
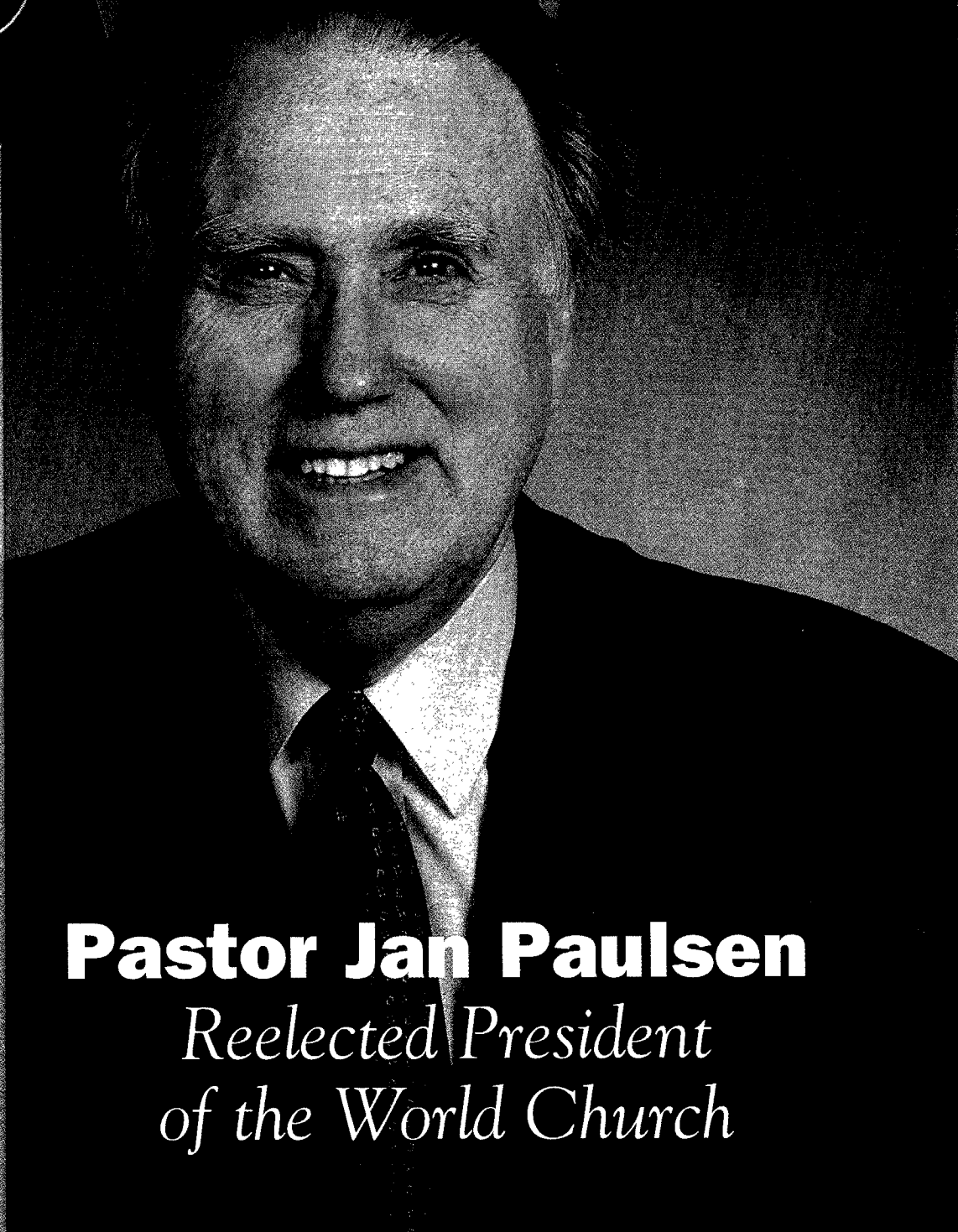


ADVENTIST REVIEW

July 2, 2000



**GC BULLETIN
TWO**

The Day in Toronto (Friday)
2

Conversation With Jan Paulsen
4

Secretary's Report
6

Devotional
9

Treasurer's Report
13

Trans-European
Division Report
16

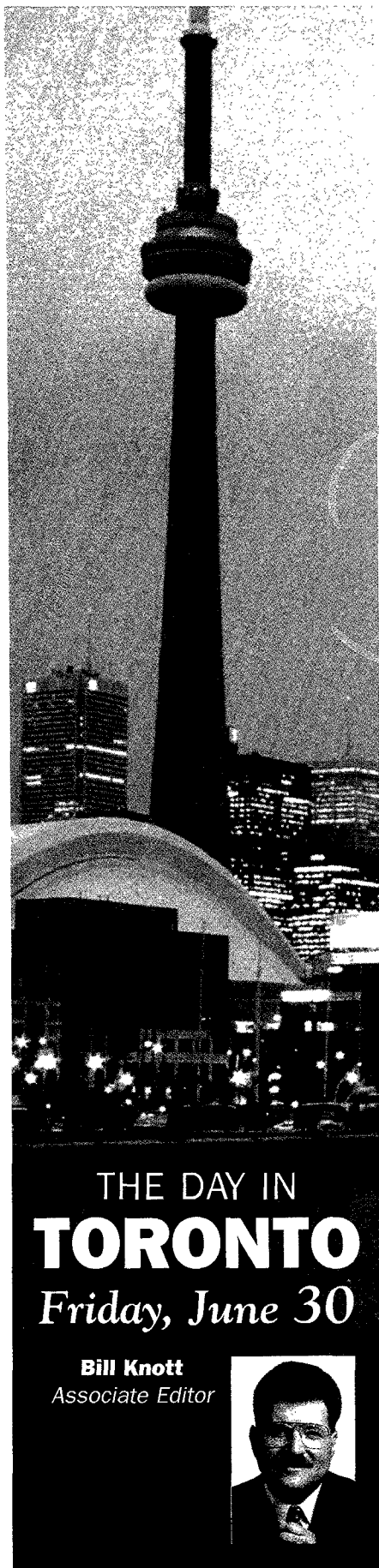
Proceedings
19

The Day in Toronto (Sabbath)
24

North American
Division Report
26

Nominating Committee Reports
31

Pastor Jan Paulsen
*Reelected President
of the World Church*



Paulsen Elected to Five-Year Term

Delegates to the church's 57th world session today unanimously elected Pastor Jan Paulsen to a full five-year term as president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Paulsen, 65, was first elected president of the 11.3 million-member denomina-

tion at a special session of the church's Executive Committee in March 1999, when Robert S. Folkenberg resigned from office. Paulsen had served as a general vice president of the General Conference since 1995, and before that as a pastor, missionary, seminary teacher and administrator. He is only the second non-North American to serve in the church's highest leadership position since the denomination was organized by 20 American delegates in Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1863.

The president and his wife, Kari, acknowledged the standing ovation from the delegates and guests after the nominating committee report that recommended his election was voted by the assembly.

"It is both a privilege and a honor to serve the church, to serve our Lord," Paulsen said quietly. "He is the One who calls us and He is the One who sustains. Were it not for that conviction, I think I would run a long ways away. But I know



JOEL D. SPRINGER

THE MOMENT: Jan Paulsen and his wife, Kari, just after the unanimous vote that returned him to office.

THE DAY IN
TORONTO
Friday, June 30

Bill Knott
Associate Editor



that the Lord needs His people.”

“I am reassured by the long-held conviction, which Kari and I share, that when His church, when His people come together, the Lord is uniquely present at that occasion, and He gives guidance to us. So I will accept that the will that you have expressed reflects also His will, and I will do my best—we will do our best—to serve the church.”

Paulsen also appealed for the prayer support of those he was elected to lead. “There are probably few things that mean more to me than when somebody walks up to me and tells me, ‘I pray for your wife and I pray for you,’” he added.

The midday vote by the 2000 official delegates attending the world meeting came less than 24 hours after the opening of the General Conference session and barely 12 hours after Paulsen’s keynote presidential report on Thursday night. His multimedia report colorfully highlighted the rapid growth and development of the Adventist Church. More than 40 percent of the worldwide membership has been baptized during the last five years.

“The Seventh-day Adventist Church family around the world is larger, stronger, and more diversified in mission than at any time in our history,” Paulsen told the Thursday night crowd of more than 15,000 in the Toronto SkyDome. “Everything that our church is, has, and does, finds its meaning in mission.” Paulsen specially highlighted the international work of Global Mission and ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency), which he called “instruments of hope.” “Both have stimulated thousands of young people, students, and professionals to give of their time, talents, and energies, virtually free, just to help and be part of Christ’s ministry to those in need,” Paulsen said.

The president’s report was the centerpiece of a full evening of special events, including greetings from mayor of Toronto, Mel Lastman, who presented Paulsen and Adventist Church in Canada president Orville Parchment with ceremonial keys to the city, and

from Ontario lieutenant governor Hillary Weston. A new Canadian postal stamp honoring the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its 57th General Conference session was unveiled at the Thursday night session by the Canada Post general manager, who spoke glowingly of the church’s many contributions to Canadian life. Paulsen also helped to unveil a new multipart bronze sculpture, “The King Is Coming,” by Colorado sculptor Victor Issa. The sculpture will be permanently displayed after the General Conference session in the church’s Maryland world headquarters.

Highlights of the first 24 hours of the session included musical performances by the Oakwood College Aeolians, a choral ensemble from Huntsville, Alabama, and devotional presentations on the session theme, “Almost Home,” from Peter Roennfeldt, ministerial director of the Trans-European Division, and Heather Tredoux, director of the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence School for the Southern Africa Union. A Friday morning summary of the church’s work presented by General Conference secretary G. Ralph Thompson was followed by impressive growth statistics from Bert Haloviak, director of the church’s Archives and Statistics Department. According to Haloviak, the church is adding 500,000 new members every 231 days.

On Friday afternoon delegates also elected Matthew Bediako as General Conference secretary. Bediako, a general vice president since 1995, is the first West African to hold the second-ranking administrative position in the church. General Conference treasurer Robert Rawson was reelected to another five-year term. A full report about these two officers will be included in *Bulletin* 3.

The Norwegian-born Paulsen is the first leader of the world church to hold an earned doctorate, and worked for 18 years in the church’s educational system after beginning church service as a pastor in his homeland. He and his family served six years at Adventist schools in Ghana and Nigeria in the 1960s before returning to northern Europe. From

1968-1980 Paulsen was a teacher and president at Newbold College, an Adventist college located 30 miles west of London.

From 1980 to 1995 Paulsen served as secretary and then president of the Trans-European Division (TED), one of the church’s most diverse administrative units. Thirty-seven countries are represented in this far-flung division, including the British Isles, Scandinavia, much of Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Pakistan. Paulsen’s experience as an administrator in this region is frequently cited by fellow leaders as important preparation for the complex role of directing the church’s worldwide efforts.

“I think it’s a very good choice,” said Bertil Wiklander, who followed Paulsen as president of the TED. “Elder Paulsen is a deeply spiritual man who knows where he’s going. He has excellent gifts in leadership, and he’s a good role model for all leaders in the church.”

Northern Asia-Pacific Division president P. D. Chun was equally positive about Paulsen’s election. “I anticipated it from last year,” Chun offered. “He has a rich background in administration and mission experience. I’m confident that he will lead our church effectively into the new millennium.”

“I’m impressed that he’s a committed Christian man,” said Patricia Stock, a NAD delegate. Priscilla Handia-Ben of the Eastern Africa Division concurs: “His love for his church, his humility, makes me very happy.”

“As an educator he has refocused the Christ-centeredness of our educational system,” said Don Leo Garilva, a pastor in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. “He has a very good grasp of the work.”

Padmaraj Daniel, associate ministerial director of the Southern Asia Division, summed up the reaction of many to Paulsen’s election: “We had only one desire—that Paulsen come back.”

“I’m absolutely delighted,” added Naomi Yamashiro, a lay delegate from the North American Division. “I can’t think of anything better that could have happened.”

A Conversation With Jan Paulsen

BY WILLIAM G. JOHANSSON

Just hours after election as General Conference president, Pastor Jan Paulsen paused to share his vision for the world Adventist Church. I asked for 10 minutes; he gave me 18—and rushed back to urgent business. Excerpts:

The state of the church:

Our church at this time, as we go into this new millennium, is in a very rapid growth phase. That growth is not just simply a mechanical thing in the sense that somehow this is what we got into. My reading of the church is that it is extremely focused on witness, on evangelism, on making sure that we are going about the business of the church.

On the challenges facing the church:

As we look forward, growth brings its own challenge. It's an enormous blessing. I mean this is why we are here. And yet it presents a major challenge as the church has to be very deliberate in its plans and that has to do with the church as it develops being able to stay together. Making sure that growth does not become a growth into fragmentation but a growth that is simultaneously a strengthening of all the elements that bind us together. So growth, the miracle, must be accompanied by corresponding attention to all the elements that hold us together.

I also see as a major challenge a need for the church to develop leadership that can give guidance, that can give direction and can be the church. Now these things don't come about of themselves. They have to do with pastor leadership, elected leadership, and also the kind of leadership that must emerge from the laity of the church, so that they can have ownership and give direction to the life of the church.

We've been accustomed to experi-

enced hands doing it all. Yet as we go back to our earliest beginnings, they were very young men and women who began this movement. Today in many many countries, 70-75 percent of our membership are less than 35 years of age. Clearly these people are not the leadership in waiting, they are the ones who must take a creative part in the life of the church today. I see this as a challenge but also as an opportunity.

On public perception of Adventists:

If the Lord tarries and we meet again for the next General Conference session [in St. Louis, Missouri], I would like the public to see us as a very integrated church. I would like whatever diversity there is to be seen by the public as being the wonderful life of the church. Therefore I would like for the press in 2005 to be able to acknowledge with a special note the strong internationality of the church. And even as we care for our evange-

lists and our witnessing ministry, I would like for our church to always be seen by the public as a church that has a huge interest in the quality of life, for the community.

Here in Toronto we have had good exposure to the press. One interviewer paid particular attention to our health emphasis—healthful diet, nondependency on smoking, alcohol, and drugs, and how much that means to people. I would like that to be something that the public can look to and see strongly, that this is a community that has real spiritual values and is very firmly based on Word, and that we care about what happens.

And I hope that we increasingly can be seen as a community that acknowledges the value and strength of women and children in our church.

How his life has changed:

Maybe I was becoming too placid, becoming too relaxed before that [his election as world president 16 months ago]. It's very full and very busy. I have to say I observed with a certain sense of wonder how the Lord would use me. I am not as young as I used to be and yet I find within myself an enormous amount of energy and a sort of desire for the opportunities that the Lord has opened. So it's a very busy, very hectic life.



