Maryland, was Merle Mills' first session as a delegate. He has been a delegate to every session since that time. W. W. Fordham was also on hand as a delegate in 1946, but was not a delegate in the 1985 session. Kenneth H. Wood and George Vandeman have been delegates continuously since 1950.

Alfredo Aeschlimann served for 22 years as a union president in South America and Inter-America. When he retired in 1975, he was ministerial director for the Inter-American Division. Aeschlimann notes several trends in GC sessions over the years. The increased participation on the part of divisions outside North America pleases him. He is not so happy with what he sees as increasing disorder and lack of decorum in the business sessions.

Applause seems to him inappropriate if not downright sacrilegious. He recalls the sessions when there were two spiritual meetings daily—a morning devotional and an 11 o'clock worship service.

W. W. Fordham became a delegate in 1946 by virtue of the formation of the first regional conferences in North America. He was elected the first president of the

Southwest Regional Conference, and hence became a GC delegate. He was the only Black American on the Nominating Committee in 1954 when F. L. Peterson and E. E. Cleveland became the first Blacks elected to the General Conference.

Kenneth Wood, former editor of the *Adventist Review* and current chairman of the E. G. White Estate Board, has also been a delegate to nine sessions, beginning with the 1950 session in San Francisco. Wood and his wife, Miriam, note many changes over the years, not the least of which is the changing affluence of the church and its delegates. In 1950, delegates scoured San Francisco neighborhoods for apartments to rent during the session. Today, although some visitors are living in local campgrounds, most of the delegates stay in fine local hotels.

The Woods also recalled a surprising feature of the 1958 session in Cleveland: the Nominating Committee decided not to choose any candidates who were past 65 years of age. Nevertheless, the sessions in the 1950s were also different from today's sessions in that younger workers showed greater deference for older church leaders, hardly daring to challenge the positions taken by their seniors.



Left to right: W. W. Fordham, Merle Mills, Kenneth H. Wood, and Alfredo Aeschlimann have attended 10 or 11 GC sessions as delegates.

**By Ron Graybill**  
*Chairman, History Department  
 La Sierra Campus  
 Loma Linda University*

Report presented at the General Conference session.

# Risk Management Services



By Stanton Parker  
Executive Director

Fifty-five years ago an Adventist layman from Michigan had an idea on how the church could save money on its insurance. William A. Benjamin recommended to the 1935 Annual Council that the church organize its own captive insurance company to issue policies to Adventist churches, schools, and hospitals worldwide. The council responded by appropriating \$25,000, and the following year (1936) The International Insurance Company of Takoma Park, Maryland (IIC), was chartered as a mutual insurance company by the state of Maryland. This same year an insurance brokerage entity was established to purchase coverages for denominational organizations that could not be written through IIC.

The concept of managing our own risk management program within the church has proved to be a sound business decision. In spite of catastrophic losses from time to time, the Lord has

watched over IIC, which as of December 31, 1989, had assets of \$72 million with a policyholder's surplus of \$18.6 million. Only the first \$250,000 of any risk is retained by IIC, with excess coverage placed in the world reinsurance market. IIC has no employees and is managed under contract by the Risk Management Services (RMS) of the General Conference.

## Property Losses

During the past five years, 19 catastrophic storms wreaked havoc with church properties across the globe. The storm that caused the greatest damage occurred just last year.

*Hurricane Hugo:* September 17, 1989, Hurricane Hugo's 100-mile-an-hour winds swept through the Caribbean Islands. Loss payments are expected to reach \$3 million for denominational property losses and church workers' household content losses.

*Hurricane Gilbert:* Second on our list of catastrophic storms damaging church property was Hurricane Gilbert, which ripped through Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, and southern Mexico September 12 and 13, 1988.

Jamaica represented a tremendous challenge in view of the 500-plus church-owned entities, of which almost 90 percent sustained some damage during the storm. Risk Management Services has since reviewed more than 590 claims and sent loss payments in excess of \$2.3 million as a result of this storm. Fortunately for IIC, coverage for this loss had been placed in the direct insurance marketplace through Gencon Insurance Service, Inc. (GISI), our nonprofit insurance brokerage affiliate, which limited our loss to the \$25,000 deductible. Even this was fully funded through another affiliated entity, Gencon Self-Insurance Services (GSIS).

*Warehouse Fire:* The largest single building loss this quinquennium was to the Sanitarium Health Food Company warehouse in Brisbane, Australia. A fire destroyed the entire plant—a loss of approximately \$2.5 million. We were fortunate to have placed this coverage with another insurance company through GISI.

In the past five years, approximately \$16 million in property losses has been paid to our churches, schools, camps, and other institutions.

## GC SNAPSHOT



The 12 brothers and sisters of the Herr family, ages 50 to 74 and living in different states, enjoy a joyful reunion in the Hoosier Dome. In birth order beginning with the youngest, they are Shirley Anderson, Darlene Rouse, Jim, Lloyd, Lenora Copsey, Ben, Helen Rice, Ed, John, Elsie Lehmann, Lydia Reising, and Ted Herr.

## General Liability Claims

The most challenging and unquestionably the most important risk faced by the church is that of legal liability. During the past quinquennium \$12.7 million has been paid on claims involving our conferences, churches, schools, Pathfinder Clubs, day care centers, and other entities. The following is a brief summary of some of the claims paid by IIC during that period.

*Horseback Riding Claim:* A jury awarded \$2.7 million to a rider who was thrown from a horse at a camp. During the appeal process the case was settled for \$2 million.

*Day-Care Center Loss:* A church operating a day-care center released a toddler to an unauthorized individual. The following day the body of the toddler was found in the general vicinity of the day-



care center. As a result, an out-of-court settlement in the low six-digit range was negotiated.

*Sabbath Afternoon Outing:* An outing of a local Sabbath school to a historic building was changed to a beach outing without notice to the parents. At the beach, two youths attempted to scale an 80-foot cliff; both fell onto the rocks below. One became a paraplegic, while the other suffered a serious head injury. The loss amounted to \$1.7 million.

## GC SNAPSHOT



Two to four busloads of people left the Hoosier Dome each day to see Adventist historical sites in Battle Creek, Michigan. Tours were conducted by Jim Nix of the White Estate.

*Sexual Misconduct and Wrongful Termination Claims:* Most common are cases involving pastoral counseling, but child molestation also has occurred. Wrongful termination claims are also on the increase as denominational entities downsize their staffs.

### Malpractice Claims

Adventist hospitals are also not immune from claims of malpractice. During the past quinquennium RMS paid \$38,312,806 in malpractice claims against our hospitals worldwide.

### Auto Accidents

A total of \$5.8 million was paid to claimants during the past five years as the result of automobile accidents involving both church-owned and employee-owned vehicles used for church work.

### Worker's Compensation

Since 1985, RMS has paid \$23,213,789 in worker's compensation benefits to church employees injured on the job around the world.

## Employee Health Care

Denominational employees and their dependents are provided health-care assistance on their medical bills as an employee benefit. RMS administers this program for approximately 70 percent of our conferences in North America. During the past five years RMS has paid in excess of \$73 million in health-care benefits from a trust fund on behalf of denominational employees in the North American Division. Another \$6 million has been paid from a catastrophe medical fund administered by RMS.


### Survivors' Benefits

Another employee benefit administered by RMS is the denominational Survivors' Benefit Plan, which provides benefits from a special trust fund to survivor(s), spouse or dependents, of a full-time employee who may die from any cause. Benefits range from \$5,000 to \$25,000, depending

on the age of the employee. During the past quinquennium more than \$2 million in benefits has been paid by RMS from this trust fund.

### Loss Control Activities

One of the primary objectives of Risk Management Services is to reduce the incidents that give rise to the previously mentioned claims, through an active safety program. Much of that program includes educating church workers and volunteers at all levels on how to prevent or reduce losses. RMS annually conducts a national Risk Management Conference for church administrators, while other union-wide loss control seminars and numerous local conference safety workshops are also held periodically.

The financial drain of church resources from the previously described losses can be reduced only through a dedicated effort of both clergy and laity to be their "brother's keeper" and to work together as partners in service and prevention. To this objective the 150 employees of RMS, located in nine offices around the world, are committed. 

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Southwestern Adventist College

# Trust Services



By G. Tom Carter  
Director

Trust Services is a specialized service on every level of the church whereby individuals or families may give their continuing support to God's work through trusts, annuities, bequests, and other special gifts.

The maturities that have come in to bless the Lord's cause are a tribute to those who have through careful planning demonstrated faithful stewardship in their accumulated assets. During the past five years \$177,609,913 was made avail-

able to the Lord's cause through trust services worldwide. This compares to \$112,675,789 during the previous quinquennium.

education for trust services. During the past five years \$8,927,669 in maturities has come in for the world work through the General Conference Trust Services office. In addition, \$2,238,345 has come to the General Conference from other Trust Services offices.

## Divisions Report

North America has continued its strong trust services program with \$155,344,885 in maturities and special gifts during the past quinquennium. The South Pacific Division leads the way in the percentage of its membership in Australia and New Zealand availing themselves of trust services. The program is also beginning in the Pacific Islands, where Pastor Philemone Bera, past president of the Fiji Mission, has been named trust services director for the Central Pacific Union Mission. James L. Lansdown, who has served in trust services for 12 years, is now the division director.

The two European divisions have also had outstanding maturities with the equivalent of \$12,396,803 coming to the Lord's cause during the past five years. The two division treasurers, Erich Amelung and John Muderspach (who passed away this year), coordinated trust services at the division level and reported that the majority of these maturities came through wills.

Africa is making real strides in laying the groundwork for a good trust services program. Pastor J. J.

Nortey, president of the Africa-Indian Ocean Division and director of trust services, has introduced trust services into at least seven countries. Ronald A. Lindsey, treasurer and trust services director for the Eastern Africa Division, took part last year in a meeting of East African Union leaders and 11 Adventist attorneys in Nairobi, Kenya, to study launching trust services.

The Southern Asia Division, under the leadership of the treasurer, Johnson Koilpillai, is planning to initiate a broader trust services program.

Inter-American Division trust services director Leslie McMillan has coordinated seminars in Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Trinidad, which have expanded trust services.

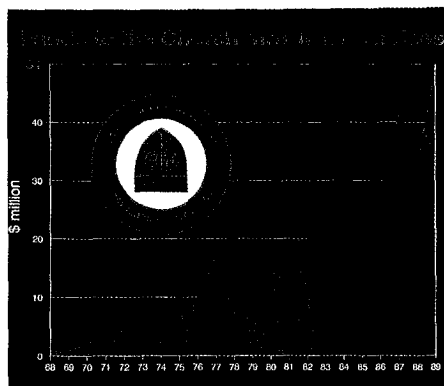
The Far Eastern Division appointed Bernardo U. Donato trust services director in 1988. Trust Services is expanding especially in the Philippines and Indonesia.

Osmundo G. dos Santos has recently been appointed trust services director for the South American Division, and is laying plans to expand this work there.

## Upgrading Professionalism

In North America a Certification and Accreditation Committee was set up at the beginning of the quinquennium, which mandates initial and continuing education. All trusts are audited by the General Conference Auditing Services' 11 auditors, all certified public accountants. More than 200 trust services personnel have been certified.

We believe dedicating accumulated assets will result in lives dedicated to the Lord.



able to the Lord's cause through trust services worldwide. This compares to \$112,675,789 during the previous quinquennium.

The General Conference Trust Services associate directors, Alan W. White and David E. Johnston, joined the General Conference staff during this quinquennium. Alan White came to us from the South Pacific Division, where he served as division trust services director. Besides serving in trust services for 12 years, he has served as mission president, educator, and pastor. David Johnston was an attorney for a large insurance company before joining the church. After attending the seminary, he was called into the trust services area, where he has served effectively for 23 years. One of his major assignments is to coordinate the continuing



These Adventist attorneys are giving their time to study ways trust services can be presented most effectively in Kenya.

# Office of General Counsel



By Warren L. Johns  
General Counsel of the  
General Conference

Respect for law is inherent in the history and tradition of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Issues of law have been relevant to the implementation of spiritual mission from the earliest days, when pointed discussions addressed the church's need for corporate structure.

As the church introduced institutions to focus on specialized ministries and delivered its message to international environments, church leaders sought the counsel of distinguished advocates of the law sympathetic to the spiritual goals of this dynamic Christian family.

Confronted with religious prejudice and nineteenth-century intolerance, such champions of the law and defenders of the faith as Judge Simmons of Knoxville, Tennessee, stood tall in defense of religious liberty. And early in the twentieth century, loyal churchmen such as Judge Holbrook of Denver, Colorado, adjourned court each Friday afternoon with the words "This court stands adjourned until next Monday. It will be closed on Sunday, the first day of the week, because of the law of the land."

The complexity of legal issues reflected the remarkable success of the expanding world ministry of the church. Included were the protection of the rights of conscience of individual members; corporate structures for institutions; title to and protection of real and other property; the privileges of tax exemption; the laws of immigration to assure international travel privileges for missionaries; the methodology of mission and organization as determined by the unique legal requirements of several hundred international jurisdictions; the rights and duties of employers/employees; the legal requirements for the transfer and exchange of church funds on an international basis; laws applicable to health care and educational institutions; and of course, the

rules applicable to banking, security, trusts, and wills.

A multinational organization with 6 million members and assets reaching the multibillion-dollar range not only confronts this full range of legal issues, but does so in the context of multijurisdictions and continually evolving legal climates.

