

# ADVENTIST NEWS

BY ADVENTISTS

JULY 13, 1995

United  
in Christ

The Day in Utrecht

2

Devotional

4

Reports

7, 9, 20, 21

Images of the Session

16

Proceedings and  
Actions

10, 22

**A member of the bandura  
ensemble from Ukraine  
performing at the session**



# in Utrecht

SABBATH, JULY 8



**By Nancy Vyhmeister**  
Professor of world mission, Andrews University, Michigan, U.S.A.



I approach the final day of the General Conference session as I do Christmas—eager to have it come, loath to see it go! I expect great things today; I want to treasure every minute of this giant festival of faith and fellowship. And I would like to share my impressions and thoughts with you!

The day begins with the music of the vesper service. The Indonesian *anklong* ensemble, with each person shaking his or her bamboo rattle, makes me think of the church. Each member plays only one note, musically rather boring. But when all of us play together, the music is heavenly. And then comes the Romanian pastors' choir—its power is hard to describe!

In his evening sermon Dwight Nelson, pastor of the Pioneer Memorial church at Andrews University, presented an urgent appeal to become one in Christ's invitation, not only to proclaim His message, but also to be passionate about the Second Coming. To close the sermon, Pastor Nelson asked for those present to pair off and pray for each other, that each might be covered by the blood of the Lamb, which assures us victory and Satan's defeat.

This morning I awoke feeling sad that my mother, in faraway California, was not feasting as we are. I decided to phone. She was bubbling with excitement over the daily ACN broadcasts and especially the vesper service she had just watched.

Last Sabbath the La Sierra University Destination Players, active in church worship and youth evangelism since 1989, presented the first part of

"Sabbath School 2000." Uriah Smith and other pioneers spoke of their great disappointment and the need to study the Bible further. Today the presentation emphasized mission expansion and final triumph. I'm caught up in their message of optimism, so dramatically portrayed. I wonder what would happen if Sabbath schools all around the world were as innovative as these young people.

Fortunately, change is occurring. In Papua New Guinea a teacher-training program and the refocusing of the Sabbath school brought 20,000 inactive or new members into the Sabbath school in one year. In the Euro-Asia Division missionary congresses in April of 1995 have enabled 5,000 newly trained members to conduct Bible studies. Southern Asia Adventists have prepared special materials combining literacy education and the Sabbath school lessons. What can I, as a Sabbath school superintendent, do at my home church?

As a prelude to the sermon the massed choir raised hearts and spirits. More than 100 voices accompanied by organ and orchestra interpreted the well-known hymn "All Creatures of Our God and King." Yes, "Praise Him! Alleluia."

President Robert S. Folkenberg's sermon urged us to take seriously Paul's admonition for peace in Colossians 3:11-17. Folkenberg exhorted: "Let us beat our ecclesiastical swords into evangelistic plowshares." The basis of unity is not necessarily doctrine, but living doctrine in love—love for God, love for each of our brothers and sisters, love for the world that does not yet



On Sabbath morning, July 8, people just kept coming and coming and coming—filling up the main auditorium and two other halls. More than 50,000 people packed the place.

know God's final message of love.

The question is How do we develop this kind of love? How do we put away differences and past hurts? Coming to General Conference helps! Today I see hugs and kisses all around me. People who did not vote the same, even on the request to ordain women as pastors, are wishing each other well as they prepare to depart. May love, as a fruit of the Spirit, grow and multiply in and among



On Sabbath, July 8, the hundreds of young people who participated in IMPACT '95 massed on the platform to give delegates and visitors a glimpse of their street witnessing in Utrecht using puppets, mime, drama, and music.

us during the next quinquennium!

Ah! to be a youth instead of a grandmother! The youth's "piece of the pie" looks delicious. But, as the young people said, it is more fun to make a pie than eat it. A taste of the reports: The 1,000 Missionary Movement, based in the Philippines, trains and sends young people who are willing to give a year of their lives to serve in difficult places. So far they have trained 458; by 2000 they expect to be preparing 1,000 a year. These young missionaries preach, teach, heal, build, smile, and pray. In two years they have prepared 3,210 for baptism. Here in Utrecht, hundreds of young people have participated in IMPACT '95. After a morning of study and inspiration, they have witnessed on the streets of Utrecht using puppets, mime, drama, and music.

They are excited about what they did and what they intend to do back home.

Crowds. Multitudes. People everywhere. The main auditorium, with 22,000 seats, filled before the 8:30 a.m. musical program. Earphones, supplied for translation, ran out. An overflow hall seating 7,000 also filled. By church time a couple of thousand were in another hall. Wherever there was a TV monitor, people sat or stood to watch. The business session over, delegate seating was opened to visitors, who began streaming into the main auditorium more than one hour before the evening meeting. With more than 45,000 persons in attendance, the Jaarbeurs facilities and security staff were stretched almost beyond limits. What will the 144,000 be like? I'm planning on being there to find out!

To portray a world church, the first-ever Parade of Nations replaces the mission pageant. Division by division, country by country, 208 representatives parade in colorful costumes, carrying their flags. As they come into view of the camera, the big screen displays their image as well as the name of the country and its flag. A scenic video clip precedes the parade of each division. A running commentary describes each country, its people, and the church there.

I'm impressed by the technical achievements of the presentation. Even more, I stand in awe of the enormous diversity of the church. But beyond all, I am made aware of how much remains to be done. Many lands are yet unreached: 89 percent of Seventh-day Adventist members live in lands that are home to 23 percent of the earth's inhabitants, while in the parts of the world where 77 percent live, the church has only 11 percent of its members.

In his closing remarks Elder Folkenberg told the story of two laypersons who came to Utrecht from opposite ends of the world. While the delegates deliberated, the two prayed together and drew up plans to send 500 teams of global mission pioneers to China. Furthermore, they have already raised nearly US\$4 million to accomplish the



Steve Dailey of La Sierra University plays Uriah Smith in a dramatic representation, "Sabbath School 2000."

project by the next session.

And so we come to the end of the fifty-sixth General Conference session. We take back with us the challenge of uniting in the accomplishment of the church's mission: to make a people ready for Jesus' soon coming. "We have this hope!"

## Session Schedule

### ■ SABBATH, JULY 8

#### 8:30 a.m.

Music program  
Sabbath school for all ages

#### 11:00 a.m.

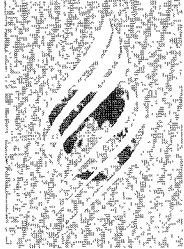
Worship service—  
GC president Robert S.  
Folkenberg, speaker

#### 2:30 a.m.

Music program  
Youth on Parade

#### 6:45 a.m.

Music program  
Parade of Nations  
Closing challenge by  
GC president



# United in His Invitation



**DWIGHT K. NELSON**

Senior Pastor, Pioneer  
Memorial Church,  
Berrien Springs,  
Michigan, U.S.A.

**W**ar is the metaphor of life on this planet these days! It's the daily fare of our news: Sarajevo, Belfast, Tel Aviv, Los Angeles, Rwanda, Baghdad, Grozny, and on and on—the tragedy of war ad nauseam.

As Adventists we are a peace-loving people. And the God who raised us up is a peace-loving God. But the tragic reality is that we are in a war tonight, a war that broke the heart of God eons ago!

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels. . . . And the great dragon was cast out” (Rev. 12:7-9). Our peace-loving God knows the brokenness of war more than any other living creature in the universe tonight.

We must not be surprised that God comes to us in the language and metaphor of war. This is why Adventism a century and a half ago gave the war a theological name: “the great controversy between Christ and Satan.” Ellen White, who championed that paradigm, has made a significant contribution to theological thought in Christianity.

## The Urgent Invitation

Tonight, look at what God does with the metaphor of war through the ancient prophet Ezekiel. What we are about to read is one of the most urgent invitations God has ever extended to the community of faith. It is our theme tonight, “United in His Invitation.” And you can find it in Ezekiel 33:1-9.

Let me paraphrase this text through our Adventist perspective. I believe God is saying: “If I tell you that the world is going to end soon and you sound that warning as My appointed sentinels on the walls of this civilization, then you fulfill My mission. If the world responds to this appeal, all heaven rejoices in sinners who are saved. But if the world rejects the appeal I make through you, that is a matter that I will settle with each individual.

“If you as watchmen and watchwomen decide not to warn the inhabitants of this earth of this coming catastrophe—then you are abandoning the mission I have given you. If the people you could have warned are lost because you neglected to sound the trumpet and cry out My last appeal to this earth, then—God declares through Ezekiel—I will hold you responsible for their loss. Amen.”

## A Baptist Farmer

More than 150 years ago a Baptist farmer ran headlong into this passionate appeal in Ezekiel. After he read these words, he closed the Book and tried to forget them.

He couldn't. It finally got so bad that one Saturday morning he whirled around at God right after breakfast and said in his heart: “OK, God. I've had enough of this! If You really want me to warn the world, as Ezekiel describes, then You must open the door for me to begin warning the world on Your behalf!”

Thirty minutes later someone pounded on William Miller's front door. Would Mr. Miller consider preaching to a small congregation nearby some of what he'd been studying?

William Miller was furious with himself. Why had he made a covenant so easy for God to fulfill? He stormed out of the farmhouse and stumbled across a grassy knoll into a thick maple grove. In turmoil of soul and spirit, like Jacob wrestling with God at midnight, Miller struggled with his conscience. “Will you make a covenant with God and break it so soon?” a voice inside of him asked.

Thirty minutes later the farmer who had stumbled into the grove strode out as a preacher. He devoted the rest of his life to warning the world of Jesus' soon return!

From the great Adventist classic *The Great Controversy*, I read these words: “And now the duty of making known to others what he believed to be so clearly taught in the Scriptures urged itself with new force upon him. ‘When I was about my

Devotional  
message  
presented  
Friday  
evening,  
July 7, 1995

business,' he said, 'it was continually ringing in my ears, "Go and tell the world of their danger." This text [Ezekiel 33:8, 9] was constantly occurring to me. . . . I felt that if the wicked could be effectually warned, multitudes of them would repent; and that if they were not warned, their blood might be required at my hand'" (p. 330).

### How Is It With Us?

Tonight we must ask: How is it with the spiritual descendants of William Miller? Eight million human beings have inherited the fiery hope that was once birthed in Miller's soul. Do we sense the urgency God pressed upon Miller to warn this doomed civilization of the King's soon return?

"Watchman, what of the night?" Does anybody know what time it is? and how little of the night is left?

If there was ever an hour in Adventist history when this apocalyptic community of prophetic faith ought to arise and seize the moment, it is surely now! It is almost midnight. What makes me think so? Many things, but let me mention three.

**Exhibit A:** In the United States today we are raising the most broken generation in the history of our nation: generation X, or the baby busters—Americans born between 1963 and 1981. I imagine that they are little different from the young of the world in many other places.

**Exhibit B:** A century ago Ellen White boldly made this prediction: "The Lord is soon to come. In *fire and flood and earthquake* He is warning the inhabitants of this earth of His soon approach" (*Life Sketches*, p. 412).

Shall we speak of the ravaging floods that swept over the Netherlands a few months earlier this year, the land in which we worship tonight? Shall we speak of the killer earthquake that struck Kobe, Japan, my hometown when I was growing up? That roaring, crushing event snuffed out the lives of more than 5,000 men, women, and children in a few seconds. Is there any question that in the crescendo of natural disasters that is battering our planet today, we hear the ominous tread of the approaching

final cataclysm?

Read Ezekiel 33:7-9. "Watchman, what of the night?"

**Exhibit C:** In our world today there is also a phenomenal resurgence of the Radical Right. Right-wing political coalitions and right-wing religious groups are joining forces in both Islamic and Christian societies and are changing the face of government. And



A French-speaking child attends Sabbath school with hundreds of other children.

who can blame them, given the tragic statistics that portray the moral collapse of Western society?

In the United States today the Religious Right is championing a moral quest to take America back for God. We should not condemn such lofty aspirations. Adventists should be at the forefront of moral revival. But it is a two-edged sword.

Not coincidentally, we are also seeing the global ascendancy of the two superpowers of Revelation 13. Revelation 13 reveals that a religiopolitical coalition between two superpowers will seek to *command* moral revival and worship around the world. The two dominant superpowers in the religious and political world today are the nation of America and the Church of Rome.

In Manila not long ago, the largest single crowd ever to gather to hear a single individual in human history—a crowd of 4 million—gathered to listen to a call for moral revival and global peace by Pope John Paul II. I would be the first to commend such a call.

However, we have been warned prophetically that this moral agenda will go awry, and that in the end those who support it will seek to force an entire civilization into worshipful obedience and obedience. We who champion the cause of human liberty and freedom must not be silent or sit idly by! The political-religious coalitions that are rapidly gaining control in the United States and the expanding global dominance of Rome are, I believe, a witness to the urgency of God's plea through Ezekiel to warn the world the end is coming soon!

Meanwhile, books and articles about angels have become runaway best-sellers. It seems that many want to be in touch with beings who inhabit the unseen world, whether they be angels or spirits of the dead come back to life. Others have a dark fascination with the spirit realm, or with the appearance of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

By such phenomena, I believe, the world is being primed by the archdeceiver for his final delusion, the imitation of the appearance and coming of Jesus Christ.

"Watchman, what of the night?"

Of course, some individuals in our midst seek to assuage our sense of urgency. Some say we should not seek to create the Great Disappointment all over again. Some call it sensationalism to speak of urgency. "When God's ready, He will come," they say. "So let's calm down our unfortunate apocalyptic Adventist psyche."

The time has come, brothers and sisters, for us to turn a deaf ear to the soothing voices of the status quo, the voices of those who refuse to see in the escalating crisis of our world the evidence that Jesus is soon to come. We have listened to those voices long enough. Ellen White has encouraged us with these words: "The return of Christ to our world will not be long delayed. Let this be the keynote of every message" (*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 406).

### A New Generation

I believe there is a new generation rising up in Adventism. I have 3,000 of them in my parish back home—the young of the church. Most are not well



off financially. But as at Pentecost of old, God will use the poor of the world to turn it upside down. Men, women, and children who have abandoned the hope of building a kingdom here are ripe for the Ezekiel commissioning.

The gospel always spreads most quickly among those who are economically disenfranchised and broken. Perhaps it will take economic collapse in the West to accelerate the very revival for which we've been praying for so long.

God is giving to us a splendid opportunity to have in a single generation the fiery passion of Ezekiel and the apocalypse. A generation of Adventist young who are going to fulfill this prediction made a century ago: "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come—the end of suffering and sorrow and sin!" (*Counsels to Parents and Teachers*, p. 555).

I say it again—of all people, the young know that this world is not our home. They know that we are strangers, aliens, and pilgrims here. This generation can quickly abandon its earthly ties and champion a new passion for God and the kingdom of heaven.

Read Ezekiel 33:1-6. "Watchman, what of the night?"

### Good News

I believe this prophetic passage from Ezekiel is really very good news for us all!

And the clue to the good news comes when we notice to whom God is speaking in this chapter. Verse 2 clearly identifies him as the "son of man." This of course is Ezekiel, but it does remind us of another Son of man God sent for us, one who was suddenly and brutally killed for us, spilling His blood all over the hillside of Calvary.

Blood is usually bad news. But it can also be good news. In Ezekiel 33:6 God declares to the son of man: "Their blood will I require at your

hand." And God also required this of the Son of man whom He sent. "And the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:6). "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Cor. 5:21). "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: . . . with his stripes we are healed" (Isa. 53:5). This was done so that the record might read of us, too: "And they overcame [the dragon] by the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 12:11).

**M**y friends, do you realize that when the Son of man, Jesus, spilled His blood on the cross at Calvary, the cosmic war that has embroiled this planet since the beginning was forever and fully decided? Listen to how *The Great Controversy* puts it: "In the Saviour's expiring cry, 'It is finished,' the death knell of Satan was rung. The great controversy which had been so long in progress was then decided, and the final eradication of evil was made certain" (p. 503).

In the death of Jesus on Calvary, God paid the price and issued the pardon and removed the penalty for the


entire human race. Satan was defeated! The issue of our salvation was settled in God's mind and heart 2,000 years ago, when the Son of man died for the sons and daughters of God. By His blood God has justified the ungodly and declared the entire race pardoned and reconciled to Himself.

That, my dear friends, is what is known as the "everlasting gospel." The world does not have to run *from* God; we can run *to* God! And these are the glad tidings of Adventism to a dying planet!

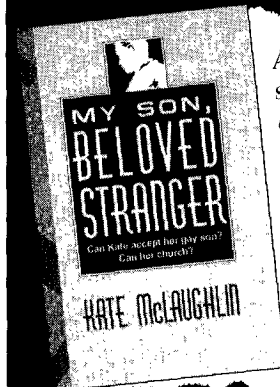
Have you settled it with the Son of man? *There is no point in our trying to proclaim the Son of man on the clouds until we have first come to know the Son of man on the cross.*

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth" (Isa. 45:22).

That is the *raison d'être* of Adventism. As sentinels on the walls of earth's last civilization, we must be a people consumed with a passion for the Son of man, who came "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

The message of Ezekiel is clear that God is calling us to proclaim both the glad tidings of His pardon to all the human race and the urgent invitation to accept that very good news while there's still time to accept it. 

## A family looking for answers. A story that needs to be told.



After the shock wore off, the anger and confusion settled into Kate's mind, leaving her feeling like an empty shell. Her son, a homosexual? Could she have done something to prevent it? Would he die of AIDS?

*My Son, Beloved Stranger*, by Kate McLaughlin, shares the real-life drama of a family rocked to its foundation when they are confronted with the issue of homosexuality. But through the strength of the Lord, they found understanding and the courage to accept a beloved son. US\$8.95/Cdn\$13.00. Paper.

Available at your ABC, or call toll free 1-800-765-6955.

© 1995 Pacific Press Publishing Association 833/59591



By **Ralph S. Watts, Jr.**  
*President*

# Adventist Development and Relief Agency

In a world in which one in every 130 people is a refugee, the mission of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is to alleviate long-term poverty in developing countries and to increase individual and community self-sufficiency.

