

ADVENTIST REVIEW

July 4, 2005

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Leader Reelected

Bob Lemon
GC Treasurer

Matthew A. Bediako
GC Secretary

Talking About Servant Leaders

BY JOHN M. FOWLER

When she graduated from college in 1958, Nancy received a surprising gift. Her missionary parents in Argentina offered to take her to attend the 48th General Conference (GC) session that convened in Cleveland, Ohio. Fresh with dreams for her life that only an Adventist college can give, Nancy was numbed with an awe and wonder at seeing thousands upon thousands of Adventist believers gathered from all over the world to worship, to praise, and to elect world leaders for her church. As Nancy walked her way through the vast throng of saints, she met Jesus in a special way.

That was only part of the story. Amid the thousands of God's saints in Cleveland, she also met a young man, fresh from college too, from Chile in South America. The two became friends, and after a year or so, they were married.

That was almost 46 years ago. The Adventist glue stuck them together in an inseparable devotion to mission, witness, service, and leadership of the Adventist Church in four continents.

Drs. Nancy and Werner Vhymeister stand as a dynamic example of what Adventism does—in bringing people together, in abolishing barriers, in preparing for global service.

Service and servant leadership were much the tone of the 58th General Conference session at St. Louis. Consider the theme, "Transformed in Christ." What motivated the leaders to choose the theme of the current session? I put



LEADERSHIP: Delegates listen intently during the first leadership presentation at the session on July 3.

the question to Elder Jan Paulsen, the newly reelected president. His answer was simple and direct: "The Lord we worship must be seen in the transformed lives we lead and in the unselfish service we render. I want a church without frontiers—inclusive in fellowship, mission-minded in life and service, transformed by the grace, love, and power of the living Lord."

The apostle Paul, who concluded his grand presentation of righteousness by faith with a call that believers should not be "conformed to the world" but "transformed" in order to reveal "the perfect will of God" (Rom. 12:2), would have said a loud Amen to this session's theme that calls for a life of service and servant leadership.

The GC leaders, in planning the 58th session, intentionally devoted considerable time for this theme to penetrate the mind and soul of the delegates so that as they disperse back to the ends of the earth, the mission of Adventism will take on a new focus: a life that lives by its faith, and life that witnesses for what it believes.

Yesterday, the first full day of the business session, began the first of five plenary sessions, devoting 90 minutes each morning profiling the Adventist leadership: what are its fundamental characteristics, its motivations, its style, its directions, its empowering? Above all, can an Adventist leader afford to be a political or economic or

technological supremo? Or must he or she renounce leadership as defined by the world and echo, reecho, and live by the words of the One who said, "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

President Paulsen, in his keynote address on the profile of Adventist leadership, stressed how crucial it is for the church to develop leaders who will assume as their primary assignment reflection of "love, devotion, and loyalty to the Lord and His church." The church, statisticians project, will have some 50 million members in three sessions from now, and about 85 percent of them would have been members only for less than 15 years. The church of the future is a young church, demanding of its leaders character, integrity, humility, vision, and faithfulness.

How shall we develop that kind of leadership? The road begins with me. With each individual. As if to emphasize that point the 58th session's floor is considering at the time of going to press a new statement of Fundamental Beliefs on "Growing in Christ"—in a life of prayer, study, worship, witness, spiritual warfare. Among other things, it is a call to take up the towel and wash some lowly feet, to share the bread and wine of community, to take up the cross and walk that lonely path, to celebrate the risen Lord, and to hope for the new dawn that will forever bring a transformation that will be our eternal reward.

John M. Fowler is the associate director of the General Conference Education Department.



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For Witnessing

Devotional message presented Saturday evening, July 2, 2005

The story is told of a businesswoman who lives on one of the islands of Africa. She grew up participating in the life of the nearby Seventh-day Adventist church. When she became a young adult, she began to live a double life. She participated in the activities of the church while at the same time going to night clubs, smoking, dancing, and hanging out with the boys, one of whom she later moved in with. From this relationship, a baby girl was born. A few years later the young man died. Not very long after that she buried her 8-year-old daughter.

The woman was devastated. Her imperfect knowledge of God led her to accuse Him of being the cause of her misfortunes. But our merciful God met her where she was. Through a series of dreams He gave her the strong impression that she needed to have a closer relationship with Him, and that this closer relationship would be achieved through three days of prayer and fasting. So with encouragement and support from her mother, she did.

At the end of the period she came to believe that she should confess and repent of her sins. She experienced godly sorrow, and began regretting her double life. She wanted to change completely. Finally, she went to her pastor, told him the story of her life, and asked for baptism. A few weeks later she was baptized.

She has been transformed, and is now totally committed to the Lord. Today she shares her faith, preaches the gospel, plants churches, gives money to build churches, and provides salaries to gospel workers in her area. What a transformation! She was transformed by Christ to witness for Him. And that's exactly what God wants all of us to be and do for Him.

It has always been the will of God that each believer be His witness. He said it to the children of Israel in Isaiah



Pricille Metonou
Director of Women's Ministries and Trust and Legal Services, West-Central Africa Division

43:10, "You shall be my witnesses" (NKJV). Christ repeated the call to witnessing in the New Testament after His sacrifice on Calvary for the fallen race, and just before He returned to heaven (Matt. 28:19, 20).

We are all called to be Christ's witnesses, no matter our position, gender, age, or how much time we have spent in the church. Actually, we are *commanded* to be His witnesses.

What Does It Mean to Be a Witness for Christ?

According to one Bible dictionary, a witness is one who gives testimony to what they know about someone they have had an experience with. The witness may give their testimony even at the cost of their life, such as a martyr does. In fact, the English word "witness" came out of the word "martyrdom."

The implications are unavoidable. We humans are conceived in iniquity, born in sin, and accustomed to doing evil. We seem to be more experienced in the things of darkness, therefore witnessing for Satan rather than witnessing for Christ.

Whenever a person has an encounter with Christ, they are never the same again. It is usually a life-changing event. To the person who is willing, it will be a life-changing event for the better. God will give that one the power to become a son or daughter (John 1:12).

In the process of transformation Jesus may use disciplines or tests that we call trials. We should look upon them as we look upon a graduation class test: through this process we can graduate from one grade to a higher grade. Transformation is a continuous process, growing from strength to strength until we become like Him and become His witnesses.

Jesus did it for the apostle Paul, who put Christians in prison until he met Christ and was changed into a great

evangelist. He did it for Mary Magdalene, who had seven demons. She served Jesus even in His death: she was the last to leave the cross and the first to come to the tomb, and she was the first to announce to the whole world a risen Savior. Jesus can transform us as well.