By 1936 the General Conference named Judge Millward C. Taft as its first general counsel. He was succeeded by attorney Boardman Noland in 1960, who served until his retirement in 1975. The tradition pioneered by these Christian gentlemen includes three staff attorneys in support of the present general counsel. In addition, four Seventh-day Adventist lawyers enhance the Office of General Counsel as "of Counsel." There are another 12 independent Seventh-day Adventist lawyers of distinction who meet each year for strategic legal planning as an International Cabinet of Counselors.

When Judge Taft was appointed coun-

sel to the General Conference in 1936, all members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church practicing the legal profession could probably be counted on the fingers of two hands. Today the *Directory of Lawyers*, compiled biannually by the Office of General Counsel, lists 600, with a growing number of advocates representing jurisdictions outside the United States.

There is also a rapidly expanding pool of young people with undergraduate training in Seventh-day Adventist colleges who are pursuing legal careers. Since 1978 more than 80 students with exceptionally high scholastic achievements and character qualification have been recognized recipients of the General Conference-sponsored Judge Millward C. Taft Scholarship Award Program.

This growing pool of superior legal talent is kept informed of the full range of legal issues confronting the church through the annual publication of *JD*, edited by the Office of General Counsel and sent with the compliments of the General Conference to Adventist lawyers, law students, and church administrators.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church claims a tradition of taking a moral position above and beyond the law. Church leadership aspires to the ideal of a high pedestal of right because it is right. The Office of General Counsel shares this aspiration.

## GC SNAPSHOT



Del Delker and the Oakwood College Choir sang for worshipers on the final Sabbath in the Hoosier Dome.

# Geoscience Research Institute



By Ariel A. Roth  
Director

Because of the acceptance of scientific interpretations favoring evolution and the trends in society toward secularization, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has established the Geoscience Research Institute (GRI). This organization is dedicated to the discovery of truth and the application of that truth to the purposes of the church it serves. The institute's broad intellectual approach of studying both revelation and science is unique and more appropriate to the questions concerning origins than are traditional, narrow, unidisciplinary practices. It is a credit to the Seventh-day Adventist Church that it is willing to invest in such research pursuits.

Since the founding of the institute in 1958, a significant body of scientific information has come to light to corroborate the biblical account of beginnings. We have not resolved all the problems that scientific interpretations pose for the Bible, but evidences supporting an intelligent design for life and the worldwide flood described in Genesis have become impressive.

The institute, located at Loma Linda University, serves the Seventh-day Adventist Church in two major ways: by pursuing research pertinent to the question of origins, and by informing the church and others about its findings. Research topics center largely around the question of time—especially the time for life on earth, one of the most crucial disagreements between the evolution and creation viewpoints.

GRI employs five scientists to study this intriguing and often controversial area. Ben Clausen (Ph.D., University of Colorado) is a nuclear physicist who studies the action of subatomic particles, phenomena fundamental to interpretations of cosmology and radiometric dating. Harold Coffin (Ph.D., University of

Southern California) has done considerable work in paleontology, specializing in the study of ancient buried fossil forests, especially successive fossil forests that suggest long time periods. L. Jim Gibson (Ph.D., Loma Linda University) studies the patterns of animal distribution over the earth, which is important to the question of how animals were distributed before and after the Genesis flood. Ariel A. Roth (Ph.D., University of Michigan) studies both fossil and living coral reefs. Because these reefs are assumed to have grown very slowly, some feel that they present a serious time challenge to the recent creation account given in the Bible. Clyde L. Webster, Jr. (Ph.D., Colorado State University), has been using trace-element analysis to characterize the ejection patterns of volcanoes in an effort to determine the time required for such activities. While space does not permit reporting the details of these research activities, in general we can say that many of the results corroborate the biblical account of beginnings.

In addition to its own research programs, the institute supervises a modest research grant program that provides help for other investigators studying questions related to the purposes of the institute. During the past 16 years, qualified scholars have received 81 grants.



The Grand Canyon in Arizona is a rich showcase of the past history of the earth.

GRI conducts field conferences all over the world, in which students, educators, and administrators visit areas having paleontological and geologic significance for the question of origins. At these localities participants receive a firsthand view of evidences while discussing their relation to biblical and evolutionary interpretations. The institute staff participates in numerous public presentations and teaches classes in public and private schools. They also prepare books and articles for scientific and church journals, as well as materials on video and slides.

At present the institute publishes three periodicals. *Origins*, a scholarly journal, deals with the broad issues of the history of the earth. *Geoscience Reports*, a tri-annual newsletter, aims for the popular secondary school levels. *Ciencia de los Origenes*, edited by Dr. David Rhys, goes to Spanish-speaking countries. Katherine Ching serves as assistant editor for the institute.

Few denominations have resisted the influence of evolutionistic concepts. Most have accommodated them by resorting to beliefs suggesting that life developed with the aid of God over millions of years. Such views conflict with the Bible.

This subject is significant to Seventh-day Adventists, since the Sabbath, one of our most distinctive doctrines, rests mainly on a literal six-day creation. Once long ages are inserted into the geologic layers, as is commonly done, the possibility of a six-day creation, as given in Genesis and the Decalogue, disappears.

Denominations that view life as developing gradually over millions of years see the first part of Genesis as an allegory. Such a view not only undermines the biblical account of beginnings, but depreciates the Bible as a whole, since such leading Bible personalities as Paul, Peter, Christ, and God refer either directly or by implication to Genesis 1-11 as factual. The staff of the Geoscience Research Institute is pleased to report that their research into and analyses of current and frequently changing scientific interpretations have not weakened their faith in the Bible. Quite the contrary. We have sufficient evidence from science to reinforce faith in the biblical account of origins.

# International Health Food Association



By **Eric C. Fehlberg**  
*Director*

**B**elieving that humankind was created in the image of God has made healthful living significant to Seventh-day Adventists. To support this conviction, the church has developed an international health food network. Today we have 39 denominationally owned food factories and 17 independent marketing branches that manufacture and distribute health foods in 29 countries.

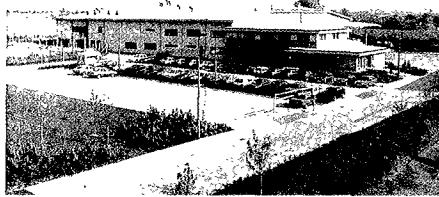
The International Health Food Association employs more than 4,000 workers, 500 of which are students. Our total turnover exceeds US\$300 million, and we produce 1,039 different food products, as well as distributing 2,011 other products that reach our standard or are manufactured for us. In the past quinquennium our industries have contributed in excess of US\$130 million to the church and continue to support the work of saving souls. Our industries are located in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, India, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Guinea, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad, and Uruguay. During the past quinquennium we opened new industries in New Guinea, Spain, Trinidad, Puerto Rico, and Thailand.

As well as producing and marketing healthy food, many factories conduct nutrition classes, vegetarian cooking schools, stop-smoking clinics, and other courses designed to improve life, and as a Christian outreach to the community. The invitation is not only to a healthier life but to life with Christ.

Not only have we established factories in new areas but we have built new plants and made additions to existing factories. The new plants include Granose of England; Nutana of Norway; New Life of

Brazil; Granix of Argentina; Sahmyook of Korea; and Sanitarium Health Food in Castle Hill and Kilsyth, Australia. Extensive modifications and additions were made in De-Vau-Ge of West Germany; Superbom of Brazil; and Sanitarium Health Food in Auckland, Palmerston North, and Christchurch, New Zealand.

Many stories of achievement emerge from our health food industries, showing how we touch lives. In New Zealand practically every home has our products on its pantry shelves. Nutana of Sweden



**Granose Foods in England**

reports that during the past quinquennium, sales of its vegetarian frozen products have almost quadrupled, and these products are now sold in more than 400 health food stores and 1,500 supermarkets throughout Sweden. Their advertising slogan to promote their soya drink and meat analogues is "The Natural Alternative."

In November 1987 the Japanese government sponsored an expedition to the South Pole. Among their supplies were 29 different foods from San-iku Foods, our denominationally owned industry in Japan.

Our Australian company was honored for the product SoGood (a nondairy soya drink) at the 1988 AIDA-SIAL International Food Oscars, held in Paris. One of five products representing Australia, it won a gold Oscar in the category for non-alcoholic beverages, establishing itself as the best new product in this category. The judges evaluated the products based on

their uniqueness, appeal, and sales performance, and SoGood has had remarkable success. In October 1989, Australia sold in excess of 1,700 tons of SoGood.

Our real success is measured, not just in goodwill generated for the denomination, but in the many individuals who find their way into the church through a first contact with our health food industry.

A young insurance salesman who made contact with the church through a vegetarian restaurant is today a youth pastor. An Adventist car salesman noticed his client taking antacid medication for his stomach. In the course of their conversation, the salesman recommended a consultation with the dietitian at our health food institution. The man contacted our company, made positive dietary changes, and became interested in the beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Today he and his wife and four children and their spouses are all active church members.

A young stationery salesman called on one of our food industries and was so impressed by the way business was conducted that he wanted to know more about the church. However, under conviction to change his lifestyle, he hoped to avoid making a decision for Christ, so he gave up his job and moved away, only to find himself living opposite a Seventh-day Adventist church, and next door to the pastor! He made his decision for the Lord.

A teenage girl who had run away from home found work in one of our health food factories. There, through her fellow workers, she found Christ and was reunited with her parents.

A man with poor health was sent by his non-Adventist doctor to our institution to change his eating habits. There he not only found the means for good health, but today is the senior elder in a large church.

Our workers are dedicated, enthusiastic, and ready to spread this great gospel message to the ends of the earth. They are as much a part of the gospel commission as conference administrators, evangelists, and teachers. "In all our plans we should remember that the health food work is the property of God and that it is not to be made a financial speculation for personal gain. It is God's gift to His people, and the profits are to be used for the good of suffering humanity everywhere" (*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 128).

# Ellen G. White Estate



By Robert W. Olson  
Secretary

During the past quinquennium the staff and trustees of the Ellen G. White Estate produced a steady stream of materials for our church members. *Reflecting Christ*, the senior devotional book for 1986, and *Lift Him Up*, the senior devotional for 1989, brought courage and comfort to thousands of Adventist families. Publication of the *Ellen G. White Youth's Instructor Articles* continues the White Estate policy of reprinting Ellen White articles that first appeared in our denominational journals.

The four-volume, 1,821-page collection titled *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials* includes every Ellen White letter or manuscript that alludes in any way to the 1888 General Conference or its aftermath. Many considered this publication the outstanding feature of the Minneapolis centennial celebrations. A companion volume of non-E. G. White materials came out under the title *Manuscripts and Memories of Minneapolis*.

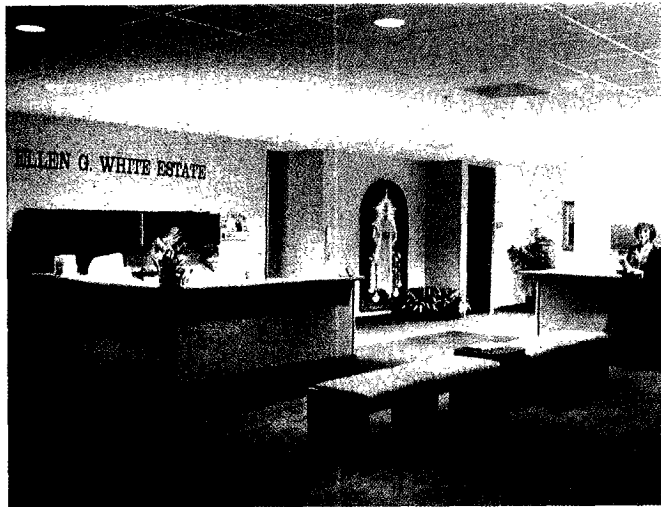
*Manuscript Releases*, volume 2, which appeared in 1987, has now been followed by *Manuscript Releases*, volumes 3-10. *The Voice in Speech and Song* was produced especially for speech, homiletics, and voice students in our colleges and universities, but will prove a blessing to all who wish to improve their public speaking or singing.

## Abbreviated Testimonies

*Counsels for the Church*, originally published in 1971 in Australia, has now become available for the first time in the United States. This 400-page paperback is essentially an abbreviated form of the

nine volumes of the *Testimonies for the Church*. Here one can become acquainted quickly with Ellen White's teachings on what it means to be a Seventh-day Adventist.

*Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce* contains many letters formerly kept in the highly confidential "Z" file. With the passage of time, the trustees felt it appropriate to bring these testimonies to the attention of our people, particularly in view of the



The Ellen G. White Estate headquarters is located in the lower level of the new General Conference building.

fact that the marital irregularities of the world seem to be intruding so heavily into the church.

*Retirement at Its Best* will prove helpful not only to those who have retired but to people contemplating retirement. *Sermons and Talks* will help all who engage in public work.

*Lessons From the Life of Nehemiah*, with study questions by George Rice, consists of a series of articles from *The Southern Watchman*. These materials form a superb series on the latter rain of the Holy Spirit.

Pamphlets written or compiled by White


Estate staff during the past quinquennium include *Ellen G. White and Vegetarianism* (R. W. Coon), *Heralds of New Light* (R. W. Coon), *Herald of the Midnight Cry* (P. A. Gordon), *Righteousness by Faith* (R. W. Olson), *The Humanity of Christ* (R. W. Olson), and *Laughter and Tears of the Pioneers* (P. A. Gordon and J. R. Nix).

## Most Ambitious Project

Our most ambitious publishing project, however, is neither a book nor a pamphlet, but a plastic disk less than five inches in diameter. Known as a CD-ROM, this little disk contains, in electronic form, all the known published works of Ellen White—123 pamphlets, the E. G. White articles in 37 periodicals, and more than 100 books. The King James Version of the Bible, Arthur L. White's six-volume biography of his grandmother, and several other works relating to Ellen White are included as well. This project opens almost limitless possibilities for research in the writings of Ellen White by anyone comfortable with a computer.