JUST ONE MORE THING: Nominating committee chair, Niels-Erik Andreasen (left), and vice chair, Jere Patzer, confer with president-elect Paulsen.

ALLEN J. HO

I ask myself: What is best? What is the church expecting of me? What can I do? How can I help? What can I do to make the life of the church stronger and more creative? I believe that God expects this church to be creative. With any church that has firm beliefs with specific parameters of conduct and faith and so forth, the danger is that they become confined within themselves so that they cannot think creatively. Without sacrificing the things that we have strong convictions for, we have to be creative, and this is a demand for all of us; it's a discipline.

On personal renewal:

Renewal for me isn't so much a piece of geography. No recipe is given in a book or piece of exercise. I find renewal with my wife, colleagues, and friends—often in a nonstructured, relaxed fashion to ask questions about what are the possibilities.

How he would like to be remembered:

I have to be honest—I haven't reflected on this. I think it would be fair to say that as the years have passed I have gone through certain changes. There was a time when I spent my whole life in an academic environment. I found it very fulfilling, and it defined my being. From that particular perspective, there were days when I felt that the church was inept at doing what it should. Now I find—and maybe it's because I'm so much at the heart of the church now—that I feel more passionate for the church. I don't think I've ever felt more passionate for the church than I have during these last few years. I want the church to succeed. I want the church to look good, and I believe the Lord expects that. So it matters a lot how the church thinks. I think if the church gets a bloody eye somewhere, it reflects badly on the Lord. I want the church to look good.

On his relationship to Kari [Mrs. Paulsen]:

I'm truly blessed in having a wife who has strong convictions and who

will challenge me, who will tell me what she thinks is good for the church. But she's part of the church, a very strong component in the church, and she is for me a very good barometer of the pulse of the church. And that is invaluable to me. The question she asks most often when I'm dealing with any issue is "How do you know?"

Sometimes my feeble answer is it is hard enough to know what I know, let alone to know how I know. But questions of that kind are good.

Kari and I have always been open, always been able to communicate.

(*believe.*)

...IN GOD.

...IN GOD'S PLANS.

...IN YOUR DREAMS.

...IN YOURSELF.

....IN A PLACE WHERE
ALL THESE COME
TOGETHER.



CANADIAN
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE

Booths 832 & 834

1 800/661.8129 · <http://cauc.ab.ca> · admissions@cauc.ab.ca

[To find out more about our certificate, diploma and fully accredited bachelor's degree (three- and four-year) programs for an annual tuition, room, and food charge of approximately US\$8,800, please stop by our booths or contact us by phone or e-mail.]

Occupy Till I Come

Presented Friday morning, June 30, 2000

Every night throughout this session you will be hearing marvelous, wonderful, and thrilling reports from each of the world's divisions, and also from our attached union of Southern Africa. These presentations will make your Adventist hearts beat a little faster. You will also find print versions of these reports in the *Bulletins* of the session, which the *Adventist Review* prepares each day, as well as reports prepared by each of the General Conference departments, services, and institutions. [In his public presentation Elder



G. Ralph Thompson
Secretary

Thompson gave a synopsis, not included here, of these various reports.]

No longer can we as a church think regionally or geographically; we must move beyond to think culture and language when planning our evangelism initiatives. With the satellite technology now available to us as a church, we need to unite together, boldly planning and cooperating with hands reaching across the oceans and divisions to finish our mission. Adventist Global Communication Network (AGCN) is the TV broadcast service of the world Seventh-day Adventist Church.

With nearly 10,000 churches worldwide in the AGCN network, and nearly 200,000 baptisms in the past two years through the ministry of satellite evangelism, the use of this technology has been led and blessed by God. AGCN broadcasts reach 20 percent of our current worldwide church membership. From the 12 members in Karratha in northwest Australia, to the outdoor downlink in Dwambo in the

extremely remote mountainous regions of Tanzania, where the villagers hike hours to view a satellite program, to the villages in Romania where the satellite antennas are the "steeple" on the Adventist churches, AGCN broadcasts have brought a new sense of identity and unity to our diverse membership worldwide.

This unity will be felt as never before in the worldwide broadcast of the General Conference session. With a daily three-hour broadcast of reports, interviews, and the featured evening mission program, and seven hours of live Sabbath programming, in more than 30 languages, AGCN will be a part of this communication revolution through satellite technology.

The last week of May 2000 marked another first for the Adventist Church in satellite evangelism. With the participation of six divisions, three programs are being simultaneously conducted and broadcast. God is abundantly blessing the ministry of the AGCN network, and developments indicate further expansion in the near future.

Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI)

During the past five years Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) has been involved as an organization in at least 75 countries of the world.

ASI is a significant partner with It Is Written, both financially and through involvement in evangelistic meetings. ASI has impacted many more countries than simply the 10

countries where the meetings have been or will be conducted, because the uplink broadcasts have reached far beyond the target cities.

In 1999 the Picture Roll project assisted laypersons in developing countries and will continue to impact evangelism in scores of countries around the world.

The various supporting ministries that are members of ASI continue to lead souls to God's kingdom every day. Maranatha Volunteers International builds churches, schools, and health clinics around the world, so that new converts will have places to worship, schools to attend, and clinics in which to receive treatment.

Light Bearers Ministry has provided more than 150 million pieces of literature for use in evangelism in developing countries.

During April and May of 2000, Outpost Centers, Inc., as well as several other supporting ministries, conducted 154 simultaneous evangelistic series in the country of Honduras. Two years earlier ASI, in partnership with Light Bearers Ministry, sent 4 million pieces of literature to Honduras. Even before the evangelistic meetings started, it was reported that 6,000 were baptized as a result of the use of this literature.

Other support for evangelism ranges from church buildings and a seminary in Cuba to evangelistic meetings in India, to an airplane in Papua New Guinea, to a printing press in Poland, to hospital refurbishing in Ethiopia and Guyana, to education and an evangelistic center in Central America, to evangelism on the World Wide Web, and to the Shalom Learning Center in Florida.

ASI and its member organizations are committed to the empowering of

laypersons to make Christ's ministry their priority.

Institute of World Mission

For nearly 35 years the Institute of World Mission has been the missionary training arm of the church, providing orientation and preparation for outgoing missionaries. During the past quinquennium the tradition has not only continued but various new aspects of missionary training have been added.

Since June 1995, 22 Mission institutes were conducted by the staff of the Institute, training more than 450 missionaries. In addition to those held at Andrews University and Loma Linda University each year, in 1996 the institute added direct supervision of the European institute each summer with its alternating locations at Newbold College in England and Saleve Adventist University in Collonges, France.

Beginning in 1999, following the Annual Council vote in Brazil, the Mission Institute was made available to the world field, to all missionaries from every country going out to serve as interdivision employees. In addition to the traditional locations, Mission Institutes have recently been held in Kenya, the Philippines, and Mexico. The attendees at these institutes have reflected the truly international nature of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the twenty-first century.

In 1999 alone missionaries came from nearly 30 countries and served in more than 40 different countries. This marks the beginning of the fulfillment of a dream that missionaries would go from everywhere to everywhere, a dream that will reach its complete fulfillment only when every country in which there are committed Seventh-day Adventists becomes a sending country for cross-cultural mission-

aries. This dream is a challenge for the next five years.

In addition to missionary preparation, the institute recently added reentry seminars to help those returning to their home countries to be better equipped to adjust. Special emphasis has been given to the needs of returning missionary children, who frequently must adjust as young adults to a home country that they have never known or lived in.

During this quinquennium the institute developed and published a training manual and video for missionaries, especially for student missionaries and other short-term volunteers. This set, *Passport to Mission*, is now available worldwide to help strengthen the volunteer outreach of the church.

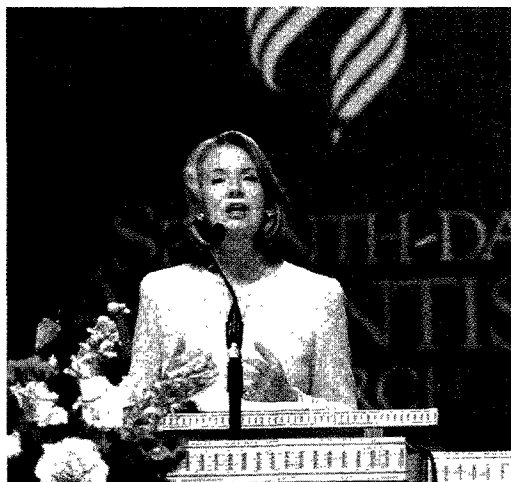
As the institute examined its mandate for the new millennium, it renewed its commitment to provide meaningful and pertinent experiences and information to outgoing missionaries. It gives regular emphasis to current issues and to the changing world scene, and in particular to the challenges of preparing missionaries to work in the yet unreached areas of our world, specifically the 10/40 window.

The institute participates closely with the Global Mission study centers and Global Mission Issues Committee, which are working to help the church understand and develop methods for reaching the Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, urban, and secular worlds.

In the past five years there has been a new focus on tentmaking ministry as a vital part of the ministry of the Institute of World Mission, especially in the challenging areas the church faces as we follow Jesus' command to go not only to every nation but also to every kindred, tongue, and people. This ministry, called Global Partnerships, is an important part of the institute, and has provided hands-on training to nearly 60 people working in various capacities in many restricted access countries scattered throughout the 10/40 window.

In 1996 a Global Research Center was established at the institute for the purpose of studying the church's statistical data in order to learn more about patterns of growth and decline. The statistical information has now been entered into the computer and is available on the Web for church leaders to study as they seek to do strategic plan-

Session Snapshots



TIME FOR GREETING: A representative of Her Majesty the Queen, Lieutenant Governor Hillary M. Weston expressed delight that the Seventh-day Adventist Church had chosen Toronto for their meeting. Toronto mayor Mel Lartman greeted delegates as belonging to "a church without barriers." "Your children are a credit to you," he said. "There aren't any problems with the Seventh-day Adventists. You are terrific." The keys to the city of Toronto were presented to General Conference president Jan Paulsen and to Orville Parchment, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

ning for finishing the work in their areas of the world church.

Interdivision Employees Report

Current interdivision employees from North America as of December 31, 1999, number 533. Current interdivision employees from divisions other than North America as of December 31, 1999, number 554.

Interdivision personnel departures for the years 1995 to 1999 totaled 8,973.

In 1995 interdivision employees totaled 1,209; in 1996, 1,194; in 1997, 1,183; in 1998, 1,071; and in 1999, 1,108.

Volunteers sent out from North America in 1995 were 557, including both Adventist Volunteer Service and Adventist Youth Service. In 1996 the total was 486; in 1997, 289; in 1998, 392; and in 1999, 375.

Adventist volunteers sent out from other divisions, including North America, in 1995 were 961; in 1996, 1,126; in 1997, 889; in 1998, 1,033; in 1999, 1,355.

World Church Interesting Facts and Figures

Accessions through baptism and profession of faith in 1995 totaled 659,899; in 1996, 719,679; in 1997, 744,798; in 1998, 818,754; and in 1999, 1,090,848. This represents the highest total ever recorded of accessions for one year in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Let us break these figures down into more interesting detail. In 1995, per day 1,807 people joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church; in 1996, 1,971 every day; in 1997, 2,040; in 1998, 2,243; and in 1999, 2,989.

Let us break that down further. In 1995 every hour 76 people joined the church. In 1996 the number rose to 83; in 1997, 85; in 1998, 94; and in 1999, 125.

Now let us look at that even further. In 1995, 1.26 people joined per minute. In 1996, 1.37 per minute. In 1997, 1.42 per minute. In 1998, 1.56 per minute. And in 1999, 2.08 per minute.

In seconds, the numbers were: in 1995, every 47.8 seconds one person joined this church; in 1996, every 43.8 seconds; in 1997, every 42.3 seconds; in 1998, every 38.5 seconds; and in 1999, every 28.9 seconds.

Let us look at our accession percentage rate. In 1995, the rate was 7.87 percent; in 1996, it was 8.17 percent; in 1997, 8.01 percent; in 1998, 8.44 percent; and in 1999, 10.73 percent.

In 1995 every 6.2 hours a new Seventh-day Adventist church was organized. In 1996, every 4.33 hours; in 1997, every 8.35 hours; in 1998, every 5.42 hours; and in 1999, every 4.73.

So what was our growth rate percentage? In 1995, it was 5.13 percent. In 1996, 5.49 percent. In 1997, 4.38 percent. In 1998, 4.75 percent. In 1999, 7.63 percent rate of growth.

Some people ask how are we doing against the population explosion rate. It will interest you to know that in 1995 there was one Seventh-day Adventist for every 647 people in the world. In 1996, one for every 621 persons in the world. In 1997, one for every 602 persons in the world. In 1998, one for every 583 persons in the world. In 1999, one Seventh-day Adventist for every 551 persons in the world.

So under God, we are not doing too badly against the population explosion. Our world membership has now passed the 11 million mark, increasing from the 10,939,182 figure as of December 31, 1999.

The 10/40 Window—Global Mission

Now that we have seen the blessings of God upon His church and the tremendous progress made in the past quinquennium, can we say the work is finished, that there is not much more to be done? No, my friends, a thousand times no!

You will be hearing during this session and in the coming quinquennium much said about what missiologists call the 10/40 window. This 10/40 window is the territory that extends from 10 to 40 degrees north of the equator, and sweeps from North Africa through to China, Japan, and all of non-Christian Asia. Three billion people live in this

10/40 window, the majority of whom have never heard the name of Christ. Nine out of 10 countries with the largest non-Christian populations are in this window. This area is home to the three largest non-Christian religions—Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism.

This means that, as a church, we will have to adopt a new vision of outreach. We have a message for every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, so this includes a new vision with new methods in our outreach to those who live in the 10/40 window.

The approaches used in the Western world that have been very successful cannot be used in this particular area of the world. We will have to learn a new approach to witness to non-Christian peoples who have never even heard about Jesus Christ and who look upon Christians with contempt. All of this will call for new patience. It will be a slow, hard, and at times disappointing approach. We will not be able to count converts by the thousands in a few weeks of conventional evangelism. But under God we have got to find a way—a new way, perhaps—to reach them with the gospel of Jesus Christ. And by His Spirit, we shall.

The goal that we are aiming at for the next quinquennium and beyond is to establish 1,040 new congregations in the 10/40 window. What a challenge! It will take unparalleled dedication and devotion to the task—but the Spirit is willing and the Spirit is able—and it will call for a new dependence on God.