ADRA's roots lie in disaster response. During World War II the Seventh-day Adventist Church shipped 2.8 million pounds of clothing to 41 countries and island groups. These efforts led to the organization of ADRA's predecessor, Seventh-day Adventist World Service (SAWS) in 1956. During its nearly 30-year existence SAWS' work involved providing relief supplies, such as food, clothing, and medicines, to people suffering from disasters—both natural and human-made.

When ADRA was established in 1983, it added development to SAWS' portfolio. The goal was to provide better management and administration for the agency and to address developmental issues.

The impact ADRA makes worldwide could never happen without the strong support of donor countries who, along with the United Nations and the World Bank, are major supporters of ADRA initiatives. At the present time ADRA looks to nearly 20 countries—throughout North America, Asia, Europe, and Australia—as major funding sources. Millions of dollars are generated annually by ADRA staff to assist in development and disaster relief.

## Disaster and Relief

ADRA responds to many situations that last for weeks, months, or years. As the fifth-largest private voluntary food distributor to underdeveloped countries, ADRA distributes an average of \$125 million worth of food per year.

Refugees and displaced persons in Sudan have been struggling from the results of a civil war that has dragged on for more than a decade. ADRA has one of the largest humanitarian programs serving displaced persons in the Khartoum area, and has been providing services for these people since 1985. During the past year ADRA's office in southern Sudan has distributed food and clothes to more than 20,000 people. Other projects in the north central areas and capital city of Khartoum provide food to more than 275,000 people each month.

ADRA's food distribution program in the republic of Azerbaijan has helped more than 300,000 people since 1993. By working in partnership with the local governments, more than 40,000 families in the two regions of Ganja and Nakhichevan receive supplemental food rations every month.

In the past two years ADRA workers provided a parcel delivery service to the besieged citizens in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia. In addition to delivering more than 600,000 parcels of food and medicine to the stranded citizens, they coordinated more than \$20 million worth of assistance from 18 different countries.

ADRA, which has one of the largest relief operations in Haiti, continued to operate there despite the political upheaval that occurred in the fall of 1994. Operating in Haiti since the early 1970s, ADRA maintains programs for supplying school lunches, mother and child health, small enterprise development, orphanage meals, and food for work. Currently ADRA helps more than 336,000 recipients every day.

On April 6, 1994, Rwanda erupted in a bloody civil war that some have called "perhaps the greatest disaster since the

Holocaust." Within the first week of the Rwandan exodus, ADRA had an emergency medical team treating 150 patients per day. Within two weeks other ADRA teams were distributing clean water to 400,000 people and had one of the largest field hospitals in the Goma region. The hospital provided care for as many as 1,700 patients a day. A United Nations plane, loaded entirely with ADRA goods, delivered 2.5 tons of equipment—including medicines, water pumps and hoses, and water purification tablets.

ADRA's 25 years of work in Africa placed the agency in a position to respond to the crisis immediately. It had a comprehensive network of facilities and warehouses in Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, and Burundi—all within 12 hours of the Rwandan border.

The United States has had its share of natural disasters. In January 1994 Los Angeles experienced a devastating earthquake, leaving thousands homeless. Flooding in Georgia, Alabama, and Florida destroyed hundreds of homes and left thousands of people without drinking water or food for days. ADRA, along with Adventist Community Services, responded to these disasters and brought immediate relief to those situations.

## Development

ADRA faces challenging and exciting opportunities in the area of development. The diverse activities that make up ADRA's work range from health and education projects to water projects and small enterprise development in at least 92 countries. In many countries ADRA drills wells and constructs dams. They teach basic techniques of agriculture and build clinics to offer preventative health and nutrition services.

One of the most exciting—and biggest—programs going on right now is in the small West African country of Guinea. Established there in 1987, ADRA is present in 20 of the 33 prefectures in the country—with special emphasis in isolated areas.

In 1995 ADRA/Guinea will benefit more than 1 million persons. They will continue to transport food and nonfood items to more than 600,000 refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone who have fled to Guinea since the onset of the Liberian



Though poised by the ADRA Germany display well, Celestine Akolly would be more at home in an office. She is administrator of the Togo Bank of Development and liaison officer between the Ministry of Industry and banks to Togo. She is also director of women's ministries for the church in Togo.

civil war in 1990. They will build 21 primary schools to educate 4,200 students. They will implement a major sanitation pilot project, funded by the World Bank, with a total budget of \$750,000.

In El Salvador ADRA runs six medical clinics that serve 140 patients each day.

ADRA/Malawi completed a child survival project that benefited 46,000 people by educating them in basic health areas.

In Nepal ADRA built homes and provided education and vocational training for the victims of leprosy.

In Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa, ADRA operates 135 primary schools for 35,000 refugee schoolchildren from Liberia.

In Pakistan each year 80 adult literacy centers graduate about 2,500 adult students, mainly women, who have learned to read and write.

ADRA installs about 20 wells per year in Bazega province of the sub-Saharan country of Burkina Faso, where good-quality water is rare.

ADRA/Laos drilled 104 wells and constructed 576 latrines, benefiting 11,000 people.

In Sudan ADRA is working on a project to install 300 more water wells with hand pumps by 1996, benefiting approximately 150,000 people.

In 1993 ADRA distributed more than 31 percent of the food aid donated to Bolivia, making ADRA the second-

largest food aid distributor in Bolivia.

In Somalia ADRA is digging 22 miles of irrigation canals. This project will benefit 20,000 farmers, their families, and their livestock.

Agricultural education programs in Mozambique are expected to benefit 800,000 people.

Small Enterprise Development (SED) is one of ADRA's most exciting development programs. By providing small loans to poverty-stricken people in developing countries, ADRA helps them improve the quality of their lives. In turn they help others in their communities.

Start-up capital is lent to qualified individuals who may be disaster victims or people living at subsistence levels. The capital can be as low as a few dollars and as high as \$500. Seeds and animals are often lent as well. After learning basic marketing skills, beneficiaries plan their small businesses, based on the availability of local resources and skills.

In Chile ADRA's SED projects have helped 200 families raise their standard of living. With the help of low-cost loans, the families start businesses—small farms, clothing repair, cleaning services, and others.

In all cases SED changes lives. It's all about investing in people.

**Where Do We Go From Here?**

Eritrea . . . Yemen . . . Mongolia . . . Azerbaijan . . . Guinea . . . Somalia . . . Myanmar (Burma) . . . These aren't just names on a map. They are places where the church cannot operate. But because of its nonsectarian and nonpolitical stance, ADRA can. And in every case in which ADRA has opened the way, new members have been added and churches have sprung up.

However, without the faithful support of our regular contributors in North America, Europe, Asia, and the South Pacific, ADRA's ministry would be greatly curtailed.

The world is changing. The church's expectations for ADRA are changing. The needs of the fields where ADRA works are changing. And ADRA is changing. Changing to meet these new challenges. Under the blessings of God, changing the world . . . one life at a time.



# Loma Linda University and Medical Center



By **B. Lyn Behrens**  
*President*

Over the past 90 years Loma Linda University has established a reputation for serving the world community in need. Loma Linda graduates traditionally have gone where there is need, seeing it as their special mission and opportunity.

Since being founded in 1905 Loma Linda University (LLU) and Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC) have developed from a small educational center and a humble hospital into a world-renowned medical center and the largest educational facility owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

► **Enrollment.** Each year over the past five years enrollment at Loma Linda University has been on the increase. During the 1990-1991 academic year a total of 2,481 students enrolled in the institution's six schools. This past academic year (1994-1995) 3,012 students were enrolled.

► **Students for International Mission Service (SIMS).** Each year Loma Linda University offers students the opportunity to participate in short-term mission service in overseas countries. During the past five years more than 1,000 students have taken the opportunity to serve others through this unique SIMS program. Each month between 25 and 35 students travel to El Hongo, located in Baja California, Mexico, to participate in local worship services on Sabbath and to conduct dental and medical clinics, with faculty supervision, on the following day. During each of the summer months over the past five years, approximately 150 to 200 students have traveled overseas, where they worked in Seventh-day Adventist hospitals and clinics.

► **Infant heart transplant program.** Probably no other program at Loma

Linda University and Medical Center has gained more worldwide attention than the infant heart transplant program headed by Dr. Leonard Bailey, professor of surgery. Since 1984, when the first infant received a new heart at Loma Linda, 183 infants under 6 months of age have received heart transplants—120 of them in the past five years. Today more than 80 percent of these infants are alive. The



oldest of these children will celebrate his tenth birthday in November.

► **Media attention.** During the past quinquennium Loma Linda University and Medical Center have appeared in more than 40,000 separate news articles around the United States and Canada. In addition, Loma Linda's infant heart transplant program was the subject of two major programs on nationwide American television.

► **Fund-raising activities.** During the quinquennium LLU and LLUMC received \$99,363,333 in various types of gifts. Of this, Loma Linda University received \$84,086,305 in gifts, and Loma Linda University Medical Center received \$15,277,028. During the previous quinquennium (1986-1990) Loma Linda University and Medical Center received a total of \$44,322,357 in gifts.

► **The Loma Linda University Overseas Heart Team.** The year 1995 marks the fourth decade that the heart team has served around the world. Since its inception in 1963 the heart team has made 22 overseas trips. During the past five years the team has traveled to the People's Republic of China and Zimbabwe to help upgrade existing open-heart surgery programs. The teams have made two trips to Kathmandu, Nepal.

► **Social Action Community Clinics (SACC).** Loma Linda University students and faculty continue to serve the population in the area surrounding Loma Linda through Social Action Community Clinics, a Loma Linda University and Medical Center program. Last year Loma Linda received word that the United States government would transfer ownership of its medical facility at a local Air Force base that was slated for closure to Loma Linda University. It will become the center for medical outreach to the area.

► **New facilities.** Loma Linda University and Medical Center celebrated the completion of three major projects during the quinquennium. These included the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, the Loma Linda University Proton Treatment Center, and the Loma Linda University Drayson Center.

• The new LLU Children's Hospital opened in November 1993. It is a 275-bed, 240,000-square-foot facility.

• The LLU Proton Treatment Center officially opened in October 1990. Proton treatment is a superior form of treatment for many types of cancerous tumors. The unique benefit of proton treatment is that the energy of the proton beam can be precisely delivered to a tumor without seriously harming healthy surrounding tissues.

► **Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital.** Loma Linda University and Medical Center are providing staff and support services for the new 400-bed Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital recently completed in Hangzhou, People's Republic of China. Sir Run Run Shaw, a Hong Kong businessman and philanthropist, asked Loma Linda to assist in the operation of the hospital for a three-year period.

As we look forward to the year 2000, we at Loma Linda solicit your prayers and partnership in the Lord's work. ☸

# Fifteenth Business Meeting

*Fifty-sixth General Conference session, July 7, 1995, 8:30 a.m.*

DANIEL M. WALTER: [Opening prayer.]

A. C. MC CLURE: Good morning to each of you. We see that there are those who have chosen to be here on time. I would assume you didn't have trouble finding a place to sit this morning. We have numerous empty seats. That places even greater responsibility on those present, doesn't it? Well, here we are at the last day of our business session. Not quite the last day of the session, but our business will be concluded today, and then we shall enter into the day of rest, a day of worship.

This has certainly been an interesting and informative session and, being held in this location, one that has afforded many people an unprecedented opportunity for being present at a General Conference session. How wonderful it has been to see the large number coming from many different countries, from great distances, the great number of buses that are here, the great family of which we are a part.

I appreciate the way in which you have conducted the business of the church. It has been done in an orderly fashion, one without heated debate, yet one with debate, as is appropriate. Obviously there are varying opinions. We are free to express our opinions to vote our convictions, then to support the action of the body. I now call upon the chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, C. B. Rock, to lead us into those items that have come back for our attention.

C. B. ROCK: I am happy to report to you and the delegates that the Constitution and Bylaws Committee has now considered all the items referred to it and is prepared to bring them, along with several that have not been referred but that will probably produce a lot of discussion, to the floor.

A. H. TOLHURST: We'd like you to turn to Article VIII, "Officers and Their Duties." This article lists the officers and their duties. [The motion to amend the article was made and seconded.]

D. THOMAS: I note from the proposal that the secretary and treasurer will report to the Executive Committee after consultation with the president, but that the president will report to the Executive Committee in consultation with the secretary and treasurer. And I'm wondering if it is intended that there be a difference in that process that warrants the difference in the wording.

A. H. TOLHURST: The Constitution and Bylaws Committee considered this matter and weighed it carefully. They felt that in light of the fact that the president is recognized as the first officer of the General Conference, this slight difference in wording was appropriate—that he would report in consultation with his associate officers, and the others would report after consultation with their first officer. It was carefully considered and weighed, and the decision of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee was to bring in the wording that you have before you.

S. SICKLER: I would seek clarification as to the difference in these two terms. If the difference in terms means that the president can kill a report of fellow officers before it goes to the Executive Committee, we are in deep trouble. One of the major checks and balances that we have is that these people have free access to the Executive Committee. I have personally been in a conference in which, if the treasurer had not gone directly to the Executive Committee despite what the president wanted, we would have become bankrupt.

Now, I want a clear statement from the chair. If there is a difference of opinion between the treasurer and the president as to what goes to the Executive Committee, under this wording does the treasurer still have the right to go directly to the Executive Committee?

A. C. MC CLURE: Well, the clear statement you have requested from the chair will be upon counsel with the officers of the committee from which this came. So I would like them to speak to this.

A. H. TOLHURST: I'd be happy to address the question, and I think it's good for us to have these points clarified. It is certainly not intended by this language, and I believe not required by this language, that after consultation any one of the officers should have an initiative killed, to use the term that our speaker has used in her question. The purpose of this wording is that none of the three executive officers should bring anything to the Executive Committee without the other officers knowing about it. That's the purpose.

S. SICKLER: Then it is still clear that they have not, by this wording, robbed them of their opportunity to go, after consulting with the president, even if he doesn't like their report.

A. H. TOLHURST: Yes, that's quite correct. The wording does not say "with the concurrence of."

D. F. GILBERT: I just want to commend the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for their restudy of this issue, for I believe it is imperative that there be constant communication between the three officers. This isn't always the case, but it does make for good organization. Since consultation is not clearly defined, I am sure that only practice will finally prove what it means. I believe that you have done well, and I commend you for it.

JOYCE HOPP: I also wish to speak to the same words, "in consultation with." I am very concerned lest the treasurer and the secretary be unable to go directly to the Executive Committees if there is a problem. It's when there is a problem that you need all the safeguards you can get. I am very concerned with this language. [Motion was voted.]

A. H. TOLHURST: The next item is an amendment to the General Conference Bylaws,

Article VIII, entitled "Division Auditors." Before I present that, I would like to share with the delegates a concept. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee spent a lot of time dealing with this particular item. We have looked at it on three or four different sittings of our committee. And we have had a number of recommendations brought to us in respect to election versus appointment and the work of the Auditing Service, particularly as it relates to their independence. And so quite apart from that particular Constitution and Bylaws recommendation, we do have another recommendation in concept to bring to the assembled delegates.

We would be pleased if this session would ask the General Conference Executive Committee to give attention during the next quinquennium to the establishment of a board, a General Conference auditing service board, composed of 15 members, two thirds of whom must be nondenominationally employed Seventh-day Adventists in professions that are relevant to Auditing Services. Professions such as chartered accountants, certified public accountants, and tax lawyers, people who have that kind of expertise and are professionals in those fields. The chairperson of that board could be one of the laypersons, chosen by the board members from among its own members. And one of the responsibilities of that board would be to recommend to the General Conference session Nominating Committee the names of individuals for director and associate directors of the General Conference Auditing Service. [Motion was moved and seconded.]

KENNETH WATSON: I'd like to express my sincerest appreciation for this recommendation by the committee, and I strongly support this motion.

AULDWIN HUMPHREY: Is it possible that this recommendation could be implemented immediately?

A. H. TOLHURST: It would be very difficult for us to put together some 15 members for that board, particularly professionals from all around the world, who have the qualifications and would be available to meet on a regular basis for the purposes that are outlined. We felt that rather than rushing that kind of thing and trying to get that through, it would be better to have it carefully studied, and all the terms of reference for the board, then, developed during the next period of time.

There's another problem—if the concept of the election of associate auditors is approved, and that comes up in the next item we have, the recommendation would be that the associate auditors that serve within the divisions would be on the recommendation of those divisions, or consultation with the divisions for the person who would serve as the associate auditor of the General Conference Auditing Service to serve within the divisions. We haven't had that consultation. For that reason we have a proposal to bring to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. We felt that it would be better for this concept to be studied and implemented for the next General Conference session.

**M. MITCHELL:** The thing that worries me about this proposed board is that there will be a dominance of professionals from North America. Business is not the same in other parts of the world. I am against.

**A. H. TOLHURST:** It is not the intention that the General Conference Auditing Service board that would be established would interfere with or endeavor to establish the auditing standards for the various countries. Other countries have different auditing standards, and this body would not be involved with tampering with those sorts of things.

**M. MURRAY:** I appreciate this motion. This is a good one. I would endorse it. However, I shudder to think that all 10 laypersons would be accountants, tax lawyers, and bean counters. I would really like to see two or three general professional people, such as businessmen, businesswomen, who have other insights. We need them.

**C. HODGES:** I rise in support of this outstanding recommendation. I believe it is a part of our confidence-building process. And the more confidence we have within this denomination, the more support we will have and the more unity we will have. I urge support. At the same time, I believe that we should be able to implement this within a one-year time period and urge that we give that full consideration.

**A. H. TOLHURST:** We are ready to present an amendment to the Bylaws Article VIII, "Division Auditors," in which it is our recommendation that we change the title to read "Auditing Service and Audits."

"Sec. 1. At each regular General Conference session, the General Conference shall elect a director of the General Conference Auditing Service, whose duties shall be to administer the conduct of audits of the organizations of the church throughout the world. Associate directors to serve from the General Conference shall also be elected at each regular General Conference session. The associate directors to serve in each division shall be recommended by a General Conference auditing service operating board to the General Conference Executive Committee after consultation with the administrations of the respective divisions."