As the trustees have endeavored to make the writings of Ellen White more generally available around the world, we have added one more Research Center—at Brazil College in São Paulo. We have also now photocopied and sent *all* of the E. G. White letters and manuscripts to our official Ellen G. White-SDA Research Centers and branch offices. We praise God not only for the wealth of inspired materials He has given His church but also for the

modern technology that makes wide dissemination of these writings possible.

Other White Estate staff activities during the past five years include conducting tours of Adventist historical sites in New England, meeting appointments throughout the world field, caring for the many requests that come by mail and telephone, preparation of Harvest 90 materials for use in academies and elementary schools, and helping our young people "catch the vision" by means of hands-on experience in the renovation of William Miller's property at Low Hampton, New York. 



**55th Session of the  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**

July 8 - 14, 1990  
Indianapolis Hoosier Dome  
200 South Capitol Ave  
Indianapolis, Indiana

World Headquarters  
12501 Old Columbia Pike  
Silver Spring, MD 20904  
(301) 690-6000

**Financial Reports of the**

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

To the Delegates of the Fifty-fifth  
General Conference Session  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
Silver Spring, Maryland

March 16, 1990

We have audited the accompanying combined balance sheets of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as of December 31, 1989, 1988, 1987, 1986 and 1985 and the related combined statements of financial activity and fund balances for each of the years then ended. The combined financial statements presented include only the assets, liabilities, fund balances, and activity of the funds identified in Note 1; accordingly, such statements are not intended to present the combined financial position or activity of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and its worldwide affiliated organizations. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of the General Conference. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

Except as discussed in the following paragraphs, we conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Notes 1 and 4, the funds included in the combined financial statements have investments in the General Conference Investment Fund (a unitized fund) which are carried at the lower of cost or current value. Current value is based on net asset value as reported by the Investment Fund. Underlying investments in intra-denominational loans comprising approximately 36% of the net assets of the Investment Fund at December 31, 1989 and 35%, 42%, 42% and 37% at December 31, 1988, 1987, 1986 and 1985, respectively, are valued at face value which may differ from fair value as required by generally accepted accounting principles.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Delegates of the Fifty-fifth  
General Conference Session  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

March 16, 1990

As disclosed in Note 11, an actuarial valuation of the Seventh-day Adventist Retirement Plan for North America, which covers substantially all General Conference employees, has not been performed for several years and, accordingly, net periodic pension cost and the related balance sheet amounts pursuant to generally accepted accounting principles are not known.

In our opinion, except for the effects of such adjustments, if any, and disclosures as might have been determined to be necessary had we been able to obtain evidence regarding the valuation of investments and periodic pension cost and the related balance sheet amounts, the financial statements referred to in the first paragraph above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined financial position and activity of the Funds of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists identified in Note 1 as of and for the years ended December 31, 1989, 1988, 1987, 1986 and 1985 in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

*Maner, Costerisan & Ellis PC*

Certified Public Accountants

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
Combined Balance Sheet**

Assets	31 December				
	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Cash (Note 3)	16,018,332	8,662,328	10,658,112	7,667,398	17,628,960
Investments (Note 4)	42,271,328	46,062,778	67,278,747	71,016,990	63,604,994
Accounts Receivable (Note 6)	30,145,893	28,397,496	25,700,668	26,380,489	24,081,238
Notes and Loans Receiv, Current (Note 7)	324,776	1,816,785	206,067	888,461	1,121,633
Supplies Inventories and Prepaid Expense	1,867,243	1,663,284	1,180,377	1,444,461	1,703,368
Due From Non-Expendable Funds	89,213	76,574	1,906	599,398	0
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>90,802,686</b>	<b>87,069,080</b>	<b>104,920,877</b>	<b>107,667,036</b>	<b>107,946,093</b>
<b>Plant Assets (Note 8)</b>	<b>41,780,722</b>	<b>29,972,613</b>	<b>12,325,850</b>	<b>11,233,138</b>	<b>10,076,137</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>					
Notes & Loans Receiv, Long Term (Note 7)	2,286,936	12,796,561	2,386,139	1,860,609	3,202,912
Other Operating	534,932	947,431	902,422	902,791	862,954
Other Than Operating (Note 8)	39,616,024	29,196,938	35,454,863	32,235,989	38,872,546
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>42,337,491</b>	<b>42,899,987</b>	<b>38,743,424</b>	<b>34,999,389</b>	<b>40,938,411</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>174,921,798</b>	<b>169,941,680</b>	<b>166,990,351</b>	<b>163,899,532</b>	<b>168,069,641</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Accounts Payable (Note 9)	18,988,018	17,408,305	16,242,460	15,888,328	17,303,788
Est Liab Under Debt Covenants (Note 8, 14)	2,892,600	1,510,600	4,690,000	0	0
Deferred Restricted Income	10,249,898	16,096,894	9,968,103	9,229,274	6,743,361
Trust Funds	496,240	461,735	182,001	311,062	362,208
Due to Other Funds	0	33,744	89,928	0	6,329
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>32,705,763</b>	<b>28,611,178</b>	<b>30,192,489</b>	<b>26,428,682</b>	<b>24,132,706</b>
<b>Other Liabilities</b>					
Other Than Operating (Note 10)	12,603,669	6,725,912	4,673,125	9,738,428	9,846,895
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>45,309,412</b>	<b>39,298,460</b>	<b>34,895,614</b>	<b>38,168,040</b>	<b>33,979,601</b>
<b>Commitments &amp; Contingencies (Note 14)</b>					
<b>Fund Balances</b>					
<b>Expendable For Current Operations</b>					
Operating Unallocated Functions	10,699,018	8,942,018	17,642,703	20,217,860	14,628,691
Operating Allocated Functions	63,810,066	82,169,877	60,474,348	63,672,893	72,949,882
<b>Total Operating Fund Balances</b>	<b>83,902,068</b>	<b>71,101,895</b>	<b>78,017,049</b>	<b>88,990,783</b>	<b>87,878,283</b>
<b>Committee Allocated For:</b>					
Unexpended Plant Functions (Deficiency)	(2,489,921)	7,642,188	16,175,710	9,250,444	8,826,310
Pooled Investment	2,657,412	2,383,076	2,325,690	2,223,690	1,967,327
Annuitants	1,109,314	1,029,811	1,087,616	1,434,801	1,578,700
Quasi-Endowment	21,979,402	11,102,830	10,761,420	9,288,784	13,684,110
<b>Total Expend For Current Operations</b>	<b>87,208,270</b>	<b>83,168,999</b>	<b>108,265,480</b>	<b>105,914,987</b>	<b>113,633,700</b>
<b>Non Expendable For Current Operations</b>					
Net Investment in Plant	41,118,489	28,972,613	12,325,960	11,233,138	10,076,137
True Endowments	1,290,622	673,678	673,327	673,327	470,203
<b>Total Non Expend For Current Operations</b>	<b>42,409,111</b>	<b>30,646,191</b>	<b>12,999,277</b>	<b>11,906,465</b>	<b>10,546,340</b>
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>129,612,386</b>	<b>129,705,190</b>	<b>121,154,737</b>	<b>117,721,462</b>	<b>124,080,040</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Fund Balances</b>	<b>174,921,798</b>	<b>169,941,680</b>	<b>166,020,351</b>	<b>163,899,532</b>	<b>168,069,641</b>

See accompanying notes to combined financial statements.

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
Combined Statement of Financial Activity and Fund Balances**

Income	Years Ended 31 December				
	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
<b>Restricted Income (Note 15)</b>	<b>27,781,898</b>	<b>28,393,249</b>	<b>24,595,978</b>	<b>28,161,881</b>	<b>20,873,687</b>
<b>Unrestricted Income</b>					
Unallocated Tithes	102,433,182	98,785,668	91,761,642	99,219,532	36,968,772
Unallocated Non-tithe	37,736,531	37,190,839	38,874,728	30,998,896	23,466,986
Church Programs	897,832	819,885	716,599	746,402	838,242
Education Programs	370,233	294,873	302,427	329,762	1,122,668
Publishing Programs	85,506	74,878	153,270	7,779	5,141
Special Services Programs	890,419	891,388	892,572	355,622	400,377
Other Programs	3,589,232	4,116,342	2,347,725	1,948,790	5,003,177
Supporting Services Functions	3,819,190	1,810,878	1,785,171	1,706,976	4,732,888
<b>Total Unrestricted Income</b>	<b>143,630,434</b>	<b>141,910,688</b>	<b>134,299,436</b>	<b>128,229,748</b>	<b>122,591,484</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>170,841,817</b>	<b>167,793,338</b>	<b>158,195,009</b>	<b>156,414,609</b>	<b>142,934,671</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
<b>Program Services Functions</b>					
Church	34,078,060	21,278,987	20,668,352	21,984,061	17,484,453
Education	29,465,942	27,632,487	26,874,583	24,963,736	24,028,092
Publishing	1,018,128	1,109,789	923,812	638,643	708,392
Special Services	29,963,818	23,882,283	23,872,977	21,183,024	20,265,628
Other - General	15,638,387	18,421,982	14,978,938	17,141,803	6,443,878
Other - Divisions	80,230,655	60,785,028	57,292,387	55,082,658	59,830,280
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>157,182,072</b>	<b>151,110,445</b>	<b>142,837,550</b>	<b>140,750,864</b>	<b>127,878,585</b>
<b>Supporting Services Functions</b>	<b>14,840,812</b>	<b>15,891,153</b>	<b>13,103,508</b>	<b>13,698,888</b>	<b>15,878,491</b>
<b>Total Program &amp; Supporting Svcs Functions</b>	<b>171,992,884</b>	<b>164,801,598</b>	<b>156,041,058</b>	<b>154,449,752</b>	<b>144,384,876</b>
<b>Net Incr (Decr) from Operations before HPM and Non-Operating Income</b>	<b>(1,781,067)</b>	<b>2,901,749</b>	<b>3,165,860</b>	<b>(4,032,853)</b>	<b>(1,420,506)</b>
<b>Provision for Loss - HPM (Note 8)</b>	<b>(4,487,496)</b>	<b>(2,751,199)</b>	<b>(5,922,838)</b>	<b>(4,351,488)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net-Op Income From Invest &amp; Gifts</b>	<b>1,277,475</b>	<b>1,227,621</b>	<b>4,735,704</b>	<b>1,885,638</b>	<b>293,473</b>
<b>Net Incr (Decr) for the year before Capital Additions</b>	<b>(4,991,088)</b>	<b>1,378,062</b>	<b>1,967,716</b>	<b>(6,529,840)</b>	<b>(1,126,832)</b>
<b>Capital Additions</b>	<b>10,388,284</b>	<b>1,172,391</b>	<b>1,486,866</b>	<b>(81,743)</b>	<b>55,644</b>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) to Fund Balances</b>	<b>5,907,196</b>	<b>2,650,483</b>	<b>3,433,286</b>	<b>(3,585,589)</b>	<b>(1,101,288)</b>
<b>Fund Balances</b>					
Beginning of Year	123,785,190	121,164,737	117,721,452	124,089,040	125,181,328
End of Year	129,692,386	123,706,190	121,164,737	117,721,452	124,089,040

See accompanying notes to combined financial statements.

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
Notes to Combined Financial Statements**

**Note 1 - Summary of Accounting Policies:**

**Basis of Accounting** - The financial statements of the General Conference are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

**Combined Financial Statements** - The combined financial statements include the accounts of the funds identified under Fund Accounting. (See Note 2 regarding funds excluded from the combined financial statements.) Significant inter-fund balances and transactions are eliminated from the combined totals.

**Fund Accounting** - To facilitate observance of limitations and restrictions placed on the use of available resources, the accounts are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Funds are established according to the nature and purpose of resources available to the General Conference. The assets, liabilities, fund balances and financial activity of the General Conference are recorded in the following self-balancing fund groups:

**Operating Funds** - includes unrestricted and restricted resources available for current operations.

**Plant Fund** - includes property and equipment owned and used directly in the operation of the General Conference and certain affiliates.

**Other Funds:**

**Pooled Investment Fund** - established to invest funds available from irrevocable and revocable trusts and annuities on a commingled basis in accordance with denominational policy. The Fund accepts deposits on a fixed-rate basis-it is not operated on a unitized or percentage participation basis. The assets of the Fund are committed to earn sufficient return to meet the payout obligations of the Fund and as the primary collateral for deposit liabilities. In accordance with denominational policy, the Fund's assets are not to be used for general operating purposes until the underlying trust or annuity matures.

**Annuities Fund** - used to account for gift annuities wherein the General Conference is beneficiary. Under the agreements with the donors, which are irrevocable, assets are transferred to the General Conference in exchange for periodic annuity payments to be made by the General Conference for the lifetime of the annuitant(s). In accordance with denominational policy, the gift factor of the gift annuity is not expendable until the annuity matures.

**Endowment Funds:**

**True Endowment** - established pursuant to donor gifts where the principal is to be maintained in perpetuity and invested for the purpose of producing income for general operations or for a specific function.

**Quasi-Endowment** - established to accomplish purposes similar to true endowments except that the Fund is established by the General Conference rather than by donors. As such, the General Conference may terminate a quasi-endowment at its discretion.

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
Notes to Combined Financial Statements**

**Note 1 - Summary of Accounting Policies: (cont'd)**

**Fund Accounting: (cont'd)**

**Functional Allocation of Expenses** - The costs of the various programs and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of financial activity and fund balances. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited. Fund raising has not been segregated on the basis of immateriality (less than 1% of total operating expenses).