Therefore, I call upon us for a new dedication of time and talent and treasure and life, that while we keep on preaching and witnessing in these areas that have brought great success, we must with new zeal and vigor dedicate ourselves to the areas where 60 percent of the world population lives, but where less than 18 percent call Jesus Christ Saviour and Lord. The challenge is yours. The challenge is mine. God grant that the line will not break where we stand. God bless you.

A Fork in the Road

Devotional message presented Friday morning, June 30, 2000

I work at the Bible correspondence school in Cape Town, where we have more than 20,000 students on our mailing list who study our courses in 10 languages. Recently I received a letter from a prisoner-student marked "strictly confidential." As I read the letter I understood that the student was very ashamed of being in prison and of what he had done to be there. It reminded me of our first parents, who, after they had made their choice to be disobedient, suddenly felt exposed and embarrassed. The very air of the garden seemed uncomfortably chilly (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 57).

"And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:15-17). The sign at the fork in the road was clear: this way leads to happiness and life, the other to heartache and death.

But Adam and Eve made the wrong choice. The serpent planted doubt and disbelief in Eve's mind. She coveted that which was not hers, and then took it. She became an instrument in the certain death of her husband, and she placed Satan before God (Ex. 20:17, 15, 13, 3). Adam's choice was more tragic because he was not deceived (1 Tim. 2:14); his was a deliberate choice (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, p. 231).

In his letter on my desk the prisoner asked me "What is sin?" and tended to blame others for his isolation and loneliness. Just so, Adam blamed Eve and God, saying: "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat" (Gen. 3:12). Eve blamed the serpent: "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat" (verse 13). Yet they



Heather Tredoux
Voice of Prophecy
Director, Southern
Africa Union

had both deliberately chosen to forfeit the approval of God (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 51), just as the prisoner had chosen to break the law of the country.

We might also be tempted to blame God. We might ask, "Just because Adam was a moron and made an awful choice, why do I need to suffer?" Or we might blame others for any predicament in which we find ourselves, perhaps through a wrong choice we ourselves have made. What choices do we have?

"What is sin?" the prisoner asked me. In my days in high school at Helderberg in South Africa I memorized 1 John 3:4, which reads: "Sin is the transgression of the law." Indeed this is true, but since then I have learned that there are many other dimensions of sin mentioned in

God's Word. Sin is more than outward behavior. In essence the greatest sin is rejection of Jesus and the Holy Spirit (John 16:9; 3:36; Heb. 10:29-31; Matt. 12:31).

I like Roy Adams' chapter 6, entitled "What Is Sin?" in his book *The Nature of Christ*, where he points us to Psalm 32, one of David's great penitential prayers. David passionately bared his soul before his great Redeemer, and the vocabulary he used has helped us to understand the universal predicament we call sin. He says: "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile" (verses 1, 2).

Let us look briefly at the four words David used here:

Transgression means rebellion, departure from God, willful disobedience.

Sin refers to "sin from the point of view of missing the mark, failing to do one's duty."

Iniquity means "moral distortion, crookedness, guilt." It refers to an inner state that is perverse and twisted.*

Session Snapshot



ALDEN J. HO

RECORDING ARTIST: Many visitors and delegates use their video cameras to record the music and the message each evening.

Guile signifies deceit, falsehood, duplicity.

Are any of us here guilty of transgression, of rebellion or departure from God? What about sin from the point of view of missing the mark, of not giving that word of encouragement when we could have done so? Iniquity is the sin that lies deep beneath the surface, perhaps when we choose to let our hormones control us rather than our minds. Jesus spoke of guile and deceit when He addressed the Pharisees and scribes, who believed themselves to be perfect but were like “whited sepulchres” (Matt. 23:27). Thank God for Jesus, who is our “hiding place” (Ps. 32:7). Because of Jesus we can “be glad in the Lord, and rejoice” (verse 11).

The Consequences of Sin

Adam and Eve, feeling exposed and isolated, were also overwhelmed by guilt. They hid themselves from their Friend and Creator. Perhaps they thought that God would forgive them. He did indeed forgive them, but the consequences were still there. Some find it difficult to understand the difference between punishment and consequence. Ian Hartley, in his book *For God's Sake*, explains that punishment is an arbitrary, forced action imposed by another, while consequence is a result of a course of action. Adam and Eve were free to

choose, as was Lucifer. God did not compel. “Rebellion was not to be overcome with force. Compelling power is found only under Satan’s government. . . . [God’s] authority rests on goodness, mercy, and love” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 759). “The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God’s government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded” (*ibid.*, p. 22).

A young person with AIDS came to my office last year and said, “I have asked God to forgive me; why doesn’t He heal me? Is He punishing me?” I tried to explain the difference between punishment and consequences by telling him the story of a group of people who were visiting one of our lion parks in South Africa. There was a large sign on the road at the entrance to the park that stated: “Do not get out of your car!” One of

the group in the car had something to drink that had impaired his judgment just a little. The pride of lions looked so beautiful and relaxed, yawning and lying in the shade of an acacia tree. The person wanted a good picture of this tranquil scene, and he got out of the car and walked a little distance toward the lions. His friends pleaded with him to come back. Instead he walked forward, swaying ever so slightly, camera in hand.

If there is anything that will arouse the hunting instinct in a lion it is to see a creature showing a slight weakness. When the young man noticed a lion ominously twitching her tail, he made a fatal mistake—he began to run toward the car. As he neared the car the young man’s friends opened the rear door closest to him. He threw his camera into the back seat and then hurled himself halfway in. In three bounds the lion had caught up, and with one mighty swipe and grip of her claws she pulled him out.

Were the game park authorities to blame for this young person losing his life? Were they in any way punishing him? When the young man faced the

Session Snapshot



JOEL D. SPRINGER

THE WOMEN AND THE CHILDREN: On the first evening meeting of the session, President Jan Paulsen took time to honor and pay tribute to the women and children of the church, represented by his wife, Kari, for the women and Wesley and Stephanie for the children.

decision whether to get out of the car or not, he was free to choose. The sign on the road was clear. The consequences of his choice were tragic.

Let me tell you about a person who made a wonderful choice: he chose Jesus. His name is Paul Koba. Paul was one of our Bible school students at Helderstroom Prison, about a 1½-hour drive from Cape Town. I became acquainted with him when our Global Mission pioneer, Joel Mgcotyelwa, arranged for 14 of our students to be baptized in a stream near the prison in 1996. Paul became the leader of the Seventh-day Adventist group inside the prison. These prisoners sent their tithe to the Bible school. Twenty cents here, fifty cents there—faithfully sent in whenever a relative gave them money or if they were paid for washing a warden's car or some such casual task. There has been a baptism at this prison every year since 1996, with 31 baptized last year for a total of 87.

Paul Koba was released on parole last year. His wife had left him, and the prison authorities wanted to release him into the custody of his sister. Paul refused, saying that his sister was a shebeen queen, the host and manager of a home in which liquor is brewed and served. Paul made a hard choice; he told the authorities that he would rather remain a captive a few months longer and then be released into the custody of our Global Mission pioneer. Paul has now been released for nine months. He has not yet missed a Sabbath school or church service. He works once a week as a gardener at the Bible school and earns just enough to pay for his meals and accommodation at the night shelter where he lives.

Because Paul Koba was ready to accept the light given to him in the Holy Scripture and its fulfillment in Christ Jesus, he is experiencing the joy and assurance of salvation. Paul, a former captive, has become free in Jesus Christ.

The Only Solution

There is only one solution to the predicament of sin. "He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to

them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:11-13, NKJV).

Because Jesus came to be with us and became human, in Him we can be restored to the kingdom of heaven. He was not only the Son of Adam but also the Son of God. In this way the whole of humanity is free—and they don't know it. It is up to us to tell them.

Recently I visited the Osire refugee camp in Namibia. Some of us from the Bible school had visited the camp in 1996. They had sent a message to the Bible school at that time asking for Portuguese Bibles (Portuguese is spoken by refugees from Angola) and Bible school lessons. We were amazed at the faith and dedication of these people. They could have fallen into despair, but they held on to the hand of God. We found people who did not complain about living in tents in a foreign country where they were not free to move and work. They were not rebellious or critical of their church or anyone else.

They chose to be thankful to God for sparing their lives. They built a church out of gnarled poles set in the ground and branches plaited horizontally through the poles and grass tied in bunches to form the walls. Forked sticks set in the ground carried split poles to form seats. They had a choir, elders, deacons, and other church officers.

They chose not to be mere spectators but players in the field of their church. They wanted Bibles and the Voice of Prophecy Bible lessons so they could share their faith with the other refugees. They wanted to tell them that the Son of man came to seek and save that which was lost. They chose to be

so busy telling others about Jesus that they did not have time for petty squabbles and differences within the church.

The Adventist church at Osire has grown from 80 to 250 baptized members, with 500 attending every Sabbath. The grass church is packed to capacity. The church members proudly showed us a baptismal font that they had built. The inscription "Welcome, New Candidates" is set in small stones in the cement. Four of the

Session Snapshot



ALDEN J. HO

LONG DISTANCES: Between the Skydome, the Exhibition Centre, and other offices, Joyce Christian finds a resting place on a stalled escalator.

young people came to me as I left asking if there was any way that they could become ministers. They wished to share with others that salvation saves us from the consequences of sin.

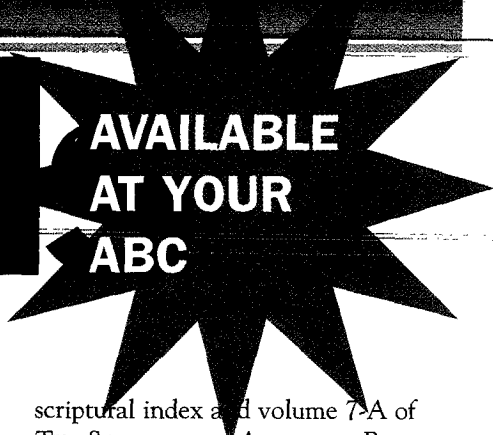
These refugees understood the plan of salvation. They understood that as soon as Adam and Eve sinned, the divine promise of a Redeemer was made (Gen. 3:15), and God took the initiative for our salvation. "Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Cor. 15:21, 22). Like those refugees, we are looking for a city whose builder and maker is God, and together with them we are ALMOST HOME.

* For more information about these words, see *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, pp. 706, 707; *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, vol. R-Z, pp. 361, 362.

General Conference Session

Special

Expire August 31, 2000



AVAILABLE
AT YOUR
ABC

Save US\$115!

THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST BIBLE COMMENTARY AND REFERENCE SERIES volumes 1-12

Includes the new volume 12, *Handbook of Seventh-day Adventist Theology*. 0-8280-1554-6.

Reg. US\$414.99

Can\$622.49.

Sale, US\$299.99

Can\$449.99.



Save US\$140!

THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST BIBLE

COMMENTARY ON CD-ROM FOR WINDOWS 0-8280-1128-1.

Reg. US\$389.99, Can\$584.99.

Sale, US\$199.99, Can\$299.99.

Save US\$45!

JUNIOR DEVOTIONAL SET:

Jumpstart, Go for the Gold, The Official 1993 Devotional Book for Super Kids, Way to Go, and Friends for Keeps.

Reg. US\$54.99, Can\$82.49.

Sale, US\$9.97, Can\$14.97.



Save US\$20!

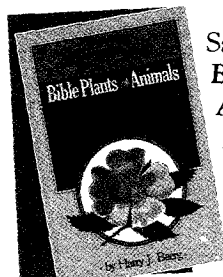
BIBLE PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Illustrations and commentary on every creature and plant in the Bible. 0-8280-1380-2.

Three-volume hardcover set.

Reg. US\$29.99, Can\$44.99.

Sale, US\$9.99, Can\$14.99.



Save US\$30!

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW VIDEOS

Word-for-word from the NIV, this presentation portrays a divine yet warmly human Jesus.

1-889710-00-8. Four-vol. set.

Reg. US\$99.95, Can\$149.95.

Sale, US\$69.95, Can\$104.95.



Save US\$50 on set or US\$11 each!

ELLEN G. WHITE BIOGRAPHY,

VOLS. 1-6. Set: 0-8280-0118-9.

Hardcover.

Reg. US\$99.99, Can\$149.99 set.

Sale, US\$49.99, Can\$74.99 set.

Reg. US\$19.99, Can\$29.99 each.

Sale, US\$8.99, Can\$13.49 each.

Save US\$5!

YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER

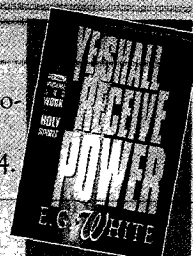
An Ellen White devotional on the Holy Spirit. 0-8280-0972-4.

Hardcover.

Reg. US\$10.99,

Can\$16.49.

Sale, US\$5.99, Can\$8.99.



Save US\$50!

SPIRIT OF PROPHECY LIBRARY

Includes facsimile reproductions of 52 Spirit of Prophecy books plus the

scriptural index and volume 7-A of *THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST BIBLE COMMENTARY*. Three-volume hardcover set.

Reg. US\$149.99, Can\$ 224.99.

Sale, US\$99.99, Can\$149.99.

Save 20% on Spirit of Prophecy books plus these E. G. White CD-ROMS (does not include newsprint items)

THE COMPLETE PUBLISHED ELLEN G. WHITE WRITINGS CD-ROM,

VERSION 3.0 (UPDATE—PC)

Reg. US\$159.99, Can\$239.99.

Sale, US\$127.99, Can\$191.99.

THE ELLEN G. WHITE WRITINGS CD-ROM, VERSION 1.0

(Standard Library Edition)

Reg. US\$59.99, Can\$89.99.

Sale, US\$47.99,

Can\$71.99.

LEGACY OF LIGHT MULTIMEDIA AND INTERACTIVE

CD-ROM

Standard Edition,

Reg. US\$99.99, Can\$149.99.

Sale, US\$79.99, Can\$119.99.

Research Edition,

Reg. US\$199.99, Can\$299.99.

Sale, US\$159.99, Can\$239.99.



Price and availability subject to change. Add GST in Canada.

REVIEW AND HERALD Publishing Association

Visit your local Adventist Book Center. Call 1-800-765-6955 or shop online at www.adventistbookcenter.com.

World Church Finances

Presented Friday afternoon, June 30, 2000

The General Conference Treasury is successful to the degree that it supports and helps implement the mission of the

Seventh-day Adventist Church. At the heart of our mission statement is the goal of proclaiming the three angels' messages to the world, leading people everywhere to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour. In keeping with this mission, we present the treasurer's report.