When we experience the transforming power of Jesus, we want to witness to that fact. Witnessing becomes a natural outgrowth.

Peter and the disciples were strictly forbidden to preach, under punishment of imprisonment. Yet they chose to obey God rather than man. The young, persecuted church reacted with the never-ending witnessing syndrome, "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word" (Acts 8:4).

Similarly today, anyone who has had an experiential knowledge of Christ will find it impossible not to witness for Christ or talk about Him. How can we stay idle without telling this dying world that there is salvation in Jesus? Today, our environment is overpolluted, we are scandalized by the immorality of our times, families are broken, people are dying from AIDS, optimism has given way to despair, and men's hearts are failing them for fear. These and many other symptoms are the cries of a world looking and longing for something better. Our witnessing for Christ is the only means of bringing hope and healing.

In the tsunami tragedy of December 26, 2004, a powerful lesson was given to us. A tourist who spent four days looking for her cousin was asked how she was coping with the loss. She said, "I cannot go home without him." Oh, that the church will come to the same conclusion; we cannot go to our eternal home without our brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, relatives, and our fellow human beings.

What Does a Witness Have to Do?

If they had to answer this question, most people would give answers such as these: "We can witness for Jesus by preaching the Word in all circumstances, in season and out of season; by

distributing tracts; by giving Bible studies; by praying for people, visiting the sick and the prisoners; and by singing and praising God." However, an answer worthy of our contemplation would be what Jesus told the man out of whom He had cast some demons. "Go and tell your friends what the Lord has done for you." We can witness just by telling others what Christ has done for us.

Ellen G. White puts it very powerfully: "Our confession of His faithfulness is Heaven's chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world. We are to acknowledge His grace as made known through the holy men of old; *but that which will be most effectual is the testimony of our own experience.* We are witnesses for God as we reveal in ourselves the working of a power that is divine. Every individual has a life distinct from all others, and an experience differing essentially from theirs. God desires that our praise shall ascend to Him, marked by our own individuality. *These precious acknowledgments to the praise of the glory of His grace, when supported by a Christlike life, have an irresistible power that works for the salvation of souls*" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 347; italics supplied).

The most powerful testimony is our life. Someone has said that the words of humans are weighed in grams, but their deeds are weighed in kilos. We are to be living epistles everywhere and at any time—in our private and public life, with family members, and with strangers (2 Cor. 3:2).

The story is told of a lad who was attacked by a gang of armed robbers. They searched the bag he was carrying for money, but found none. One of his attackers then decided to ask him, "Do you have money?" He said, "Yes, my mother put it here," indicating his back pocket. Instead of taking the money, the thieves stood still. The "naked truth" from the mouth of this young disciple of Christ neutralized all their evil intents. The thieves were astonished. The leader of the gang then asked the boy, "Why didn't you hide your money?" The boy responded, "My mother is a Christian, and she

told me to always tell the truth no matter the situation."

The answer mended a broken chord in the thief's heart. Tears fell from his cheeks when he remembered what his Christian mother had taught him, and saw how far he had drifted. He left the gang and returned to the Christian life that he had once known.

Another powerful way to witness for Christ is by our influence. Do we forgive as Christ forgives when we have the opportunity to deal with our enemies? Stephen's willingness to forgive his captors led to the conversion of Saul. Paul's forgiveness and respectful response to his captors had a profound effect upon the prison authorities, thereby leading to the winning of the jailer. People using their influence in such powerful ways are still with us.

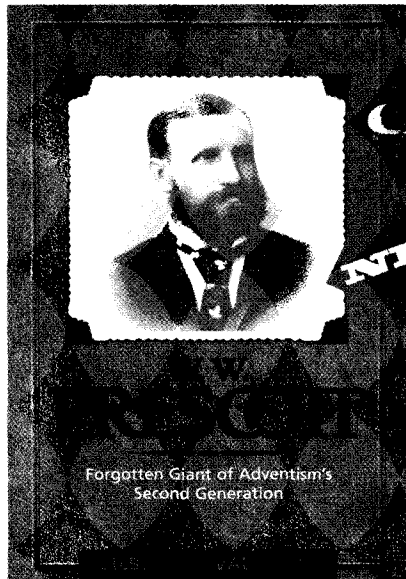
A story was told about a woman in Rwanda who had survived the horrific killing of her family by a friend of the family. She was able to see his face when he was carrying out the horrible crime. While working at the prison, she discovered her family's killer in the jail. What would she do? What *should* she do? Insult him, or try to poison him? Instead of revenge, she chose to treat him well. She visited the enemy with encouraging words and forgiveness. When the pastor came to preach in the prison, the man repented, asked the woman for forgiveness, and was baptized.

The Rewards of Witnessing

Witnessing gives many rewards. One is that the person witnessing receives the joy and satisfaction of seeing people transformed in the here and now. What joy is ours to see the prostitute changed to be the Sabbath school superintendent! The murderer changed to become the music director! The drunkard transformed to be the deacon, the preacher, or the elder!

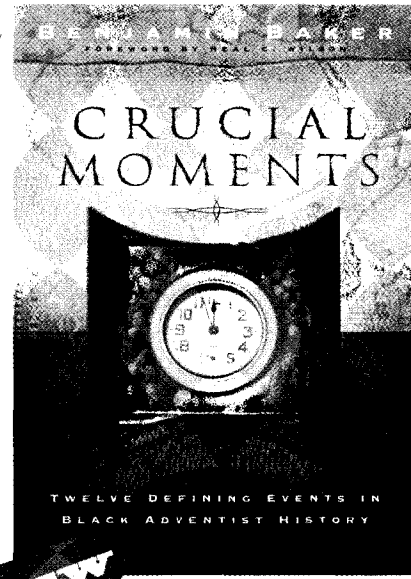
Friends, maybe you are going to church merely as a habit. Or you may even be involved in church activities while living a double life. If so, it is time to come to Christ for a thorough transformation. All we have to do is be transformed by an encounter with Jesus, and live to witness to it.

Explore Your Heritage



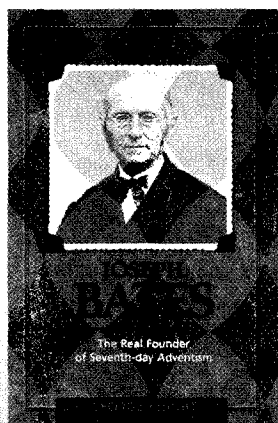
W. W. Prescott: Forgotten Giant of Adventism's Second Generation

Gilbert Valentine examines Prescott's impact on the church's educational system, then looks at how he helped reshape the theology and the policies of the church during a critical church era. Hardcover, 335 pages. 0-8280-1892-8. US\$19.99, Can\$26.99.