**Restricted Resources** - Resources whose use is restricted by outside agencies or persons, as contrasted with resources over which the General Conference has complete control and discretion, are classified as restricted. Donor restrictions generally involve written assertions; however, amounts received in response to offering appeals for restricted purposes, including designations for specific programs or purposes in accordance with established policy, are classified as restricted.

For accounting purposes, donor restrictions are complied with when the General Conference incurs an expense for the function and in the manner specified in the donative instrument or by policy. Unexpended restricted revenues are deferred.

**Current Assets and Current Liabilities** - Only operating funds assets and liabilities are classified as current, where appropriate. This excludes from the current assets classification such resources as cash and claims to cash which are restricted as to withdrawal or use for other than current operations, are committed allocated for expenditures in the acquisition or construction of plant assets or for the liquidation of plant fund debt, (even if payable within the next fiscal year) or are held as agent for others.

**Cash Equivalents** - Investment in the General Conference Money Fund is stated at cost of \$1 per unit which is equal to market value. Certificates of deposit, commercial paper, repurchase agreements and similar items are stated at cost or amortized cost which approximates market value.

**Investments** - Investments are recorded generally at the lower of aggregate average cost or current value (reported net asset value of General Conference Utilized Funds). The difference between current value and cost is reflected in the statement of activity. Realized gain or loss on investments represents the difference between the proceeds received and the cost of investments sold. Unrealized gains are recognized to the extent of previously recorded unrealized losses.

Income from investments is recorded in the fund owning the assets, except for Endowment Funds which is recorded directly in the Operating Fund or Other Fund(s) designated by the endowment instrument.

**Inventories** - Inventories of office and maintenance supplies and items for re-sale are recorded at the lower of cost (generally weighted average) or market.

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
Notes to Combined Financial Statements**

**Note 1 - Summary of Accounting Policies: (cont'd)**

**Plant Assets and Depreciation** - Property and equipment owned and used directly by the General Conference is recorded at cost in the Plant Fund. Depreciation is computed over the estimated useful lives on the straight-line method. The General Conference Corporation is the legal entity for purposes of holding title to property on behalf of certain of its affiliated organizations. The Corporation may also have signed mortgages or other evidences of indebtedness on behalf of its affiliates in connection with these properties. The property and related obligations, if any, which are recorded directly on the books of the affiliates are not recorded by the General Conference.

**Real Estate Investments** - Investments in real estate are recorded at cost or, in the case of certain real estate transferred to the General Conference by an affiliated organization without consideration, at appraised value at date of transfer.

**Investments in Affiliated Organizations** - Investments in affiliated organizations are carried at original cost.

**Trust Funds** - Assets held on a temporary basis in an agency or custodial relationship for others are classified as "Trust Funds".

**Accounting for Gift Annuities** - Gift annuities are recorded by the actuarial method. Under this method, assets are recorded at fair value at date of gift. The corresponding credit is to annuities payable for the present value of the future annuity payments based upon acceptable life expectancy tables. Investment income and gains are credited, and the contractual periodic payments to the annuitant and investment losses are charged to the annuities payable liability. The actuarial present value of annuities payable is recalculated periodically based upon revised life expectancies and interest assumptions. Upon maturity of an annuity the remaining net assets are distributed generally to current operating funds.

**Note 2 - Organization:**

In the fulfillment of its responsibility for all aspects of the Gospel message in the world field, the General Conference operates through numerous organizations with which it is affiliated by reason of membership on the respective Boards of Trustees by the officers and/or staff of the General Conference. The financial statements of affiliated organizations are not combined with those of the General Conference because, in the opinion of management, such combination would not provide meaningful financial information. Inter organization transactions carried on in the ordinary course of business are handled through current accounts receivable/payable and are settled generally on a current basis.

Funds under the direct accounting control of the General Conference for which separate financial statements are prepared and which are excluded from the combined financial statements include:

General Retirement Plan for North America; Hospital Retirement Plan for North America; Retirement Plans Service Bureau; Money Fund; Utilized Fund - Investment, Income and International; Non-Owned Trust Funds.

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**  
**Notes to Combined Financial Statements**

**Note 3 - Cash:**

Cash consists of:	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Cash on hand	8,457	7,475	7,575	8,275	8,215
Cash in banks	636,972	796,365	1,097,416	1,948,502	353,733
Money Fund	15,270,903	7,755,968	0	0	0
Commercial Paper	0	0	8,384,948	5,381,250	16,674,938
Certificates of deposit	100,000	0	169,173	329,371	290,019
	<u>16,018,332</u>	<u>8,562,828</u>	<u>10,655,112</u>	<u>7,967,398</u>	<u>17,628,960</u>

**Note 4 - Investments:**

Investments consist of the following:	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
GC Unitized Funds	40,805,735	45,666,808	88,283,447	59,512,975	60,699,379
Stocks	1,380,875	125,000	7,235,209	11,057,451	1,965,631
Bonds	49,000	0	74,038	629,946	0
Other	235,668	980,065	690,965	805,916	805,984
Total Cost	42,571,228	46,692,773	87,273,747	71,015,990	63,500,994
Unrealized gain in value	1,659,213	13,985	2,563,699	10,620,427	2,431,328
Current Value	<u>44,230,441</u>	<u>46,706,758</u>	<u>89,837,446</u>	<u>81,636,417</u>	<u>65,932,322</u>
Investment Income	<u>2,782,563</u>	<u>3,097,920</u>			
Realized Gains - Net	<u>2,194,630</u>	<u>6,012,543</u>			

Information regarding investment income and realized gains is not readily available for 1987-1985.

The cost of investments in Unitized Funds includes \$30.3 million in 1989, 1988 and 1987, \$33.1 million in 1986 and \$41 million in 1985 in the General Conference Investment Fund (current value \$30 million, \$29.3 million, \$28.5 million, \$34.3 million and \$42 million, respectively, based on net asset value as reported by the Investment Fund). Because of the difficulty and inherent subjectivity involved in the determination of fair values, which is not susceptible to independent audit substantiation, management of the Investment Fund has not attempted to estimate the fair value of the intra-denominational loan portfolio as required by generally accepted accounting principles applicable to unitized funds. Such loans, by intent and practice, are expected to be held to maturity and are valued at face value.

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**  
**Notes to Combined Financial Statements**

**Note 5 - Accounts Receivable:**

Accounts Receivable Consist of:	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Union Remittances for December:					
Tithes and Offerings	18,890,200	18,966,690	16,208,364	16,966,050	16,750,406
Retirement	6,471,014	6,279,313	4,293,156	4,417,905	3,607,149
Overseas Divisions	219,167	1,592,042	1,641,126	1,811,652	86,594
North American Organizations	3,190,018	1,710,828	1,879,063	1,703,584	2,074,827
GC Organizations	511,857	108,977	1,112,877	1,301,649	1,481,330
Other (Individually less than 5% of total accounts receivable), less allowance of approximately \$16,800 each year.	2,298,399	729,206	176,083	839,329	878,632
	<u>30,148,699</u>	<u>28,367,456</u>	<u>25,700,668</u>	<u>26,380,499</u>	<u>24,681,238</u>

**Note 6 - Plant Assets:**

Plant Assets consist of:	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Land and Improvements	2,870,816	1,512,305	761,555	850,447	664,263
Buildings and Improvements	36,133,896	8,024,507	8,016,495	9,879,638	9,196,837
Equipment, including \$727,929 under Capital Lease in 1989	<u>10,276,018</u>	<u>6,587,836</u>	<u>5,229,960</u>	<u>4,828,545</u>	<u>4,677,323</u>
Less Accumulated Depreciation including \$60,306 applicable to Capital Lease in 1989	47,979,827	15,124,738	14,007,020	15,243,630	14,438,313
	<u>6,196,806</u>	<u>6,324,435</u>	<u>5,692,163</u>	<u>5,034,877</u>	<u>5,507,339</u>
New Office Cost (Reclassified above upon completion and occupancy in 1989)	41,780,722	8,800,303	8,344,867	9,208,723	8,930,980
	<u>0</u>	<u>21,172,310</u>	<u>3,981,083</u>	<u>2,244,416</u>	<u>1,145,167</u>
Net Plant Assets	<u>41,780,722</u>	<u>29,972,813</u>	<u>12,926,960</u>	<u>11,233,138</u>	<u>10,676,137</u>
Depreciation for the Year	<u>1,028,343</u>	<u>708,721</u>	<u>816,885</u>	<u>697,757</u>	<u>689,471</u>
Net Book Value of Property Held for Sale (Included Above)	<u>4,025,835</u>				

**Note 7 - Notes and Loans Receivable:**

Notes and Loans Receiv Consist of:	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Lake Un Conf of SDA (Lake Region) repay terms to be negotiated, no interest, Unsecured	667,150	882,746	807,746	0	0
Note Receivable in monthly payments of \$2,358 including interest at 10 5/8% fixed maturity 1986, collateralized. (This balance represents the GC's undivided 13 3/8% interest in the underlying note.)	177,452	188,342	198,116	206,888	214,761

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**  
**Notes to Combined Financial Statements**

**Note 7 - Notes and Loans Receivable (cont'd)**

	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Three notes with annual payments aggregating \$1,331,329 plus interest at 19 1/2% - 11%, final maturities, 1997; Unsecured. (These notes were paid in full in 1989)	0	11,981,632	0	0	0
Other (Individually less than 5% of total loans), less allowance of \$137,661, \$164,446, \$100,273, \$101,947 and \$60,480 for possible losses.	1,765,070	1,610,027	1,688,340	2,642,132	4,109,884
Current Portions	2,610,712	14,613,346	2,692,208	2,749,070	4,324,446
Long-term Portions	<u>321,779</u>	<u>1,616,789</u>	<u>205,067</u>	<u>888,491</u>	<u>1,127,533</u>
	<u>2,932,491</u>	<u>16,230,135</u>	<u>2,897,275</u>	<u>3,637,561</u>	<u>5,451,979</u>

**Note 8 - Other Than Operating Assets:**

Other Than Operat Assets Consist of:	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Cash	23,971,352	14,762,757	20,406,498	6,591,998	4,897,428
Investments:					
GC Unitized Funds	3,625,489	4,124,501	4,124,501	9,819,260	9,977,860
Other	292,204	651,422	2,652,244	646,293	780,173
Receivables	879,024	64,075	126,706	269,448	335,631
Other	478,468	303,369	599,485	997,329	1,030,733
Real Estate:					
LL Univ Medical Center Land	6,800,000	0,800,000	6,800,000	6,800,000	6,800,000
NAD Evangelism Institute (Land - \$328,919) Less Accum Deprec of \$15,421 at 12-31-89	622,813	1,031,867	1,070,919	1,108,971	1,243,624
LL Faculty Med Office Facility	0	0	0	6,879,769	6,112,863
Invest in Wholly Owned Subsidiaries:					
La Loma Foods, Inc	3,024,382	0	0	0	0
Loma Linda Foods, Inc	0	1,129,490	1,129,490	1,126,400	1,128,400
GENCON Agency, Inc	95,000	95,000	36,000	95,000	95,000
GENCON Inc - VT	260,000	260,000	289,000	0	0
Harris Pine Mills	1	1	1	1	4,187,491
	<u>39,610,673</u>	<u>20,165,595</u>	<u>35,484,803</u>	<u>32,236,959</u>	<u>35,972,646</u>

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**  
**Notes to Combined Financial Statements**

**Note 8 - Other Than Operating Assets: (cont'd)**

In 1982 Loma Linda University, a General Conference institution, transferred the deed to land underlying the Loma Linda University Medical Center to the General Conference without consideration. The land has been recorded at appraised value of \$6,800,000 at date of transfer. The land is subject to a net lease to the Medical Center which expires in 2030. The Conference has agreed to appropriate the rent received back to the University (\$1,090,363 in 1989).

The NAD Evangelism Institute is leased to the North American Division. The lease may be renewed and/or modified on a year-to-year basis by mutual written agreement. Annual rental is subject to adjustment each July 1 based upon changes in the remuneration factor for the North American Division. The lease is a net lease wherein lessee pays taxes, insurance, utilities, maintenance and other operating expenses. Annual lease payments for the NADEI lease amount to \$91,632 for 1989.

The above leases are accounted for as operating leases in accordance with FASB 13.

The Loma Linda University Medical Center land lease is excluded from future minimum annual lease disclosure because of the Conference's commitment to appropriate the lease payments to Loma Linda University, thereby resulting in no net income to the General Conference.

The faculty Medical Office Facility and related debt were transferred without consideration by the General Conference to Loma Linda University in 1987. (The transfer had originally been scheduled for 2009.)

In December, 1988 Harris Pine Mills, Inc. declared bankruptcy under provisions of Chapter 7 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code. (The filing was subsequently changed to Chapter 11 to allow greater flexibility in liquidating the company's assets.) At that date the General Conference Investment Fund had loaned the Company \$13 million. The debt and interest thereon has been guaranteed to the Investment Fund by the Operating Fund.

As of December 31, 1986 a provision for loss in the amount of \$4,157,460 representing a permanent decline in the value of the investment in the stock of Harris Pine was recorded in the Quasi-Endowment Fund on the basis of the estimated net realizable value of assets less liabilities.

As of December 31, 1989 the General Conference had accrued \$2,982,500 (\$1,510,500 at December 31, 1988 and \$4,500,000 at December 31, 1987) representing estimated liabilities, including the \$13 million owed to the Investment Fund by Harris Pine, less the estimated net realizable value of the remaining assets. In the event these liabilities should be greater and/or the net realizable value of the assets should be less than anticipated, it is estimated the General Conference's additional losses would not exceed approximately \$2.6 million.