While there is much progress to report, we give credit where credit is due—to our Lord and Saviour, who has abundantly blessed His people. We place ourselves in His hands daily, and watch His design for His church unfold. When challenges appear great, we remind ourselves that our God owns the cattle on a thousand hills. Nothing is too big for Him.

To summarize the good news of the past five years:

1. Tithe and offerings have increased.
2. The debt of GC institutions has been drastically reduced and in many cases eliminated.
3. A new tithe-sharing plan was adopted, allowing world divisions to share more equally in funding GC operations.

Income Sources

Tithe Funds: Tithe from world divisions to support the world budget averaged \$65,312,331 annually over the past five years. This amount made up 41 percent of total General Conference income.

Nontithe Funds—Offerings: Offerings remitted to the GC from world divisions to support the world budget over

the past five years have averaged \$47,886,543 annually, and have comprised 28 percent of total General Conference income. This category of income represents freewill giving through Sabbath schools as missions, Investment, Thirteenth Sabbath, and thank offerings.



Robert L. Rawson
Treasurer

Two offerings continue to emphasize the church's historical commitment to missions, directly supporting missionaries and mission outreach activities. They are the Annual Week of Sacrifice Offering, now limited to Global Mission, and the Missions Extension Offering, used only for support of overseas missionaries.

Nontithe Funds—Other: Additional nontithe income contributing to the GC World Budget includes: interest, deferred giving maturities, returns from investments, outright gifts, and miscellaneous income. These have averaged \$47,804,640 annually over the past five years, and have made up 31 percent of total General Conference income.

The total GC income from all sources for the past five years was \$805,017,570.

Expenditures

GC Operations: These expenses support the operation of the GC headquarters office, including its departments. The GC aims to supply only those services that provide valuable assistance to divisions, unions, conferences/missions, and churches in fulfilling the gospel commission given to the apostles and this church by Jesus.

A limitation "cap" designed to con-

trol growth at the GC headquarters was established in 1992. Each year the treasurer reports to the GC Executive Committee all operational expenses related to the cap. GC operational expenses have averaged \$21,842,456 annually over the past five years—14 percent of total GC budget expenditures.

Appropriations: Appropriations to world divisions and GC institutions during the past five years totaled \$305,515,006—39 percent of total GC budget expenditures.

Direct appropriations to church divisions over the past five years were \$200,196,557; direct appropriations to GC institutions over the past five years were \$101,251,576.

Interdivision employees: In 1996 a change was made in administration of interdivision employees. The GC assumed responsibility for the funding of such employees. Division appropriations were adjusted to recognize this change. This category of expense forms a significant part of the total. From 1995 to the present the GC facilitated a yearly average of 1,153 missionaries and 2,000 North American volunteers. During the past five years the General Conference spent a total of \$78,326,956 in support of missionaries—10 percent of GC budget expenses.

Litigation

The imperfect world in which we live occasionally requires involvement in legal proceedings. Whenever possible the church endeavors to avoid recourse to courts of law, and first attempts to settle disputes by using the principles outlined in Scripture. Should this prove impossible, leaving no other course of action by which the church can protect its good name or assets or otherwise act as a good stew-

ard, legal proceedings may become unavoidable. The cost of outside legal counsel in litigation cases was covered from nontithe sources and totaled \$1,137,632 during the past five years.

Indebtedness

We are pleased to report significant progress in reducing and where possible eliminating debt by all church organizations, especially GC institutions. GC institutions that have virtually eliminated external debt within the past five years are: Andrews University, Christian Record Services, Oakwood College, and Loma Linda University. Pacific Press Publishing Association has been debt-free since 1994. The Review and Herald Publishing Association will in essence pay off its remaining debt early in the year 2001. The only GC institution having external debt with extended amortization is Loma Linda University Medical Center, and attention is being given, with some success, to reducing this debt load.

Tithe Sharing

The GC Executive Committee met on April 19, 2000, and in a historic decision dramatically revised the funding formula for sharing expenses of the worldwide church.

The new plan, scheduled to be phased in over a five-year period, provides that each division share equitably to fund GC headquarters operations. Committee members voted that each world division of the church will send 2 percent of tithe for this purpose, thus creating the first equal financing plan in the denomination's 137-year history.

The previous funding formula required divisions outside North America to contribute 1 percent of tithe, while North America contributed nearly 11 percent of its tithe funds. Under the new plan, in addition

to the 2 percent for support of headquarters operations, the North American Division (NAD) will contribute another 6 percent of tithe to support world missions and also in recognition of the benefits of having the GC headquarters office and several GC institutions located in its territory.

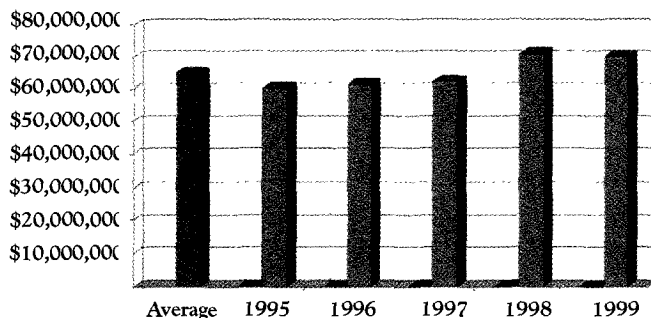
When the plan is fully phased in, North American tithe contributions to the GC will decrease by approximately \$16 million—about the equivalent of the annual tithe for one NAD midsize local conference. When fully implemented, the doubling of the tithe com-

and offerings. The purpose of the GC Treasury is to manage God's funds carefully. I thank God for His generous people, and also for a group of colleagues who make possible the faithful management of the financial blessings God has so richly bestowed.

The GC Treasury staff are a dedicated, faithful group of people who demonstrate their commitment to the church but are seldom recognized for the long hours and the cheerfulness with which they deal with complex issues and myriad detail.

I think of Lynn Rose, who receipts donations. Many here may have received a helpful Bible text in answer to a question, a note of encouragement, or an assurance of prayer on your behalf along with a donation receipt. Jerry Jennings retired after nearly 30 years of working with the investment team that manages the stock and bond portfolios of the church. Even in his retirement he still reports to the office every day. Carole Colburn in her quiet

Tithe Sent to the General Conference, 1995-1999
Total: \$326,561,655



mitment from the other 11 divisions is expected to contribute an additional \$4 million annually. The net reduction of approximately \$12 million in tithe to the GC is expected to be largely offset by a projected steady tithe growth for the world church of approximately 3 percent annually over the next five years.

General Conference Institutions and Missions

We expect that every organization connected with the church will contribute to the mission of this church. In reviewing the GC and its related entities (institutions, departments, and services), we believe this is happening.

In Tribute

God has blessed our members. Millions have responded faithfully to God's call to worship Him in tithes

way has supported countless missionary families, dealing with complex personal questions of families who work far from home and in cultures different from their own, and who often need an encouraging word. Linda Alinsod deals with a myriad of detail related to the international accounting of the church. Linda recently spent six weeks in Russia, assisting in the resolution of a number of complex issues.

These few people represent all the dedicated members of the GC Treasury team. Because of God's blessings and the support and professionalism of this group of people, this report has been possible.

Conclusion

All credit for our progress in the past five years belongs to the Lord. He allows us to be stewards by providing for our needs. He convicts hearts to respond to

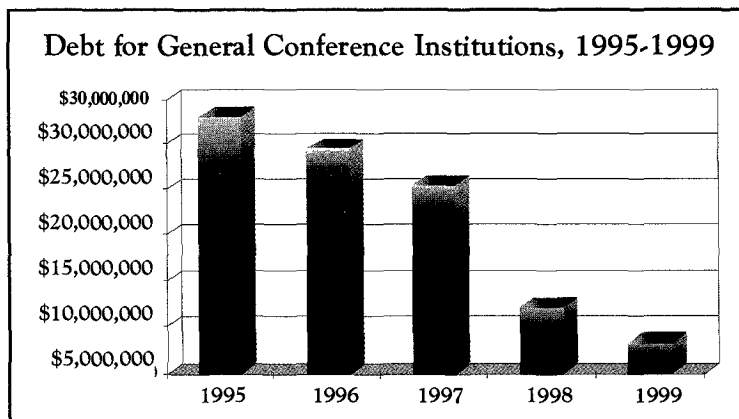
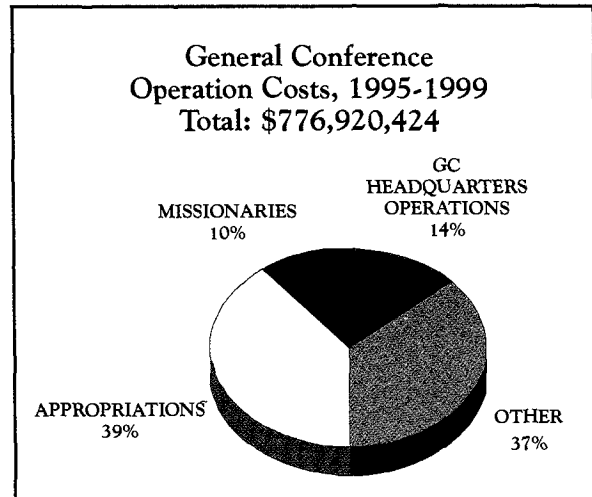
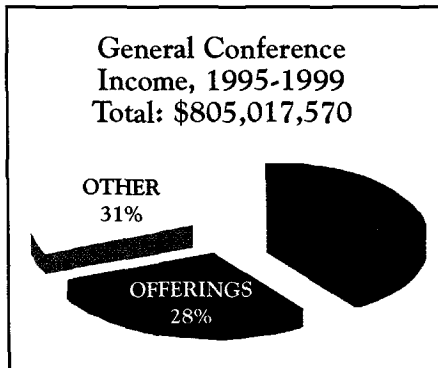
human needs in times of great physical or spiritual distress. He opens the way by which we can share the wonderful news of a soon-coming Saviour, offering hope to hopeless people.

The complexities of this world are often beyond human understanding, and we readily recognize our dependence on God and His desire for His church. Miracles of His divine intervention are numerous.

We need not spend time worrying about resources—God always provides. Instead, let us ask whether we are in tune with the direction in which the Lord wishes us to move. Do we share the same vision that the Lord has for us? Is our relationship with the Lord right? God will provide as we step out in faith.

We need to remind ourselves frequently of the words of the prophet of the Lord: "The home missionary work will be farther advanced in every way when a more liberal, self-denying, self-sacrificing spirit is manifested for the prosperity of foreign missions; for the prosperity of the home work depends largely, under God, upon the reflex influence of the evangelical work in countries afar off. It is in working actively to supply the necessities of the cause of God that we bring our souls in touch with the Source of all power" (*Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White*, p. 222).

[The auditor's report of the quinquennial audit of the General Conference was presented to the GC session. A copy of their report is available upon request of the GC treasurer.]



Bibleinfo.com™

1-800-97-BIBLE

Answers to Bible Questions
via the Internet or Telephone

Until the Lost Be Found

Presented Sabbath evening, July 1, 2000

The unique character of the Trans-European Division (TED) is conspicuous. A vast territory with 10 time zones, an unparalleled cultural diversity, and a complex structure of many small church entities, often defined along national boundaries, it is also the smallest world division. With fewer than 90,000 members, the TED faces an enormous mission challenge.

The mission field of the TED spans from Greenland, Iceland, and the Svalbard Islands in the North Atlantic, across more than 20 countries in Western, Northern, Eastern, and Southern Europe, down to Central Africa, where southern Sudan borders Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia, then stretches through 15 countries in the Middle East to Pakistan in the heart of Asia. Forty-one territories comprise the TED; more than 50 different languages are spoken. Standards of living range from the highest in the world, as in Western Europe and Scandinavia, to the lowest in the world, as in the war-torn territories of southern Sudan.

The more than 500 million people living in the mission field of the TED have very different worldviews. At least five major cultural regions emerge:

- 60 percent are Muslims in Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia, the Middle East, northern Sudan, and Pakistan;
- 20 percent live in a former Protestant, post-Christian, and secular culture in the British Isles, Iceland, the Netherlands, and Scandinavia;
- 17 percent live in post-Communist countries in the Baltics, Poland,

Hungary, and in the Balkan Peninsula, most of whom are staunchly Roman Catholic or Orthodox;

- 1 percent live in the Jewish state of Israel;

- an unknown number are affected by indigenous, predominantly animist cultures in South Sudan.

Church leaders in the TED take this challenge very seriously. We are convinced that the gospel of Christ is for all people, that all people have a right to hear it in a manner they can understand, and that our ways of outreach need to change and adapt to various people's modes of

thought. This underlines the crucial importance of keeping the church united in a coordinated mission effort.



Bertil Wiklander
President

Evangelism and Growth

As of December 31, 1999, the number of churches in the TED had increased to 1,263 and the total membership to 87,936. The baptismal goal of adding 20 percent to the membership in 1995-1999 (i.e., 18,000 new members) was in fact exceeded by an actual total of 20,457 baptisms and professions of faith.

Through a membership audit in the Pakistan Union in 1998, the figures for that field were reduced, with 421 "deceased" and 8,341 "missing." Backdating the implications of this administrative measure, the total TED membership has grown from about 82,768 to 87,936, suggesting an actual growth rate of about 6 percent.

This trend could have been further increased had we known the exact membership figures in the fastest growing area of the TED, namely in south-

ern Sudan. Estimates of actual membership in this war-torn part of Africa vary from 6,000 (reported figure) to 10,000. Because of the war and the absence of roads and means of communication, the church is at present unable to maintain contact with the members, many of whom are displaced and some living in refugee camps in Kenya and Uganda. Reports tell us, however, that God is using lay evangelists who move around in the villages teaching the truth. When an ordained minister arrives, he often finds hundreds of people ready for baptism.

Many fields report significant growth. For the first time, the British Union now exceeds 20,000 members, growing from 18,565 to 20,110, and the Middle East Union Mission exceeds 10,000 members, going up from 8,839 to 10,276. Good growth is also reported by the unions in the Balkans, especially the South-East European Union, where despite war, destroyed churches, and many members inevitably emigrating to other countries, membership increased from 7,463 to 8,138. Growth is also evident in the Adriatic, the Baltic, the Polish, and Netherlands unions. After a period of reformation and reorganization in 1996-1998, the Pakistan Union shows an encouraging development, with 767 baptisms in 1999 and notable growth in tithe.