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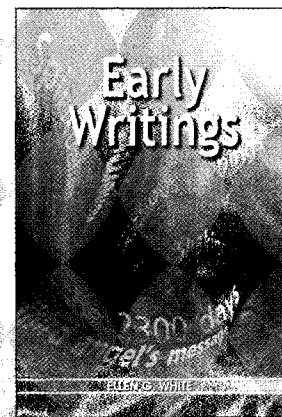


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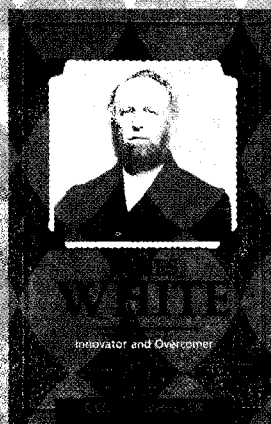
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This book contains a selection of Ellen White's writings from the 1850s and an autobiographical section on her, plus information on the early Adventist believers. Paperback edition. 1-904685-13-7. US\$9.99, Can\$13.49.



James White: Innovator and Overcomer

Gerald Wheeler provides a fascinating look at James White, the man from Maine who organized a denomination, served as its leader, and founded four journals, two publishing houses, and one university. Hardcover, 256 pages. 0-8280-1719-0. US\$16.99, Can\$25.49.



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Review and Herald® Publishing Association

Key Officers Reelected

BY BILL KNOTT, ASSOCIATE EDITOR, ADVENTIST REVIEW

Two hours after reelecting Pastor Jan Paulsen as General Conference president, the church's 58th general session also voted to reelect the other major officers of the denomination.

Matthew Bediako, secretary of the General Conference, was reelected to a second five-year term as the second officer of the church.

"I want to thank God for His leading during these five years," Bediako said as he and his wife, Elizabeth, acknowledged the delegates' applause. "I want to tell you this afternoon that I appreciate your prayers. I receive e-mails every day from somebody around the world, caring for me."

Born in Ghana, West Africa, Bediako attended elementary and secondary schools there. He graduated from the Seminary of West Africa in 1967, and began serving the church as a religion teacher and campus pastor at Bekwai Seventh-day Adventist Secondary School in Ghana. After serving at Asokare School in his homeland, he studied at Andrews University and Loma Linda University from 1970 to 1972, earning master's degrees in church administration and public health.

In 1971 Bediako began departmental service in the West Africa Union. Four years later, he was elected president of the Ghana Conference, and in 1981 became president of the West Africa Union. At the world church's New Orleans General Conference session in 1985, he was elected a general field secretary of the church and moved to Silver Spring, Maryland. In 1990 he began a decade of service as one of the church's general vice presidents.

In Toronto, Canada, in July 2000, Bediako was elected secretary of the General Conference, becoming the first African to hold that position.

Robert M. Lemon, General Conference treasurer since 2002, was elected to a full-five-year term at the Friday afternoon session. Chosen as GC undertreasurer in 2000 at the Toronto session, Lemon became treasurer two years later when then treasurer Robert Lawson retired.

Lemon has served a variety of church institutions for more than 30 years, including posts in healthcare finance, mission service in Zaire and Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), as chief accountant of Andrews University, and as treasurer of the Alberta Conference and the Canadian Union. Before becoming GC undertreasurer in 1998, Lemon served as an associate treasurer of the General Conference for three years.



Lemon received a B.S. degree from Columbia Union College in 1972 and a master's in business administration from Andrews University in 1988. Born in Kongolo, Zaire, the treasurer speaks both Swahili and English.

"It's a humbling experience to be asked to be part of your great team of leadership around the world," Lemon told the assembly. "When I was asked in 2002 to be the treasurer, I read a quote from Ellen White where she said, 'There is no limit to the usefulness of one who has set himself aside to make room for the Holy Spirit.'"

Standing beside his wife, Sherry, he added, "It's our desire that there be no limit to our usefulness, and that the Holy Spirit may work through each one of us."

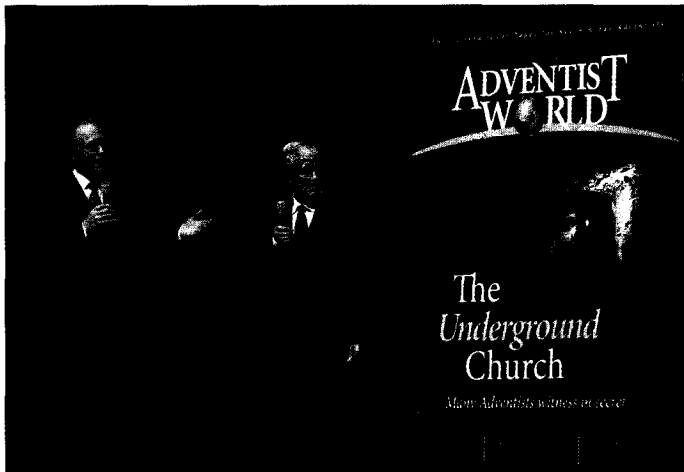
Adventist Review Introduces New Worldwide Publication

BY ADVENTIST REVIEW STAFF

During the Global Mission segment held the first Sabbath afternoon of the General Conference session, July 2, the *Adventist Review* introduced its new worldwide publication—*Adventist World*—when *Review* senior editor, William G. Johnsson, presented General Conference president Jan Paulsen with a giant-size copy mock-up of the first issue of the new publication.

"Eighteen months ago you gave the *Adventist Review* a very big assignment—to develop a paper for the whole world church," Johnsson said to Paulsen. "The staff has worked very hard, and the Lord has gone ahead of us and opened many doors. And I'm so pleased to announce that this paper will go to press at the end of August, and the first issue will be dated September 2005." Johnsson informed the 15,000 attendees at the afternoon session that *Adventist World* will be distributed throughout Asia, the South Pacific, northern Europe, the Americas, and Africa.

"I am so delighted that we will have one written instrument such as this that can speak to the whole world church—the whole global Seventh-day Adventist family," responded Paulsen. "I see this not only as an invaluable means of communication on God's behalf, but I see it also as a very important instrument to hold the family of faith



A NEW THING: Jan Paulsen (left) talks with William Johnsson about the importance of *Adventist World* for the global church.

together and bond us in unity.” Paulsen then led the congregation in prayer, dedicating *Adventist World* to the Lord and to the mission of His church.