Before I read on I would just like to make an explanation, because it may be helpful. You'll notice that we are recommending that the associate directors to serve in the divisions be recommended through a General Conference auditing service operating board to the General Conference Executive Committee after consultation with the administrations of the divisions. This recommendation, I expect, will be changed in the year 2000. But in the intervening time we need to have this in here because we have neither a process nor the time available to us at this session to receive the recommendations from the divisions for the election of the Auditing Service associates who will serve in the divisions. And you'll also notice that we have not given a name to the Auditing Service operating board. It has lowercase letters. The reason we haven't given capital letters to the name of this

board is that we do not have reference anywhere else in the Constitution to identify this board. I will continue to read this recommendation. "References to service directors and associate service directors elsewhere in these Bylaws shall not apply to the director and associate directors of the General Conference Auditing Service, except as provided for in Article XIII, Sec. 1-a.

"Sec. 2. The General Conference Auditing



**Roland Scalliet (left) from Switzerland and Thomas Sauvagnat from France examine handmade dolls made by children in the Euro-Africa Division. The dolls are on sale in the division's booth.**

Service, ever sensitive to the country-specific regulations governing the audits of denominational entities in a particular country, shall be responsible for all audits of world divisions; union conferences; union missions; conferences; missions; unions of churches; affiliated services, organizations, and institutions of the General Conference and every other administrative level; Adventist Development and Relief Agency country and regional administrations and projects, and special funds. Exceptions to the above requirements shall be by specific action of the General Conference Executive Committee." [The motion was seconded.]

**R. J. KLOOSTERHUIS:** I would like to make reference to the statement "Exceptions to the above requirements shall be by specific action of the General Conference Executive Committee." Is this the precise intention of the committee recommending this, or would such items really go to the General Conference Auditing Service board to make that waiver?

**A. C. MC CLURE:** That means GCAS board.

**A. H. TOLHURST:** It was the intention of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee that it be the General Conference Executive Committee. In the former statement it made an exception for the health institutions in the North American Division. After much consultation and references made to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, it was felt that it would be better to remove that exception for the health institutions of the North American Division, and give the authority to the Executive Committee for any exceptions for countries.

**R. J. KLOOSTERHUIS:** So then we assume that all of the technical exceptions for a specific country, regulations other than health services, also will go to the Executive Committee.

**A. H. TOLHURST:** We haven't made any provision here for merely technical issues to be dealt with by GCAS.

**C. B. HIRSCH:** Is it possible that an organization under the umbrella of this church, such as a university, a health center, a hospital, could waive the idea of an audit by the church auditing service? In other words, I am concerned about ascending liability, and if this church does not have the opportunity and the right to audit every institution under its name, then we are in for trouble.

**A. H. TOLHURST:** It is not the intention that we should have a wholesale lineup of people asking for exception from audit by the General Conference Auditing Service, and the only exceptions, as I understand it, would be made for organizations that are separately incorporated and that are functioning in the same relationship to the church as the health systems in North America currently do.

**C. B. HIRSCH:** Isn't it true that a church audit has a different approach to the operation of an organization than an external audit program? I am concerned about our church knowing what is going on in the institution.

**A. C. MC CLURE:** I think you are referring to a policy audit, as opposed to a financial audit. There is a difference.

**R. C. OSBORN:** One of the strengths of the Adventist Church has been the auditing service and the financial credibility it has given us. I know in our union there have been times that we have been very frustrated with some of the reports of the auditors, and I have argued that the independence of their operation is illustrated by the fact that we can't even change some of those reports that we don't like. I am sure that the auditors have spoken to your committee, and I am wondering about the language "after consultation with the administrations"—is this in the same context that we are using this language in relationship to the secretary, the treasurer, and the president in consultation? Is it going to be possible for a division to remove an auditor because it is not happy with the kinds of reports it is getting, thus eliminating some of its independence?

**A. H. TOLHURST:** The original recommendation that came from Washington to Utrecht had additional wording. It said "after consultation and the concurrence of division administrations." Now we have removed the words "with the concurrence of" for that very reason, and so we feel that "after consultation" does not bind the General Conference Auditing board, but they need to understand the qualifications and the skills of the people available within the divisions before they make an appointment.

**R. J. KLOOSTERHUIS:** Our secretary, in presenting this item, made mention of the fact that possibly the standards of the auditing service of the church may be lower than those of

external firms. That is categorically not the case. We all have to follow the same auditing standards. No auditing firm goes below the standards, and I think we need to recognize that.

A. H. TOLHURST: While Brother Kloosterhuis is there, I have an answer to his earlier question.

In respect to the question as to whether the associate auditors are excluded from the possibility of being delegates at a General Conference session, there's no provision in the present constitution for them to be ex officio. They may be chosen under the unspecified numbers, and that possibility remains under the proposed constitution.

THOMAS MILLER: With some reluctance I would recommend that we accept this document. The burden of my previous speeches has been that the associates be elected rather than appointed, and the committee has accepted this. I rejoice that my colleagues in North America will now be elected, and I regret that it has not been possible to extend that privilege to those of us who are associates outside North America. I take seriously the assurances we have been given that this is purely for technical reasons and that it will be corrected.

D. F. GILBERT: Having had the privilege of having the General Conference Auditing Service audit financial records for which I have been responsible, I can tell you that I believe there is no better, no more proficient, group of individuals in the church than the General Conference Auditing Service. I've been very pleased. Furthermore, I have also watched external auditors, and in my opinion we have not had as good an audit from an external auditing firm as we have from our in-house or internal auditing service. [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

A. H. TOLHURST: So this is the second revision of this particular sheet that we have distributed to you. A director and associate directors of the General Conference Auditing Service shall be elected. [The motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

The next revision has to do with exactly the same matter that we just referred to. You'll note there that it says that "the following shall be appointed at the first Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee following a regular session: . . . associate directors of the General Conference Auditing Service to serve in the divisions." In order for this to be active throughout the next period we need to approve that amendment to what was already voted, and I would move it. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

The next agenda item has to do with the proposed amendment to the General Conference Constitution; regarding the makeup of the Executive Committee. We have two minor amendments. Executive Committee members ex officio are those elected, except the director and associate directors of the General Conference Auditing Service. We also have reference to the White Estate. When we voted this earlier, we voted the president and the secretary of Ellen G.

White Estate as members of the Executive Committee. The director of the White Estate has come to me subsequently, and he has indicated that he is not known as the president of the White Estate, but that the two persons from the White Estate who would serve on the Executive Committee are in fact the director and the vice director. We bring that amended wording to you, and I would move that these amendments be approved. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

CLEMENT N. MOYA: I come from an attached union, the Southern Africa Union Conference. Is it my correct understanding that on this committee we'll have only the president of the union representing us here? Is that the correct understanding?

A. C. MC CLURE: I believe that's correct.

A. H. TOLHURST: The next item is a recommended amendment to the General Conference Bylaws entitled "Indemnification." This rewrite is at the recommendation of our attorneys, who felt that the wording of the indemnification article was too old. The new reading is as follows:

"Sec. 1. To the extent permitted by law, the General Conference shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, because he/she is or was a member of the General Conference Executive Committee or an officer, employee, or agent of the General Conference against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him/her in connection with such action, suit, or proceeding if he/she acted in good faith and in a manner he/she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the General Conference and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his/her conduct was unlawful. The settlement, conviction, or other termination shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he/she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the General Conference and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that his/her conduct was unlawful." [The motion to amend was made and seconded.]

[JUDITH HAWKINS and ERIC SHEPHERD expressed concerns regarding these recommended changes.]

A. C. MC CLURE: I understand that the chair of the committee would be happy to spend some time with those who have some comments to make, along with Robert Nixon, of the office of General Counsel, in the next few moments. [A motion to refer was made, seconded, and voted.]

Now we'll go to the *Church Manual* Committee recommendations.

MARIO VELOSO: This recommendation, regarding "Reasons for Which Members Shall Be Disciplined," is as follows: "The use, man-

ufacture, or sale of tobacco in any of its forms for human consumption." [The motion was seconded.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: The reason we've added "for human consumption" is that in some areas of the world, tobacco is one of the very best lawn fertilizers that can be used. Someone came to me and said, "But the *Church Manual* says that you should not use tobacco in any of its forms." We wanted it clearly understood that there is no problem with the various agricultural uses of tobacco. [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Let us now go to an item that was referred, namely the item entitled "Courtship and Marriage." You will notice by looking at the reference line how long this item has been dealt with and where it has been dealt with. It was dealt with at the 1990 General Conference session. We wanted to make an accommodation so that this item could be used in all parts of the world. Some feel that no provision should be made for an Adventist minister to marry an Adventist and a non-Adventist. However, there are certain areas of the world and there are certain circumstances that we believe that a conference and a pastor need a little latitude. That which is being proposed should be seen, we believe, as an accommodation, not a compromise. [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

There is one more item: "Divorce and Remarriage, Our Position." We tried to take into account the presentations made to the committee. [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

I want to tell this body how much I personally appreciate working with the committee and with those who made presentations.

A. H. TOLHURST: We would like the delegates to turn again to the item entitled "Indemnification." The word "indemnification" simply means that the employing organization will pay if an employee is caught up in some legal tangle, some legal action, that is going to cost a lot of money to defend. So it is a protection to people who are asked to serve on boards and committees and to serve as officers and employees of an organization. In the world today we need this kind of protection.

We have a recommendation that we delete the words that read "The settlement, conviction, or other termination shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he/she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the General Conference and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that his/her conduct was unlawful."

This matter will be given further study in the next five years, but what we have in front of you here as a recommendation is a vast improvement on what is in the current constitution and bylaws.

R. W. NIXON: We are doing this rather than trying to rewrite the material in the last few minutes of our business here. I personally want to have it on the record here so that it is

clear exactly how this is going to work. We will be looking at this in the next five years on the standing committee between the sessions. And I, as the general counsel, will have in our publications for Seventh-day Adventist lawyers (it's called *JD*) a request for their input.

I also want to say that in reality most of the financing under such clauses is covered by various forms of insurance that the church has in different parts of the world. Four or five years ago the outside counsel fees of the General Conference were about \$1 million a year. As a result of our efforts in the Office of General Counsel, the actual money that was paid from the General Conference last year was approximately \$80,000, compared to \$1 million a few years ago. [Motion was made, seconded, and carried.]

A. H. TOLHURST: We are happy to bring in our last item. This was introduced yesterday relative to the cap on the number of delegates who would attend General Conference sessions in the future. We didn't specify what number that cap would be. Quite a number of delegates indicated that they would like to speak to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and subsequently we spent much of yesterday in discussion of this point. Probably most of the concerns expressed in the questions asked by the delegates who met with us yesterday had to do with the distribution of delegates in the various categories. Following the submissions brought to us yesterday, L. C. Cooper and I spent some time together working over the figures so that we might be able to bring to you percentages today. And he has prepared, with the help of some computer people, a page of material that will be helpful.

L. C. COOPER: I would like to invite the delegates to look first of all at the bar graph at the center of the page, which represents the delegation composition at this session, in which we have 18.25 percent laity, followed by 3 percent pastors, teachers, and front-line workers. Next is a large block of delegates—64.4 percent. Where these delegates are selected from is not specified. They could be pastors, teachers, lay members, front-line workers. Then we have a General Conference staff component of 2 percent, and the General Conference Committee membership, comprising 12.4 percent of the current delegation. Now, if we use that as our reference line, we can compare how the proposals that are before us would adjust those proportions. The bar graph that is at the top of the page gives the proportions if the cap were to be set at 2,000. The bar graph at the bottom of the page represents the composition of a delegation if we were to accept the cap of 2,650. I believe that this indicates that these proposals will increase the representation of laity, increase markedly the representation required from pastors, teachers, and front-line workers, and reduce the percentage proportion of the General Conference Executive Committee members.

A. C. MC CLURE: It appears to the chair that there are several components to this issue that we must collectively deal with. It also

appears that it would be helpful if we would deal with them one component at a time. The chair suggests that there are four components. The first is the decision to cap, which we have already declared. The second is the size of the delegation. The third is the composition of that delegation. The fourth decision deals with the constitution. Once the other decisions have

GG SNAPSHOT



A massed choir electrified the audience during the Euro-Africa Division's report as they sang the session theme song, "We Have This Hope," and waved flags from their countries.

been made, then they must be voted constitutionally. So the chair is proposing that we follow that order in dealing with the issues, and I wonder if the body would agree. It's been moved that we follow that procedure. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

We shall now move to the issue of size. The chair suggests that we have before us two proposals, one for 2,650, and the other for 2,000, and that we should address ourselves to those two proposals and that at the appropriate time, following discussion, we should vote one or the other. That is the suggestion of the chair, and we would be open to a motion to that effect if you see light in that suggestion. [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

Now we are ready to speak to the issues of size, which places before us the opportunity to vote on either 2,000 or 2,650. Those at the microphone may wish to address that issue.

MAJOR WHITE: I favor the cap of 2,650 because I like the idea that we are increasing participation by our laity and also increasing the number of pastors, teachers, and front-line workers other than administrators. I think there are many pastors and teachers and others who are conducting work at the grassroots level who do not often get the opportunity to attend meetings of this type and participate.

TOR TJERANSEN: I would strongly urge my fellow delegates to reject option 1, with the 2,650 cap. Remember that yesterday we had a sensitive issue on the floor, and only about 2,100 voted.

EDWARD REID: I'm speaking in favor of the 2,650 cap. I do so for the following reasons: We are a representative form of church governance, and so I believe it is highly appropriate that we have that larger group. A group that is much more similar in size to us is the Southern Baptist Convention. They have "messengers" instead of delegates, and that group size is 10,000.

E. PABST: I am speaking in favor of option 2. I think 2,000 delegates are enough to represent our 8.5 million church members, and that number really will be enough to represent even 20 million members.

L. G. CAJIGA: I am in accord with the 2,650, because there will be an additional 8 percent of laity.

H. GIEBEL: I'm speaking in behalf of option 2, which is the 2,000 cap. I represent the laity, and I see that both option 1 and option 2 will increase the participation of the laity. The difference between options 1 and 2 is only marginal. So I would not use that as an argument. As I consider expenses, I agree with Elder Folkenberg, who said we can help build a church for every delegate that comes a great distance. I'm strongly in favor of the churches, and of the cap of 2,000 delegates.

A. C. MC CLURE: There's a motion to close debate. [The motion to close discussion was seconded and voted.]

Now we're ready to vote on the issue before us. The issue is to choose between the two figures, one being 2,000, the other being 2,650, for the total number of delegates to the General Conference session. Those who favor the 2,000 figure, please so indicate by raising your voting cards. Raise them high. We must see them well. Thank you. Those who favor the 2,650 figure, may I see your cards? The choice is clearly 2,000. [Applause.]

A. H. TOLHURST: I would like to move, Brother Chairman, that we adopt the formula that is summarized by the top bar graph, labeled "Cap 2,000."

C. L. WRIGHT: Who chooses the 36.3 percent that is in the "not specified" category of the "Cap 2,000" bar graph?

L. C. COOPER: At present that is for the 1995 General Conference session. There are two overall categories of delegates—those called "regular delegates," and those called "delegates-at-large." Regular delegates are those at union or conference levels. Delegates-at-large comprise those who may be selected by the General Conference, the divisions, or unions, depending on how the quotas are apportioned. For this present session, the quota of delegates that are classified at large is 34 percent. Regular delegates comprise 66 percent of the delegation. Under the proposal that is outlined, it would be the same in option 1 or option 2. The proportion of delegates-at-large would be 32 percent, and the regular component would be 68 percent.

C. L. WRIGHT: So that means that of this 36 percent there would be more administrators, pastors, front-line workers, and laity?

L. C. COOPER: That particular component of the delegation is not specified as a requirement. It may be composed of laity, ministers, teachers, front-line workers, administrators. The constitutional item that is before us does not specify how it will be composed.

KENNETH WATSON: I appreciate the discussions very much, but I think we should look at our time. Probably we should adjourn the meeting and continue our discussion on this topic at a

later stage this afternoon. I would move that we table the motion until the afternoon session. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

A. C. MC CLURE: [Benediction.]

A. C. MC CLURE, *Chair*  
L. C. COOPER, *Secretary*  
FRED G. THOMAS, L. R. COLBURN, and  
D. A. ROTH,  
*Proceedings Editors*

## Sixteenth Business Meeting

*Fifty-sixth General Conference session, July 7, 1995, 1:30 p.m.*

A. C. MC CLURE: We've come down to the wire, and we've accomplished almost all of our business. One item of business we have yet to care for this afternoon is to complete the item we've been working on. However, there are some special things we want to talk about and hear and see during these next few moments. First we will be led in prayer by our secretary, Maurice Battle.

M. T. BATTLE: [Opening prayer.]

A. C. MC CLURE: We've a very special feature this afternoon as we begin, and my only regret is that we don't have a full house for this. But we do want to spend some time in featuring some people who have meant, and still mean, a great deal to this church. This will be introduced by James Chase. Elder Chase is the director of retirees activities for the church. He has spent many years in leadership in various capacities, including the General Conference, and is loved by people far and wide.

JAMES CHASE: We have at the organ at this time someone to play for us a few strains of "Lift Up the Trumpet." Since we are going to be moving right along I want to make a few remarks regarding the program of today. We are honoring those who have given a lifetime of service. Those who will participate on the program are as follows: Elder Ralph Thompson will recognize by name the individuals who are coming onto the platform at the present time. We are pleased with this group of great workers, and we will applaud them, and we will pray for them, and be thankful always for them.

G. RALPH THOMPSON: Thank you, Elder Chase. This is one of the special highlights of our session, as we gather here to honor this marvelous group of workers who have given their hearts and their lives in the service of the church. It is always good for us to pause to pay tribute. We Seventh-day Adventists are not very good at praising people when they are alive. We are great at preaching eulogies, saying wonderful things about people when they are dead, but we also believe in a doctrine that says that "the dead know not any thing." So we believe at least in telling these folk how much we appreciate the service that they have given and will continue to give. Many of them may have been retired or will be retiring, but they will be

retreaded, they will continue to serve the Lord wherever they are. We want to honor them.