Significant trend shifts have occurred in some of the small attached fields. In Israel, for example, our church had only about 50 members in 1985. Today registered membership is 500, and every Sabbath more than 1,000 Seventh-day Adventists meet for worship in the country. Through a special TED Global Mission "Shalom Project," the division has equipped the Israel Field to meet the challenge of

sharing with the Russian Jews who continue to move from Russia to Israel, resulting in the establishment of Hebrew-speaking Seventh-day Adventist congregations. Similar encouraging developments are under way in Albania, Macedonia, and Greece, where vigorous, mission-

Thus the challenge of Muslim relations, secular outreach, and the needs of the growing church in Eastern Europe are major concerns. Good working relationships have been established with the GC Global Centre for Adventist/Muslim Relations (AMR). An AMR diploma will be offered by

our senior college, Newbold College, to prepare workers and volunteers. A new position as Global Mission coordinator with expertise in Islamics is to be

Ministries and Departments

The church departments are invaluable tools to promote spiritual nurture, leadership, and evangelistic outreach. Only some highlights can be given here.

- The Children's Ministries Department created a greater awareness concerning child sexual abuse and assisted unions in developing guidelines and procedures to prevent such abuse.

- The Communication Department developed an electronic delivery system with news from the field and information on ministries and concepts. It also produced an annual videotape to promote new methods of evangelism.

Media ministries have developed throughout the division, especially in the area of radio work (42 FM radio broadcasts weekly), television, video ministries, Internet ministries, and satellite evangelism. Many positive experiences were reported from the satellite campaigns NET '96 and NET '98, especially in Britain, Finland, Poland, and the Balkan countries.

- The Ministerial Association created a division-wide church-planting strategy through projects such as "Adventist Churches for the Unchurched" in Western secular areas, the "Shalom Project" in Israel, and church-planting field schools across the division. Public evangelism was related to different types of societies in a variety of ways. Ministerial education was developed for pastors without access to residential seminaries, and a system for developing pastors from recruitment to ordination was put in place. The *Elder's Handbook* was translated into major languages, and elders' training was promoted.

- Together with the Hungarian Union and the State Secretariat for



Some of the 41 candidates awaiting baptism in the Nile in Sudan, the fastest growing field in the Trans-European Division

oriented leadership has resulted in baptismal growth.

In some fields, the membership has been slightly reduced. This is especially the case in the Nordic countries, and among the indigenous populations in the British Isles and in the Netherlands, where organized Christian religion is facing great challenges. Church leaders have committed themselves to work with God to change this trend, and to address the challenge of secular evangelism.

A word should also be included here concerning the solid financial situation of the division. This has enabled us to make a substantial increase in support for evangelism and ministerial training, and to finance a major refurbishment of the division office in St. Albans. Our strategic commitment to generate substantial funding for Global Mission from our own funds is unique in the world church.

Effects of Organizational Changes

The integration of the Middle East Union Mission (MEU) into our division family has proceeded very well. It has changed the face of our division: 60 percent of the 520 million people living in our territories are Muslims.



Candidates being baptized in the same body of water as was their Saviour two millennia previously

cosponsored by the MEU and the TED, and regular planning meetings for our mission in the Middle East are scheduled this year. The TED stands prepared for launching the 10/40 window challenge in 2000-2005.

Because of the Balkan conflicts associated with the breakup of the former Yugoslavia, a new union, the Adriatic Union, was organized, making a total of 13 unions in the TED. The South-East European Union (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, and Yugoslavia) and the Adriatic Union (Albania, Croatia, and Slovenia) replace the Yugoslavian Union. The hardship under which the people are living in these areas has opened ways for our message.

Religious Affairs of the Hungarian Government, the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department organized a symposium in Budapest (March 3-5, 1997), calling attention to the state of religious liberty in the post-Communist countries in Europe.

Participants came from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, religious liberty organizations, academic experts, and representatives of about 10 European governments. The proceedings were published in English, Hungarian, German, and Russian.

•The Personal Ministries and Stewardship Department held a total of some 60 seminars in all sectors of the division, focusing on practical skills of witnessing, including the use of spiritual gifts, aspects of visitation, evangelism and house-to-house witness, and lay evangelism. Small group evangelism is now on firm ground in Britain and Sweden and is spreading to other countries. Sixty-eight thousand lay Bible studies resulted in 3,750 baptisms. Of 42,000 students enrolled in the Bible correspondence schools, 15,000 graduated and 850 baptisms were conducted. The main departmental event was the Festival of Faith in Holland in 1999, with 210 participants representing nine of our 13 unions.

•The Sabbath School Department reports that Sabbath school offerings have brought approximately \$1,650,000 annually. Projects benefiting from Sabbath school offerings include the Hungarian seminary library; a secondary school in Serbia, Yugoslavia; the first evangelistic center in Lithuania, now partly opened; and a special project to train pastors in Sudan, where the first 11 graduates are already working in evangelism, leading to numerous baptisms. The *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guides* are published in 21 languages in the TED.

•The stewardship profile has widened considerably. Valuable training was offered to union directors, emphasized the concept that the lordship of Jesus lies at the heart of all stewardship. Most unions have instituted strategic planning and budgeting committees, and have been encouraged

to develop a strategic plan incorporating a meticulous approach to financial expenditures.

•The Women's Ministries Department has started 16 sewing centers for Adventist and non-Adventist women in Pakistan, which so far has resulted in eight baptisms.

•The Youth Ministries Department has helped youth to discover new ways of doing evangelism for their peers. Through "Impact" events, especially in Finland and the United Kingdom, youth have reached out to people with the gospel in new and creative ways. The Danish Union is involved with the Copenhagen and Koge projects, which are church-planting initiatives targeting young people. During the 1998 TED Pathfinder Camporee in Norway, Pathfinders raised \$15,000 for southern Sudan, where these funds helped win hundreds for Christ.

Education

Newbold College is the division's senior college. During the past five years it expanded its curriculum base, increased its involvement in education throughout the TED, and focused more on practical ministry and evangelism. As a result, the college now offers a wider selection of both U.S. and British degrees, the latest being a B.S. in behavioral sciences. Meanwhile, a new B.A. curriculum in biblical and pastoral studies has ensured a higher level of student involvement in practical ministry, and all collage students are invited to participate in two or three evangelistic or mission projects annually.

The strength of the education program in the TED is also evident by the operation of more than 100 primary and secondary schools, together with a string of theological seminaries in the Baltics, Poland, Hungary, Croatia, and Yugoslavia, as well as two senior colleges, Middle East College and Pakistan Adventist Seminary.

Ingathering and ADRA

For a number of years the TED has been in the forefront in raising funds through church members in the

Ingathering campaign. The figures during the quinquennium revealed a total result for 1994-1999 of \$13,567,550 and, although an annual decrease was noted in 1994-1998, an encouraging increase occurred in 1999. There are approximately 40,000 members in the six countries in which Ingathering is conducted, with an average annual collection of approximately \$57. These figures compare handsomely with those of any other world division.

The work of ADRA took on significant proportions in the TED during the past five years, from both donor and implementor perspectives.

Aid in cash and kind provided by the donor community within the TED rose from \$18 million in 1995 to \$42.9 million in 1999. ADRA/Denmark alone increased its funding from the Danish government to more than \$16 million in 1999. At the same time, ADRA/Sudan is probably the largest receiver of funding within the global ADRA network.

Because of the tragic Kosovo conflict in 1999, an enormous sudden need for humanitarian help occurred. In Albania, more than 100,000 refugees in six different centers were fed, and 220,000 family food parcels containing one month's supply were distributed as refugees returned to Kosovo. The World Food Program invited ADRA to continue food security operations for a further 12 months by feeding 30,000 vulnerable persons in five different towns.

Conclusion

The special focus in the TED during this period has been the mission of the church, its central importance and urgency, using new methods of outreach adapted to each culture and target audience, and, above all, the need to make every believer a minister. I thank God for His numerous blessings in this wonderful task, and pray that He will continue to lead the work in this division so that an even larger group of people will be prepared on that glorious day of the Lord's soon coming.

First Business Meeting

57th General Conference Session, June 29, 2000, 3:00 p.m.

B. B. BEACH: We are pleased that one who has given luster to the province of Ontario is honoring us with her presence this afternoon. Brothers and sisters, ladies and gentlemen, please stand and welcome the Honorable Hillary Weston, lieutenant governor of Ontario, and please remain standing for the vice-regal salute.

EBENEZER AGBOKA: Remain standing for the invocation. O Lord our God, how majestic is Your name in all the earth. We lift You up, magnify Your name. We praise You because You are worthy to be praised. We thank You for Jesus, for through Him we have hope for eternal life. Father in heaven, we thank You for traveling mercies. You have bought us here from our different abodes and from our different locations to this city of Toronto. We pray Your blessings on this city, and on this country of Canada. We pray for the leaders of government, that You continue to imbue them with wisdom from above. And so, as we are meeting here, as we fellowship with each other, as we mingle with the citizens of this country, we pray that Your presence be felt in our midst. For several years, dear Lord, we have made plans and set up different committees to plan for this session and to assure that the program runs smoothly. But we know, Lord, that nothing is final until You put Your stamp on it. So, Father, we ask that You take control of the agenda items and the program, that You protect these premises and all of us as Your people. May all that we say and do be to Your name's honor and glory because we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

B. B. BEACH: A number of distinguished individuals are honoring us with their presence during this fifty-seventh session of the General Conference, and they will be coming during various times this week and next week. We are very pleased to have in our midst this evening the governor general of Papua New Guinea, Sir Silas Atopare. Please welcome him. He is sitting here on the front row.

We also welcome Feze Ngandjong Marcel, the supreme chief of the Bandenkop tribe in Cameroon.

We are honored to have with us today the representative of Her Majesty the Queen in the province of Ontario, the Honorable Hillary M. Weston, lieutenant governor of Ontario. She is Ontario's twenty-sixth lieutenant governor and was sworn into office on January 24, 1997. She has selected as her mandate to celebrate volunteerism in Ontario, to recognize the

achievements and contributions of women. It is now our pleasure to invite the lieutenant governor to say a few words. Your Honor.

HILLARY WESTON: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. It is my very great privilege to welcome you here to Toronto, to Ontario and Canada, for this historic convocation. We are delighted that you have chosen Toronto to convene your conference, and it gives us the opportunity to introduce to you the many joys of the most multicultural city in the world. I am told that more than 200 countries have sent delegates to this conference. I believe that I can confidently claim that all of those nations and several more besides are represented in the vibrant communities within the gracious Toronto area. So you all should feel very much at home here.

Perhaps another reason to feel at home in Toronto is that this city is built on a strong tradition of duty to one's community. Indeed, to the rest of Canada this city was known as "Toronto, the Good." That tradition of duty continues to this day, and is exemplified by the proliferation of fine churches, hospitals, and schools, which owe much to the work of volunteers and community organizations and to a population in which diversity is expected and encouraged.

I know that the Adventist Church has a strong commitment to education and

community health. A commitment that you will find is reflected in Ontario and Canada. To the originals who first came to this area by canoes, it was known as the meeting place by the water. So it is entirely appropriate that you should come together from all corners of the world to deliberate and to pray in this place. As a representative of the queen and on behalf of all Ontario, I bring you greetings! I wish you a very pleasant visit to our province and its capital city, and I wish you God's blessing on your deliberations. Thank you.

JAN PAULSEN: Your Excellency, it is a delight for us, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, to hold this special convocation of ours in your city, in your province, in your country. Thank you for the warm welcome that your city has extended to us even during the few days we already have been here. It is truly a diversified city, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church feels very much at home in a diversified community. We are delighted that you have come here this afternoon to greet us, and to welcome us to your city. As an expression of appreciation to you, I have a gift that will physically tell you the passing of time, and a book that says something about the Seventh-day Adventist Church in mission.

B. B. BEACH: Ladies and gentlemen, the lieutenant governor must depart

The SDA Hymnal on Compact Discs *Uses include...*

Hymns Alive
Accompaniment Music
Piano - Left Organ - Right Chan.

- ◆ 700 hymns
- ◆ 33 CD's
- ◆ superb quality
- ◆ 20+ hymns/disc
- ◆ quality binder

Complete set - \$430 value
Now US\$329 plus \$10 shipping
Min. order - 3 discs US/\$38

(800)-354-9667 or (800)-35-HYMNS
(508) 755-6214
or at your local ABC.

Satisfaction guaranteed. **web page - <http://www.tagnet.org/pave>** **e-mail - hymns@att.net**

- * home worship
- * church worship
- * nursing homes
- * prison ministries
- * solo practice, etc
- * outdoor church
- * learning new hymns

He Is Our Song
and Sing For Joy
Each book on 4 CD's with guitar, piano, strings, trumpet, etc.

Strength for the Journey
Songs written & sung by **Susan Maehre** free with Hymns Alive.



 **P.A.V.E., 131 Winifred Ave., Worcester, MA 01602 USA**

because of prior commitments. Please rise for the departure of the lieutenant governor.

REO E. GANSON: [Read the Scripture reading from Psalm 100.]

HECTOR JURADO: [Offered the pastoral prayer as follows:] Our Father, we look to You here this afternoon, because there is nowhere else for us to look. We look again this afternoon because we recognize that in You we live and move and have our being. We look to You, heavenly Father, because we believe with all our hearts that You are the head of this church. And as we gather here with excitement and expectancy, our greatest desire, Lord, is that Your Holy Spirit will come very close to this delegation—into our midst and into our hearts. We wait on You for direction; we want You to guide our affairs in this session. Our Lord our God, we give You thanks—You have brought us from the four corners of the earth, and we come together during this session, not for our own glory and to praise ourselves, but to give You all the honor, glory, and praise, for You are the King of kings, and we wait on You, Lord, to do great things for Your people, and for Your church, and to this we say thank You, Father, and we ask it all in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.


PETER ROENNFELDT: [Gave the opening devotional, which is found on page 14 of *Bulletin 1*.]

LEO S. RANZOLIN: It is again my privilege to welcome you to the fifty-seventh session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. What a joy to be here in this beautiful city and lovely country. You know, I have always had an appreciation for Canada. I love the people, the prairies, the mountains, and the lakes. And on a personal note I must say that I am related to one of the traditional families of Canada, the Longard family. We have enjoyed the friendly hospitality and pray that the days we spend here will remain in our minds forever. This is a very important assembly, poised at the start of a new millennium. I wondered if we would be starting the year 2000 in heaven. But friends, brothers and sisters, leaders, we are still here on this earth with unfinished work to do. Let us pray that the Lord will guide us and all the delegates. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will come into our hearts and lead in all the decisions we make, so that we will experience a revival and reformation and prepare our lives to finish the task that is before us. May the leaders who will be chosen receive a double portion of the Spirit so that we can move ahead with new fervor and consecration to challenge the more than 11 million believers to do their part for the Lord's work. And now I call on Elder G. Ralph Thompson, secretary of the General

Conference, to lead us into the procedures of this session.