A video shown during the presentation, which was coordinated by *Adventist Review* marketing director Jackie Smith, explained that *Adventist World* will be printed simultaneously in English at four publishing houses located in the United States, Korea, and Australia, and will have a print run of 1.1 million copies. Approximately 300,000 additional copies will be printed in Spanish and French. World readership of this issue is estimated to be at least five million.

The new publication is being funded by the General Conference and will be distributed to the divisions and then the churches throughout the world field at no cost to them. It will also be mailed free of charge directly to Adventist homes in the North American Division. The printing of the Spanish and French copies will be funded separately by division offices.

“Its purposes are the same as those espoused by James White in 1849,” says Johnsson, “to bind together the Adventist people as they wait for Jesus to come back, by sharing news and information about the church plus articles on doctrine, spiritual growth, and mission.”

The concept for *Adventist World* began with world church president Jan

Paulsen in early 2004, who asked the *Adventist Review* staff to study the feasibility of such a world voice. The staff worked intensively on the task for about 18 months, seeking counsel from leaders at world headquarters and also the 13 divisions of the global Adventist Church. By

October 2004 a plan was in place; the Annual Council considered it and gave the project the green light.

Features of the new publication include a two-page Bible study that can be used for one-on-one study or to share in large public gatherings, a selection from the Spirit of Prophecy, a world health page, and interactive features such as People’s Place on the back cover.

During August 2005 electronic files of the first issue of the *Adventist World* will be sent to the four publishing houses, and more than 1 million copies in English will roll off the presses and begin to make their way around the globe.

“It’s been a lot of work, but also a lot of fun dreaming a brand-new magazine, a church paper for the world,” says Johnsson. “My colleagues and I have felt God’s hand over the project.”

Subscribers to the *Adventist Review* will continue to receive the weekly publication, but with one change. The current third issue of each month—Cutting Edge—will move to the second week. A new edition, featuring discipleship in action—stories of Adventists throughout the world, of all ages and backgrounds, involved in service, in mission, in volunteer activities—will arrive in homes during the third week.

“The Lord has been with the *Review* from its inception until today,” adds Johnsson, “and I trust He will continue to use this church paper to strengthen and unify His people until He comes.”

Pre-session Highlights Spiritual Priorities

Delegates pray to be responsive to God’s leading.

BY STEPHEN CHAVEZ, MANAGING EDITOR, *ADVENTIST REVIEW*

As Seventh-day Adventists from around the world convened in St. Louis, the first item of business, even before the session formally began, was a series of meetings

Session Snapshot



WORSHIP AS ART: North American Gary Hullquist prepares a chalk drawing for the pre-session presentation, “The Call to Worship.” Music, drama, and testimonies were other elements of the evening’s presentation.

designed to assist delegates and guests in "Hearing God's Call." Billed as a "time of spiritual emphasis," four spiritual disciplines were highlighted and made a matter of prayer during the 24 hours prior to the official beginning of the session.

Gerry Karst, a General Conference vice president and one of the planners of the pre-session, said the meetings were planned to meet the needs of a dynamic and growing church.

Keynote presenters for the pre-session were Dwight Nelson, senior pastor of Pioneer Memorial church in Berrien Springs, Michigan, speaking about the call to prayer; Randy Roberts, senior pastor of the Loma Linda University church, focusing on worship; Rosa Banks, director of the Office of Human Relations for the North American Division, addressing the need to cultivate inclusive relationships; and Shawn Boonstra, speaker/director of the It Is Written television ministry,

on Christ's call to witness.

Following the formal presentations by Nelson and Banks, participants in breakout groups were invited to pray for specific needs of the church. Leaders of the world church led out in settings where attendees prayed for the global challenges facing the church: the need for unity; safeguarding children, youth, and families; maintaining a personal devotional life; developing constructive relationships with other religious people and groups; creating a community that embraces cultural diversity; and being aware of the staggering needs of suffering humanity around the world.

"If we could pray one prayer," said Nelson during his presentation, "let it be for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit." After citing the challenge of explosive growth among the global population (a net growth of 60 million people per year), he observed, "Our

only hope is for the glory of God to be poured out on His people by the Holy Spirit."

In his presentation Roberts highlighted the importance of worship, saying, "Whom we worship determines how we live." He imagined citizens of St. Louis asking one another at the close of the General Conference session, "What do you know about those Adventists?"

"They know how to worship," one person might say.

"How do you know?"

That person might answer: "I saw the way they lived."

"We are a family of faith," said Lowell Cooper, a vice president of the General Conference and one of the session's organizers. "In light of God's generosity to us, let's find ways to be generous to our communities—here in St. Louis and wherever we live."



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Session Theme Song Emphasizes Relationship With Jesus

BY SANDRA BLACKMER,
NEWS EDITOR, ADVENTIST REVIEW

After nearly eight months of reviewing more than 40 songs submitted for consideration, members of the 2005 General Conference Session Music Leadership Committee chose “Jesus Christ, How We Adore You”—with lyrics by Reger Smith and music composed by Ted T. Jones III—for the session’s theme song. The new song emphasizes the believer’s relationship with Christ and expresses hope in the second coming of Jesus.

According to Biblical Research Institute associate director Ekkehardt Mueller, who chaired a four-member subcommittee of the larger music committee, complementing the session’s theme “Transformation in Christ” played a large role in the decision.

“Transformation has so many aspects—salvation, sanctification, and glorification—and we somehow wanted all three to be expressed,” explained Mueller. “In the end, they are not all explicitly addressed in the lyrics, but they are hinted at.”

Mueller says the quality of the lyrics and music sent to them varied greatly. “Some submissions were just scribbled on a piece of paper, others were on a CD. They were all quite different.

“Most submissions were from people who are not professional

musicians,” he added.

Smith, the song’s lyricist, is public relations director of the General Conference Communication Department, and has a musical background in playing piano, singing,



Ted Jones III



Reger Smith

and directing choirs. Jones is a professional composer and arranger who resides in Oregon in the United States.

For a downloadable full-size version of the theme song,

go to www.adventist.org.

Jesus Christ, How We Adore You

Theme song: General Conference Session 2005

melody Ted Jones III/lyrics & arr. Reger Smith, Jr.

Je-sus Christ, how we a-dore You, God on earth and Sa- vior of all. You are the Son, the Je-sus Christ, we humbly ask You, Counselor, Judge, De- fend-er, and Friend, Give us Your mer-cy.