When we added up the number of years of service that these individuals have given to this church, we found it to be more than 3,000 years. That's a fantastic figure. You will discover that they come from Germany, and Nebraska, and other parts of North America. And they have worked, of course, in the Philippines and Singapore, in China, Inter-America, South America, the islands of the sea, the great cities, in the hinterlands, and all over the earth. God has called them, and they have responded. And many souls have been led into the kingdom because of their service.

First of all, I want to call Elder and Mrs. Neal C. Wilson, the immediate past president of the General Conference. Karl and Betty Bahr, associate treasurer of the General Conference. Former president of the Inter-American Division, Elder George W. and Carla Brown. Outstanding communication leader, Shirley Burton. Dr. Eldon Carman, associate, General Conference Health and Temperance Department. Dr. Raoul and Louise Dederen, SDA Theological Seminary professor at Andrews University. Dr. Ottis C. Edwards, former president of the Asia-Pacific Division. Donald F. and Irene Gilbert, former treasurer of the General Conference. Paul and Donna Gordon, Ellen G. White Estate. Rudi and Edith Henning, associate director, General Conference Publishing Department. Elder Bekele and Harriet Heye, former president, Eastern Africa Division. Bob and Jeane Jacobs, administrative assistant to the General Conference president. W. Richard and Veta Leshner, former president, Andrews University. Kenneth J. and Barbara Mittleider, General Conference vice president. Robert and Evelyn Osborn, associate treasurer, General Conference. Stanton and Dolly Parker, president, General Conference Risk Management Service. Rowena R. Rick, associate General Conference treasurer. Ariel A. and Lenno Roth, director of Geoscience Institute. Walter R. L. and Elizabeth Scragg, director of General Conference Adventist World Radio. Dr. Agripino and Elvie Segovia, associate director, General Conference Department of Education. Fred and Jean Thomas, former General

Conference undersecretary. Raymond and Chalis Woolsey, book editor, Review and Herald Publishing Association. James and Jeane Zachary, associate secretary of the General Conference Ministerial Association. Don and Leila Reynolds, special assistant to the General Conference president [not present]. Dr. Samuel Young, director, General Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department. We want to honor these people. They have given their lives for this church, and we really appreciate what they have done.

JAMES CHASE: Elder Ted Wilson has something special to share.

TED N. C. WILSON: It is a very distinct privilege to be a part of this special service honoring those who are retiring from denominational service. Every person here on this platform in this special group represents a full life of Christian witness and spiritual contribution to God's service, to God's church worldwide. And what a wealth of experience resides in this group seated before us today. They are only symbolic of the many thousands of workers, thousands of retirees, throughout this world church. In the Euro-Asia Division we are so grateful for the strong, stabilizing, nurturing effect that our retirees have on our local churches and the institutions within our division. And of course this is the case around the world. To those assembled here on this platform today—and I know so many of you as good friends, as mentors, as people I have looked up to, as individuals who have helped us in different areas of the world, as people I have worked with—we honor you, and we thank you for the talents, the skills, the abilities that God has given to you: to proclaim the gospel, to establish His church, to share the three angels' messages, and to herald the soon coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

But today we don't just want to pay tribute to you. I want to ask something of you, to give you a challenge. Please remain strongly involved with God's church. We value you and your experience. We need you. We need you as counselors, as prayer supporters, assisting in Global Mission and evangelistic endeavors throughout this world church and the Advent movement. Within your context as retirees we need you to continue to serve.

It's very fitting today, as I present this tribute, that my own wonderful parents, Pastor and Mrs. Neal C. Wilson, are part of this illustrious group. They represent those who have given their lives, their all, for God's church. I think of the loving support and care that my mother continues to provide for me, even at this stage of my life. I think of the excellent counsel and guidance that my father continues to provide. He has been, and continues to be, one of my chief counselors. And I am so grateful for it. What a privilege to have that kind of resource. And each one of you represents that type of resource and we need you.

Yes, we need you to be counselors, prayer supporters, and active participants in the life of



the great Advent movement during your retirement. Proverbs 11:14 says, "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety." In Proverbs 15:22 we read, "Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established." Referring to Moses in *Patriarchs and Prophets*, Ellen White said, "The chosen leader of Israel [Moses] listened gladly to the suggestions of the godly priest of Midian and adapted his plan as a wise arrangement." We need to listen to you as the godly priests of Midian. You, who represent such vast experience. May your contributing legacy be that you continue to serve as counselors to God's people. We pay tribute to you today. We thank you for your service and counsel, and we wish God's greatest blessings as we near Christ's soon coming when we can all be with the greatest of Counselors. Thank you. [Applause.]

**JAMES CHASE:** Elder Folkenberg, our General Conference president, has enthusiastically agreed to honor these retirees.

**ROBERT S. FOLKENBERG:** Preachers normally select a text. I have listened to Elder Ted Wilson's text about wisdom of counselors. Another text comes to my mind, and it concludes by saying, "And so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Heb. 10:25). And I see the day approaching. And it was for that reason in part that I agreed enthusiastically to pay tribute to those who merit this tribute.

I remember that I don't remember. That's right. I have been sitting here trying to recall when my parents retired. Now, I can probably guess what year it was, but I have no recollection of any decision or change that surrounded the event. As I think back over the years what I think of is the faces of people that my mother and father gave Bible studies to.

During the time after the retirement, that transparent occasion that the rest of us did not see, my father kept setting up the model of the sanctuary and teaching the good news of what our Lord is doing for us in His current daily ministry for us, as well as the investigative judgment. He went out and kept teaching stewardship every Sabbath; there was no real change.

My mother, I know, spent five to six hours a day in Bible study, prayer, and searching through the Spirit of Prophecy. That didn't change. The most important thing about our calling to service is that it is not linked to policy, nor to legal requirements, nor Social Security benefits. Those are the mundane issues of survival. They have nothing to do with our calling to service.

The story could be long if we listed those who have proved the transparency of retirement. I think of Elder Charles Dudley. Retired. Only he doesn't know it. He keeps right on preaching. And in retirement he's pastoring two churches. I think of Sister Nelly O'Dell, who after retiring went back to Thailand and kept teaching for years, the children of missionaries who without her services would not

be able to lend their service. I think this was best summed up a couple days ago when you heard Dr. B. B. Beach, say, as he stood before this congregation, "I have given 46 years of my life to serve Him. And I have given Him the rest of my life in service."

Having resisted the temptation to comment



**A member of the Adventist folk ensemble from the Ukraine plays an impromptu concert inside the entrance at Jaarbeurs center.**

on each one of the individuals seated before you, I want to use this occasion simply to express our church's deep appreciation for the years of service, hundreds, that this group has rendered on our behalf, and for the Lord's cause. And to encourage them to continue the habit patterns of selfless service for the rest of their lives. May God bless each one. [Applause.]

**JAMES CHASE:** I believe it was Bernard Baruch who said, "To me old age is always 15 years older than I am." Many of us do not realize the day will come when we too will have this experience of entering the fellowship of the retirees. And on this afternoon I wish to welcome this wonderful group to the fellowship of the retirees. May God bless this precious group of folk who have joined this group today. So it is our prayer that these who are older in years may one day sense that God has touched them, and suddenly the incorruptible is no more; they are immortal because He has made them that way. They live on. And so we welcome this group.

**G. RALPH THOMPSON:** This afternoon we pay this tribute to you retirees. We honor you, and we thank you for the integrity, patience, and steadfastness you have demon-

strated as a witness and leader in the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ. We, the delegates assembled representing the world church, thank you. We praise our God for His care for you.

When you were weary you found in Him rest. When you were perplexed, you turned to Him for sure counsel. When the world beckoned for your valuable talents, you turned not away from your high calling. And when you were weak, He empowered you. With you we praise Him for His attentiveness to your every need and for the successes you have thereby enjoyed.

We encourage you and those who have served their Master when the work went hard, who endured poverty and remained faithful, when there were few to stand for truth. You are to be honored and respected. "The Lord desires the younger laborers to gain wisdom, strength, and maturity by association with these faithful men and women. Let the younger men and women realize that in having such workers among them they are highly favored. Let them give them an honored place in their counsels." That comes from the pen of Ellen White in *The Retirement Years*. So in Christian love and with best wishes we commend you to God.

Let us pray. And now, O Lord, these workers of Thine, we ask Thy special blessing on them. May heaven's choicest benediction rest upon each one of them as they now go out to serve Thee in a different way. May their powerful witness continue to draw men and women to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the church they love. And then at last may they hear the "well done" from Thy blessed lips. We ask this in Jesus' mighty saving name. Amen.

Many of us have been assembled here in Utrecht now for a week or more. We've come to a place we've found to be very hospitable, warm, and welcome, with things in readiness. This is a huge complex that we've enjoyed meeting in, eating in, and for many sleeping in.

It's impossible to have any comprehension whatsoever of the complexity of putting together a meeting such as this. I just cannot fathom it. But there are individuals who have done it, and done it well. This afternoon we're going to call on Karl Bahr, an associate treasurer of the General Conference, who has been responsible for all this planning, preparation, and the carrying out of this meeting. I'd like for you to express appreciation to Brother Bahr as he introduces the rest of the program.

**K. H. BAHR:** It would not be right to close this session without giving at least some recognition to the many people who have helped to put the pieces of this session in place. In many cases we can mention only the heads of various committees. K. J. Mittleider was chair of General Conference Session Planning Committee. F. Martin Ytreberg, associate manager of the session and head of the Technical Services Committee. [K. H. Bahr also mentioned Bronwen McQuistan, Linda de Leon, Ray Tetz, Warren Judd, James Cress, Graham Barham, Paula Koeweiden, Henny Noordhoek, Gerry Karst, Leo Ranzolin, R. J. Kloosterhuis, G. Ralph  
(Continued on page 18.)

# Images of the Session

**1. Giancallo Marzucchi from Italy manages to find an electrical outlet in the hallway where he can shave. —Kurt Faltic/ANN**

**2. For \$25 a day several hundred men signed up for a package deal that provided three meals and a space on the floor to put an air mattress and their luggage. —Myron Widmer**

**3. Retired secondary school teacher Georges Pujol of Pontoise, France, said it was noisy until midnight and again by 5:30 a.m., but at least he had a place to sleep. —Myron Widmer**

**4. Erina Ladanyak has her friend Enna Tytynechko help her curl her hair when they discover an electrical outlet that is not in use. Sometimes as many as 50 people lined up to get access to electricity. —Jeremy Duerksen/ANN**

**5. In the women's dormitories the residents try to find some privacy by erecting barriers out of cardboard boxes and luggage. About 5,000 individuals were housed in these less-expensive accommodations. —Kurt Faltic/ANN**

**6. Velitchvova Sovmiza and her daughter Kamale Sovmiza from Austria make do in the temporary dormitories. —Jeremy Duerksen/ANN**

**7. As the 10-day session of the fifty-sixth General Conference wears on, most delegates and visitors begin to wear out. —Stefan Schnüll**





# GOING



Thompson, Ron Flowers, and C. D. Brooks.]

F. YTREBERG: We also have other persons to name. [The list included George Crumley, A. H. Tolhurst, Rowena Rick, Bette Bertochini, Kathy Pinnick, Dean Rogers, Eric Armer, Wayne Calbi, Melvin Seard, Hector Mastrapa, Melvin Skadsheim, Marvin Robinson, Gerard Latchman, Bob Woolford, and Ed Bahr. Of special note is Millie Kurtz, Food Service Committee.]

MILLIE KURTZ: [Introduced the major people connected with the food service—Ruud Willemsen, Peter Heisen, Paul Hom.]

LINDA DE LEON: Here are more names of various committees: Ray Dabrowski, Dick Stenbakken, A. H. Tolhurst, L. C. Cooper, Rose Otis, Jim Vuko, and Janet Crowell.

K. H. BAHR: G. W. Mandemaker, president of the Netherlands Union, gave excellent service, as did G. H. Koning, secretary of the Netherlands Union. Mariette Gillis-Musters, Netherlands Convention Bureau, is absent today because of illness. I also mention Don Robinson, initial session manager, my predecessor to whom we owe so much for getting things started here at Jaarbeurs.

A. C. MC CLURE: It is time for the final report of the Nominating Committee.

ISMAEL CASTILLO: The following is the final report of the Nominating Committee of the fifty-sixth General Conference session. Field secretary, General Conference—Mike Ryan; Associate Director, GC Publishing Department—Jose Luis Campos; Associate Director, GC Publishing Department—David Woolley; Associate Auditors, General Conference—Ellen Nixon, J. Haupt, Don Herzel, Philip Just, Robyn Kajiura, Richard Salsbery, Robert F. Coone; Director, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries—Richard Stenbakken; Associate Director, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries—M. W. Feldbush; Associate Secretary, GC Ministerial Association—Willmore Eva; Treasurer, Southern Asia Division—I. N. Rao; Associate Director, GC Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department—Wintley Phipps; Associate Director, GC Youth Department—M. J. Allen; Associate Director, GC Youth Department—Richard Barron; Associate Director, GC Youth Department—D. F. Wong; Treasurer, Africa-Indian Ocean Division—Samuel Leonor; Associate Director, GC Sabbath School and Personal Ministries—Jonathan Kuntaraf; Associate Treasurer, General Conference—Robert Lemon. [Motion was made on each name, seconded, and voted.]

B. REAVES: I would like to thank the delegates publicly for the confidence placed in the Nominating Committee. And I would like to thank Ismael Castillo, our vice chair; Lyn Behrens, secretary; Baraka Muganda, vice secretary; and Robert Kyte, vice secretary. I would especially like to thank the members of the Nominating Committee who prayerfully, with penetrating deliberation, worked to fulfill the solemn responsibility assigned to us. Be assured that our meetings were marked by vig-

orous discussion, and yet a marvelous spirit of cooperation was exhibited by all members.

A. C. MC CLURE: We come to our last item of business. It happens to be the one we were discussing this morning, but before we can discuss it again, it is necessary that we take the item off of the table. [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

M. DITHOLE-KGOKGWE: A letter was read here last week in which the president of Botswana, Q.K.J. Masire, sent good wishes to the gathering here. I wonder if it would not be appropriate at this juncture to acknowledge receipt of receiving such a letter and also reciprocate in a way to wish him well and his government. [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

A. C. MC CLURE: We will go to the main order of business this afternoon. We will discuss the formula for the composition of the 2,000-member delegation to General Conference sessions.

J. BROTHERTON: Before choosing the delegates, each division of the General Conference should know those who are appointed and urge them to attend the meetings.

S. SICKLER: I would like to commend the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. It has improved this proposal considerably. I have one question that some have been asking. When you list your group of laity and your pastors, teachers, and front-line workers, do you include in those lists the people in those categories who are on the General Conference Committee, or is that figured separately?

L. C. COOPER: The proposition that is before us calls for the overall delegation of a General Conference session to be comprised of 50 percent laity, pastors, teachers, and front-line workers, of which the majority shall be lay members. Therefore we felt it was appropriate to identify the categories of every person who attends a General Conference session. And when there are 33 members of the General Conference Committee who are lay members, we felt that it would also be appropriate to classify them as lay members when they attend a session.

KENNETH WATSON: I want to give my sincere compliments to the proposal made by the committee. And I am strongly in favor. Nevertheless, I think that it should be a starting point for more in-depth discussion within our church, how to handle the expertise and experience of qualified laypeople in contributing to the progress of the world church and Global Mission. I am strongly in favor. Elder Folkenberg has already implied that the government is able to do its business with a small representation. I think we can do the same as a church, provided that our institutions work in a similarly democratic way. So I hope that this example that is being set at the level of the General Conference, at the level of the General Conference Executive Committee, will find follow-up also at the level of the divisions and unions, so that when we arrive in Toronto five years from now, democracy in the church will have grown as well.

L. D. JAECKS: I'm very much in favor of this motion. I feel we need to correct an unfair perception that is going out across the galleries. My wife spent at least one solid day here sorting all the prayer commitments that were gathered here so that they could be given to the division leaders so that they could be taken back to their respective divisions. I know, because I'm chair of the prayer committee for this session, that many spouses have been coming into the prayer room. Others have been volunteering their time to take tickets. So I'm afraid that we are giving the wrong perception by merely focusing on the cost. We do need to save money. We need to understand that this is a church, not just a session of congress. So let's understand there are ways to save money, but there are also ways to involve the church in a body of work.

A. C. MC CLURE: We are ready for the vote now. The vote is to adopt the formula for delegates to the General Conference sessions that is found on page 50 of the agenda material. This does not require a two thirds vote, since this is not a constitutional issue. We're ready to vote. [The motion was voted.]

Our final item has to do with the constitution being brought into harmony with what we have just voted in concept.

A. H. TOLHURST: We now have the recommended amendment to the General Conference Constitution, Article IV, entitled "General Conference Sessions." Now, we have several pages of this, and I think it's appropriate and important that we go through it carefully. We have time for that. Section 4 is where we include the changes that are a result of our last action, setting a cap. It reads as follows: "The delegates to a General Conference session shall be designated as follows:

"a. Regular delegates.

"b. Delegates-at-large.

"c. The total number of delegates under these two designations shall not exceed 2,000. In case of financial exigency or major international crisis, the General Conference Executive Committee may take an action to reduce this cap. Such reduction shall then be proportionately distributed in harmony with the categories under Sec. 6., Sec. 7-c, and Sec. 7-d." [A. H. Tolhurst then explained in detail the many changes in Article IV that are the result of setting the cap.] [Motion was made and supported.]

DELBERT BAKER: I would like to affirm the decisions of this body and the process that has worked so very well. We have used due process, we have followed democratic procedures here, and I would just like to affirm the Constitutions and Bylaws Committee as well as our administration for responding to the various items. I believe this document is much more reflective of the wishes of the people, and I think that it is excellent. This document, even though there may be some particulars that could be different, is a definite move in the right direction, and I want to say that I am in favor of it. Thank you very much.