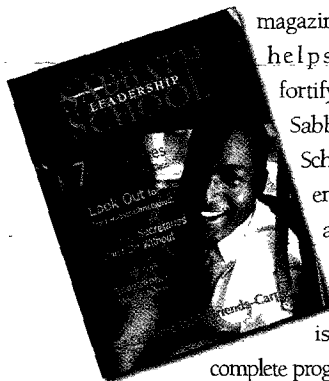
G. RALPH THOMPSON: Thank you, Brother Chairman. You and I had the privilege of organizing the first business session of the fifty-sixth session in Utrecht, Holland, five years ago. I want you to know it is a pleasure to work with you again at this the fifty-seventh session here in Canada. We extend a hearty wel-

come to all of our delegates and friends. We are glad that you are here. We welcome all of our special guests whose badges allow them to sit on the floor with their special division groups. But of course, when it comes to the official business of the General Conference session, only official delegates with a purple delegate badge will have voice and vote. We know that you will honor this so that the business of



An Essential Vitamin for Stronger Adult Sabbath Schools.

Want fresh ideas to supplement your adult Sabbath School program? Or help in teaching the Sabbath School lesson? Then try *Sabbath School Leadership*—the



magazine that helps you fortify your Sabbath School with energy and vitality.

Every issue has complete programs for Sabbath School superintendents, right down to selections for song service. We're talking about powerful programs crafted by the creative minds of Charles Bradford, Dorothy Eaton Watts, Dick Duerksen, and others.

Sabbath School teachers get ready-made class plans that spark both discussion and spiritual growth.

Subscribe to *Sabbath School Leadership* and find the tonic that will revitalize your ministry.

Sabbath School Leadership includes:

- ▶ Small Group Study Helps
- ▶ Success Stories From Other Leaders
- ▶ Active Learning Suggestions
- ▶ Training Courses to Polish Your Skills

US\$25.95 for 12 monthly issues.

Order *Sabbath School Leadership* through your Sabbath School secretary, or call your Adventist Book Center at 1-800-765-6955.

**SABBATH
LEADERSHIP
SCHOOL**

this General Conference session can be carried out with order and decorum. The secretaries of the various divisions and areas will make sure now that all of the official delegates have their badges and agenda books. At this time will all official delegates who have not received their agenda books please stand.

The General Conference Constitution, Article IV, Section 1, reads as follows: "Section 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. In case special world conditions make it imperative to postpone the calling of the session, the Executive Committee, in regular or special council, shall have authority to make such postponement, not to exceed two years, giving notice to all constituent organizations."

Brother Chairman, the following notice appeared in the *Adventist Review* of January 27, February 3, and February 10, 2000, and the announcement read:

General Conference Session

Official notice is hereby given that the fifty-seventh session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held June 29 to July 8, 2000, in the SkyDome in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The first meeting will begin at 1500 hours, June 29, 2000. All duly accredited delegates are urged to be present at that time.

Jan Paulsen, President

G. Ralph Thompson, Secretary

Brother Chairman, Article IV, Section 5, provides for the appointment of regular delegates by union conferences and by divisions and by the General Conference. These delegates have been duly appointed in harmony with the constitution. The secretaries of the divisions of the General Conference have reported the following numbers of regular delegates seated from their respective organizations. And I shall read them, Brother Chairman.

Regular Delegates:

The Africa-Indian Ocean Division	140
Eastern Africa Division	150
Euro-Africa Division	101
Euro-Asia Division	63
Inter-American Division	189
North American Division	132
Northern Asia-Pacific Division	57
South American Division	160
South Pacific Division	80
Southern Asia-Pacific Division	126
Southern Asia Division	68
Trans-European Division	76
Attached Union:	
Southern Africa Union Conference	10

The total, Brother Chairman, of regular delegate seats have been allocated according to Article IV, Section 6.

Article IV, Section 7 (a), of the constitution provides that all members of the General Conference Executive Committee shall be delegates at large. The present membership of the General Conference Committee is 265.

Section 7 (b) states that all associates, directors, and secretaries of General Conference departments and associations are also delegates at large. This number amounts to 28.

Section 7 (c) states that 34 delegates elected from the General Conference-appointed staff shall be delegates. That number therefore is 34, and this gives us a total of 327 for Section 7 (a) (b) and (c).

Section 7 (d) provides for other 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. This number came to 313. The distribution of this number of delegates has been allocated to the divisions and the General Conference and its institutions as stipulated.

So when we add the figure of 313 to the 327 other delegates at large, we get the total of 640. Thus, Brother Chairman, when we now add our regular delegates of 1,360 together with the 640 delegates at large, we have a required grand total of 2,000 delegates. This is the group of delegates provided by the constitution to initiate the work of the session. And so, Brother Chairman, we present this delegation to you at this the first meeting of the fifty-seventh session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. This group of delegates present is now empowered to act on behalf of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at its fifty-seventh session. We should say that as of a few minutes ago 1,602 delegates have completed registration and many more will be completing registration by this evening. Brother Chairman, we now await your call to order.

LEO S. RANZOLIN: Thank you, Brother Secretary. I would like to call to order the fifty-seventh session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and declare it open for business.

G. RALPH THOMPSON: Let us now take a look in our program booklet at the daily program, which is found on pages 7-16. [The secretary mentioned several important appointments in the program, reminding delegates of the evening program; the devotional message, which will be presented the next day, June 30, at 8:00 a.m.; and of the fact that the next day will be Friday, when the Sabbath should be

anticipated. Delegates were reminded that breakfast will not be served on Sabbath. A full schedule is planned for Sabbath, July 1.]

I think the program is pretty clear, so, Brother Chairman, I move the acceptance of the daily program. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

And now if we would look into our agenda books I would like to call our attention to the agenda itself. [The secretary then explained the various sections of the agenda, mentioning that the largest number of items relate to the *Church Manual*.]

So for now, I move that we adopt the agenda items as listed, with the understanding, of course, that the chair will not necessarily follow the items in the exact order in which they are listed. I so move. [The motion was seconded and voted.]

Brother Chairman, in our agenda booklet, pages 14 and 15, you will find the list of standing committees. [The secretary then noted the various standing committees and the respective chairs and secretaries.]

I move the acceptance of the standing committees. [The motion was seconded and voted.]

Now I would like to point out that all recommendations for changes made by individuals from the floor will be referred to these standing committees for study. Now I need to comment on the rules of order. Each one of us should have received in our packet the *General Conference Rules of Order*. In the business meetings of this General Conference session we shall be following the *GC Rules of Order*. By common consent I would suggest that we proceed in this manner, unless there's an objection. The Administrative Committee of the General Conference has recommended that a parliamentarian be appointed for this session. The name that has been recommended is that of Walter E. Carson, who served in that position, as I recall, at the last GC session.

Brother Chairman, as we get ready to do business for the Lord at this fifty-seventh session, I'll quote a statement from our *Church Manual*, page 133, regarding the duty of delegates. It reads as follows: "A delegate to a conference session or constituency meeting is not chosen to represent merely the church or conference. A seated delegate should view the work as a whole, remembering that he or she is responsible for the welfare of the work in every part of the field. It is not permissible for church or conference delegations to organize or attempt to direct their votes as a unit. Nor is it permissible for the delegates from a large church or conference to claim preeminence in directing affairs in a conference session. Each delegate should be susceptible to the direction of the Holy Spirit and vote according to personal convictions. Any church or conference officer

or leader attempting to control the votes of a group of delegates would be considered disqualified for holding office." Brother Chairman, this is good sound counsel for all of us delegates to this General Conference session.

And now, Brother Chairman, at each General Conference session we take note of those who have passed on. The delegations of this session represent more than 11 million members and 204 countries. The working force on the payroll of the church numbers 165,882. Each quinquennium some of these workers fall asleep in Jesus and close their earthly ministry. During the past five years a large number of workers, including retired personnel, have died. We miss their friendship and their fellowship, their support and dedication to the cause they loved. We confidently expect to meet them again on the resurrection morning. Brother Chairman, it would be appropriate for us to stand for a few moments of silence in memory of these fallen warriors of the cross. [Taps was played.]

And now, Brother Chairman, there are additional agenda items for us to look at. You'll find them in the agenda book, pages 5-13. We have a number of unions and two divisions to be voted into the sisterhood of unions and divisions. [The secretary called

on Larry Colburn, associate secretary, to read the recommendation concerning the reorganization of the former Asia-Pacific Division.]

LARRY R. COLBURN: Recommended, first, to record the reorganization of the former Asia-Pacific Division into two new divisions, to be known as the Northern Asia-Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Southern Asia-Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, effective October 6, 1996. Second, to accept the Northern Asia-Pacific Division into the world sisterhood of divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Third, to accept the Southern Asia-Pacific Division into the world sisterhood of divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Brother Chairman, it gives me great pleasure to move that we accept these recommendations. [The motion was seconded and voted.]

G. RALPH THOMPSON: Brother Chairman, we must now turn our attention to the unions. Dr. Donald Sahly, who represents the Africa-Indian Ocean Division, will bring that recommendation.

DONALD SAHLY: Mr. Chairman, because of growth and development in the West African Union it has become necessary to reorganize the work there, so we are

recommending: (1) to reorganize and record the reorganization of the former West African Union Mission into two unions, known as the Ghana Union Conference and the West African Union Mission, effective January 1, 2000; (2) to accept the Ghana Union Conference of the Africa-Indian Ocean Division into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is my privilege to make this motion.

PETER MENSAH: Mr. Chairman, the church in Africa is coming of age, so we are happy that the former West African Union could produce a first union conference. Please, rejoice with us. This is remarkable.

Mr. Chairman, it's a privilege to be here today representing the 250,000 members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ghana. Today by the grace of God you have voted us into the sisterhood of unions. We want to praise the Lord and thank Him for this, and we want to thank our division officers and the officers of the General Conference.

MAURICE T. BATTLE: Mr. Chairman, it's indeed a pleasure to recognize and to recommend conference status and a name change for the Zimbabwe Union Mission, effective January 1, 1998. The

A season for everything

and a time for every purpose.



Life is all about transitions. Growing from child to adult to senior. Extending God's kingdom from generation to generation.

PLANNING FOR THE

Cycle of Life

Throughout the cycle of life, Trust Services provides the information you need to arrange care for children or elderly parents; develop retirement security; and make estate and gift plans that express love of family and of the Lord's work.

Trust Services is for everyone, regardless of age, income or family circumstances. To contact a local Trust Services representative, call us toll-free, or visit our Web site.

1-877-WILLPLAN
www.willplan.org



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
Trust Services

action is to accept the Zimbabwe Union Conference into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I so move.

L. D. RAELLY: Mr. Chairman, we want to thank God for what He was able to do in Zimbabwe, for Zimbabwe was the first union mission to become of age on the Black African continent. We praise God for it. Thank you.

P. R. MACHAMIRE: I want to bring you greetings from the 350,000 members in Zimbabwe. We have a fast-growing church in that part of the world. We solicit your prayers as we continue to grow and to await the soon coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

LARRY R. COLBURN: Brother Chairman, another major reorganization has taken place in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, and it gives me great pleasure to read this recommendation: (1) to recognize and record the merging of the South China Island Union Mission with the East Asia Association (China) to form the Chinese Union Mission, effective June 13, 1999; (2) to accept the Chinese Union Mission into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It gives me great pleasure to move that we accept this recommendation.

P. D. CHUN: I am glad we now have the Chinese Union Mission, with a population of more than 1.3 million.

EUGENE HSU: Greetings from the Adventist brothers and sisters in China, Hong Kong, Macaw, and Taiwan. It is a great challenge for us, but the Chinese Union Mission is ready to take up the challenge, to finish the work. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

LEO RANZOLIN: Dr. Mario Veloso represents the South American Division. He will present the next item.

MARIO VELOSO: Brother Chairman, it's a pleasure to present the result of a growing church in Brazil. This recommendation also has two parts: (1) to recognize and record the organization of the former East Brazil Union Conference and the North Brazil Union Mission into three new unions, known as the East Brazil Union Conference, the North Brazil Union Mission, and the Northeast Brazil Union Mission, effective January 1, 1996; (2) to accept the Northeast Brazil Union Mission into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I would like to recommend and make a motion to accept these new unions. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

LEO S. RANZOLIN: We now move to the Central Philippine Union Conference, and Larry Colburn will present this item.

LARRY R. COLBURN: Thank you, Brother Chairman. It gives me great plea-

sure to recommend that we recognize and record the conference status of the Central Philippine Union Mission, effective May 19, 1996, and also that we accept the Central Philippine Union Conference into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Brother Chairman, I wish to move that we accept this new union conference into the sisterhood of union conferences. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

It also gives me great pleasure to recommend that the South Philippine Union Mission become a union conference. We recommend to recognize and record the conference status for the South Philippine Union Mission, effective November 20, 1995, and also to accept the South Philippine Union Conference into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I would like to move that we accept this recommendation. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

Brother Chairman, we also have a recommendation for the East Indonesia Union Conference. This is the third union mission becoming a union conference in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. Recommended: (1) to recognize and afford conference status for the East Indonesia Union Mission, effective December 1,

1997; (2) to accept the East Indonesia Union Conference into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Brother Chairman, I am delighted to move that we accept this recommendation. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

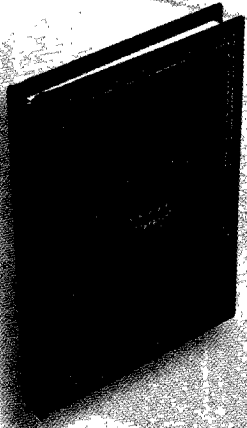
LEO S. RANZOLIN: Now we need to go to the Adriatic Union Conference.

MAURICE T. BATTLE: It is indeed a pleasure and an honor, Mr. Chairman, to recognize and record the organization of the Adriatic Union Conference, effective January 1, 1999, and to accept the Adriatic Union Conference into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I so move. [The motion was seconded and voted.]

BERTIL WIKLANDER: It is a privilege to be a part of this event. The church in the Slavic regions has gone through some very difficult times in the 1990s. Because of conflict and the need to have two unions to care for many small and weak fields in the Balkans, we found that it would be very advantageous to take Slovenia and Croatia out of the South-East European Union Conference and combine them with the Adriatic Mission, to create the Adriatic Union Conference. We are grateful for the

Continued on page 29


The Advent Keepsake




Don't miss this commemorative limited edition of the first devotional ever published by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This pocket-size book is an exact copy of the book published in 1868, during the early days of the great Advent movement.