6 First-born, Cre - a - tor, the One on Whom we al - ways call. Hal - le - lu - jah! He is Lord, trans - form us ful - ly and Lord, cov - er us till the end.

11 Hal - le - lu - jah! He is Lord. Hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus Christ - is

16 Lord. - Je - sus Christ, come and re - claim us. Lamb of God, Your vic - tor - y bring.

21 Come in Your strength: re - turn in Your pow - er and we sing praise to our com - ing King!

© 2004 Ted Jones III/Reger Smith Jr BMI

The Power of Mission

By **Bonita Joyner Shields**, ASSISTANT EDITOR, *ADVENTIST REVIEW*

On Sabbath, July 2, the General Conference offices of Mission Awareness and Global Mission presented a multimedia survey of the church's mission work around the world. The afternoon program highlighted various countries, the missionaries working in these countries, and others who are supporting their work.

According to Matthew Bediako, secretary of the GC, the church currently supports more than 1,000 missionaries. The cost of supporting these missionaries and their work is underwritten by the mission offerings that are given by church members.

The Office of Global Mission, established in 1990, has identified five areas of greatest challenge: India, Middle East, China, urban areas, and the territory of the former USSR. Adventist missionaries have entered 203 out of the 228 countries of the



MCNEILUS DUO: During Global Mission's program on July 2, Justin and Christina McNeilus encourage fellow church members to become involved in spreading the gospel message. The McNeiluses were part of the Elijah Project outreach in Cambodia in 2004.

world, including such areas as Sri Lanka, Chad, Cambodia, Madagascar, the Solomon Islands, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mongolia, India, and Sudan.

Mark Finley, General Conference field secretary for world evangelism, described the international scope of The Elijah Project—an initiative developed in conjunction with the Education, Personal Ministries, and Youth departments of the GC and Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI). The project is training and sending out young adults between the ages of 15 and 30 to present God's last-day message. Thus far, 600,000 young adults have committed to hold 20,000 evangelistic meetings. According to preliminary reports, nearly 30,000 people have been baptized as a result of this initiative.

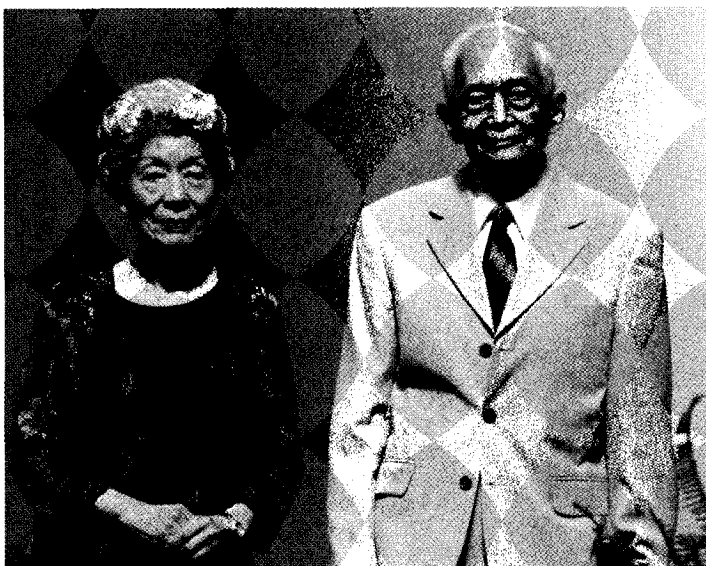
According to Global

Mission director Mike Ryan, Cambodia is part of the 10/40 window—the area of the world that has the least amount of Christian influence and reaches from North Africa through the Middle East and on to the eastern shores of Japan. Justin McNeilus, a young adult who in 2004 was part of The Elijah Project outreach in Cambodia—the largest one ever held by the Adventist Church in Southeast Asia—encouraged young adults to “take the initial step” in this important work.

The Global Mission report paid tribute to the sacrifices made by Adventists involved in mission. Lance Gersbach, along with his wife, Jean, and two daughters, Anita and Louise, served in the Solomon Islands until Lance was tragically killed in 2003. When asked if her view of missions has changed since the death of her husband, Jean said, “Rather than seeking to make a contribution, the primary motivation of my life has become to seek and do God's will.”

The program ended with the stories of Pastor David and Clara Lin, and Pastor Mikhail and Anna Kulakov—representatives of those who have been persecuted for their faith. Both pastors were imprisoned because of their commitment to mission. The Lins and Kulakovs were officially thanked and honored by their world church for modeling commitment, sacrifice, and faithfulness.

Richard Hart, chancellor of Loma Linda University, summed up the importance of the church's Global Mission effort: “The mission field doesn't need us; we need the mission field.”



PERSECUTED FOR THEIR FAITH: Pastor David Lin was released from prison after being imprisoned for 20 years for his faith. His wife, Clara, suffered as well, including having her hair burned. Was it worth it? Pastor Lin stated, “Yes. My faith is founded on Rev. 10.” July 2, 2005.

First Business Meeting (continued)

Fifty-eighth General Conference session, June 30, 2005, 6:45 p.m.

CHARLES W. DRAKE III: [Offered the opening prayer.]

ORVILLE D. PARCHMENT: It is a joy and a privilege for me on behalf of Elder and Mrs. Paulsen and the staff of the General Conference to welcome you to the fifty-eighth session of the General Conference.

I welcome not only those of you sitting here in the dome, but I welcome those of you joining us by Internet and by television. From the isles of the Caribbean to Africa, India, right around the world, you are joining us in celebrating and in witnessing the business of the church. It is our prayer that as a result of this fellowship and worship you will be blessed abundantly. Thank you, and may God bless you greatly.

DON C. SCHNEIDER: Those of us from the North American Division want to welcome all of you who have come from around the world. Thank you. We are so pleased to see you. We are pleased to meet you.

We have been praying here in the North American Division for all of you. We are so pleased now that you have come. God has blessed you. He has blessed us through you. Thank you for being here as we praise God together. It is my privilege to welcome you as delegates and special guests representing the world church to the territory of the Mid-America Union Conference, the host conference for this great convocation.

DENNIS CARLSON: [See *Bulletin* number one for his welcome.]

G. ALEXANDER BRYANT: Welcome to all the delegates and guests and brothers and sisters from around the world, from the Central States Conference territory. Our conference covers the entire Mid-America Union, from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado to the mighty Mississippi River here in St. Louis, Missouri. From the 10,000 lakes of Minnesota to the small aircraft capital of the world in Wichita, Kansas, we welcome you. We are situated right here in the middle of the United States, not on the East Coast or the West Coast but in the middle, holding both the East Coast and the West Coast together.