A. C. MC CLURE: We will now vote on the motion before us. [Motion was voted.]

**DON YOST:** Just a historical footnote regarding financial exigencies. During a time that General Conference sessions were conducted every four years, the world entered into a financial depression. The sessions were held in 1922 as planned, 1926 as planned, and 1930 as planned. However, because of the 1930s depression, it was six years rather than four between General Conference sessions. Then following the 1936 session, it was five years between sessions for the next two before it returned to the four-year span of time in the post-war era. This is a matter of interest, as there were times in the 1930s when the financial situation in the church and in the world suggested to our leaders that they not conduct a session quite as often as they had in the past.

**W. DUNCAN EVA:** I'd appreciate the privilege of making just a few remarks as I look back over this General Conference session. One thing that has impressed me very much indeed is that this time we have been able to have our brothers and sisters from the former Soviet Union with us. I know they were present when we were in Austria and other places as well, but now they are with us in large numbers, and I can't help feeling that they are here to enrich us. We will be richly blessed by what they have to contribute.

One thing that has occurred at various times through this session that I've not been very happy about is some of the remarks that have been made in regard to the North American Division. Fortunately, not many of them. But remarks like this have a larger influence than perhaps those who make them think they have. I think there are some things we ought to remember about the North American Division, and what it has done, is doing, and will continue to do for the advancement of God's work. When I think of the steady stream of support that has come from the North American Division through the years, I can't help feeling that that is something that we mustn't lose sight of.

**A. C. MC CLURE:** Elder Eva, as you probably know, is a former vice president of the General Conference, and one who has given a long term of service to the church.

**R. C. OSBORN:** At the beginning of the week I wondered where we were going to end. But the Spirit has obviously been moving. And I'd like to make a motion that we express our special appreciation to Dr. Rock and Elder Tolhurst and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the process that was used in formulating and putting together these amendments.

**A. C. MC CLURE:** I think we can do that by acclamation, can we not? [Applause.]

**MORTEN THOMSEN:** How does a delegate get an item on the agenda? There is no plans committee as such.

**A. C. MC CLURE:** Elder Thompson, would you explain the process for getting items on the agenda?

done so in a kindly way. We have agreed upon our procedure for the next five years, and I think we ought to praise the Lord for that, and I would like to invite you to join me in singing the doxology. [A. C. MC CLURE led in the singing of "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow."]

Is there a motion to adjourn sine die?

**M. T. BATTLE:** Mr Chairman, I would move that the fifty-sixth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists be adjourned sine die. [The motion was seconded and voted.]

**G. RALPH THOMPSON:** We have had with us the former secretary of the General Conference, who has given solid years of service, Clyde O. Franz. I would like Elder Franz to go to the mike now, and pronounce the benediction for this fifty-sixth session. Elder Clyde O. Franz, former secretary of the General Conference, my predecessor. Thank you, Elder Franz.

**A. C. MC CLURE:** Before that takes place, we do have some music that we will be blessed by, so Elder Franz, if you could please stand by a moment. Sister Adly Campos will bless our lives and our experience with some beautiful music.

["The Lord's Prayer" was sung by Adly Campos.]

**CLYDE FRANZ:** Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Our hearts have joined in this prayer that has risen in song to Your throne. We have come from many countries. We represent many different peoples in language, in color, in background, but we are all Your children. We are all of one heart, for we wish above everything else to see Your work on the earth finished. We wish to see Jesus come. We want to have a part in His kingdom. And so we thank You for the privilege of being here in Utrecht. We thank You for the work that has been done here. We pray that Your Holy Spirit may guide in the carrying out of the plans that have been laid here. And we pray, Father, that as these delegates go back to their respective homes, may Your Spirit go with them, and may the angels protect them and take them safely home. And finally, when the work has been finished, when Jesus comes down through the clouds of heaven, may we all be gathered together again in that kingdom prepared for those who love You. We pray this in the blessed and holy name of Jesus, our Saviour. Amen.

**A. C. MC CLURE, Chair**  
**M. T. BATTLE, Secretary**  
**D. A. ROTH, FRED G. THOMAS, and**  
**L. R. COLBURN,**  
*Proceedings Editors*



**Cartoon characters from the Brazilian children's magazine helped spark a lively South American Division report to session delegates and visitors.**

**G. RALPH THOMPSON:** Agenda items generally follow the route of going through the organizations from the conference committee to the union committee, then to the division committee, and finally to the General Conference. If, after discussion, all the divisions think the matter is of general interest for a session, then it will be brought through the channels to the General Conference Annual Council, and that's the body that recommends items for the GC session agenda.

**R. R. BIETZ:** There is one thing I would like to mention that has not been mentioned. I have been through many sessions like this, but I have never been at a session that considered such tremendously hard situations. I want to commend this body, the chair particularly, and all the constituents for being so loving, so kind, so charitable, and so patient to consider these tremendously significant resolutions that came before the body. Thank you very much.

**A. C. MC CLURE:** A little earlier in the week we had a long, long agenda. A forebodingly long agenda. As the week progressed, it looked as though it might be almost impossible to accomplish that agenda, but here we are. It has been accomplished, and the chair would like to express appreciation to every delegate here for the way in which you have taken an interest in the work of the church, and the attention and earnestness with which you have addressed the issues. You've spoken to the issues. You have



# Biblical Research Institute



By **George W. Reid**  
*Director*

**N**early 40 years ago the General Conference recognized the need to have available specialists in the Scriptures and theologians to provide immediate insights as troubling questions arose. This led to the establishment of the Biblical Research Institute (BRI). Its prevailing assignment was to do in-depth studies in the Scriptures, providing insights helpful to the leaders of the church. This continues to be the first task of BRI, although many other requests have been directed to the institute since its founding.

The staff of BRI is structured to provide a variety of specialties: biblical studies, theology, Christian ethics, and church history. At present the staff consists of four scholars, Herbert Kiesler in New Testament, George W. Reid in systematic theology and church history, Angel Rodriguez in Old Testament theology, and William H. Shea in Old Testament with a specialty in biblical archaeology. These are supported by two associates, Mrs. Irene Gilbert, administrative secretary, and Martha Lunt, desktop computer specialist. During the quinquennium Frank Holbrook, longtime member of the scholarly staff, retired.

## Here's What We Do

The institute staff is active in more than a dozen specific areas and prepares special studies to provide guidance in church activities. A recent example is a series of basic studies done on stewardship as taught in the Bible—how the tithe was used in Bible times, and its implications for stewardship today. Institute members contribute constantly to denominational publications, both periodical and book form.

The institute reviews materials

designed for publication, scanning and offering suggestions of ways to clarify and strengthen. Examples are the Sabbath school quarterlies, denominational Bible textbooks, and lessons designed for witnessing to our non-Adventist neighbors.

From time to time believers generate insights they believe to be new light, asking the church to give their ideas attention. After review at a local level, some of these documents are forwarded by unions with requests for review and analysis by BRI. When controversies arise or special groups form with the purpose of pressing their particular form of belief or activity in the church, BRI often studies these questions, preparing written responses that can be distributed as shelf documents wherever the information is needed. In doing this, BRI is carrying on with one of its earliest purposes.

Another service is planning and carrying out Bible conferences for world divisions and union conferences, generally for ministerial staffs. During August and September 1994, a major series of conferences was conducted in nine locations throughout the Euro-Asia Division, designed especially for the pastors in the nations now functioning in what was formerly the Soviet Union.

The world office of a movement with more than 8 million believers receives thousands of communications, questions, letters, and documents in a given year, coming from all quarters of the planet. Many of these deal with biblical, theological, and ethical questions. Who responds to these inquiries, providing answers for questions? Much of the time of the BRI staff is occupied with providing this service.

Beginning in 1984, the church established a service of providing seminars in

Jerusalem and its surrounding areas for Adventists from all parts of the world. In the current quinquennium people have come from every world division for such seminars. They are based in a building owned by the church in Jerusalem, from which excursions extend to major biblical sites in the region. The purpose of such seminars is to provide opportunity for visiting at a more serious level the places where important biblical events occurred. This includes opportunity to see major artifacts such as the Dead Sea scrolls, the stone inscribed with the name of Pontius Pilate, a wall constructed by King Hezekiah, and dozens of other items of high interest.

Through the Biblical Research Institute the General Conference maintains constant contact with theologians and biblical specialists around the world, especially those serving in our institutions of higher learning. These contacts allow for continuing interchange of ideas and insights among theologically trained people in the church.

Frequently, staff members from the institute are requested to provide studies at pastors' conferences and camp meetings. Such appointments take BRI personnel to dozens of locations around the world in any given year.

Aside from articles and book reviews prepared for the scholarly religious press in religion, the BRI staff is active in book preparation. Working through its major committee, the BRI Committee, the institute now is preparing a major volume to examine in depth the faith of Seventh-day Adventists. Designed to become one of the volumes in the Commentary Reference Series, it will provide articles in encyclopedic style on the major beliefs of the church. Dr. Raoul Dederen is serving as general editor. Already four years in preparation, this project should be completed by the close of 1996. The final product will reach beyond a survey of our 27 major beliefs to include additional materials, such as an examination of how Adventists deal with prophecy and an Adventist understanding of health and healing.

The BRI looks forward to continued service to the church during the coming quinquennium.



# The Geoscience Research Institute



By **L. James Gibson**  
Director

**T**he bones were “very dry,” according to Ezekiel 37. Many people still regard the study of bones and stones as a very dry subject. However, this opinion is changing. Discoveries of fossil

research, writing, and teaching on origins. Originally located in Berrien Springs, Michigan, the institute is now on the campus of Loma Linda University.

## The Staff

The institute employs five scientists and two support personnel. Ben Clausen (Ph.D., University of Colorado) studies nuclear physics, particularly the energy levels within the nucleus of the atom. These phenomena provide the background for study into cosmology and radiometric dating. Jim Gibson (Ph.D., Loma Linda University) studies the geographical distribution and relationships of vertebrates, important topics in understanding the establishment of present patterns of animal distribution. Elaine Kennedy (Ph.D., University of Southern California) studies the characteristics of sedimentary deposits, particularly those of ancient lakes. Her studies contribute to our understanding of the effects of the biblical Flood. Ariel Roth (Ph.D., University of Michigan) studies both living and fossil coral reefs. These reefs are believed to grow very slowly, which challenges our chronology of biblical events. Clyde Webster (Ph.D., Colorado State University) analyzes the abundance of trace elements in volcanic materials. This information can be used to identify sources of volcanic materials. Katherine Ching (M.A., Loma Linda University) assists in editing and preparing materials for publication. Jan Williams, the administrative secretary, keeps the office running smoothly.

## The Work

The Geoscience Research Institute publishes three periodicals: *Origins*, twice yearly, deals on a scholarly level with issues in science and theology. *Geoscience Reports*, three times a year, is

designed for use in upper elementary and secondary schools. *Ciencia de los Origenes*, three times a year, is sent to Spanish-speaking countries. Dr. David Rhys is the editor of *Ciencia*.

The institute supports several lines of research. In addition to the research projects conducted by the individual staff members, a modest research grant program is in operation. More than 90 grants have been awarded to date. This research contributes to the development of interpretations of nature that are in harmony with biblical teachings.

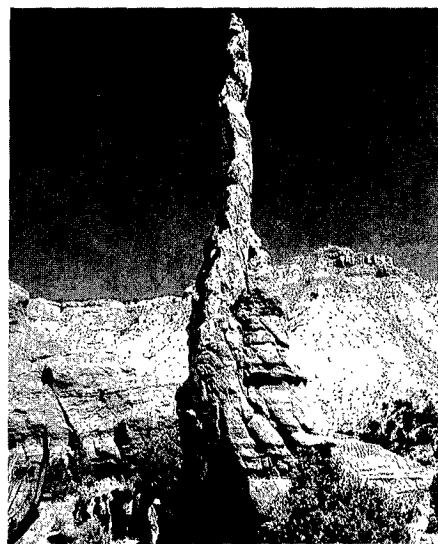
Geoscience also reports its findings to the church through college class lectures and field trips around the world. In the field conferences, the staff takes students, educators, and administrators to sites of paleontological and geological significance.

During the past quinquennium (1990-1994), Geoscience personnel visited most of the church's divisions or attached unions and presented lectures to college classes and faculty groups. The staff published several research reports that contributed to our understanding of earth history.

## Why Study Origins?

Such effort is being exerted in the area of origins because the church has a great deal at stake. The name, Seventh-day, indicated belief in the seventh-day Sabbath as a memorial of the Creation week. The biblical record of origins is basic to our doctrinal structure, including the plan of salvation, the seventh-day Sabbath, the three angels' messages, and other doctrines.

The staff of the Geoscience Research Institute takes seriously the task of studying nature and Scripture together. Many challenges to our faith have been presented from the historical sciences. Studying many of these questions reveals that interpretations made by historical scientists are dependent on the naturalistic presuppositions of the investigators. In some cases, we have discovered that the biblical record provides a superior interpretive framework to explain the data. In other cases, data thought to be hostile to the biblical record can reasonably be interpreted as in harmony with Scripture. The results of such study strengthen our faith and give us confidence that other problems can also be resolved.



A Geoscience Field Conference group examines a standing “pipe,” in Utah in which soft sediment has been squeezed upward by the weight of overlying deposits. This indicates the underlying material was still soft when the overlying material was deposited.

“ape men,” dinosaurs, and other extinct animals have been widely reported in the popular media. These fossils are commonly interpreted within a worldview that ignores the biblical record of divine activity. Numerous popular articles, books, and videos have been produced that advocate a particular explanation of the existence of these fossils. They have resulted in a challenge to the reliability of Scripture, the foundation upon which Seventh-day Adventists have built their doctrine.

In 1957 the General Conference responded to the challenge from the scientific community by establishing the Geoscience Research Institute. They founded the institute to conduct studies,

# Session Actions

*Fifty-sixth General Conference session,  
July 6, 1995, 8:30 a.m.*

## VOTING PROCEDURES FOR ITEMS THAT WERE REFERRED TO THE CHURCH MANUAL COMMITTEE

*Voted.* To provide reasonable time for discussion of items that were previously referred to the *Church Manual* Committee, and then to vote on the issues without referring them back to the committee.

## QUERIES CONCERNING RECEIVING AND DROPPING MEMBERS, RECEIVING MEMBERS ON PROFESSION OF FAITH—CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT (Receiving Members on Profession of Faith—Church Manual Amendment)

*Voted.* To amend the *Church Manual* page 50, Queries Concerning Receiving and Dropping Members, Receiving Members on Profession of Faith, to read as follows:

Receiving Members on Profession of Faith—There are four circumstances in which individuals who have accepted the Seventh-day Adventist message may be accepted by profession of faith:

1. A committed Christian coming from another Christian communion who has already been baptized by immersion as practiced by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. (See p. 42.)

2. A member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church who, because of world conditions, is unable to secure a letter of transfer from his or her home church. (See p. 47.)

3. A member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church whose request for membership transfer has received no response of any kind from the church where he or she is a member. In this case the assistance of the conference/mission shall be sought. In case the requesting church is located in another conference/mission, the assistance of both conferences/missions should be sought.

4. An individual who has been a member, but whose membership has been misplaced or has been withdrawn because he or she was a missing member, yet who in reality has remained faithful to his or her Christian commitment.

Readmission to church membership is normally preceded by rebaptism. (See pp. 163, 164.)

Great care should be exercised in receiving members if they have formerly been members of some other church in the denomination. Instances are not lacking of persons disfellowshipped from one church, later presenting themselves to other churches for membership on profession of faith. When a person applies for membership on profession of faith, earnest inquiries should be made concerning the applicant's former experience. The church officers should seek the advice and help of the conference/mission president. Sufficient time should be taken to extend the investigation as far as needed to reveal all the facts.

When persons apply for membership on pro-

fession of faith, and it is found that they are still members of another church in the denomination, no steps should be taken to receive them into membership until the church holding the membership grants their letters of transfer. If after following the process of transfer (see p. 46), a church refuses to grant a letter of transfer, the member may appeal to the local conference/mission committee if it is considered that the letter has been unjustly denied. The church where membership is held or the local conference/mission committee is the proper organization to decide whether the past conduct has been such that the applicant is entitled to a church letter of transfer. Following such a course will result in a higher appreciation of the sacredness of church membership and in wrongs being made right where this is called for. No church has the right to withhold transfer unless the person is under discipline.

## THE CHURCH ELDER, TO COOPERATE WITH THE CONFERENCE—CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

*Voted.* To amend the *Church Manual* pages 59 and 60, The Church Elder, To Cooperate With the Conference, to read as follows:

To Cooperate With the Conference—The pastor, elder(s), and all church officers should cooperate with the conference officers and departmental directors in carrying out local, union, division, and General Conference plans. They should inform the church of all regular and special offerings, and should promote all the programs and activities of the church.

The elder should work very closely with the church treasurer and see that all conference funds are remitted to the conference treasurer at the close of each month. The elder should give personal attention to seeing that the church clerk's report is sent promptly to the conference secretary at the close of each quarter.

The elder should regard all correspondence from the conference office as important. Letters calling for announcements to the church should be presented at the proper time.

The first elder, in the absence of and in cooperation with the pastor, should see that delegates to conference sessions are elected and that the names of such delegates are sent to the conference office by the clerk.

The elder should give counsel and help to officers in the church to measure up to their responsibilities in cooperating with the conference, in carrying out plans and policies, and in seeing that reports are accurately and promptly forwarded.

## THE CHURCH BOARD AND ITS MEETINGS, MEMBERSHIP—CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

*Voted.* To amend the *Church Manual* page 88, The Church Board and Its Meetings, Membership, to read as follows:

Membership—The following church officers should be included in the church board membership:

- Elder or elders
- Head deacon
- Head deaconess

- Treasurer
- Clerk
- Lay activities leader
- Lay activities secretary
- Community Services or Dorcas leader
- Sabbath School superintendent
- Family Ministries leader
- Home and School Association leader
- Adventist Youth Society leader
- Pathfinder director
- Interest coordinator
- Communication committee chairperson or communication secretary
- Health secretary
- Temperance leader
- Stewardship leader
- Religious Liberty leader

In many cases two or more of these offices are carried by one individual. Additional members of the board may be elected by the church if desired. The minister appointed by the local field to serve the church as its pastor is always a member of the church board.