Effective December 31, 1983, Loma Linda Foods (an unincorporated division of the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists) was restructured into Loma Linda Foods, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Corporation. The carrying value of \$1,126,400 represented the net book value of Loma Linda Foods at December 31, 1983.

In February, 1989, the General Conference sold its stock holdings in Loma Linda Foods for cash (\$1,077,980) and certain assets pertaining to the meat analog business of Loma Linda (\$2,521,853) for a total of \$3,600,833. The General Conference also assumed certain liabilities in connection with employee severance and retirement and various lawsuits and claims and incurred expenses in connection with the sale amounting to \$5,823,047 resulting in a gain of \$9,649,786.

As referred to above the General Conference incorporated La Loma Foods, Inc. to continue the meat analog business of Loma Linda Foods. The company was capitalized with operating assets transferred from Loma Linda (\$2,521,853) and cash of \$602,629 for a total carrying value of \$3,024,382. (See Note 17 regarding subsequent sale of La Loma Foods.)

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**  
Notes to Combined Financial Statements

**Note 9 - Accounts Payable:**

Accounts Payable Consist of:	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Overseas Divisions	5,314,736	3,608,734	4,777,376	5,684,716	7,174,011
North American Organizations	3,889,036	3,737,287	4,158,183	4,067,631	3,881,310
GC Organizations	1,426,867	1,916,181	1,358,706	1,183,834	733,791
Retirement Fund	5,693,366	5,406,037	4,190,625	4,433,895	3,890,827
Other	<u>2,762,012</u>	<u>2,740,028</u>	<u>1,857,660</u>	<u>1,509,150</u>	<u>1,150,849</u>
	<u>18,986,016</u>	<u>17,408,305</u>	<u>19,342,460</u>	<u>16,989,326</u>	<u>17,030,789</u>

**Note 10 - Other Than Operating Liabilities:**

Other Than Operating Liab are composed of:	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Agency Funds	1,859,982	868,610	897,339	523,709	507,801
Accounts Payable	1,459,785	2,783,783	403,297	399,143	66,971
Due to Other Funds	83,213	76,974	0	0	0
Estimated LL Employees					
Retiree Obligation Funding	4,820,900	0	0	0	0
Capital Lease Obligation	667,233	0	0	0	0
Deferred Income	618,222	7,006	8,908	7,838	0
Annuities Payable	1,191,123	821,360	916,771	584,259	671,748
Notes and Loans Payable	<u>1,994,101</u>	<u>2,088,677</u>	<u>2,448,900</u>	<u>8,223,379</u>	<u>8,601,475</u>
	<u>12,603,859</u>	<u>9,725,312</u>	<u>4,673,125</u>	<u>9,738,428</u>	<u>9,846,895</u>

**Future minimum lease payments are as follows:**

Year ending December 31,	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
	176,728	176,728	176,728	176,728	87,864
	0	0	0	0	0
	780,776	123,543			
Less amount representing interest (7.65%)					
Present value of minimum lease payments					<u>867,233</u>

**Notes and Loans Payable**

consist of:	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
GC Invest Fund					
NAD Evang Institute	534,226	683,000	822,867	953,281	1,056,595
Non-Owned Trust Funds (Paired Invest Fund)	1,119,876	1,155,577	1,378,033	1,418,712	1,610,523
GC Risk Management Svcs	250,000	250,000	0	0	0
Faculty Med Office Facility	0	0	0	5,853,386	5,924,352
	<u>1,904,101</u>	<u>2,088,577</u>	<u>2,448,900</u>	<u>8,223,379</u>	<u>8,601,475</u>
Interest Expense	<u>328,479</u>	<u>313,321</u>	<u>426,116</u>	<u>733,061</u>	<u>866,787</u>

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**  
Notes to Combined Financial Statements

**Note 10 - Other Than Operating Liabilities: (cont'd)**

- The "NADEL" note is payable \$51,369 quarterly including interest which is subject to adjustment quarterly (9.283% of December 31, 1989).
- The Pooled Investment Fund notes are payable on demand. Interest at rates of 6% - 11.8% is payable currently.

Estimated maturities of the long-term notes payable to the Investment Fund are as follows:

Year	Amount
1990	162,040
1991	224,573
1992	<u>147,613</u>
	<u>534,226</u>

- The above estimated maturities are based on the present interest rates and payment schedules.
- The \$250,000 note has no scheduled maturity and is non-interest bearing.

**Note 11 - Retirement Plan:**

The Retirement Plan of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is a non-contributory defined benefit plan which covers substantially all employees of the General Conference, General Conference institutions and all Conference organizations in the North American Division and which provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits. The participating organizations have agreed to contribute such amounts as necessary to provide assets sufficient to meet the benefits to be paid to plan members.

Contributions to the Plan are based on a percentage of tithes income or a percentage of basic remuneration, subject to change from time to time as determined by the North American Division Committee.

An actuarial evaluation of the Plan has not been performed since 1979. Accordingly, the amount required to be charged to current expense in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as promulgated by FASB 87 (APB 8 in 1986 and 1985) has not been determined. The contributions to the Plan amounted to \$1.6 million in 1989, \$1.7 million in 1988, \$1.6 million in 1987, \$1.5 million in 1986 and \$1.4 million in 1985.

**Note 12 - Related Party Transactions:**

Essentially all transactions, other than certain investments and the purchase of goods and services, are with related funds and organizations.

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**  
Notes to Combined Financial Statements

**Note 13 - Income Tax Status:**

The General Conference and its affiliated organizations are exempt from federal, state, and local income taxes under provisions of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Note 14 - Commitments and Contingencies:**

**Direct Obligations** - The General Conference has signed mortgages and/or other evidences of indebtedness on behalf of certain of its affiliates. These obligations, which are the primary responsibility of the affiliates and are recorded directly on their books, are excluded from the financial statements of the General Conference.

**Loan Guarantees** - The General Conference is contingently liable on loans of affiliated organizations amounting to approximately \$1 million at December 31, 1989. (This amount does not include evidences of indebtedness referred to above.)

**Harris Pine Mills** - As disclosed in Note 8, Harris Pine Mills, a wholly owned subsidiary, declared bankruptcy in December, 1986.

The General Conference Operating Fund has guaranteed certain loans (\$13 million) made to Harris Pine Mills by the Investment Fund. The General Conference has agreed to subordinate its financial interest in the assets of Harris Pine Mills to that of all other legitimate creditors.

Accordingly, the ultimate amount realized from disposition of Harris' assets and thereby the amount to be paid by the Operating Fund to the Investment Fund is not known as of December 31, 1989. The Operating Fund has made a provision of \$9,982,500 for its estimated minimum liability under the debt guarantee of which approximately \$4,500,000 had not yet been remitted to the Investment Fund at year end.

In the event the liabilities should be greater and/or the net realizable value of the assets should be less than anticipated, it is estimated the General Conference's additional losses would not exceed approximately \$2.6 million.

**Retirement Obligations** - As Disclosed in Note 11, the General Conference is a contributing employer, together with other affiliated employers in the North American Division, to the Retirement Plan of the General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists.

In accordance with denominational policy The Plan has not been funded on an actuarial basis. Participating organizations have agreed to contribute such amounts as necessary to provide assets sufficient to meet the benefits to be paid to plan members.

**Captive Reinsurers Parental Agreement** - The General Conference is contingently liable as the "principal insured" guaranteeing the performance of its affiliate International Insurance Company of Takoma Park as "reinsurer". The Insurance Company is required to establish a preferred reserve invested in US Government-backed securities and held in trust with a bank with terms and conditions compatible with the requirements of the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Maryland to protect the General Conference from unnecessary risk of ascending liability incidental to this guarantee.

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**  
Notes to Combined Financial Statements

**Note 14 - Commitments and Contingencies: (cont'd)**

**Home Study International (HSI)** - In connection with the disposition of the remaining properties comprising the former General Conference headquarters complex, it is presently contemplated that the General Conference will "purchase" a parcel of real estate which is recorded on the books of HSI, an affiliate of the General Conference, for its book value of approximately \$200,000 (appraisal value approximately \$728,000) in exchange for a long-term promissory note bearing interest at a current market rate. HSI will rent space in the new GC headquarters. Should circumstances ever dictate that HSI should move to a different location as mutually agreed by HSI and the GC, the General Conference will provide mutually acceptable equivalent facilities at an agreed upon location with a clear deed to such property in the name of HSI. When such facilities are procured, the General Conference note referred to above will be voided.

**Litigation** - the General Conference is involved in various lawsuits the outcome of which, in the opinion of management, will not have a material adverse effect on the financial position or activity of the Conference.

**Note 15 - Restricted Expenses:**

Restricted resources were expended for the following program services:

	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Church	1,175,944	1,110,192	1,703,010	3,496,117	2,237,774
Education	1,695,505	1,646,886	1,478,146	1,301,100	1,238,610
Publishing	86,480	169,363	35,465	15,295	38,681
Special Services	17,440,360	19,852,962	19,249,445	17,701,182	16,719,099
Other General	<u>7,363,114</u>	<u>3,713,846</u>	<u>2,429,487</u>	<u>2,641,167</u>	<u>143,923</u>
	<u>27,761,399</u>	<u>26,389,249</u>	<u>24,895,573</u>	<u>25,154,861</u>	<u>20,373,087</u>

**Note 16 - Reclassifications:**

Certain accounts in prior years' financial statements have been reclassified for comparative purposes to conform with the presentation in the 1989 financial statements.

**Note 17 - Subsequent Event:**

Subsequent to December 31, 1989, the General Conference sold its stock ownership of La Loma Foods, Inc. for approximately \$3 million cash and a \$3.8 million note resulting in a gain of approximately \$3,775,000 before expenses incurred in connection with the sale and employee termination benefits. (The amount of the expenses and termination benefits is not presently known.)

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MANER, COSTERISAN & ELLIS, P.C.  
Certified Public Accountants

Floyd I. Costerisan  
Jack E. Powers  
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Gary W. Brya  
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Bruce J. Dunn

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Walter F. Maner, Jr.  
Leon A. Ellis (1983-1988)

To the Delegates of the Fifty-fifth  
General Conference Session  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
Silver Spring, Maryland

March 16, 1990

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for plan benefits of The Seventh-day Adventist Retirement Plan for North America as of December 31, 1989, 1988, 1987, 1986 and 1985, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for plan benefits for each of the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

Except as discussed in the following paragraph, we conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 6, an actuarial valuation of the Plan has not been performed for several years and, therefore, the Plan's financial statements do not disclose information regarding accumulated plan benefits and changes therein required by generally accepted accounting principles as promulgated by Statement of Financial Accounting Standards 35.

In our opinion, except for the omission of the information discussed in the preceding paragraph, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, information regarding net assets available for plan benefits and changes therein as of and for the years ended December 31, 1989, 1988, 1987, 1986 and 1985, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

As discussed in Notes 2 and 4, the Plan has investments in the General Conference Investment Fund which are carried at net asset value as reported by the Investment Fund. Underlying investments in intra-denominational loans comprising 36% of the net assets of the Investment Fund at December 31, 1989 and 35%, 42%, 42% and 37% at December 31, 1988, 1987, 1986 and 1985, respectively, are valued at face value which may differ from fair value as required by generally accepted accounting principles.

*Maner, Costerisan & Ellis PC*  
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General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
The Seventh-day Adventist Retirement Plan for North America  
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits

Income	Years Ended 31 December				
	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Contributions	52,402,746	48,090,361	44,813,462	41,909,205	38,666,163
Investment Earnings:					
Earned Income From Investments	8,916,990	8,097,642	7,897,295	7,045,113	6,993,335
Interest Income	844,027	883,017	698,733	585,460	343,549
Capital Gains - Net	2,810,482	1,246,926	6,517,391	3,851,712	1,400,150
Net Incr (Decr) in Value of Invest	5,787,013	3,026,314	(9,344,989)	2,595,421	8,516,658
Miscellaneous	20,146	9,209	7,167	9,976	6,010
Total Operating Income	70,779,473	61,332,468	50,379,189	55,798,999	55,900,863
Expenses					
Basic Benefits	40,464,002	43,581,990	40,924,058	38,567,813	36,018,826
Retirement Allowance	1,414,093	0	0	0	0
Scholarship Grants	174,836	161,995	106,457	167,857	179,063
Health Care Assistance	4,093,094	4,634,322	4,810,780	2,784,372	3,382,577
Medicare Premiums	2,598,960	1,946,972	1,337,151	1,185,333	1,086,713
Funeral Allowance	209,584	288,326	263,336	238,027	236,239
Admin Salary & General Expense	518,230	429,199	380,486	340,326	328,840
Office & Mailings	86,071	72,818	65,264	67,483	57,322
Professional Fees	134,264	89,644	79,557	22,371	22,122
Exchange Variance	(14,439)	(50,238)	810	(1,098)	34,021
Other	19,753	16,225	15,787	4,163	13
Total Operating Expenses	55,768,289	51,071,123	48,043,672	43,392,326	41,288,116
Operating Gain	16,021,204	10,261,345	2,335,517	12,414,558	14,612,747
Net Assets Avail for Plan Benefits					
Balance January 1	125,895,046	115,573,700	113,238,183	100,823,828	85,219,879
Net Assets Avail for Plan Benefits					
Balance December 31	140,860,249	125,895,046	115,573,700	113,238,184	100,823,828

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
The Seventh-day Adventist Retirement Plan for North America  
Statement of Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits

Assets	31 December				
	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Cash (Note 3)	4,269,672	6,081,993	4,669,973	3,604,770	3,632,024
Investments (Note 4)	124,074,945	110,504,276	102,380,309	100,864,347	93,302,030
Accounts Receivable	11,913,793	6,724,174	7,130,101	6,535,352	5,699,759
Note Receivable (Note 5)	9,245,213	3,595,757	3,837,294	4,356,150	0
Total Assets	149,503,623	126,906,200	118,517,287	115,360,619	102,833,613
Liabilities					
Accounts Payable	2,648,074	3,074,155	2,743,587	1,924,435	2,010,184
Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits	146,855,549	123,832,045	115,773,700	113,436,184	100,823,629

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
The Seventh-day Adventist Retirement Plan for North America  
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1 - Significant Provisions of the Plan:

General - The following brief description of The Seventh-day Adventist Retirement Plan for North America is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for more complete information.