Welcome from more than 11,000 members and 40 congregations and 32 pastors here in Central States. Welcome from the six churches that reside here in the St. Louis area, one of which just celebrated its centennial anniversary last year. A seventh church is scheduled to be planted right after this General Conference session on

July 24, 2005.

WALTER E. BROWN: It is an honor for me to represent the 10,000-plus Seventh-day Adventists in Iowa and Missouri. We want to welcome you also to St. Louis. It is a privilege to welcome you to our conference territory. We are just happy that all of you are here. It is a blessing for us to think about people coming from every part of the world to this great city.

LORI BRYAN: [Rendered a vocal solo, "Savior, Lead Me."]

VAN HURST: [Read Psalm 27.]

TED N. C. WILSON: The General Conference administration and the Session Planning Committee requested that a new theme song be provided for this General Conference session. Through a process, the Session Music Committee chose a dynamic song entitled "Jesus Christ, How We Adore You."

I'd like to introduce two special people at this time, individuals who have collaborated on this theme song. Ted Jones III is the composer, and Reger Smith, Jr., is the lyricist and the arranger. Brethren, I want to thank you for what you have done. [Applause.] And I'd like now, Brother Robinson, if you would come and teach this congregation the dynamic and beautiful song "Jesus Christ, How We Adore You."

REGINALD O. ROBINSON: It's found on page 79 of your program book and in several other languages on page 78. Let's join our hearts together as we sing this beautiful song, "Jesus Christ, How We Adore You."

["Jesus Christ, How We Adore You" was sung.]

DENNIS CARLSON: The story of the 25 million people who live in the territory of the Mid-America Union is really the story of immigration. You can go back to the native tribes when they moved in here somewhere in prehistory. And then in the mid-1700s we saw people with French backgrounds moving up the rivers and trapping. People from Spanish and English backgrounds moving into the middle part of this continent. And yet even today the story of the Mid-America Union, both within our church and within the total community, is the story of immigration. Some of us are the grandchildren or the great-grandchildren of those immigrants who came in the late 1800s. But many of our members are people who have come more recently in the past five, 10, 15, 20

years from all over the world to the cities, to the rural areas of our territory, here in the Mid-America Union. So when you come from all over the world, you will find a reflection of yourself, wherever you may come from.

One of the stories of the Mid-America Union is being celebrated now, the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Our president at that time, Thomas Jefferson, sent two men, who had 30 others with them, across this entire continent. It is one of the great stories of exploration and discovery here on this continent.

That particular expedition was the inspiration behind our special gift that we give to you as delegates and special guests. And that is the medallion. You probably found it in your packet already. And it has the symbols that represent us here in the Mid-America Union, from the Arch here in St. Louis all the way to the mountains in the Denver, Colorado, area and, of course, the plains and the cities between here and there. So this is a gift from the Mid-America Union family to you as a world family. You will see the names of our conferences and, of course, the logo of our denomination and the statement that this is where you received it, here at the 2005 General Conference session.

Now I would like to ask Elder Jan Paulsen, our world president, to come to the podium with me for a moment. We have placed the medallion where you can see both sides in a framed glass case with a felt background. On the medallion is written: "St. Louis, Missouri, USA, 2005. Fifty-eighth General Conference Session Commemorative Medallion." It's a limited edition, a gift from the Mid-America Union of Seventh-day Adventists.

JAN PAULSEN: [After expressing his thanks to Carlson, Paulsen proceeded with his presidential report.] Guests, friends, colleagues, brothers and sisters, good evening. I'm delighted that you have come. I want to add my voice of welcome to those of you who are here with us in person and to the many who have joined us by satellite. Welcome to this special occasion. During this week there will be moments we will recognize and honor several persons for different reasons. But before we get any further into the program here tonight, I wonder whether you would indulge me just a private and somewhat personal moment. Personal but not very private, since so very little about my life is private these days.

Continued on page 25.

Through His Life of Service

Devotional message presented Sunday morning, July 3, 2005

The two key words of this topic are “transformed” and “service.” Let us look at “service” first.

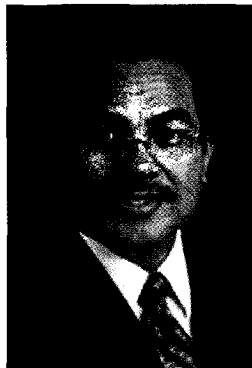
In the Jewish culture of Jesus’ time a servant washed the feet of a houseguest. Therefore, when Jesus and His disciples entered the upper room to have their last supper, none of the disciples volunteered to wash the others’ feet. So Jesus rose from the table, took a basin and towel, and began to wash their feet. They were dumbfounded and embarrassed. But He had told them already: “Whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: and whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all” (Mark 10:43, 44).

Jesus tried to correct their pride: “Do you understand what I have done for you?” (John 13:12, NIV). He wanted to show them that if their Lord was a servant, how much more should His disciples be one.

Jesus showed us by example what it means to serve: “For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you” (verse 15). Service is fundamental to our Christian life, because we follow a God who serves. Anybody can be great, because anybody can serve. You do not need a college degree to serve. You need only a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.

Jesus’ mission on earth was to serve and to save us. He did this with great sacrifice. He left heaven and became a human being on earth. Paul tells us He “made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men” (Phil. 2:7).

The word translated “servant” is *doulos* (“slave”). A slave is owned by the master and is absolutely subject to the master’s will; the slave has no personal rights. Even so, Jesus experienced the lowest level of humanity—and went even



**Hiskia Israil
Missah**

*PARL/Youth Director,
Southern Asia-
Pacific Division*

lower. He died on the cross as criminals do. He suffered and died to pay for the sins of the world—yours and mine.

What a great example! It shows us that His disciples should be humble, meek, denying self, and giving themselves in service. “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (verse 5).

To serve means to give assistance or advantage to another. Servants are persons devoted to a cause. They are not actors or superstars. Without question or doubt they wait to hear commands from their masters. It’s not a popular occupation; it has no prestige. We would rather be served than serve.

Jesus was the true servant. “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). Isaiah described Him as a suffering servant: “Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth” (Isa. 42:1). But the Scriptures also foretold that this servant would be exalted and extolled and be very high (Isa. 52:13) because of His sacrificial life and service.