## THE DEPARTMENT OF LAY ACTIVITIES, LAY ACTIVITIES COUNCIL—CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

*Voted.* To amend the *Church Manual* page 93, The Department of Lay Activities, Lay Activities Council, to read as follows:

Lay Activities Council—This council shall consist of the following: the lay activities leader (chairperson), the pastor, an elder, lay activities secretary, treasurer, Dorcas Society leader, Dorcas Society secretary, Adventist Men's organization leader, interest coordinator, temperance leader, health secretary, communication secretary, Sabbath School superintendent, youth director, coordinator for ministry to those with disabilities, and director of Community Services center or Community Services leader. In churches which elect a Community Services leader as an assistant to the lay activities leader, that officer shall also be a member of the Lay Activities Council. The church may wish to add other members to this council. The lay activities secretary is the secretary of this council. The council should meet at least once each month.

The duties of this council—No change

## THE DEPARTMENT OF LAY ACTIVITIES, MINISTRY TO THOSE WITH DISABILITIES—CHURCH MANUAL ADDITION

*Voted.* To add a new section to the *Church Manual*, Ministry to Those With Disabilities, in the section, The Department of Lay Activities, page 96, following Community Services Center, to read as follows:

Ministry to Those With Disabilities—Through the Ministry to Those With Disabilities, a local church should give special attention to members and others with disabilities. It should develop programs for witnessing to persons who have disabilities; make recommendations to the church board regarding possible actions which could make the church facilities more accessible for those with disabilities; assist the church in transportation solutions for those with disabili-

ties; and advise departmental and church leadership regarding possible involvement of members who have disabilities.

The coordinator of Ministry to Those With Disabilities serves as a liaison with organizations providing services for those with disabilities such as Christian Record Services and promotes Christian Record Services programs in the local church.

## **AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CHURCH AND THEIR OFFICERS, DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MINISTRIES—CHURCH MANUAL ADDITION**

*Voted*, To add a new section to the *Church Manual*, Department of Family Ministries, at the end of Chapter 8, Auxiliary Organizations of the Church and Their Officers, page 116, to read as follows:

### Department of Family Ministries

The over-arching objective of Family Ministries is to strengthen the family as a discipling center. The family was established by divine creation as the fundamental human institution. It is the primary setting in which values are learned and the capacity for close relationships with God and with other human beings is developed.

Family Ministries is a ministry of grace which acknowledges as normative the biblical teachings relating to the family and holds high God's ideals for family living. At the same time, it brings an understanding of the brokenness experienced by individuals and families in a fallen world. Thus Family Ministries seeks to enable families to stretch toward divine ideals, while at the same time ever extending the good news of God's saving grace and the promise of growth possible through the indwelling Spirit.

Family Ministries focuses on people in relationship. It is concerned with the needs of married couples, parents and children, the family needs of singles and all members of the wider family circle as they pass through life's predictable stages and contend with unexpected changes in their lives.

Family Ministries reinforces and encourages wholesome families. It helps individuals build and maintain strong family relationships because it recognizes that healthy Christian families make strong members for the kingdom of God and present a winsome witness to the community around them. Family Ministries promotes understanding, acceptance, and love within the family and in the larger family of God and fosters the reconciliation and healing between the generations promised in the Elijah message of Malachi 4:5, 6. It extends hope and support to those who have been injured and hurt by abuse, family dysfunction, and broken relationships. Family Ministries fosters competence in a variety of interpersonal skills needed in relationships. It provides growth opportunities through family life education and enrichment. It encourages individuals, married couples, and families to avail themselves of professional counseling when necessary.

An adequate ministry to families will include: premarital guidance available to all

couples before marriage; marriage strengthening opportunities; parent education, with attention given to the special needs of single parents and step-families; instruction in family to family evangelism; and support ministries to help families with special needs.

The Family Ministries Committee—To more effectively meet the needs of families in the church, the church board may establish a Family Ministries Committee, chaired by the Family Ministries leader(s). Although this committee should not be too large in order to remain effective, appropriate church leaders should be included as well as persons who understand the varied needs of families within the church. Persons who have faced traumatic life and family experiences and have grown spiritually through them may make valuable contributions as members of the committee. The committee should include both men and women, and where possible, at least one single person, at least one married couple, one or more parents, and a representative cross-section of the various age groups in the church. The duties of the committee shall be the following:

1. To assist church leadership in compiling family demographic data both within the church and in the surrounding community to clarify target groups for a ministry to families.

2. To assist church leadership in assessing the needs of church members for family life education, enrichment, and counseling; and in developing a plan for utilizing community and church resources to address these needs.

3. To encourage sensitivity to the impact of church programs on family life in terms of the expenditure of time, energy, money, and other family resources required.

4. To participate with the conference/mission Family Ministries Department in implementing family emphasis programs promoted by the department.

5. To cooperate with church leadership to design, plan, and implement additional family life features and programs as needed, both for family nurture within the membership and evangelistic outreach to the community.

6. To foster a climate of warmth and fellowship, engendering a sense of "familiness" in the congregation and a redemptive spirit toward families in need of support and encouragement.

**Family Ministries Leader(s)**—An individual or married couple may be elected to serve as the Family Ministries leader(s). The individual(s) should have a positive attitude about God, self, others, and the church. The leader(s) should model strong and growing family relationships and exhibit a sincere interest in fostering the well-being of all families. In order to be effective, it is necessary for the Family Ministries leader(s) to have an understanding of God's redemptive plan for dealing with the brokenness in relationships which sin has brought. It is also important that the leader(s) be able to maintain confidentiality and know when and how to encourage individuals in critical situations to seek professional counseling. The duties of the

Family Ministries leader(s) are:

1. To chair the Family Ministries Committee.

2. To represent the needs and interests of families through membership on the church board, and to coordinate Family Ministries plans with the overall church program.

3. To inform the pastor and church board of Family Ministries concerns and achievements, and to encourage funding and support for ministry to families.

4. To identify church and community resources which foster relational growth and provide help to meet critical needs, and to heighten awareness of these resources among church leadership and families.

## **THE SABBATH SCHOOL, THE SABBATH SCHOOL COUNCIL—CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT**

*Voted*, To amend the *Church Manual* page 97, The Sabbath School, The Sabbath School Council, to read as follows:

The Sabbath School Council—The Sabbath School Council is the administrative body of the Sabbath School. It consists of the following: superintendent (to serve as chairperson), assistant superintendent(s), secretary (to serve as secretary of the council), assistant secretaries, division leaders, Investment secretary, Lay Activities leader, Vacation Bible School director, an elder (appointed by the church board or by the board of elders), and the pastor. As soon as possible after the officers are elected, the superintendent should call a Sabbath School Council meeting to appoint, as needed for the various divisions, other officers who do not serve as members of the Sabbath School Council. These may include assistant division leaders, division secretaries, music directors, pianists and/or organists, and greeters.

In addition to the appointed officers listed in the paragraph above, the Sabbath School Council appoints the teachers for all divisions. Careful study should be given to the needs of all groups. It is advisable to consult with the division leaders particularly when selecting teachers for the children's divisions.

Teachers are appointed by the Sabbath School Council and approved by the church board.

The Sabbath School Council is responsible for the successful operation of the entire Sabbath School through the leadership of its chairperson, the superintendent. The Council should meet at least once each month.

Because of the importance of maintaining the integrity of the truths being taught, great care should be exercised in the choice of Sabbath School teachers. The time allotted for teaching approximates that of the pastor in the pulpit. All teachers shall be members of the church in good and regular standing and serve at the pleasure of the church board.

## **HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION—CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT**

*Voted*, To amend the *Church Manual* pages 108 to 110, Home and School Association, to read as follows:

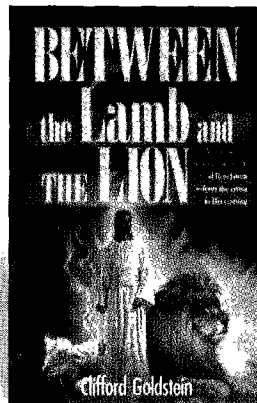
Home and School Association

# What does the sanctuary have to do with the cross?

## Everything.

No Adventist belief has faced more attack—both from within and without the church—than the two-phase work of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary. Especially the concept of a pre-advent judgment. What's the basis for this belief? Is it scriptural? Is it remotely important to salvation?

*Between the Lamb and the Lion*, by Clifford Goldstein, answers the question, *What is Jesus doing now?* It looks at Christ's high-priestly work in the heavenly sanctuary and proves that His ministry there—far from being in tension with the cross—is the means by which the Lamb applies salvation and prepares us to meet the Lion when He comes again.



US\$8.95/Cdn\$13.00. Paper.

**Available at your local Adventist Book Center, or call toll free 1-800-765-6955.**

Only from Pacific Press.



**Purpose**—The purpose of the association is twofold:

1. To provide parent education.
2. To unite the home, the school, and the church in their endeavors to provide Seventh-day Adventist Christian education for the children.

**Objectives**—1. To educate parents in cooperation with the church and school in their work of fostering the development of the whole child—"the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers."—*Education*, p. 13.

2. To promote cooperation between parents and teachers in the educational process.

3. To give guidance for establishing in the home an atmosphere of love and discipline in which Seventh-day Adventist Christian values can be instilled in children through Bible study, prayer, family worship, and the example of the parents.

4. To provide an opportunity for parents and teachers to develop a positive relationship in their work for the children.

5. To support the church school in its effort to more fully harmonize the principles of Christian education in philosophy, content, and methodology.

6. To strengthen the relationship between home and school by promoting such activities as:

- a. Providing suggestions to the administration and school board for curriculum improvement.
- b. Encouraging frequent communication between home and school.
- c. Encouraging parents to visit the school.
- d. Encouraging teachers to visit the homes of students.
- e. Providing volunteer services as requested by the school.

f. Assisting in providing the school with additional equipment and facilities not provided by the church or conference/mission.

7. To work toward the goal of enrolling every child of the church in the church school. Earnest endeavor should be made to provide ways for disadvantaged children to attend church school so that no Seventh-day Adventist child will miss the opportunity of a Seventh-day Adventist education.

**Membership**—Members of the church and patrons of the school are members of the association.

**Officers**—All parents of students are encouraged to be active in the Home and School Association. However, the officers of this association shall be members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The officers shall consist of a leader, assistant leader, secretary-treasurer, librarian, and the church educational secretary. In a school supported by one church, the Home and School Association officers are nominated by the church nominating committee and appointed by the church school board. Where a school is supported by more than one church, the Home and School Association officers and committee shall be appointed by the school board at its first meeting each school year. To give continuity it is recommended that some of the officers be reelected for a second term.

**Leader**—The leader of the Home and School Association shall be a church member with experience and success in training children and whose mind is open to new ideas, who is apt to teach, and who believes in the importance of Christian education.

**Secretary-Treasurer**—The secretary-treasurer is to keep the records of the association and to report to the director of the Department of Education of the conference at the beginning and close of the year.

**Ex officio**—The school principal shall be a member of the Home and School Association Committee by virtue of position.

Association funds are to be channeled through the church/school treasurer, kept as a separate account, and audited in harmony with denominational policy.

### AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CHURCH AND THEIR OFFICERS, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY—CHURCH MANUAL ADDITION

*Noted.* To add a new section to the *Church Manual*, Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, to Chapter 8, Auxiliary Organizations of the Church and Their Officers, following Department of Stewardship and Development, on page 116, to read as follows:

#### Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty

The Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) promotes and maintains religious liberty, with particular emphasis upon liberty of conscience. Religious liberty includes the human right to have or adopt the religion of one's choice; to change religious belief according to conscience; to manifest one's religion individually or in community with fellow believers, in worship, observance, practice, witness, and teaching, subject to respect for the

equivalent rights of others.

Since religious liberty includes the right to observe days of rest and worship in accordance with the precepts of one's religion, the department actively supports the right of Seventh-day Adventists to keep the Sabbath in accordance with the fourth commandment of God's Word. The department also monitors and interprets current events that may reflect prophetic scenario.

To safeguard religious liberty, the Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty encourages, where possible, the separation of church and state, as commended by our Lord when He said, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's" (Matt. 22:21). "The union of the church with the state, be the degree never so slight, while it may appear to bring the world nearer to the church, does in reality but bring the church nearer to the world."—*The Great Controversy Between Christ and Satan*, p. 297.

The state should never invade the distinct realm of the church to affect in any way the complete freedom of conscience or the right to profess, practice, and promulgate religious beliefs; and the church should never invade the distinctive realm of the state except, where appropriate, to bring moral principle to bear on public policy.

The department seeks to guard against intrusions upon religious liberty, especially in view of the persecutions prophesied in Revelation 13. "It is our duty to do all in our power to avert the threatened danger."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 452.

**Religious Liberty Associations**—The Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty carries on many of its functions through the International Religious Liberty Association, and its affiliated associations throughout the world.

*Adventist professionals providing risk management solutions for our church.*



**Adventist Risk Management**  
12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904-6600

Religious Liberty Association in the Local Church—Each church is considered an informal Religious Liberty Association, and every church member is a member of the association. The pastor or the local elder is the chairperson of the association in each local church.

Religious Liberty Leader of the Local Church—The religious liberty leader of the local church shall be elected and shall work in close cooperation with the pastor or district leader in all phases of religious liberty and cooperate with the conference/mission or union department. Such a person should be of positive spiritual influence, able to meet the general public, interested in public affairs, proficient as a correspondent, and concerned with the preservation of the liberty of the people of God to do the Master's service. The religious liberty leader's duties are:

1. To interact with the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director of the conference/mission, or union where appropriate, and deal with the suggestions that come through proper channels.
2. To advise concerning matters affecting religious liberty.
3. To promote the circulation of religious liberty magazines and other materials approved by the division or the General Conference.
4. To organize or facilitate religious liberty meetings, seminars, programs, and activities as circumstances indicate.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE, WORK OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE—CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT**

*Voted*, To amend the *Church Manual* pages 124 to 126, Nominating Committee, Work of the Nominating Committee, to read as follows:

Work of the Nominating Committee—As soon as possible after its election, the nominating committee should be called together by the one chosen to act as chairperson. With earnest prayer for guidance the committee should begin its work of preparing a list of names to submit to the church for officers and assistants comprised of members in regular standing on the roll of the church making the appointments. These will be placed in nomination for office and presented to the church at a Sabbath service or at a specially called business meeting of the church. In making their selections, the committee may counsel with others who are well informed. This committee does not nominate either the pastor or the assistant pastor(s). These appointments are made by the executive committee of the conference.

The church nominating committee deals with the following:

- Elder or elders
- Deacon or deacons
- Deaconess or deaconesses
- Clerk
- Treasurer
- Assistant treasurer or treasurers
- Children's Ministries leader
- Church chorister or song leader
- Church organist or pianist
- Church Education Secretary
- Family Ministries leader(s)

Ministry to Those With Disabilities coordinator

- Lay activities leader
- Lay activities secretary
- Interest coordinator
- Community Services director
- Sabbath School superintendent
- Assistant Sabbath School superintendents
- Sabbath School secretary
- Assistant Sabbath School secretary
- Sabbath School division leaders, including leaders for the adult and extension divisions
- Sabbath School Investment secretary
- Vacation Bible School director
- Leader of Home and School Association
- Secretary-treasurer of Home and School Association
- Leader of Dorcas Welfare Society
- Dorcas Welfare Society secretary-treasurer
- Adventist Youth Society leader
- Associate AYS leader
- AYS sponsor
- Adventist Junior Youth Society superintendent
- Assistant AJY superintendent(s)
- AYS secretary-treasurer
- Assistant AYS secretary-treasurer
- AYS music director
- AYS pianist or organist
- Pathfinder Club director
- Pathfinder Club deputy director
- Religious Liberty leader
- Temperance leader
- Communication secretary or Church Communication Committee
- Health secretary
- Stewardship leader
- Church board
- Church school board

Such other leadership personnel as the church may deem advisable, except Sabbath School teachers who shall be appointed by the Sabbath School Council and approved by the church board.

Home and School Association officers are nominated where the local church is the only church that supports the school. Such nominations are provided to the school board which makes the appointment. Where more than one church supports a school, this whole process is fulfilled by the school board. (See pp. 108-110.)

The size of the church will naturally determine the number of church officers to be nominated. If the church is small, many of the assistant leaders may be omitted. In a large church all the officers and leaders named in the foregoing list may be necessary.

### **DISBANDING OR EXPELLING CHURCHES—CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT—RECONSIDERATION**

*Voted*, To reconsider the previous amendment to the *Church Manual*, Disbanding or Expelling Churches.

### **DISBANDING OR EXPELLING CHURCHES—CHURCH MANUAL ADDITIONAL AMENDMENT**

*Voted*, To amend the *Church Manual*, pages 167 to 170, section 2. c., Disbanding or Expelling Churches, to read as follows:

c. If the union executive committee's decision is to recommend expulsion, the conference/mission shall call an executive committee meeting and recommend to the conference/mission constituency meeting the expulsion of the church, presenting the reasons for the recommendation.

### **AUDITORS AND AUDITS—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT**

*Voted*, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article XV—Auditors and Audits, to read as follows:

#### **ARTICLE XV—AUDIT OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE**

The General Conference Executive Committee shall have an audit of the financial statements of the General Conference and of the General Conference Corporation conducted by an external auditor at least once each calendar year. The external auditor shall also conduct an annual policy compliance audit of these organizations, and shall report annually the results of these two audits to the General Conference Executive Committee and to the General Conference at its regular sessions.

### **APPROPRIATIONS—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT**

*Voted*, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article XIX—Appropriations, to read as follows:

#### **ARTICLE XIX—APPROPRIATIONS**

Sec. 1. The Executive Committee shall make its appropriations to the world field at Annual Councils. These appropriations are to be based on budget requests from the fields.

Sec. 2. Appropriations shall be made subject to the receipt of the full amount of funds estimated in the General Conference budget. In case of a shortage, the distribution shall usually be on a pro rata basis to all the interests represented in the budget.