Hardcover with gold gilded edges
0-8280-1550-3. US\$4.99. Can\$7.49

Available at your local Adventist Book Center.
Call 1-800-765-6955
or shop online at www.adventistbookcenter.com.



Review and Herald®
Publishing Association



Helping Others
Prepare for Eternity

Price and availability subject to change. Add GST in Canada.



THE DAY IN **TORONTO** *Sabbath, July 1*

Jennifer Mae Barizo
Columnist



God's Winning Game

Toronto is home to the Argonauts (football) and the Blue Jays (baseball), but I don't know if the SkyDome has ever seen a better game.

As the Friday evening sun completed its descent into Toronto's western horizon, God's eager fans, nearly 60,000 strong, streamed into the SkyDome to celebrate the first GC session Sabbath of the new millennium.

I don't know what moved me more, watching that swarming sea of humanity file into the bright-blue seats of the sprawling stadium, discerning the timeless expressions on the faces of the children in the South American vocal group *Ka Entre Nos* (Between Us), or simply singing in the company of thousands, listening to our voices reverberate into the charged air.

It was a classic Friday night vespers as the Wedgewood Trio as well as Del Delker launched the evening with medleys of old and new favorites, which guaranteed to conjure up a plethora of fond memories. The New England Youth Ensemble, who have performed at seven straight GC sessions, performed once again under the direction of Virginia Gene Rittenhouse.

The evening was marked by the appearance of Joseph Verner Reed, who represented Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations.

"Seventh-day Adventists provide a beacon of conscience, spirituality, and leadership," stated Reed, who expounded on his respect and admiration for the SDA Church while wishing the church a successful session.

In his sermon Lonnie Melashenko, director and speaker of the Voice of

Prophecy, invited the audience to experience the promises that God made to Abraham and challenged the listeners with a clinching remark, "You can bet your life on Jesus' promises, because He bet His life on you."

I pondered on those words as I walked to my hotel room, tilting my head up to whisper a prayer. Looking over my shoulder, the SkyDome was aglow against the sky, and the CN Tower loomed above me like a giant needle, jutting into the indigo night.

Sabbath morning dawned clear and blue, bathed in light. It was a sweet reprieve from the rains that had forced visitors to run from the Metro convention center to the dome, their amethyst-hued GC programs a makeshift defense against the rain. This morning I was part of the profuse crowd on their way to worship.

Sabbath school was a colorful conglomeration of drama, music, and discussion. The keyword of the morning was "interactive," as youth led the audience in a kinetic trip down memory lane—the audience responding (by movement) to questions pertaining to their respective Sabbath school classes.

"Tell someone beside you that you love Jesus," exclaimed Roger Williams, from Andrews University, as the crowd, made up of separate entities, suddenly transformed into an irrepressible community, bound by the Saviour's love.

The dynamic Clifford Goldstein, editor of the Adult Bible Study Guides, sustained the enthusiastic aura of the morning with his ardent plea to the audience to "show people love." He was joined by Carlos Martin, author of the current quarter's lessons. Together they succeeded in leading an animated discussion centered on what it means to be a witness.

To herald the beginning of the church service, a Korean ladies' choir lit up the stage with their lime-green robes and filled the cavernous dimensions of the dome with dulcet voices. It struck me, as I listened to the polyphony of their notes, how much of this Sabbath was based on a sense of togetherness. It was never only one human masterminding the operation—everything my eyes regarded, every sound that entered my

ears was the product of many people, sometimes coming together across thousands of miles to create the palette of beauty that made up the first GC session Sabbath 2000. From the moving rendition of "O Canada" to the procession of Pathfinders in uniform and adorned by their badges and berets to the joint prayers given by various leaders and their spouses—they were all illustrations of unity and hearts pulsing toward a common goal.

And when 11-year-old Tiffany Campbell-Dailey sang, we all thought we heard an angel sing.

Tiffany, who has been singing since she was 3, uplifted her sweet, syrupy voice to the Lord before G. Ralph Thompson delivered his sermon. He was joined initially by his wife. The huge crowd exploded in a standing ovation for those two individuals who, joined by the Lord, have worked for the church for 50 years.

Thompson had a message for each of us in the audience, catering to young and old alike, as he spoke to us about "knowing the time . . . to join together in the glorious proclamation of the third angel's message as it sweeps to its mighty climax."

As the male chorus sang to conclude the service, I thought pensively that it was too short, this coming

together on the Lord's day. And when the crowd stood, saturating the stadium with "We Have This Hope," something stirred inside me, knowing that the walls of the SkyDome had never been witness to such a grand outpouring of spirit.

Sabbath, July 1, also Canada Day, will be etched in the minds of many as they leave this city and this country to return to their homes, wherever in the world that may be. Toronto's *Saturday Star* had a red flag emblazoned on its front page that day and declared in bright letters, "Separately we came, but together we built a country the world calls the best. Happy 133rd, Canada." But tomorrow will come with a new headline, and per-

haps Toronto will forget this first Canada Day of this millennium. Perhaps they will forget how the Seventh-day Adventists invaded their city, bringing our Bibles and our love. Even these words I write are so temporary, compared to what our future holds. What Christ holds in our future, for us. On paper, today, we may exist, but things of this earth are as changeable and as fleeting as Toronto's skies, one day sun-loved, cloaked in cloud the next. But brothers and sisters, if you remember anything of this Sabbath, remember that God has already won our game; remember the message that should be emblazoned on each of your hearts, *Almost Home*.



A CHILD SHALL LEAD: Tiffany Campbell-Dailey set the stage for the Sabbath morning sermon as she sang "You may not know how, you may not know when, but He'll do it again."

ALDEN J. HO

Grateful Praise and Focused Planning

Presented July 1, 2000

North America is the home of Seventh-day Adventism. With historic sites such as Battle Creek, Michigan; Washington, New Hampshire; and Loma Linda, California, it is the cradle of our church. Here the church grew up and matured, struggling to create its doctrines and identity. And here the church extended its missionary arm around the world.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has now grown far beyond its humble roots. The church operates in more than 200 countries worldwide. North American membership is less than 10 percent of our worldwide total. We praise God for His blessings throughout the world.

We also praise God for the evidences of His blessings in North America. There is much to be grateful for. The past five years have seen a resurgence of evangelism, sparked by the NET evangelistic meetings. But churches throughout the division are doing far more than simply turning on the satellite receiver.

Local churches are calling for the help of full-time evangelists more often than before. Many pastors are conducting their own evangelistic meetings. Local churches have drawn on the talents of members to organize Discover Bible schools. Sabbath schools have classes for those considering membership. Many members have caught the vision of planting new churches, and hundreds of new churches have sprouted in just this quinquennium. The entire program of the church is focused on reaching people with the

good news of salvation.

This report will focus on three areas. First, we will look at the numerical growth of the church in North America. Second, we will review the rebirth of evangelistic fervor. Third, we will highlight some of the important changes in the institutions of the North American Division.



Alfred C. McClure
President

Statistics

During the past five years the North American Division passed several important member-

ship milestones:

- In September 1999 the division passed the 900,000-member mark.
- In 1999 the division baptized more than 40,000 people in one calendar year.
- During this quinquennium 185,687 people joined our movement—the highest number in the history of the church in North America.

• The division passed the 5,000 level for churches and officially recognized companies.

The North American Division passed important milestones in financial support as well:

- In 1997 the division received more than \$500 million in tithe.
- In 1999 the division received more than \$600 million in tithe, with a

total of \$610,215,568.

• Total giving in North America for the five years of the quinquennium topped \$4 billion, including tithes and offerings for world mission as well as local church outreach.

Those numbers don't begin to tell the real story, however. For example, the Children's Ministries and Stewardship departments of the division developed a children's tithe envelope. It teaches tithing principles—and

Session Snapshot



ALL EARS: Festus Mugambi of the Eastern Africa Division, one of the fastest-growing divisions in the world, seems fascinated with President Jan Paulsen's report the first evening of the session.

blessings—to the youngest members of our congregations, those whose incomes may be less than \$1 a week. These statistics represent God's work in the life of an individual member who is faithful to the gospel message and rejoices in the Saviour's love.

Evangelism

Just five years ago the North American Division uplinked the first series of satellite evangelistic meetings. Skeptics abounded. They wondered who would come to watch evangelistic preaching on a TV screen. They thought it would be too impersonal. They thought no one would ever walk toward a TV monitor in response to a call for surrender to Jesus.

They thought wrong. About 700 churches participated in that first-ever satellite series. Mark Finley preached in Chattanooga, Tennessee, to a few thousand people, while a crew from the Adventist Media Center uplinked the live Chattanooga meetings to sites around North America. As many as 70,000 people were able to see the event simultaneously.

More than 5,000 people were baptized as a direct result of the uplinked meetings.

Just 18 months later the division uplinked a second satellite evangelistic series, NET '96. This time the skeptics were quiet. Many of them hosted downlink sites in their churches. More than 1,500 sites participated in North America, with another 1,000 or more sites in Western Europe.

Again Mark Finley was the featured speaker, this time in Orlando, Florida. Again people sat in front of television monitors in small churches or big screens in large churches, listening carefully to the simple explanations of Bible truth. Again people walked toward TV screens to give their hearts to Jesus.

More than 14,000 people were baptized in North America, with thousands upon thousands more throughout Western Europe.

NET '98 was uplinked in every time zone around the world. A local church pastor, Dwight Nelson, preached from

his own pulpit at Pioneer Memorial church, Andrews University. Every world division had a participating site. The gospel was preached in 40 languages, a modern-day Pentecost.

The technical challenges were immense. The Adventist Media Center crew had to design an uplink unit that could uplink 40 languages; none existed. The production team stayed busy all night, uplinking the program to various satellites at times when it would be convenient for the downlink sites.

Again more than 10,000 were baptized in North America, with multiplied thousands more around the world.

Satellite evangelism spread. Doug Batchelor has led out in two series, one uplinked from the studios of the Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) in Illinois, and the other from downtown New York City. A Spanish-language event, LA RED II, was broadcast from Orlando. Ken Cox preached from Seattle, and will soon do a satellite series from Chicago.

Satellite evangelism has become almost routine. More than 10 series have been uplinked in this past year, from locations as diverse as Rome and Sydney, Los Angeles and Lima. Other world divisions besides North America have taken the lead in producing some of these satellite evangelistic events.

The resurgence of interest in evangelism hasn't been limited to satellite series. Satellite series may have sparked it, but evangelism in all its forms shows up in every part of the division.

Churches and pastors show a rekindled interest in local evangelism. The division had its greatest statistical year ever in 1999, when it baptized more than 40,000 people for the first time. That came from a number of factors, and satellite-related baptisms were not the largest part. Local church pastors holding evangelistic meetings in local churches. Full-time evangelists working in cities large and small. Schools leading their students to Christ. Local churches being open and receptive to visitors who wanted to join. Ethnic groups seeking those who share a common culture and sharing with them an

uncommon Christ.

Ebony Evangelism is a plan of the African-American conferences in the division. The nine conferences set aside some funds each year to help the smaller conferences grow. And it has worked. African-American membership in the division now stands at 30 percent, its highest figure ever.

Work among other ethnic groups also has grown rapidly. Hispanics now comprise more than 10 percent of the division's membership, and that sector is growing rapidly. Asians and Pacific Islanders also are growing rapidly. North America is truly a microcosm of the world membership of the Adventist Church.

Almost every nation is represented in the church in North America. Do you speak Hungarian? There's an Adventist church in Cleveland that conducts services in your language. Are you Tongan by birth? There's an Adventist church in Los Angeles devoted to reaching Tongans. There are almost 50 identifiable ethnic churches in North America.

Church planting also has been a large part of the resurgence of interest in evangelism in North America. As with NET evangelism, many people said it couldn't be done—and shouldn't be done. North America already has too many small churches was their refrain.

But church planting caught on, thanks largely to the efforts of the North American Division Evangelism Institute (NADEI) and the Seeds conferences planned every year starting in 1996. About 300 people attended the first year, and division leaders were pleasantly surprised at the large turnout. This past year more than 600 people attended.

Changes in Institutions

Media: The Adventist Media Center in Simi Valley, California, became part of the North American Division during this quinquennium. The center provides a home for six ministries: Voice of Prophecy, Faith for Today, La Voz de la Esperanza, It Is Written, Breath of Life, and LifeTalk Radio. A new decentralized structure has given the ministries

freedom to follow new methods of reaching people through media.

It Is Written is seen by more than 1 million people each week. Faith for Today's programs are broadcast on more than 5,000 television stations each week. The Voice of Prophecy has weekly and daily programs heard across the division. La Voz has increased its outreach in the Spanish-speaking parts of Central and South America.

Health Care: In a decade of rapid and sometimes turbulent change in the industry, Adventist health-care institutions have also seen change. Two of our hospitals in North America closed in widely publicized events. But others stayed open, continuing to serve their communities and build goodwill for the Adventist Church. It is no accident that some of the largest Adventist churches in North America, as well as many of the best schools, are located near Adventist hospitals.

Education: Three Adventist colleges became universities during this quinquennium: Canadian University College, Southern Adventist University, and Southwestern Adventist University. A third Adventist college—Florida College of Health Sciences—started during this decade, bringing the total number of colleges in North America to 15. In addition, enrollment in Adventist colleges has grown back to the levels of the early 1980s.

Changes have occurred in K-12 education as well. The division executive committee voted to adopt a systems approach to Christian education, bringing together all areas that touch the lives of Adventist young people. Sabbath school. Pathfinders. Junior youth. Summer camps. Adventist youth. And, of course, church schools.

The result has brought collaboration between the Bible classes and the Sabbath school lessons; the sharing of ideas between Pathfinder Honors programs and church school curricula. No one says that North America has finished this task of integrating the entire life of young people in the church, but the journey has begun.

Division Office: Seeking new ways to

provide value to local churches has become the motto of the ministries departments of the division. The division is dedicated to developing resources for local churches, conferences, and institutions to use for ministry in their communities.

Many of the resources are being created, supported, and implemented by resource centers of the division. These resource centers are independent agencies, tied closely to the church's strategic plans. The resources they develop are all driven by a needs assessment process that identifies the things local church leaders say they need. Only after a need is determined are the resources developed.

This has brought a new role for departmental leaders at the North American Division office, a reinventing of the role of division personnel. They no longer have to create every resource, train every local leader, speak at every workshop, attend every committee. The supporting resource centers do much of that work, and division personnel provide guidance and strategic planning.