The Plan is a non-contributory, defined-benefit plan providing retirement, disability, health, death and survivor benefits to employees of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, General Conference institutions and all conference organizations in the North American Division, who meet eligibility requirements.

Because it is a church affiliated plan it is not subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and no election has been made to fall under these provisions.

Benefits - Employees with 10 or more years of service are eligible for a normal monthly retirement benefit beginning at age 65 equal to the product of: (1) the average of their rate factors for the 10 years of service during which they had the highest rate factors, (2) years of service credit (not to exceed 40), and (3) the pension factor determined as of the date of each payment. The Plan permits early retirement benefits beginning at age 62 for participants with at least 35 years of service credit. The monthly allowance under this election is equal to the product of: (1) the benefit rate factor as of the date of actual retirement, (2) years of service credit (not to exceed 40), and (3) the pension factor determined as of each payment date.

A participant who has at least 20 years of service credit and who has been married throughout the immediately preceding one year prior to retirement is entitled to a monthly spouse allowance equal to the product of: (1) the normal or early retirement benefit, and (2) 1/4% for each year of service credit (not to exceed 40). The spouse allowance is reduced under certain circumstances and terminates upon the death of the spouse.

Certain benefits are also payable to eligible participants in the event of retirement due to disability or death.

A participant with 10 years of service who terminates employment other than by death, retirement (normal, early or postponed) or disability is entitled to a deferred vested benefit commencing at age 65, or under certain circumstances, age 62. The benefit is based upon their benefit rate factor and years of service credit as of the date of termination and the pension factor determined as of the date of each payment.

Benefits are paid generally in the form of a joint and survivor annuity; however, a participant may elect a single life benefit.

Medical Benefits - In addition to retirement benefits the Plan provides for certain medical benefits for participants with at least 15 years of service credit who are receiving retirement benefits under the Plan. Qualifying expenses incurred on behalf of a spouse, surviving spouse, former spouse and dependent children are also eligible for reimbursement.

Note 2 - Summary of Accounting Policies:

Basis of accounting - The financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

Cash Equivalents - Investment in the General Conference Money Fund is stated at cost of \$1 per unit which is equal to market value. Commercial paper and similar short-term items are stated at amortized cost which approximates market value.

**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
The Seventh-day Adventist Retirement Plan for North America  
Notes to Financial Statements**

**Note 2 - Summary of Accounting Policies: (cont'd)**

Investments - General Conference Unitized Funds are recorded at net asset value as reported by the Unitized Funds. The difference between value and cost is reflected in the statement of changes in net assets available for plan benefits. Realized gain or loss on investments represents the difference between the proceeds received and the cost of the investments sold.

**Note 3 - Cash:**

Cash consists of the following:	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Cash in Bank	115,899	852,186	491,409	380,604	254,949
General Conference Money Fund	4,163,773	5,229,807	0	0	0
Commercial paper	0	0	4,058,309	3,244,166	3,071,385
Certificates of Deposit	0	0	281,956	0	305,629
	<u>4,269,672</u>	<u>6,081,993</u>	<u>4,369,674</u>	<u>3,604,770</u>	<u>3,632,024</u>

**Note 4 - Investments:**

Investments are summarized as follows:	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
General Conference Unitized Funds:					
Investment Fund	79,998,094	79,998,094	77,483,914	68,697,238	64,999,233
Income Fund	28,683,332	26,418,117	23,854,644	21,446,374	20,343,725
International Fund	5,851,271	0	0	0	0
Other	235,420	468,550	468,550	582,664	616,322
Total Cost	114,668,117	106,884,761	101,787,108	90,726,176	85,859,280
Unrealized Appreciation	9,406,628	3,619,515	695,201	6,938,171	7,342,750
Value	<u>124,074,745</u>	<u>110,504,276</u>	<u>102,380,309</u>	<u>100,664,347</u>	<u>93,302,030</u>

The value of the investment in the General Conference Investment Fund is based on net asset value as reported by the Investment Fund. Because of the difficulty and inherent subjectivity involved in the determination of fair values, which is not susceptible to independent audit substantiation, management of the Investment Fund has not attempted to estimate the fair value of the intra-denominational loan portfolio as required by generally accepted accounting principles applicable to unitized funds. Such loans, by intent and practice, are expected to be held to maturity and are valued at face value.

Other than the Unitized Funds, no individual security equals 5 percent of net assets.

**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
The Seventh-day Adventist Retirement Plan for North America  
Notes to Financial Statements**

**Note 9 - Plan Amendment and/or Termination:**

It is the intention of the General Conference to continue the Plan indefinitely. However, the Conference has the right to revise any provision or terminate the Plan in whole or in part for any reason at any time.

Whether all participants receive their benefits should the Plan terminate at some future time will depend on the sufficiency, at that time, of the Plan's net assets to provide those benefits.

The Plan document does not specify any priority order for the distribution of the net assets in the event of plan termination.

**Note 10 - Tax Status/ERISA:**

In the opinion of the management, the Plan is not subject to the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code pertaining to tax exemption.

No reports have been filed under provisions of ERISA.

The General Conference is pursuing the creation of a formal Trust to hold plan assets and it is anticipated that a determination will be requested from the Internal Revenue Service regarding the qualified status of the Trust.

**Note 11 - Subsequent Event:**

The General Conference has authorized the creation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada Employees' Retirement Plan effective January 1, 1990 to comply with Canadian government requirements. It is contemplated that an actuarial study will be performed to determine the accumulated plan benefits on behalf of Canadian employee participants which will be assumed by the new plan from the existing Seventh-day Adventist Retirement Plan for North America and the Seventh-day Adventist Hospital Retirement Plan and that a corresponding amount of assets will also be transferred from each plan to the new plan.

**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
The Seventh-day Adventist Retirement Plan for North America  
Notes to Financial Statements**

**Note 5 - Note Receivable:**

The note receivable is from Walla Walla College and is payable \$55,278 per month including interest at a variable rate adjusted quarterly (9.263% at December 31, 1989); final maturity 1996; unsecured.

**Note 6 - Actuarial Information:**

Information regarding accumulated plan benefits, and changes therein, as required by FASB #35, has not been determined.

The last actuarial study of the plan was performed in 1979.

**Note 7 - Funding:**

Employees are not required, or permitted, to make contributions under the Plan.

Participating organizations have agreed to contribute such amounts as necessary to provide assets sufficient to meet the benefits to be paid to plan members.

Contributions are based on a percentage of title income or a percentage of basic remuneration, subject to change from time to time as determined by the North American Division Committee on Administration. Denominational policy requires, in general, assets, at original cost, equivalent to three times the amount of the latest complete year's plan benefits and expenses. Under this policy there is a funding deficiency of approximately \$35,825,085 at December 31, 1989. The foregoing deficiency is unrelated to the unfunded accrued liability for current retirees and active participants which was estimated by the Plan's consulting actuaries to be approximately \$400 million as of the last actuarial evaluation in 1979.

**Note 8 - Related Party Transactions:**

The Plan reimburses the General Conference Operating Fund for administrative and general expenses. In the opinion of management such charges (amounting to \$518,230 in 1989 and averaging \$400,215 annually for the five years) are reimbursed for the services rendered.

**Significant Inter-fund receivables are summarized as follows:**

	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Operating Fund	5,533,153	5,405,981	4,188,404	4,409,271	3,998,332
Hospital Retirement Plan	2,606,020	1,582,947	1,175,516	719,273	0
GC Corporation - Endowment Fund	607,638	0	0	0	0
Contributions to the Plan on behalf of GC employees	1,788,757	1,699,108	1,562,935	1,478,911	1,442,224

In addition, the GC Endowment Fund contributed \$607,638 in 1989 for Loma Linda Foods employees.



**MANER, COSTERISAN & ELLIS, P.C.**  
Certified Public Accountants

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

Walter P. Maner, Jr.  
Leon A. Ellis (1953-1988)

To the Delegates of the Fifty-fifth  
General Conference Session  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
Silver Spring, Maryland

March 16, 1990

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for plan benefits of The Seventh-day Adventist Hospital Retirement Plan as of December 31, 1989, 1988, 1987, 1986 and 1985, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for plan benefits for each of the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

Except as discussed in the following paragraph, we conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Information regarding accumulated benefits and changes therein as of and for the years ended December 31, 1986 and 1985, represents estimated amounts as of December 31, 1985 based on a projection of the results previously developed as of December 31, 1984. Because of the lack of member data as of December 31, 1985, there is a potential that the results would differ from those shown in a valuation based on accurate and complete participant data as of December 31, 1985.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial status of the Plan as of December 31, 1988 and 1987 and the changes in its financial status for the years then ended and information regarding net assets available for plan benefits and

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Delegates of the Fifty-fifth  
General Conference Session  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

March 16, 1990

changes therein as of and for the year ended December 31, 1989 in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Additionally, except for additional disclosures, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had accurate and complete participant data been available as of December 31, 1985, as discussed in the preceding paragraph, the financial statements as of and for the years ended December 31, 1986 and 1985 present fairly the financial status of the Plan and changes therein.

As disclosed in Notes 1 and 5, the Plan has investments in notes receivable comprising approximately 10% of net assets available for plan benefits at December 31, 1989 and 9%, 6%, 7% and 6% at December 31, 1988, 1987, 1986 and 1985, respectively, which are carried at face value which may differ from fair value as required by generally accepted accounting principles.

*Maureen Costigan & Ellis R*

Certified Public Accountants

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
The Seventh-day Adventist Hospital Retirement Plan  
Statement of Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits

Assets	31 December				
	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Cash (Note 3)	42,909,528	75,841,938	79,338,771	45,999,785	38,817,567
Investments (Note 4)	329,361,837	214,221,568	168,186,596	153,746,200	119,528,500
Accts Receivable, net of allowance for uncollectible accts of \$2,825,043 in 1989, \$1,818,448 in 1988, \$805,218 in 1987, \$805,218 in 1986 and \$172,000 in 1985.	7,880,221	4,743,921	7,223,178	5,478,842	4,385,937
Long-Term Notes (Note 5)	38,610,309	27,655,034	16,500,000	15,000,000	10,835,357
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>409,761,895</b>	<b>322,462,459</b>	<b>285,248,545</b>	<b>220,619,827</b>	<b>173,347,361</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Accounts Payable	3,872,114	2,461,934	3,878,188	1,412,626	1,317,174
<b>Net Assets Avail for Plan Benefits</b>	<b>406,389,779</b>	<b>319,980,525</b>	<b>281,570,367</b>	<b>219,207,201</b>	<b>172,030,187</b>
Health Care Reserve (Note 7)	8,154,961	7,047,171	5,871,574	5,348,454	4,457,494
Undesignated	397,234,818	312,933,354	285,698,819	213,858,747	187,572,693
<b>Total</b>	<b>406,389,779</b>	<b>319,980,525</b>	<b>281,570,367</b>	<b>219,207,201</b>	<b>172,030,187</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
The Seventh-day Adventist Hospital Retirement Plan  
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits

Income	Years Ended 31 December				
	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Contributions	47,610,038	45,836,736	42,022,804	39,145,865	31,747,282
Investment Earnings:					
Dividends	4,031,029	2,629,572	2,292,899	2,194,992	2,199,360
Interest Income	20,826,666	18,078,413	13,682,324	11,838,043	10,272,495
Earned Income From Investments	1,147,936	765,204	0	0	0
Capital Gains - Net	10,462,943	2,581,152	10,928,535	5,546,068	4,721,059
Net Act (Decr) in Value of Invest	18,894,115	5,609,608	(13,879,913)	988,538	5,194,696
Miscellaneous	4,584	22,602	0	0	266
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>102,867,008</b>	<b>72,818,291</b>	<b>55,044,449</b>	<b>59,493,556</b>	<b>54,135,024</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Basic Benefits	12,237,869	11,936,221	10,528,046	9,723,545	9,034,200
Retirement Allowance	817,086	0	0	11,660	12,821
Health Care Assistance	1,138,536	1,070,766	1,242,329	1,129,882	672,699
Medicare Premiums	872,192	821,106	436,329	388,801	336,806
Funeral Allowances	78,211	66,477	66,406	63,578	44,848
Admin Salary & General Expense	189,939	189,788	108,516	95,660	114,540
Office & Mailing	27,918	28,236	22,472	16,690	16,733
Counseling Fees	290,957	219,878	183,251	167,439	120,488
Professional Fees	60,700	126,711	81,651	89,875	57,870
Exchange Variance	(4,506)	(26,921)	1,201	1,258	8,929
Actuarial Study	63,600	126,000	15,404	81,925	16,159
Uncollectible Accounts	1,007,697	813,227	0	633,219	77,000
Bank Fees	5,787	6,367	5,646	7,119	0
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>16,657,754</b>	<b>14,608,153</b>	<b>17,581,262</b>	<b>12,316,542</b>	<b>10,514,601</b>
<b>Operating Gain</b>	<b>86,209,254</b>	<b>58,210,138</b>	<b>42,363,187</b>	<b>47,177,014</b>	<b>43,620,423</b>
Net Assets Avail for Plan Benefits					
Balance January 1	319,980,525	281,570,367	219,207,201	172,030,187	128,409,764
<b>Net Assets Avail for Plan Benefits</b>	<b>406,389,779</b>	<b>319,980,525</b>	<b>281,570,367</b>	<b>219,207,201</b>	<b>172,030,187</b>
Balance December 31					

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
The Seventh-day Adventist Hospital Retirement Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1 - Significant Provisions of the Plans:

General - The following brief description of The Seventh-day Adventist Hospital Retirement Plan is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for more complete information.