Sec. 3. Appropriations for major projects shall be held in trust for the purpose for which the appropriation was designated. In case the project is abandoned, the funds shall revert to the General Conference. Other funds appropriated to divisions shall be administered by the respective division executive committees.

Sec. 4. All funds raised in divisions, except the regular funds belonging to the General Conference as indicated under Article XVII, shall be used for the advancement of the work for which they were raised and are to be administered by the respective church entity in harmony with denominational policy.

Sec. 5. General Conference funds in all the world shall be made available to meet the annual appropriations of the General Conference.

### **FINANCE—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT**

*Voted*, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article XX,



Finance, (effective as of October 11, 1993), to read as follows:

## ARTICLE XX—FINANCE

Sec. 1. To provide a working fund for regular operations and to protect against a possible financial emergency or depression, the General Conference shall maintain an amount of working capital as defined and specified in the *Working Policy*.

Sec. 2. The Executive Committee—No change

Sec. 3. The tithes and mission offerings—No change

Sec. 4. The basis for computing goals and per capita funds shall be the membership on June 30 of the preceding year as officially recorded by the General Conference office of Archives and Statistics.

## RENUMBERING OF GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION ARTICLES

*Voted*, To renumber the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution Articles, as follows:

<i>Present</i>	<i>Future</i>
VI	VII—Executive Committee
VII	VIII—Officers and Their Duties
VIII	IX—Term of Office
IX	X—Corporations and Agents
X	XI—Bylaws
XI	XII—Amendments

## STANDING COMMITTEES—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

*Voted*, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article II—Standing Committees, to read as follows:

### ARTICLE II—STANDING COMMITTEES

Sec. 1. At each regular session—No change

Sec. 2. Constitution and Bylaws Committee: The chairperson of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall be an officer of the General Conference.

Sec. 3. Nominating Committee:

a. The membership of the Nominating Committee shall consist of the following:

1) Each division and each attached union shall be entitled to select for membership on the Nominating Committee ten percent of its remaining delegation to the session, after excluding the number of the additional delegates-at-large allocated by the General Conference and any delegates-at-large employed by the General Conference and its institutions.

2) Delegates-at-large who are excluded under 1) above shall be entitled to representation on the Nominating Committee equal to ten percent of the total number of Nominating Committee members appointed by each division and each attached union. These additional members shall be chosen from the delegates-at-large who are not participating in the caucus meetings of each division and each attached union.

b. The members of the Nominating Com-

mittee shall be chosen as follows:

1) Each division delegation and each attached union delegation shall act as a unit in selecting members to which it is entitled. Excluded from this process shall be the additional delegates-at-large allocated by the General Conference, and any delegates-at-large employed by the General Conference and its institutions.

2) The additional delegates-at-large allocated by the General Conference shall, with any delegates-at-large employed by the General Conference and its institutions, act as a unit in selecting members to which they are entitled.

3) The election of the above representatives on the Nominating Committee shall be by the method of voting considered by each delegation to be most convenient and efficient, taking into consideration the size of the delegation and other circumstances.

c. Each division delegation and attached union delegation shall select its representatives on the Nominating Committee to represent, as far as possible, the various geographical areas, organizational segments, and types of activity of the territory.

d. Those chosen as members of the Nominating Committee must be duly accredited delegates in attendance at the General Conference session.

e. Delegates elected under the provisions of Article V, Sec. 1., of the Constitution shall not be members of the Nominating Committee.

f. No delegate shall nominate—No change

g. The Nominating Committee shall elect its own chairperson and secretary under the temporary chairmanship of the president of the General Conference whose term is expiring.

h. The Nominating Committee shall limit—No change

i. In order to expedite the work of the Nominating Committee, the representatives from each division shall be allowed a reasonable amount of time to meet and consider the personnel needs of their respective divisions and to make recommendations to the full Nominating Committee. Decisions of these groups shall not be binding on the Nominating Committee as a whole, but shall be submitted as recommendations which will be considered. The Nominating Committee shall also recommend that the following North American Division officers serve the General Conference as listed below:

NAD secretary to serve as General Conference associate secretary

NAD treasurer to serve as General Conference associate treasurer

## TIME LIMIT ON SPEECHES

*Voted*, To limit to one minute all speeches relating to whether or not to set a cap on General Conference session delegations.

## GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION DELEGATIONS CAP

*Voted*, To approve the concept of setting a cap on General Conference session delegations. Adjourned.

Alfred C McClure, *Chair*  
Maurice T Battle, *Secretary*  
Athal H Tolhurst, *Actions Editor*  
Larry R Colburn, *Proceedings Editor*  
Carol E Rasmussen, *Recording Secretary*

# Session Actions

*Fifty-sixth General Conference session,  
July 7, 1995, 8:30 a.m.*

## OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

*Voted*, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution, Article VII—Officers and Their Duties, to read as follows:

### ARTICLE VIII—OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Sec. 1. The officers of the General Conference shall be a president, vice presidents, a secretary, an undersecretary, associate secretaries, a treasurer, an undertreasurer, and associate treasurers. It is the duty of these officers, in consultation with one another, to carry forward the work according to plans and programs voted by the General Conference in session and according to plans and policies agreed upon by the General Conference Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. Executive Officers: The president, secretary, and treasurer are the executive officers, and shall carry forward the work in consultation with one another.

Sec. 3. President: The president is the first officer of the General Conference, and shall report to the Executive Committee in consultation with the secretary and the treasurer. He or his designee shall preside at the sessions of the General Conference, act as chairperson of the Executive Committee, serve in the general interests of the General Conference as the Executive Committee shall determine, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to such office.

Sec. 4. Vice Presidents—No change

Sec. 5. Secretary, undersecretary, and associate secretaries: The secretary, in the performance of the executive responsibilities, shall report to the Executive Committee after consultation with the president. The secretary shall be responsible for keeping the minutes of the proceedings of the General Conference sessions and meetings of the Executive Committee, for maintaining correspondence with church organizations, and for the performance of such other duties as usually pertain to such office. The undersecretary and associate secretaries shall assist the secretary in this work.

Sec. 6. Treasurer, undertreasurer, and associate treasurers: The treasurer, in the performance

of the executive responsibilities, shall report to the Executive Committee after consultation with the president. The treasurer shall be responsible for providing financial leadership to the General Conference which will include, but not be limited to, receiving, safeguarding, and disbursing all funds in harmony with the actions of the Executive Committee, for providing financial information to the president and to the Executive Committee, and for the performance of such other duties as usually pertain to such office. The undertreasurer and associate treasurers shall assist the treasurer in this work.

## **DIVISION SECRETARIES—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT**

*Voted,* To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article V—Division Secretaries, to read as follows:

### **ARTICLE V—DIVISION SECRETARIES**

Sec. 1. A secretary shall be elected—No change

Sec. 2. Each division secretary shall work according to plans and programs voted by the General Conference in session and according to plans and policies agreed upon by the division executive committee. The secretary shall serve as vice-chairperson of the executive committee, and shall report to the executive committee after consultation with the president. It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep the minutes of the division executive committee meetings, to collect information and make such reports as may be required, and to do such other work as usually pertains to this office.

Sec. 3. Division executive committees—No change

## **DIVISION TREASURERS—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT**

*Voted,* To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article VII—Division Treasurers, to read as follows:

### **ARTICLE VII—DIVISION TREASURERS**

Sec. 1. A treasurer shall be elected—No change

Sec. 2. Each division treasurer shall work according to plans and programs voted by the General Conference in session and according to plans and policies agreed upon by the division executive committee and shall report to the executive committee after consultation with the president. The treasurer shall be responsible for providing financial leadership to the division which will include, but shall not be limited to, receiving, safeguarding, and disbursing all funds in harmony with the actions of the division executive committee, remitting all required funds to the General Conference in harmony with General Conference policy, and for providing financial information to the president and to the executive committee. The treasurer shall also be responsible for furnishing copies of the financial statements to the General Conference officers.

Sec. 3. Division executive committees—No change

## **GENERAL CONFERENCE AUDITING SERVICE BOARD**

*Voted,* To approve the concept that a General Conference Auditing Service Board be elected at future General Conference sessions. It will be composed of fifteen members, two-thirds of whom must be nondenominational employed Seventh-day Adventists in professions relevant to auditing services (such as chartered accountants, certified public accountants, and tax lawyers) and representing the world field. The chairperson of the Board shall be a layperson with qualifications as described above, and will be selected by the Board from among its members. One of the responsibilities of the Board will be to recommend names of individuals to the General Conference Session Nominating Committee for election as director and associate directors of the General Conference Auditing Service.

## **DIVISION AUDITORS—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT**

*Voted,* To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article VIII—Division Auditors, to read as follows:

### **ARTICLE VIII—AUDITING SERVICE AND AUDITS**

Sec. 1. At each regular General Conference session, the General Conference shall elect a director of the General Conference Auditing Service, whose duties shall be to administer the conduct of audits of the organizations of the Church throughout the world. Associate directors to serve from the General Conference shall also be elected at each regular General Conference session. The associate directors to serve in each division shall be recommended by a General Conference auditing service operating board to the General Conference Executive Committee after consultation with the administrations of the respective divisions.

References to service directors and associate service directors elsewhere in these Bylaws shall not apply to the director and associate directors of the General Conference Auditing Service, except as provided for in Article XIII, Sec. 1-a.

Sec. 2. The General Conference Auditing Service, ever sensitive to the country-specific regulations governing the audits of denominational entities in a particular country, shall be responsible for all audits of world divisions; union conferences; union missions; conferences; missions; unions of churches; affiliated services, organizations, and institutions of the General Conference and every other administrative level; Adventist Development and Relief Agency country and regional administrations and projects; and special funds. Exceptions to the above requirements shall be by specific action of the General Conference Executive Committee.

## **ELECTION—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT**

*Voted,* To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution, Article V—Election, to read as follows:

### **ARTICLE V—ELECTION**

Sec. 1. The following shall be elected at each regular session of the General Conference:

A president, vice presidents, a secretary, an undersecretary, associate secretaries, division

secretaries, a treasurer, an undertreasurer, associate treasurers, division treasurers, general field secretaries, a director and associate directors of the General Conference Auditing Service, to serve from the General Conference, and a director/secretary and associate director/secretary (directors/secretaries) of each duly organized General Conference department and association as specified in Article X, Sec. 1. of the General Conference Bylaws.

Sec. 2. The following shall be approved by vote of the General Conference Executive Committee at a subsequent meeting, following recommendations from the divisions:

Other persons to serve as members of the Executive Committee as provided for in Article VII, Sec. 1-b.

## **APPOINTMENT—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS—NEW ARTICLE**

*Voted,* To adopt a new Article VI—Appointment, in the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution, to read as follows:

### **ARTICLE VI—APPOINTMENT**

The following shall be appointed at the first Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee following a regular session: a director of Archives and Statistics, associate directors of the General Conference Auditing Service to serve in the divisions, and editors and associate editors for the principal denominational journals prepared at the General Conference.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT**

*Voted,* To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution, Article VI—Executive Committee, to read as follows:

### **ARTICLE VII—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Sec. 1. The Executive Committee of the General Conference shall consist of:

a. Ex officio members—1) Those elected as provided for in Article V, Sec. 1. except the director and associate directors of the General Conference Auditing Service and the associate directors/secretaries of General Conference departments and associations.

2) Presidents of union conferences, presidents of union missions, presidents of attached unions, past presidents of the General Conference holding credentials from the General Conference, the president-executive director of Adventist Development and Relief Agency International, the president of Adventist Media Center Incorporated, the editor of *Adventist Review*, the president of Adventist Risk Management Incorporated, the president-executive director of Adventist World Radio, the president of Andrews University, the director of Archives and Statistics, the director of Biblical Research Institute, the president of Christian Record Services Incorporated, the director and the vice-director of Ellen G White Estate, the director of Geoscience Research Institute, the president of Home Study International, the director of International Health Food Association, the president of Loma

Linda University, the president of Loma Linda University Medical Center, the president of Oakwood College, the president of Pacific Press Publishing Association, and the president of Review and Herald Publishing Association.

b. Elected Members—1) Three laypersons and one church pastor from each division without regard to membership and one additional church pastor or other frontline denominational employee for each 500,000 members or major portion thereof, beyond the first 500,000 members. The above laypersons, pastors, and other denominational employees shall be selected by each division executive committee from individuals recommended by the union executive committees.

2) Thirty additional members selected by the General Conference Executive Committee.

### INDEMNIFICATION—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

*Voted*, To refer the proposed amendments to Constitution Article XXI, Indemnification, to the standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee for further study. This committee will meet immediately behind the stage.

### REASONS FOR WHICH MEMBERS SHALL BE DISCIPLINED—CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

*Voted*, To amend the *Church Manual* page 160, Reasons for Which Members Shall Be Disciplined, to read as follows:

#### Reasons for Which Members Shall Be Disciplined

Among the grievous sins for which members shall be subject to church discipline are the following:

1. Denial of faith—No change
2. Violation of the law of God—No change
3. Violation of the seventh commandment—No change
4. Such violations as—No change
5. Fraud or willful—No change
6. Disorderly conduct—No change
7. Adhering to or—No change
8. Persistent refusal to—No change
9. The use, manufacture, or sale of alcoholic beverages.
10. The use, manufacture, or sale of tobacco in any of its forms for human consumption.
11. The misuse of—No change

The Seventh-day Adventist Church—No change

In some cases of—No change  
In case of—No change

### POLISH SEJM—APPRECIATION

Following an announcement by Jan Paulsen, former president of the Trans-European Division, and newly elected vice president of the General Conference, regarding the vote of the Polish Parliament to grant full Sabbath-keeping privileges to Seventh-day Adventists living in Poland, it was

*Voted*, To approve the following statement of appreciation: The Fifty-sixth Session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, meeting in Utrecht, The Netherlands, from June

19 to July 8, 1995, with over 2600 official delegates representing some 200 countries of the world, wishes to acknowledge the votes of the Polish Sejm and to express its appreciation for the passing of the law regulating in a very positive way the relationship between the Polish state and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Poland.

### COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE—CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

*Voted*, To amend the *Church Manual* page 149, paragraphs 2 and 3, Courtship and Marriage, to read as follows:

“The family tie is the closest, the most tender and sacred, of any on earth. It was designed to be a blessing to mankind. And it is a blessing wherever the marriage covenant is entered into intelligently, in the fear of God, and with due consideration for its responsibilities.”—*The Adventist Home*, p. 18.

Worship of God, Sabbathkeeping, recreation, association, use of financial resources, and training of children are responsible components of happy family relationships. Because differences in these areas can often lead to a deterioration of these relationships, to discouragement, and even to a complete loss of Christian experience, an adequate preparation for marriage should include premarital pastoral counseling in these areas.

“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3). The happiness and prosperity of the marriage relation depends upon the unity of the parties; but between the believer and the unbeliever there is a radical difference of tastes, inclinations, and purposes. They are serving two masters, between whom there can be no concord. However pure and correct one’s principles may be, the influence of an unbelieving companion will have a tendency to lead away from God.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 174.

The Spirit of Prophecy consistently counsels against marriage between “the believer and the unbeliever” and further cautions against uniting with fellow Christians who have “not accepted the truth for this time.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 364. Marriages are more likely to endure and family life to fulfill the divine plan, if husband and wife are united and are bound together by common spiritual values and lifestyles. For these reasons, the Seventh-day Adventist Church strongly discourages marriage between a Seventh-day Adventist and a non-Seventh-day Adventist, and strongly urges Seventh-day Adventist ministers not to perform such weddings.

The church recognizes that it is the prerogative of the individual to make the final decision relative to the choice of a marriage partner. However, it is the hope of the church that, if the member chooses a marriage partner who is not a member of the church, the couple will realize and appreciate that the Seventh-day Adventist pastor, who has covenanted to uphold the principles outlined above, should not be expected to perform such a marriage. If an individual does enter into such a marriage, the church is to demonstrate love and concern with the purpose

of encouraging the couple toward complete unity in Christ.

### DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE, OUR POSITION—CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT (Divorce and Remarriage—Church Manual Amendment)

*Voted*, To amend the *Church Manual* pages 172-173, Divorce and Remarriage, Our Position, to read as follows:

#### Our Position

Though marriage was first performed by God alone, it is recognized that people now live under civil government on this earth. The first fact, therefore, that should be kept clearly in mind is that marriage has both a divine and a civil aspect. The divine aspect is governed by the laws of God, the civil by the laws of the state.

In harmony with these principles, the following statement sets forth the position of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on the subject of divorce and remarriage:

1. “In the Sermon—No change
2. Unfaithfulness to the marriage vow has generally been seen to mean adultery and/or fornication. However, the New Testament word for fornication includes certain other sexual irregularities. (1 Cor. 6:9; 1 Tim. 1:9, 10; Rom. 1:24-27.) Therefore, sexual perversions, including homosexual practices, are also recognized as a misuse of sexual powers and a violation of the divine intention in marriage. As such they are just cause for divorce.

Even though the Scriptures allow divorce for the reasons mentioned above, earnest endeavors should be made by those concerned to effect a reconciliation urging the innocent spouse to forgive the guilty one and the latter to amend his or her conduct, so that the marriage union may be maintained. The church is urged to relate lovingly and redemptively toward the guilty party.

3. In the event—No change
4. A spouse found guilty of unfaithfulness to the marriage vow (see sections 1 and 2 above) by the church shall be subject to church discipline. Even though he or she may be genuinely repentant, the transgressor shall be placed under censure by the church for a stated period of time as an expression of the church’s abhorrence of such evil. The transgressor who gives no evidence of full and sincere repentance shall be disfellowshipped. In case the violation has been so flagrant as to bring public reproach on the cause of God, the church, in order to maintain its high standards and good name, shall disfellowship the individual even though there is evidence of repentance.

5. A guilty spouse—No change
6. When a divorce—No change
7. A guilty spouse who has violated his or her marriage vow and has been divorced and disfellowshipped and who has remarried, or a person who has been divorced on other than the grounds set forth in sections 1 and 2 and has remarried, and who has been disfellowshipped from the church, shall be considered as standing under the disapproval of the church and thus ineligible for membership except as hereinafter provided.