An example: the Discover the Power Pathfinder Camporee in 1999 was planned by the Center for Youth Evangelism. This resource center created the promotion and the programming, the outreach service projects, and the baptismal event. Pathfinder ministries at the division office helped identify the strategic directions, and more than 20,000 young people benefited from a great spiritual experience.

Summary

When the apostle Paul engaged the philosophers in Athens, he showed that he was familiar with their objects of worship by quoting their own teachers and poets (Acts 17:16-34). But later in Corinth, Paul said he determined to know nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Cor. 2:2).

God never changes, but differing circumstances sometimes demand changes in our methods. Every new plan of the division, as well as every method of sharing the three angels' messages, is tested so that it will reveal God's never-changing Word in an ever-changing world.

Session Snapshot



WHERE IT ALL CAME IN: The bulk of the materials for the hundreds of exhibits at the session came in through the Convention Centre's loading dock, fully eight stories below ground, with space for 16 trucks and room for them to turn around.

Continued from page 23

fact that the work is growing in spite of incredible hardships, and we thank you all for your prayers for the people in the Balkans.

LEO S RANZOLIN: Let me introduce the president of the Adriatic Union, Dr. Dragutin Matak.

DRAGUTIN MATAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my privilege to bring warm greetings from all the members of the Adriatic Union and from the countries of Albania, Greece, and Slovenia. As we all know, these countries have some severe problems. In Albania we feel safe, and in spite of economic crises, work is progressing there. In Greece a half dozen churches are still in ruins, but also God is blessing. We really appreciate being a part of this big and beautiful family. And maybe I should add that alphabetically our union now heads the list of unions in the world.

LEO S. RANZOLIN: All right, are you ready to vote? [The motion was seconded and voted.]

G. RALPH THOMPSON: The delegates from the unions have already been seated within their delegation, but we welcome them now as seated members of their new union organizations. It is a great joy to have these unions accepted into the world sisterhood of unions along with the two divisions.

Now we come to the Nominating Committee. As soon as you have your list of nominees, you will need to give them to Athal Tolhurst, the undersecretary, who will be located in the North Building of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. [The secretary then explained the process of selecting the Nominating Committee, giving details regarding the numbers to be chosen and the various venues for the groups to meet.]

Now, Brother Chairman, I think that brings us to the end of the first section of our business meeting. I would like to move that we adjourn this first section. [The motion was seconded and voted.]

GERALD NORTHAM: [Benediction.]

LEO S. RANZOLIN, *Chair*

G. RALPH THOMPSON, *Secretary*

FRED G. THOMAS, *Proceedings Editor*

Session Actions

57th General Conference
Session, June 29, 2000,
3:00 p.m.

GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION 2000—DAILY PROGRAM APPROVAL

Voted, To approve the daily program for the 2000 General Conference session as it

appears in the session program booklet.

GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION 2000—AGENDA APPROVAL

Voted, To approve the agenda for 2000 General Conference session as it appears in the session agenda notebook, with the understanding that the order of business will be decided by the Session Steering Committee and the chairmen of the business meetings.

GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION 2000—STANDING COMMITTEES

Voted, To approve standing committees for the 2000 General Conference session, as follows:

CHURCH MANUAL

Lowell C Cooper, Chairman

Gerry D Karst, Vice Chairman

Mario Veloso, Secretary

Members: Rosa T Banks, Maurice T Battle, Bert B Beach, Bekele Biri, Norma J Collins, James A Cress, A David C Currie, Teofilo Ferreira, Ronald M Flowers, Ulrich Frikart, Ann Gibson, Bert B Haloviak, Raili Kallioskowsky, Dennis C Keith Sr, Richard P Lehmann, Israel Leito, Robert E Lemon, Rowena J Moore, K J Moses, Ruy H Nagel, Joseph Ola, Jere D Patzer, Robert L Rawson, George W Reid, Angel M Rodriguez, Donald R Sahly, Jacob Stelian, Gary B Swanson, G Ralph Thompson, Athal H Tolhurst, Amy Willsey, Gerald Winslow, Linda Wysong.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Calvin B Rock, Chairman

Athal H Tolhurst, Secretary

Members: Erich Amelung, Niels-Erik Andreasen, Delbert W Baker, Harold W Baptiste, Bert B Beach, Adrian Bocaneanu, Reinder Bruinsma, Brian Bull, Joseph Carlson, Pyung Duk Chun, Larry R Colburn, Alipio B da Rosa, Mart De Groot, Louise Fomuso, Agustin Galicia, Roberto Gullon, Michael F Kaminsky, Robert E Kyte, Harold L Lee, Richard Liu, Lily Mandalas, Peter O Mensah, Charles F Montille, Robert W Nixon, Barry D Oliver, Ruth E Parish, Juan R Prestol, Donald G Pursley, Carlos Puyol, Humberto M Rasi, Donald E Robinson, Steven G Rose, G Ralph Thompson, Max A Trevino, Velile S Wakaba, Bertil Wiklander, F Donald Yost.

PLANS

Robert J Kloosterhuis, Chairman

Donald R Sahly, Secretary

Members: Martin L Anthony, Sergio E Balboa, Harold W Baptiste, Alejandro Bullon, Jean Carter, Sylvanus N Chioma, Birgid Faber, Howard F Faigao, Noel S Fraser, Patrick Guenin, Stephen R Guptill,

C Lee Huff, Choudampalli John, Michael F Kaminsky, Gerry D Karst, Robert E Lemon, Benjamin C Maxson, Moses Mwenya, Kermit L Netteburg, Samuel Ravonjiarivelo, Osmar Reis, Michael L Ryan, Kei Hoon Shin, Takashi Shiraishi, Virginia L Smith, Shanmug Sundaram, G Ralph Thompson, Nina Usachev, Andre Van Rensberg, Yafesi Walugembe, Ted N C Wilson.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

As provided for by the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws

SEATING OF ADDITIONAL DELEGATES AND ADDITIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Philip S Follett, Chairman

Maurice T Battle, Secretary

Members: Harold W Baptiste, Alex Rantung, Claude A Sabot, G Ralph Thompson.

AMENDMENTS—REFER TO STANDING COMMITTEES

It was noted that all recommendations for amendments or substantive changes to the Constitution and Bylaws or to the *Church Manual* will be referred to the respective Standing Committees.

GENERAL CONFERENCE RULES OF ORDER

By common consent it was agreed to approve the *General Conference Rules of Order* to govern the business meetings of the 2000 General Conference Session.

GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION 2000—CARSON, WALTER E—PARLIAMENTARIAN

Walter E Carson, of the General Conference Office of General Counsel, will serve as parliamentarian at the business meetings of the 2000 General Conference Session.

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION AND SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION—NEW DIVISIONS

Voted, 1. To recognize and record the reorganization of the former Asia-Pacific Division into two new divisions known as the Northern Asia-Pacific Division and the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, effective October 6, 1996.

2. To accept the Northern Asia-Pacific Division into the world sisterhood of divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

3. To accept the Southern Asia-Pacific Division into the world sisterhood of divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

GHANA UNION CONFERENCE—NEW UNION CONFERENCE

Voted, 1. To recognize and record the reorganization of the former West African Union Mission into two unions known as the Ghana

Union Conference and the West African Union Mission, effective January 1, 2000.

2. To accept the Ghana Union Conference (AID) into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

ZIMBABWE UNION CONFERENCE—NEW UNION CONFERENCE

Voted, 1. To recognize and record the conference status and a name change for the Zambesi Union Mission, effective January 1, 1998.

2. To accept the Zimbabwe Union Conference (EAD) into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

CHINESE UNION MISSION—NEW UNION MISSION

Voted, 1. To recognize and record the merging of the South China Island Union Mission with the East Asia Association (China) to form the Chinese Union Mission, effective June 13, 1999.

2. To accept the Chinese Union Mission (NSD) into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

NORTHEAST BRAZIL UNION MIS-

SION—NEW UNION MISSION

Voted, 1. To recognize and record the reorganization of the former East Brazil Union Conference and the North Brazil Union Mission into three new unions known as the East Brazil Union Conference, the North Brazil Union Mission, and the Northeast Brazil Union Mission, effective January 1, 1996.

2. To accept the Northeast Brazil Union Mission (SAD) into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

CENTRAL PHILIPPINE UNION CONFERENCE—NEW UNION CONFERENCE

Voted, 1. To recognize and record conference status for the Central Philippine Union Mission, effective May 19, 1996.

2. To accept the Central Philippine Union Conference (SSD) into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

SOUTH PHILIPPINE UNION CONFERENCE—NEW UNION CONFERENCE

Voted, 1. To recognize and record conference status for the South Philippine Union Mission, effective November 20, 1995.

2. To accept the South Philippine Union Conference (SSD) into the world sister-

hood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

EAST INDONESIA UNION CONFERENCE—NEW UNION CONFERENCE

Voted, 1. To recognize and record conference status for the East Indonesia Union Mission, effective December 1, 1997.

2. To accept the East Indonesia Union Conference (SSD) into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

ADRIATIC UNION CONFERENCE—NEW UNION CONFERENCE

Voted, 1. To recognize and record the organization of the Adriatic Union Conference, effective January 1, 1999.

2. To accept the Adriatic Union Conference (TED) into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

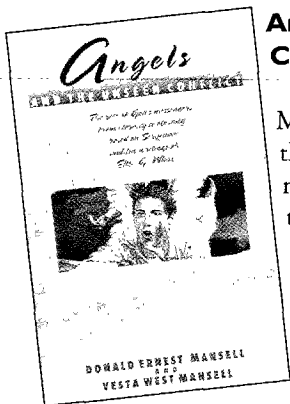
DELEGATES FROM NEW UNIONS WELCOMED

G Ralph Thompson welcomed the delegates from the new unions to the fifty-seventh General Conference session.

Adjourned.

Angels and Prophecy

◆◆ Can you afford *not* to know the truth? ◆◆



Angels and the Unseen Conflict

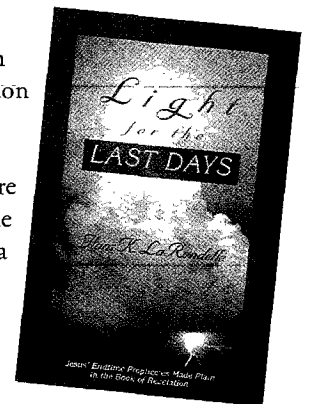
Donald E. and Vesta West Mansell trace the role of angels in the invisible battle for the souls of men by means of statements from the inspired writings of the Bible and pen of Ellen White. Discover who decides the outcome!

0-8163-1794-1. Paperback
US\$13.99, Cdn\$20.99

Light for the Last Days

When it comes to prophecy in general, and the book of Revelation in particular, data alone isn't enough. Professor Hans K. LaRondelle has gone beyond mere information and has packaged the urgent message of Revelation in a way that makes sense for today's reader.

0-8163-1758-5. Paperback.
US\$12.99, Cdn\$19.49.



Available at your local Adventist Book Center, 1-800-765-6955.

Or read a sample chapter first and order online: www.adventistbookcenter.com



© 2000 * Prices subject to change. 159/5590

Nominating Committee Report—1

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

GENERAL CONFERENCE

President:
Jan Paulsen

Nominating Committee Report—2

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

GENERAL CONFERENCE

Secretary:
Matthew A. Bediako

Treasurer:
Robert L. Rawson

ADVENTIST Review

Publisher: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Executive Publisher: William G. Johnson
Associate Publisher: Shelley Nolan
Publishing Board: Jan Paulsen, chair; Phil Follett, vice chair; Lowell Cooper; William G. Johnson; Robert E. Lemon; A. C. McClure; Ardis D. Stenbakken; Donald R. Sably; Ted N. C. Wilson; Robert Nixon, legal advisor

Editor: William G. Johnson
Associate Editors: Roy Adams, Bill Knott
Managing Editor: Myrna Tetz
News Editor: Carlos Medley
Assistant Editors: Stephen Chavez, Kimberly Luste Maran
Editorial Assistant: Ella Rydzewski
Project Coordinator: Chitra Barnabas
Administrative Secretary: Ruth Wright
Editorial Secretary: Jean Sequiera
Art Direction and Design: Bill Krstein, Bill Tymeson
Desktop Technician: Fred Woerstin
Ad Sales: Melvyn Tooley, Genis Blumenberg
Subscriber Services: Steve Hanson

E-mail: reviewmag@adventist.org
CompuServe network: 74617.15
Web site: www.adventistreview.org

Subscriptions: Twelve monthly issues: US\$13.95 plus US\$10.20 international postage; 40 issues of the weekly *Adventist Review*: US\$33.95; full 52 issues (monthly and weekly): US\$52.90

Subscription queries and changes of address for the monthly *North American Division Edition*: Contact your local union conference headquarters. For information regarding the weekly editions of the *Adventist Review*: Call 301-393-3257, toll-free 1-800-456-3991 or e-mail shanson@rhpa.org.



Choose
the one
you want
to keep

Researcher Roger Dudley says that as many as 40 to 50 percent of Adventist teenagers in North America will leave the church by their middle 20s.* Can you imagine losing one out of two youth in your Sabbath school?

If you don't like those odds, *Insight* magazine can help you beat them.

Teens read *Insight*. While sermons whiz over their heads, *Insight* talks their language. It focuses on teenage struggles like loneliness, depression, and the whole boyfriend/girlfriend thing.

Every cover introduces readers to a real Adventist teen who is doing something positive. Everything about this magazine makes the Adventist faith more real and more attractive.

Help bond our youth to the community of believers with *Insight* magazine. Why choose the one you want to keep when you can try to keep them all?

To see what *Insight* looks like these days, call for a complimentary copy: 301-393-3175. Or e-mail Insight@rhpa.org.

insight

*Roger Dudley, *Why Our Teenagers Leave the Church* (Hagerstown, Md: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 2000), p. 35.

The Gospel New Millennium...

The global mission
of the Voice
of Prophecy is
to proclaim the
everlasting gospel
of Christ, leading
people to accept
Jesus as their
Savior, calling
them to unite with
His church, and
nurturing them in
preparation for His
soon return.



H. M. S. Richards pioneered the use of radio to present the gospel 70 years ago – when many of his colleagues thought the new device was the Devil's playground.

Today the Voice of Prophecy strives to stay on the cutting edge in reaching contemporary society, exploring and utilizing the latest technologies for sharing God's Word.

Phone: 805-955-7611 • Fax: 805-955-7703
Internet: www.vop.com • E-mail: gospel@vop.com