The second key word is “transformed.” This means to change the condition, nature, or function of an object. To transform also means to change the form or outward appearance, or to change the personality or character of an individual. I do not mean the superficial change that so many people practice. Nowadays every advertisement shows us that if we use this or that product we can be different in looks and in our personality.

But what is important is the transformation of character that prepares us for heaven. The question is: Can you transform yourself from being unfaithful to being faithful? Can you leave a sinful life to become pure? Can you cure spiritual

sickness? Can your habits and attitudes be transformed to better ones? These are questions that we need to answer.

John the beloved disciple gives us an example of a life transformed while in the company of Jesus. He and his brother James were called “the sons of thunder” because of their bad temper and troublemaking. They wanted Jesus to command fire to come down from heaven and consume the Samaritans because the Samaritans did not wish Jesus to stay in their village.

Despite this attitude of John and James, Jesus wanted to bless the Samaritans. His mission was to save the world and to serve His creatures. “For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them” (Luke 9:56).

Jesus transformed the life and character of John. John’s spirituality grew as he spent more time with Jesus. He became the sweetest, the most loving disciple of all the twelve. He wrote five books of the Bible, and their key word is “love.” In his Gospel we find the golden verse—John 3:16. John became the apostle of love.

Ellen White notes, “For three years and a half the disciples were under the instruction of the greatest Teacher the world has ever known. By personal contact and association, Christ trained them for His service. Day by day they walked and talked with Him, hearing His words of cheer to the weary and heavy-laden and seeing the manifestation of His power in behalf of the sick and the afflicted. . . . They saw Him in every phase of life” (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 17, 18).

John the Beloved was transformed because he walked and talked with Jesus every day. He heard and saw Jesus in every phase of His life and submitted to His will.

Therefore, for us to be transformed, the number one key is to *walk and talk with Jesus*. All of us are like John. Our character is not perfect, but we can be transformed if we constantly walk and talk with Jesus.

Key number two to be transformed is to *do what Jesus did*. Through His example of service we can be trans-

formed. No one else can do it for us. Not the psychologist or psychiatrist; not counselors, teachers, professors; not even education. Education cannot change society. It is only by following what Jesus did that we can be transformed.

Key number three to be transformed is to *completely surrender to Jesus*. When we want to change the voltage of the electric current in our house, we use a transformer, don’t we? Likewise we need a transformer in our lives. We cannot do it, but Jesus can. He left us the Holy Spirit as a comforter, teacher, and guide to transform our lives if we choose to surrender ourselves completely to Jesus.

An old man owned a clock that was not functioning well. Sometimes the clock went faster; sometimes it went slower. One day he removed the two hands of the clock, wrapped them up, and took them to the clockmaker. The clockmaker asked what the problem was. The old man said, “My clock does not function properly, so please fix it!” “Where is the clock?” asked the clockmaker. “I did not bring it here, because the problem is not with the clock, but with these hands,” replied the old man. “Well, I cannot fix your clock if

you do not bring the whole thing here,” said the clockmaker. “No, sir,” the old man said, “the problem is with these hands, not with the clock.” And again the clockmaker said, “Absolutely I cannot fix your clock unless you bring the whole thing here.” Finally the old man said, “H’mmm . . . I know, you ask me to bring the clock here because you are going to charge me more, right?”

If we want to change or transform our lives, we must surrender everything—heart, mind, body, and soul. We need to surrender our pride and selfishness, our self-sufficiency. These traits prevent us from being transformed.

Paul tells us, “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Cor. 3:18).

As we contemplate the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, we will be transformed. Let us give Jesus the privilege of transforming and changing our lives. It is my prayer that you and I will be *transformed through His life of service*.

Session Snapshot



VOTING BODY: The Euro-Asia Division caucus meeting votes on their representatives for the Nominating Committee, June 30, 2005.

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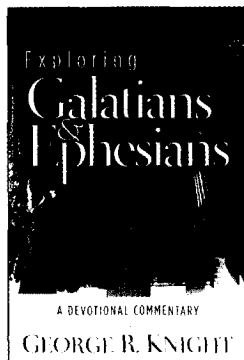
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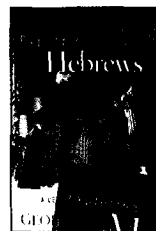
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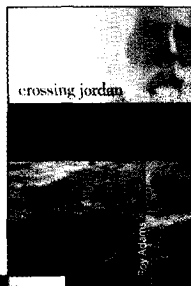


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Artur Stele
President

Angels Flying Above Euro-Asia

Presented July 3, 2005

During the last five years 62,384 people have been added to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Euro-Asia Division (ESD) through baptism and profession by faith.

Then consider these other statistics:

- More than 9,900 students have graduated during this period from our schools and colleges, including the language programs at Sakhalin.
- More than 780 church buildings have been dedicated, and 277 are currently under construction.
- Our publishing houses have printed 15,106,804 books.
- Our literature evangelists sold about 8 million books in the Year of Evangelism.
- 8 million missionary newspapers have been distributed.
- So far 30 million Sow 1 Billion brochures have been distributed.

Thanks to the help of Adventist World Radio we have been on the air not only in Russia but also in Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, and other countries.

The Euro-Asia Division in the years 2000-2005 will be remembered by many people because of such events as "300#300#300 (see below), small groups, revival and harvest weeks, youth congress, a united program of evangelism, and the first-ever satellite evangelistic program conducted in history of EAD, run by Mark Finley in March 2005.

One of the first actions of the divi-

sion in 2000 was to organize a mission institute, whose assignment was to analyze the way the Lord led us in the past; to draw lessons from the successes and mistakes; and to search for ways the church could use to face the challenge to fulfill the Great Commission Jesus gave us to go and make disciples of all nations. The mission institute consisted of the ESD leaders and departmental workers.

Looking back, we can say that the institute became an engine behind everything the division did in the past five years. It united all the departments of the division toward clear-cut goals. As a result, each department has put forward effort, talent, and energy toward accomplishing the worked-out strategy. The strategic plan did not detail entire programs, but rather reflected the general direction in which to focus our efforts. We have built strategies that address the challenges of our division, as well as the strategic issues of the General Conference: quality of life, unity, and growth.

The following special challenges have been identified by the institute:

1. Euro-Asia's territory includes nearly one third of the world's land mass, spanning 12 time zones. This means excessive travel expenses, difficult communication, and the necessity of working among a wide variety of ethnic groups, languages, and religions. This, in turn, makes building and maintaining a unified church a significant challenge.

2. Euro-Asia includes eight countries of the 10/40 window, which

present strong religious challenges.

3. Religious liberty is under real and constant threat in several countries of our territory. At least one is already completely closed to our work.