8. The marriage contract—No change
9. Readmittance to membership—No change
10. When a person—No change
11. No Seventh-day Adventist minister—No change

## INDEMNIFICATION—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

*Voted*, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article XXI—Indemnification, to read as follows:

### ARTICLE XXI—INDEMNIFICATION

Sec. 1. To the extent permitted by law, the General Conference shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, because he/she is or was a member of the General Conference Executive Committee or an officer, employee, or agent of the General Conference against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him/her in connection with such action, suit, or proceeding if he/she acted in good faith and in a manner he/she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the General Conference, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his/her conduct was unlawful.

Sec. 2. This right of indemnification shall be in addition to, and not exclusive of, all other rights to which such member of the Executive Committee or Officer may be entitled.

## PROCEDURE FOR VOTING ON CAP FOR FUTURE GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION DELEGATIONS

*Voted*, To deal with issues related to setting a cap on future General Conference Session delegations individually and in the following sequence:

1. Should delegates be asked to vote for either Option 1 (2,650 delegates) or Option 2 (2,000 delegates)?
2. Which option do delegates prefer—Option 1 or Option 2?
3. Which formula should be used in determining the composition of the chosen option?
4. Constitutional changes mandated by the choice of Option 1 or Option 2.

## DELEGATE CHOICE OF OPTIONS FOR CAPPING GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION DELEGATIONS

*Voted*, To request the delegation to choose between Option 1 (2,650 delegates) and Option 2 (2,000 delegates).

## CAP OF 2,000 FOR FUTURE GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION DELEGATIONS

*Voted*, To approve a cap of 2,000 for future General Conference Session delegations.

## FUTURE DISCUSSION OF GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION DELEGATIONS

*Voted*, To continue discussion at the afternoon meeting of capping the delegations to

future General Conference sessions.

Adjourned.

Alfred C McClure, *Chair*  
Lowell C Cooper, *Secretary*  
Athal H Tolhurst, *Actions Editor*  
Larry R Colburn, *Proceedings Editor*  
Carol E Rasmussen, *Recording Secretary*

# Session Actions

*Fifty-sixth General Conference session,  
July 7, 1995, 1:30 p.m.*

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT #9

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

### Africa-Indian Ocean Division

*Treasurer*, Samuel Leonor

### General Conference

*Associate Treasurer*, Robert Lemon

*Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries*

*Director*, Richard O Stenbakken

*Associate Director*, Martin W Feldbush

*Auditing Service*

*Associate Directors*, Robert F Cooke,

Coenraad J Haupt, Daniel E Herzel,

Philip R Just, Robyn Kajjura, Ellen

Nixon, Richard Salsbery

*General Field Secretary*, Michael L Ryan

*Ministerial Association Associate Secretary*,

Wilmore Eva

*Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Associ-*

*ate Director*, Wintley Phipps

*Publishing Department*

*Associate Directors*, Jose Luis Campos,

David D. Woolley

*Sabbath School and Personal Ministries*

*Associate Director*, Jonathan Kuntaraf

*Youth Department*

*Associate Directors*, Malcolm J Allen,

Richard E Barron, David S F Wong

### Southern Asia Division

*Treasurer*, I Nagabhushana Rao

## LETTER FROM PRESIDENT OF BOTSWANA—ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*Voted*, To acknowledge the letter of June 20, 1995, received from Q K J Masire, president of the Republic of Botswana, sending greetings and best wishes to the 1994 General Conference Session.

## GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION DELEGATIONS—OPTION 2

*Voted*, To cap the number of delegates to a General Conference session at 2,000, commencing with the session of the year 2000, and further to approve of the delegation size being computed as follows:

1. Delegates-at-large:
  - General Conference Executive Committee members
  - General Conference associate departmental/service directors
  - 34 General Conference appointed staff, as selected
  - Additional Division and General Conference delegates, the number

determined by subtracting the sum of all the other categories of delegates-at-large from 640.

2. Regular delegates:
  - a. Category 1 regular delegates (based on organizations)
    - 22 delegates per division
    - 1 delegate per union
    - 1 delegate per local conference/mission/union of churches
    - 1 delegate per division institution
  - b. Category 2 regular delegates (based on division membership)

The number of Category 2 regular delegates is established by subtracting the number of delegates-at-large, and the number of Category 1 regular delegates from 2,000. The Category 2 regular delegates are assigned to the divisions based on membership. Each division is assigned a percentage of the Category 2 regular delegates based on its proportion of the world church membership, as established at the close of the second year prior to the session.

## GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS (OPTION 2)—GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

*Voted*, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution, Article IV—General Conference Sessions, to read as follows:

### ARTICLE IV—

### GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Sec. 1. The General Conference shall hold quinquennial sessions at such time and place as the Executive Committee shall designate and announce by a notice published in the *Adventist Review* in three consecutive issues at least four months before the date for the opening of the session, the Executive Committee, in regular or special council, shall have authority to make such postponement, not to exceed two years, giving notice to all constituent organizations.

Sec. 2. The Executive Committee—No change

Sec. 3. The election of—No change

Sec. 4. The delegates to a General Conference session shall be designated as follows:

- a. Regular delegates.
- b. Delegates-at-large.
- c. The total number of delegates under these two designations shall not exceed 2,000. In case of financial exigency or major international crisis, the General Conference Executive Committee may take an action to reduce this cap. Such reduction shall then be proportionally distributed in harmony with the categories under Sec. 6., Sec. 7-c., and Sec. 7-d.

Sec. 5. Regular delegates shall represent the General Conference's member union conferences, union missions, member conferences, missions, and unions of churches as defined in Article III, as follows:

- a. Delegates representing union conferences, having division affiliation, shall be appointed by the respective unions.
- b. Delegates representing union missions and unions of churches having division affiliation

shall be appointed by the respective division executive committees in consultation with the organizations concerned.

c. Delegates representing conferences and missions having union conference affiliation shall be appointed by the respective union conference executive committees in consultation with the organizations concerned.

d. Delegates representing conferences and missions having union mission affiliation shall be appointed by the respective division executive committees in consultation with the organizations concerned.

e. Delegates representing conferences and missions directly attached to divisions, shall be appointed by the respective division executive committees in consultation with the organizations concerned.

f. Delegates representing division institutions, the number of whom shall correspond to the number of division institutions within each division, shall be appointed by the respective division executive committees in consultation with the organizations concerned.

g. Delegates representing union conferences directly attached to the General Conference shall be appointed by the executive committees of the respective attached union conferences.

h. Delegates representing union missions, conferences, missions, and unions of churches directly attached to the General Conference shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the General Conference in consultation with the organizations concerned.

Sec. 6. Regular delegates shall be allotted on the following basis:

a. Twenty-two initial delegates for each division without regard to membership.

b. Each division shall be entitled to additional delegates corresponding to the number of division institutions within its territory.

c. Each union conference and union mission having division affiliation, shall be entitled to one delegate other than its president (who is a delegate-at-large) without regard to membership.

d. Each union conference and union mission directly attached to the General Conference shall be entitled to one delegate other than its president (who is a delegate-at-large) without regard to membership.

e. Each conference and mission having union affiliation shall be entitled to one delegate without regard to membership.

f. Each union of churches, conference, and mission directly attached to the division shall be entitled to one delegate without regard to membership.

g. Each union of churches, conference, and mission directly attached to the General Conference shall be entitled to one delegate without regard to membership.

h. Each division shall be entitled to additional delegates based upon its membership as a proportion of the world church membership. The total number of delegates from all divisions under this provision shall not exceed the difference between 2,000 and the total number of delegates provided for under Sec. 6-a. to 6-g. and under Sec. 7-a. to 7-d.

i. The number of delegates from each division, provided for under Sec. 6-a. and 6-h., shall be allotted to the union conferences and union missions that are affiliated with that division, based on each union's proportion of the division membership.

Sec. 7. Delegates-at-large shall represent the General Conference, its divisions, and its organizations, and shall be appointed on the following basis:

a. All members of the General Conference Executive Committee.

b. Associate directors/secretaries of General

Conference departments and associations.

c. Thirty-four delegates selected from General Conference appointed staff.

d. Those representatives of the General Conference and division institutions and other entities, and those employees, field secretaries, laypersons, and pastors who are selected by the Executive Committees of the General Conference and its divisions. The number of these delegates shall be determined as the difference between the sum of all the other categories of delegates-at-large, and 640.

Sec. 8. In the selection of regular delegates and delegates-at-large, organizations shall choose Seventh-day Adventists in regular standing, at least 50 percent of whom shall be laypersons, pastors, teachers, and nonadministrative employees, of both genders, and representing a range of age groups and nationalities. The majority of the above 50 percent shall be laypersons.

Sec. 9. Credentials to sessions shall be issued by the General Conference to those appointed in harmony with the provisions of this article.

Sec. 10. Calculations for all—No change

### VOTE OF APPRECIATION

*Voted.* To express appreciation to Calvin B Rock and Athal H Tolhurst and the members of the standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the work they have done this week on revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws items, thus bringing us to a point where we can be together in unity on the changes which have been made and voted at this General Conference session.  
Adjourned.

Alfred C McClure, *Chair*  
Maurice T Battle, *Secretary*  
Athal H Tolhurst, *Actions Editor*  
Rowena J Moore, *Recording Secretary*

**HE WAS SURE HIS PLAN WOULD WORK.  
A FEW STICKS OF DYNAMITE,  
JUDICIOUSLY PLACED, WOULD BLOW  
THE WHOLE BUILDING TO PIECES . . . .**

And if that didn't do it, there was always the bazooka! Magnum Benavides was carefully reconnoitering his latest blasting job . . . the radio station he was now planning to blow sky high was a government propaganda station. But it wasn't to be. Just as he was about to complete the job, the police arrested him.

**To read the rest of this interesting story, stop by the General Conference Session  
AWR Exhibit booth for your copy of "The AWR Story Book."  
Or write AWR, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904 USA**

**Or call in Canada and the US:**

**Adventist World Radio: 1-800-337-4AWR**



**AWR**

## ADVENTIST REVIEW

General paper of the  
Seventh-day Adventist Church

**Editor** William G. Johnsson  
**Associate Editor** Roy Adams  
**Associate Editor** Myron K. Widmer  
**News Editor** Carlos Medley  
**Assistant Editor** Stephen Chavez  
**Assistant Editor** Kit Watts  
**Editorial Assistant** Ella Ryzewski  
**Administrative Secretary** Chitra Barnabas  
**Editorial Secretaries** Mary Maxson,  
Jean Sequeira  
**Art Director** Bill Kirstein  
**Designer** Jason Diggs  
**Design Assistant** Gert W. Busch  
**Ad Sales** Melynia Tooley  
**Subscriber Services** Steve Hanson

**Subscription prices:** US\$38.97 for 40 issues. US\$50.97 for 52 issues. US\$61.17 for addresses outside North America.

**To place your order,** send your name, address, and payment to your local Adventist Book Center or *Adventist Review* Subscription Desk, Box 1119, Hagerstown, MD 21741. Prices subject to change without notice.

**Subscription queries and changes of address:** Call toll-free 1-800-456-3991 or 301-791-7000, ext. 2436.

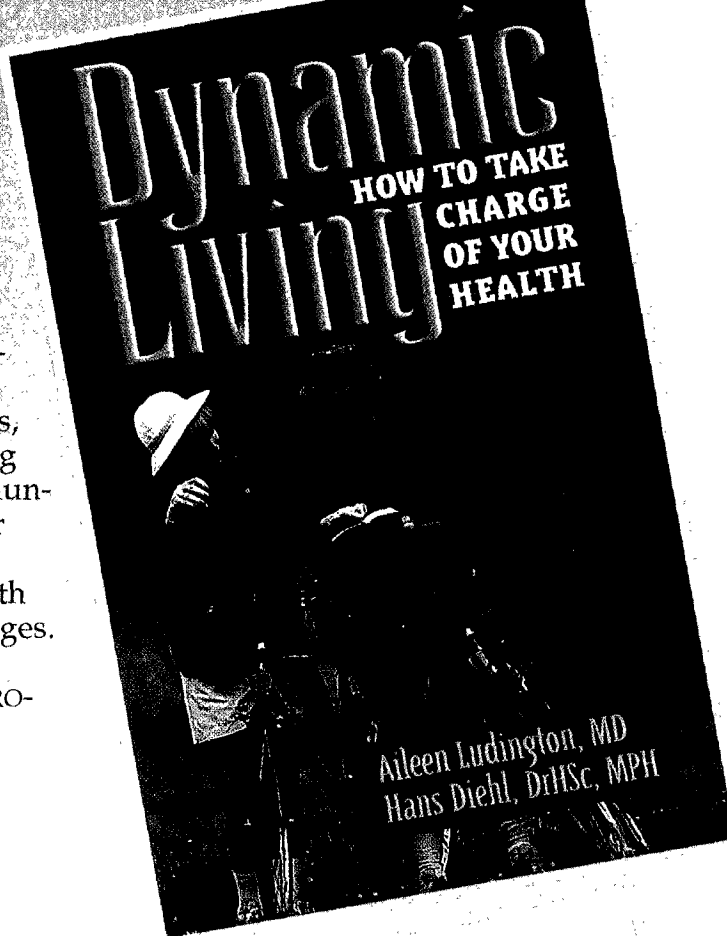
## Dynamic Living

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR HEALTH!

Drs. Aileen Ludington and Hans Diehl provide cutting-edge information on nutrition; reversing and normalizing health conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart disease; losing weight without going hungry; and more. Ideal for personal use and for pastors to conduct health seminars. Paper, 208 pages. Regularly US\$9.95, Cdn\$14.45. SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER US\$8.95, Cdn\$13.00 (expires 8-31-95).

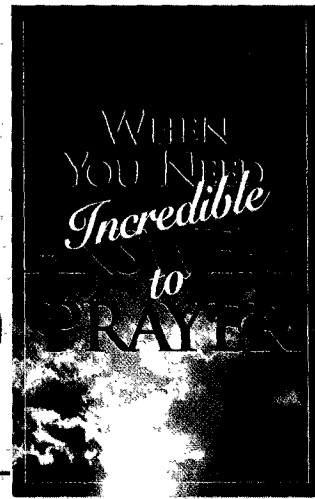
## Dynamic Living Workbook

Paper, 112 pages. US\$5.95, Cdn\$8.65.



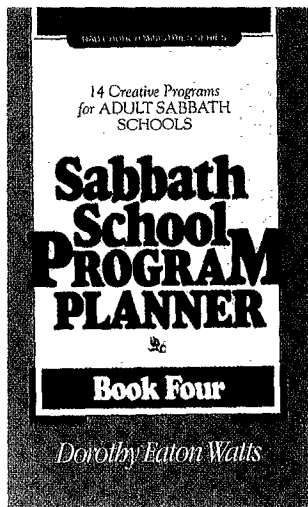
## When You Need Incredible Answers to Prayer

Roger Morneau addresses people's frequently expressed concerns and requests for intercessory prayer, and shares thrilling stories of God's intervention. Paper, 128 pages. US\$7.95, Cdn\$11.55.



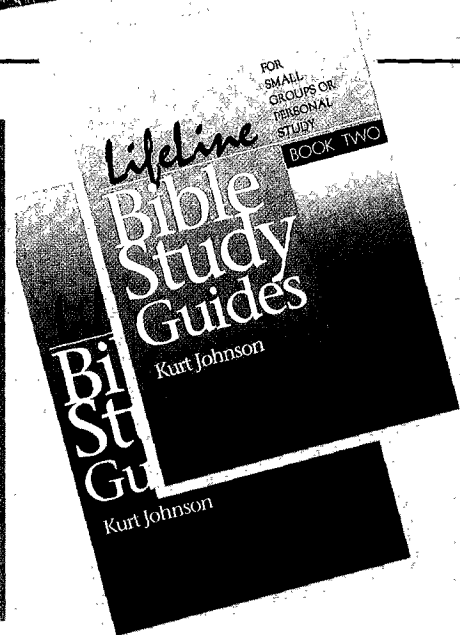
## Children's Stories and Object Lessons

Here are 59 true character-building stories and object lessons for children. Plus tips on how to become a first-rate storyteller. Pastors, teachers, children's ministries leaders, or church members called upon to give the children's story will find this book a valuable resource for leading children to Jesus. By Marvin Hunt. Paper, 160 pages. US\$10.95, Cdn\$15.90.



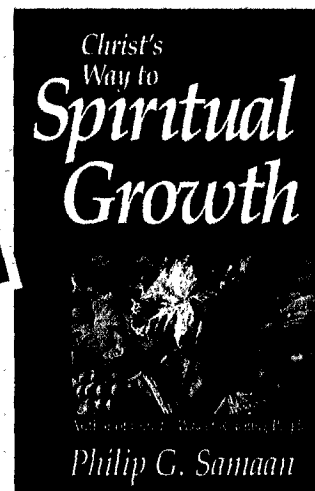
## Sabbath School Program Planner, Book 4

Dorothy Eaton Watts provides 14 new programs for adult Sabbath schools complete with scripts. Includes interviews, mini-seminars, modern parables, quiz programs, scripted panels, skits, and travelogues. Paper, 110 pages. US\$7.95, Cdn\$11.55.



## LifeLine Bible Study Guide, Books 1 and 2

This easy-to-use format for studying the key doctrines of the Bible can be used for either small group or personal study. By Kurt Johnson. Paper, 80 pages each. US\$3.99, Cdn\$5.80 each.



## Christ's Way to Spiritual Growth

Philip C. Samaan explores what the Bible and Ellen White reveal about how Christ grew spiritually and shows how we can follow His example. Paper, 254 pages. Regularly US\$12.95, Cdn\$18.80. SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER US\$10.95, Cdn\$15.90 (expires 8-31-95)



These Review and Herald books are available at your local Adventist Book Center. Call 1-800-765-6955.

Canadian prices do not include GST and may vary according to currency fluctuation.