The Plan is a non-contributory, defined-benefit plan providing retirement, disability, health, death and survivor benefits to employees of the General Conference health care institutions in the North American Division, who meet eligibility requirements.

Because it is a church affiliated plan it is not subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and no election has been made to fall under these provisions.

Benefits - Employees with 10 or more years of service are eligible for a normal monthly retirement benefit beginning at age 65 equal to the product of: (1) the average of their rate factors for the 19 years of service during which they had the highest rate factors, (2) years of service credit (not to exceed 40), and (3) the pension factor determined as of the date of each payment. The Plan permits early retirement benefits beginning at age 62 for participants with at least 35 years of service credit. The monthly benefit under this election is equal to the product of: (1) the benefit rate factor as of the date of actual retirement, (2) years of service credit (not to exceed 40), and (3) the pension factor determined as of each payment date.

A participant who has at least 20 years of service credit and who has been married throughout the immediately preceding one year prior to retirement is entitled to a monthly spouse allowance equal to the product of: (1) the normal or early retirement benefit, and (2) 1 1/4% for each year of service credit (not to exceed 40). The spouse allowance is reduced under certain circumstances and terminates upon the death of the spouse.

Certain benefits are also payable to eligible participants in the event of retirement due to disability or death.

A participant with 10 years of service who terminates employment other than by death, retirement (normal, early or postponed) or disability is entitled to a deferred vested benefit commencing at age 65, or under certain circumstances, age 62. The benefit is based upon their benefit rate factor and years of service credit as of the date of termination and the pension factor determined as of the date of each payment.

Benefits are paid generally in the form of a joint and survivor annuity; however, a participant may elect a single life benefit.

Medical Benefits - In addition to retirement benefits the Plan provides for certain medical benefits for participants with at least 15 years of service credit who are receiving retirement benefits under the Plan. Qualifying expenses incurred on behalf of a spouse, surviving spouse, former spouse and dependent children are also eligible for reimbursement.

Medical Benefits are to be funded in amounts actuarially determined to be necessary to provide such benefits provided the aggregate contributions for such benefits shall not exceed 25% of the aggregate contributions (including retirement benefits but excluding the amount of contributions representing amortization of past service costs) under the Plan.

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
The Seventh-day Adventist Hospital Retirement Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements**

**Note 2 - Summary of Accounting Policies:**

**Basis of Accounting** - The financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

**Cash Equivalents** - Investment in the General Conference Money Fund is stated at cost of \$1 per unit which is equal to market value. Commercial paper and similar short-term items are stated at amortized cost which approximates market value.

**Investments** - Investments in securities traded on a national securities exchange are valued at the last reported sales price on the last business day of the year. Securities traded in the over-the-counter market and listed securities for which no sale was reported on that date are valued at the last reported bid price. Investments in notes from affiliated organizations are valued at face value. No allowance for uncollectible amounts is considered necessary.

Security transactions are accounted for on the date the transactions are entered into (the trade date) rather than the settlement date. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date. Interest income not received is accrued.

The difference between value and cost is reflected in the statement of changes in net assets available for plan benefits. Realized gain or loss on investments represents the difference between the proceeds received and the cost of the investments sold.

**Note 3 - Cash:**

Cash consists of the following:	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Cash in Bank	218,275	175,632	123,452	202,827	124,659
General Conference Money Fund	42,691,250	75,666,304	0	0	0
Bankers Acceptances	0	0	51,715,174	1,993,000	0
Commercial Paper	0	0	19,935,145	40,328,129	38,492,908
Certificates of Deposit	0	0	1,565,000	3,669,829	0
	<u>42,909,525</u>	<u>75,841,936</u>	<u>73,333,771</u>	<u>46,393,756</u>	<u>38,617,567</u>

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
The Seventh-day Adventist Hospital Retirement Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements**

**Note 4 - Investments:**

Investments are summarized as follows:

	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Real Estate Syndicates and Other	10,465,599	10,934,765	10,646,636	5,387,947	5,110,083
Bonds	169,188,827	99,954,439	94,590,444	84,343,322	61,554,815
Convertible Bonds	2,637,741	4,970,991	5,371,500	4,549,000	4,986,438
Preferred Stocks	3,216,061	2,564,253	360,000	352,500	2,752,625
Common Stocks	95,165,526	85,339,940	61,961,676	54,222,429	41,202,125
Mutual Funds	2,226,956	1,290,827	1,441,490	0	0
Unitized Fund - Int'l Fund	<u>21,046,305</u>	<u>14,345,658</u>	<u>2,319,861</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Cost	304,957,027	217,700,873	177,175,607	148,855,198	115,606,086
Unrealized Apprec (Deprec)	<u>16,404,810</u>	<u>(3,479,305)</u>	<u>(8,988,911)</u>	<u>4,891,002</u>	<u>3,922,414</u>
Value	<u>320,361,837</u>	<u>214,221,568</u>	<u>168,186,696</u>	<u>153,746,200</u>	<u>119,528,500</u>

Other than the notes receivable identified in Note 5 and the investments in the International Fund, no individual investment equals five percent or more of net assets.

**Note 5 - Note Receivable:**

Notes Receivable from Affiliated Organizations Consist of:

	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Southwestern Union Revolving Fund:					
Variable int adjusted and pay qtrly (9.263% at Dec 31, 1989)					
Principal payable qtrly (\$80,936 at Dec 31, 1989) starting first qtr 1989. Deposit to be repaid on a 30-yr amortization schedule but fully due after ten yrs for the balance then owing if the GC wishes to recall the deposit; Unsecured.	2,482,507	2,000,000	0	0	0

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
The Seventh-day Adventist Hospital Retirement Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements**

**Note 5 - Note Receivable: (cont'd)**

Notes Receivable from Affiliated Organizations Consist of:

	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Loma Linda University Fac Med Office: Variable interest adjusted qtrly. (9.263% at Dec 31, 1989)					
Principal and interest payable monthly commencing Jan 1, 1988 with final maturity Dec 31, 2013; Secured by First Deed of Trust	18,296,321	16,155,035	16,500,000	16,000,000	7,500,000
Loma Linda University Cogeneration Plant: Variable interest adjusted qtrly (9.263% at Dec 31, 1989)					
Principal and int pay mo (\$575,196 at Dec 31, 1989) commencing at the end of the first full calendar qtr after the final draw has been made (second qtr 1990) and continuing for twelve yrs; Secured.	17,831,481	9,500,000	0	0	0
Review and Herald Publishing Assn	0	0	0	0	3,335,957
	<u>36,127,802</u>	<u>25,655,035</u>	<u>16,500,000</u>	<u>16,000,000</u>	<u>10,835,957</u>

**Note 6 - Actuarial Information:**

Information Regarding Accumulated Plan Benefits as of December 31, Follows:

	Actuarial Present Value at Accumulated Plan Benefits		
	1988	1987	1985
Vested			
Participants currently receiving	150,568,419	138,363,439	116,253,732
* Active participants	184,327,760	158,026,371	*203,546,888
* Terminated vested participants	<u>33,053,640</u>	<u>60,977,304</u>	
Non-Vested	423,444,828	357,367,114	318,800,870
	<u>84,987,024</u>	<u>77,658,140</u>	<u>61,608,961</u>
Total	<u>508,431,852</u>	<u>485,025,254</u>	<u>380,409,631</u>

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
The Seventh-day Adventist Hospital Retirement Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements**

**Note 6 - Actuarial Information: (cont'd)**

Information regarding accumulated plan benefits as of December 31, follows:

**Changes in Actuarial Present Value of Accumulated Plan Benefits**

	1988	1987	1985
Actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits at January 1	435,025,254	415,065,808	349,691,481
Increase (decrease) during the year attributable to:			
Benefits accumulated	68,353,175	13,547,177	17,983,444
Incr for interest due to the decr in the discount period	31,084,943	29,647,733	23,249,307
Benefits paid	(13,086,559)	(12,263,111)	(10,514,801)
Changes in actuarial assumptions related to medical experience	(5,099,410)	(10,972,345)	0
Plan Amendments	<u>2,174,449</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Estimated actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits at December 31	<u>608,431,852</u>	<u>435,025,254</u>	<u>380,409,631</u>

The more significant assumptions underlying the actuarial computations as of December 31, 1988 are as follows:

- Actuarial cost method: Projected Unit Credit
- Assumed rate of return investments: 7 1/2%
- Annual rate of increase:
  - Pension factor: 3 1/2%
  - Medical benefits: 8 3/4%
  - Expense load: 1/4% of net assets
- Mortality (after retirement): 1983 Table 'A' for males and females
- Retirement age: 65

Turnover	Age	Annual Non-vested Terminations per 1,000 Active Employees
	25	530
	35	230
	46	100
	55	10
	60	---

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
The Seventh-day Adventist Hospital Retirement Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements**

**Note 7 - Health Care Reserve:**

An analysis of the Health Care Reserve follows:

	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Balance at beginning of year	7,047,171	5,871,574	5,348,454	4,457,494	3,308,519
Additions (Deductions):					
Four percent of:					
Contributions to Plan	1,904,401	1,813,429	1,680,904	1,565,835	1,269,890
Investment Income	2,214,116	1,054,030	520,874	818,908	895,500
Medical Assistance	(1,138,535)	(1,070,756)	(1,242,324)	(1,129,982)	(672,609)
Medicare Premiums	(872,192)	(621,106)	(436,829)	(358,801)	(338,806)
Balance at end of year	<u>9,154,961</u>	<u>7,047,171</u>	<u>5,871,574</u>	<u>5,348,454</u>	<u>4,457,494</u>

**Note 8 - Funding:**

Employees are not required, or permitted, to make contributions under the Plan.

Participating employers are required to make contributions under the Plan in at least such amounts as will prevent the occurrence of an accumulated funding deficiency, as defined. Contributions are based on a rate for total paid hours.

**Note 9 - Related Party Transactions:**

The Plan reimburses the General Conference Operating Fund for administrative and general expenses. In the opinion of management such charges (amounting to \$165,845 in 1989 and averaging \$125,000 annually for the five years) are reasonable for the services rendered.

Significant Inter-fund Payables are summarized as follows:

	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Retirement Plan for North America	2,806,021	1,582,947	1,175,516	719,273	0
Retirement Plans Service Bureau	122,266	0	0	0	0

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
The Seventh-day Adventist Hospital Retirement Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements**

**Note 10 - Plan Amendment and/or Termination:**

The General Conference may amend the Plan in whole or in part except that no amendment may reduce any retirement benefit that had accrued as of the date of the amendment. No amendment may permit any part of Plan assets to revert to any participating employer or to be used for any purpose other than the exclusive benefit of participants and their beneficiaries.

It is the intention of the General Conference to continue the Plan indefinitely. However, the General Conference has the right to terminate the Plan in whole or in part for any reason at any time.

In the event of termination, retirement benefits accrued under the Plan as of the date of termination, to the extent then funded, shall be non-forfeitable. Plan assets shall be allocated among participants and their beneficiaries in the following order:

- (1) Benefits in pay status 3 years prior to termination
- (2) Benefits which would have been in pay status 3 years prior to termination if the participant had retired
- (3) All other non-forfeitable retirement benefits
- (4) All other retirement benefits

Whether all participants receive their benefits should the Plan terminate at some future time will depend on the sufficiency, at that time, of the Plan's net assets to provide those benefits.

**Note 11 - Tax Status/ERISA:**

The Hospital Plan has received a favorable determination that it is exempt under provisions of Section 401(A) of the Internal Revenue Code.

No reports have been filed under provisions of ERISA.

**Note 12 - Subsequent Event:**

The General Conference has authorized the creation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada Employees' Retirement Plan effective January 1, 1990 to comply with Canadian government requirements. It is contemplated that an actuarial study will be performed to determine the accumulated plan benefits on behalf of Canadian employee participants which will be assumed by the new plan from the existing Seventh-day Adventist Retirement Plan for North America and the Seventh-day Adventist Hospital Retirement Plan and that a corresponding amount of assets will also be transferred from each plan to the new plan.

32



MANER, COSTERISAN & ELLIS, P.C.  
Certified Public Accountants

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Jack E. Powers  
Lawrence C. Kowalk  
Gary W. Brys  
Daniel L. Popoff  
Lamonte T. Lator  
Russell G. Hicks  
Bruce J. Dunn

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Walter P. Maner, Jr.  
Leon A. Ellis (9133-1988)

To the Delegates of the Fifty-fifth  
General Conference Session  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
Silver Spring, Maryland

March 16, 1990

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Retirement Plans Service Bureau as of December 31, 1989. This financial statement is the responsibility of the management of the General Conference. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the assets and liabilities of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Retirement Plans Service Bureau as of December 31, 1989, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

*Maner, Costerisan & Ellis PC*

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
Retirement Plans Service Bureau  
Statement of Assets and Liabilities  
31 December 1989**

**Assets**

Cash	70,583
Accounts Receivable	154,204
Total Assets	<u>224,787</u>

**Liabilities**

Accounts Payable	<u>224,787</u>
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See accompanying note to financial statement.

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
Retirement Plans Service Bureau  
Note to Financial Statement**

**Name and Purpose:**

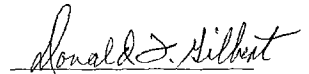
The Retirement Plans Service Bureau fund has been established in 1989 to make payments on behalf of The Seventh-day Adventist Retirement Plan for North America, the Seventh-day Adventist Hospital Plan, the General Conference, and General Conference divisions other than North America who have retirees residing in North America. Benefit payments are distributed on the basis of service credit and charged to the Retirement Plans and/or General Conference, who, in turn, reimburse the Service Bureau for their portion of benefits or other expense paid.

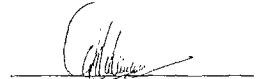
Certain income items are also received in the Service Bureau and later distributed to the various Plans. The Service Bureau has no income or expense of its own since all income and expense items accounted for in the Service Bureau are distributed.

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**North American Conference Corporation  
of Seventh-day Adventists**

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

  
Treasurer

  
Secretary

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**GC SNAPSHOT**



**Meylan Thorensen, Joel Springer, and Kitt Watts produced photos for the daily *Bulletins*.**

**ADVENTIST  
REVIEW**

**General paper of the  
Seventh-day Adventist Church**

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Vol. 167, No. 36





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# AIA Seeks Involvement in Global Strategy

**By Ivan Bartolome**

*Ivan Bartolome is the marketing manager at Huguley Hospital, Fort Worth, Texas, and a former president of the Adventist Intercollegiate Association.*

Officers and members of the Adventist Intercollegiate Association (AIA) are sponsoring early-morning meetings for college-age students during the General Conference session in Indianapolis. These meetings are designed to educate students on the various functions of the GC and the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a whole. "We're really trying to show our church youth their leadership potential," says Cheryl Roda, AIA president.

Ron Wisbey, president of the Columbia Union Conference in the North American Division (NAD), was the first guest speaker for these early-morning meetings. He discussed the GC election process with the students and answered questions about agenda items. Ted Wick, associate NAD Church Ministries director, also addressed the students. He helped them develop a strategy to present their concerns to church leaders.

"These students have been told that they are tomorrow's leaders, but really they are today's leaders," says Wick. "The AIA aims to let these students know that their ideas count and that their church leaders will listen to them."

"We're looking for ways to help implement the GC's program of Global Strategy," says Roda. "We have a tremendous resource in our

students throughout the world. Many of these students want to become more involved in our church, but just don't know where to begin. The AIA is here to help students discover what they can do to have an impact on their church."

The AIA strives to represent all SDA college and university student bodies. The campuses send delegates to a previously designated campus for an annual convention. During these conventions students discuss topics relevant to member campuses and the world church. "These meetings are an exciting forum for discussion and spiritual revival," says Roda.

More than 100 students representing 12 Seventh-day Adventist campuses of higher education attended the last AIA convention. They met at Southwestern Adventist College to exchange ideas for improving student government-sponsored services, and also considered imminent changes in the Adventist Church that directly affect their future in the church.

Loma Linda University, Riverside, will host the next AIA convention, in April 1991. The AIA has its eye on becoming an international organization. Newbold College is its newest addition. And there are plans for Avondale College to be represented at the upcoming convention.

## GC SNAPSHOT



With the new logo for Global Mission on display, each of the 11 division presidents and presidents of attached unions described their plans to reach unreached peoples during the next five years. Here Jacob Nortey of the Africa-Indian Ocean Division speaks while Robert Kloosterhuis watches the clock to keep the program on schedule.

# Necrology listing

During the past quinquennium the *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* has listed the names of 1,340 church employees who have died during that period. Some were active workers at the time of their death, while many were retired workers. Their faithful service is recorded in the books of heaven. We miss them, but the blessed hope comforts us, and we expect to see them on the resurrection morning.

A partial list of those who were widely known is here presented:

Don Aalborg	Isaac V. Counsell	Peter Knopper	R. Wendell Nelson	J. R. Setlhare
Karl Abrahamson	Blanche Cox	Johannes Koehler	F. Patience Neocker	Eleazar Semutwa
Eduardo Acosta	Mary E. Cox	Karl Koehler	Alonzo J. Neufeld	Napoleon B. Smith
Maria D. Aeschlimann	Alan Crowe	A. B. Koopedi	W. M. Ngubeni	Mrs. W. M. Sojola
Betty Ahnberg	Giuseppe Cupertino	Mrs. A. B. Koopedi	R. E. Nhlapho	Edna M. Stevenson
Victoria Alalade	Marvin C. Custard	Walter Krakolinig	Daniel R. Nhleko	Mary I. J. Stevenson
Delfe B. Alsaybar	Valentine Davies	Hyuk Chong Kwon	James J. North	Peter Stevenson
R. A. Anderson	Brian de Alwis	Clara C. Lauda	Paul I. Nosworthy	Solomon Eugene Sumner
Jennie H. Andross	Alfred De Ligne	Joseph H. Laurence	Simeon Nzarora	Levi B. Tabo
Heinz Arleth	Bessie E. Detamore	Jean Lavanchy	Daniel Odula	Alfrits Taliwongso
Nestor R. Arit	Barbara Dew	Donald E. Lee	P. E. Onwere	Kia Ou Tan
Alexander W. Austen	Everett N. Dick	Ruth R. Lee	Earl R. Osmunson	B. O. Tetteh
David H. Baasch	Aurelia Dionisio	C. N. Legoabe	Walter M. Ost	D. G. Theunissen
Frank L. Baer	Catherine Dower	Mrs. C. N. Legoabe	William H. Otto	Pierre Tissot
Noel M. Bailey	F. Du Plessis	Klaus-Juergen Lehmann	Elias A. Papazian	Ruby B. Troy
S. K. Bairagee	Eldine W. Dunbar	Jose da S. Lessa	Ronald E. Pengilley	Julius L. Tucker
N. N. Banerjee	J. S. Dwumoh	Magdalon E. Lind	William E. Penick	Erich Tulaszewski
Michael S. Banfield	Eva B. Dykes	Harold M. Lindsay	Manuel Perez	Alan Keith Tulloch
R. Curtis Barger	E. M. Edmed	Vongoethe Lindsay	Yin Hee Phang	Roland Unnersten
Teofilo V. Barizo	M. Eugene Evans	Sunny W. C. Liu	J. D. Phomodi	Walter C. Utt
Reginald Barnes	Rene Evard	Michele A. Long	Sam Pierre-Louis	Stuart M. Uttley
Douglas C. Batson, Sr.	Gustav Faass	Ernest Lloyd	Robert H. Pierson	Petrus J. Van der Merwe
I. R. (Major) Bazliel	William A. Fagal	Marjorie Lewis Lloyd	Erich Plambeck	Emmitt VandeVere
V. Victor Benjamin	David Ferris	Theodore E. Lucas	Vitiamyalaksana Pleng	C. S. Van Heerden
Paul Bernard	Walter G. Ferris	Odell W. Mackey	J. V. Prasada Rao	Pieter van Oossanen
Hugo Beskow	May B. Figuhr	Jackson Maiyo	Antonin Prazan	Melvin L. Venden
Basta Bishai	Karl Fleck	Mrs. C. S. Majola	Claus Proschwitz	Susie M. Venter
Barnabas Bisomimbwa	Harold Flory	Ruth Nashed Malaka	Paul E. Quimby	Abner A. Villarin
Alice Black	Elman J. Folkenberg	Myrl O. Manley	Friedrich Raecker	Edgar Villeneuve
Juan Armando Bonjour	Mrs. Berni Follett	George M. Mathews	Rajaonah	Ruby Visser
W. Paul Bradley	Lois Mae Franz	Guida Jo Mathews	Emilson Rajaonesa	F. W. Von Horsten
Gordon Branster	William E. Galbreth	Sheila Matthews	Cornelius Rall	Donald J. Von Pohle
Marjorie R. Brash	Sigfried Genske	Eduard Mayer	Julien Ramamanjisoa	Frederick J. Voorthuis
Charles L. Brooks	Elsie F. Gibbs	Daniel A. McAdams	Josef Ramskogler	Ralph F. Waddell
Otto Brozio	Jesse O. Gibson	Edith M. B. McClure	Remi Rasamoely	B. E. Wagner
Elfrida M. Bulgin	Ernst Groh	David McCottry	V. L. Rawna	Irene Walker
Howard D. Burbank	Sofronio B. Gumapac	Grace D. McLeod	Marie Opsahl Rebok	Daniel Walther
Reginald J. Burns	Sievert Gustavsson	Mrs. E. Mqganqo	David B. Reid	Albert H. Watson
Iehiel B. Burton	Margaret Hackett	James Middleton	D. P. Rema	Dottie Webster
Carlos Busso	Faiz Haddad	Edwin L. Minchin	H.M.S. Richards, Sr.	L. M. Webster
Baruhire Buunda	Ferdinand A. Hamel	M. R. Moeletsi	William J. Richards	Samuel Weiss
Raymond B. Caldwell	James R. Hardin	S. Morallana	David Riemens	Ernest N. Wendth
Theodore Carcich	Charles W. Harrison	Eleazer A. Moreno	Josephine Roberts	Wilma R. Westphal
Jesse B. Carter	Archibald L. Hefren	Mrs. K. Mosedi	Virgil E. Robinson	Edward A. White
Lovice B. Cato	Paul A. Heise	Bessie Mount	Alfonso P. Roda	Alfred Wicklein
George W. Chambers	Romeo L. Hubbs	Mrs. P. V. Msimang	Erwin E. Roenfelt	Ora May Williams
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Emanuel Christoffers	S. N. Kakwi	V. P. Muthiah	LaVerne Schlehuder	L. Delmer Wood
Edna E. Clifford	J. B. Keith	Mrs. C. Myendeki	Hugo Schnoetzinger	John Wright
J. M. Coetzee	G. Arthur Keough	Mzozoyana	Helmut Schwab	Denes Zarka
Sallie B. Coopwood	Otomar Klouda	Charles Nagele	Max Schwab	
Jose A. Corpus	Heinrich Knoner	Emma Neeley	E. Toral Seat	

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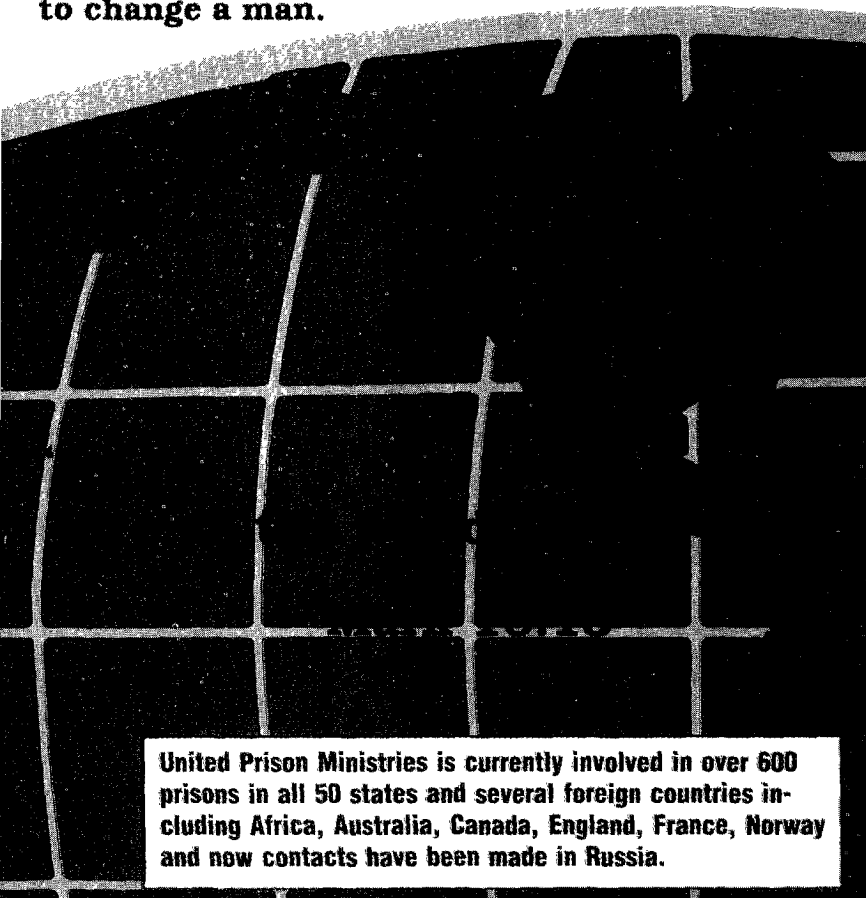
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He has the power  
to change a man.**

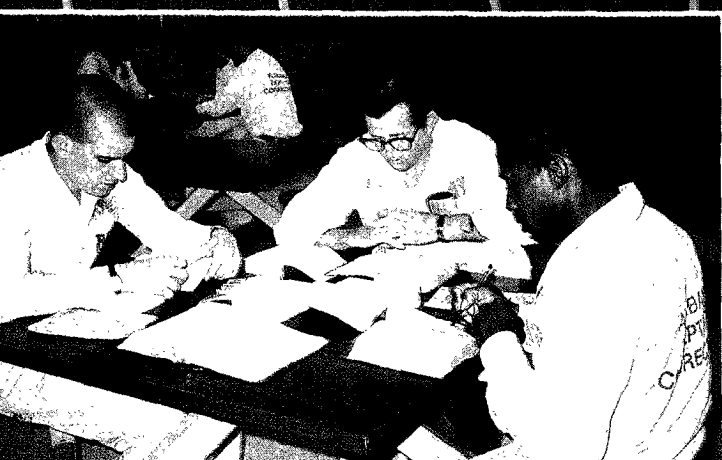
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**Athlete Laura Fenton teaches at Wesley College in Lincoln, Nebraska, where she is respected for her Adventist beliefs.**

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