4. Traditional religions are strong in most Euro-Asia's countries and often forcibly resist Adventism.

5. Euro-Asia has significant member retention challenges.

6. Euro-Asia is a relatively new division that needs leadership development, pastoral training and experience, and structural underpinnings.

7. The majority of Adventists in Euro-Asia are recent converts and need time for growth.

8. The lack of permanent places to worship is a constant challenge.

9. The cost of running educational institutions is disproportionately high, compared to people's income.

10. Euro-Asia has a number of metropolitan areas that present special challenges to our work.

These and a number of other challenges have been identified, and strategies have been developed to meet these challenges. The programs developed and implemented during the past five years have been a blessing and have laid a foundation for the future work in the division.

300#300#300

The first 300 stands for 300 pastors, the second for 300 new church buildings, and the third for new congregations. In short, the program seeks, in a very short time, to train 300 new pastors; to purchase and rebuild 300 places of worship; and to establish 300

congregations in new, unentered areas.

The biggest challenge for us seemed to be the financial aspect of it. We began without even a penny, just trusting the Lord to provide. Now, looking back, it seems that for our Lord, there are no challenges too large. He is able to provide! As a result, more than 300 pastors have been trained,

311 church buildings have been purchased and rebuilt, and in most of the 300 areas a congregation was established; in other places we are in the process of establishing one. And in every place baptisms took place. The ideal goal is to establish not only one congregation but to work toward putting multiple churches in the same building and planting sister churches in surrounding areas.

Some people ask us how we came up with the number 300. We decided that each local field would select 12 missionary-minded young people who would be willing to dedicate their lives to the proclamation of the good news. In addition each local field would appoint one adviser who would be responsible for special support and training. As in the days of Jesus, we now had 12 disciples in each field. And with some fields requesting a slightly larger number, the total came to 300. It was this number that led them to call themselves Gideonites. It was a small group, but as powerful as Gideon's long ago.

"In June 2001 we walked into the auditorium at Zaoksky Theological Seminary in Russia, and for the first time we actually saw the 300 young Global Mission Pioneers who would go throughout the former Soviet Union to share the gospel. It was awesome. Talking about 300 missionaries is one thing. Actually bringing them together is something else entirely. They marched into the hall bearing the flags of the 12 countries they represented—their homes and



A dedication service for 300 young missionaries at the Zaoksky Seminary in Russia

their mission fields" (*Hope for the Thirsting* [a Global Mission product, 2003], p. 7).

The 300#300#300 became a reality because of God's presence and guidance that was felt along the way. A very special role was played in all that was done by the special prayer time throughout the division at 12:45 each day, and the fasting day the last Wednesday of each month.

Small Groups

The small group approach has been chosen to help to meet the significant member retention challenge, to pro-

vide the best possible atmosphere for nurturing the spiritual growth of the members, and to involve the majority of members in the work of fulfilling the Great Commission.

The Euro-Asia Division has prepared all the needed materials for administrators, pastors, small group leaders, and church members. In each union special training sessions took place. Congresses of small group leaders took place, and finally a congress of pastors who have been successful in building cell churches took place in December 2004.

The leaders of these small groups



The satellite evangelistic meetings conducted by Mark Finley of the General Conference's Center for Global Evangelism earlier this year resulted in thousands of baptisms, more than 136 people at this baptism in the main site in Kiev.

became a vital part of the Go One Million program. The Sow 1 Billion program provided the needed brochures that were used to create interest among the population for Bible studies around the division. Special brochures have been prepared in all the major languages and for different age groups.

Revival and Harvest Weeks

The revival and harvest weeks became important parts of the small group approach. At the end of each quarter a special week was selected to be a high point of the work of all involved in the small group work. The first week of the quarter was selected for special intercessory prayers for a specific territory. Then the next week the members of the small groups distributed the Sow 1 Billion brochures. The next 10 weeks were singled out for Bible studies with those who showed interest. This was the work of the small groups.

Some of those who were visited but who did not demonstrate an interest in Bible studies attended other programs—for example, a course on healthy living, or strengthening the family, or prophecies, or a special course for children and youth. After 10 weeks of weekly meetings in the small groups, all were invited to a special revival and harvest week. Usually an evangelist or an administrator was invited to conduct it.

The main purpose of this week was threefold: to ask those who had studied the Bible in the past 10 weeks to make a decision, to invite those who just came to the church for the first time to get involved in the Bible study groups, and to invite church members who had not been involved in the work of the small groups to get involved.

One of the most memorable revival and harvest weeks was conducted in Chernovci, Ukraine. The division

midyear meeting was conducted there. Each division executive committee member who was at the meeting got involved in this special week as well. We worked on the business agenda till late afternoon, and then in the evenings each board member went to a church to conduct a revival and harvest week.

On Sabbath, the last day, people from all the 36 churches involved came together in one place for a large



Scores of candidates prepare for their baptism as a result of the "harvest week revival" in Cheruovzi.

baptism. More than 136 people gave their hearts to Jesus.

Youth Congress

A very special treasure of the Euro-Asia Division is its young people. They have what we, the church, need: energy, talent, creativeness, and a willingness to serve. In August 2004 they gathered from all corners of the vast division for a youth congress. The congress demonstrated how talented and dedicated our young people are.

United in Evangelism

Beginning December 2003 a special "way of life" began in the division. Each quarter was divided as was described above:

- First week—intercessory prayer week
- Second week—distribution of the Sow 1 Billion brochures

- Next 10 weeks—the work of the small groups; study of the Bible and other materials with those interested
- Last week—revival and harvest week

Revival and Harvest

The month of March 2005 became a very special Month of Revival and Harvest. It was a first in the history of the division—a satellite evangelistic event conducted in Kiev by Mark Finley, director of the General Conference's Center for Global Evangelism. The event marked the climax of the work of the division for the past five years. Throughout the territory 1,300 sites received the signal, in addition to the many members who had their own dishes and invited their neighbors and friends to watch.

In some regions the TV channels broadcast the series from Kiev. Some prisons, military units, and evangelical churches became part of this special event. More than 200 sites outside of the Euro-Asia Division participated. We have received responses from more than 30 countries around the world.

The last Sabbath of the program was very special because of the large baptism throughout the division. More than 3,191 precious souls were added to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In the two months following the program, several more baptisms were scheduled to take place. But the full result of the program we will know only in heaven.

Overall, looking back at the past five years, we may state that they were years of laying the foundation for missionary work based on the involvement of each church member. The process was not easy; however, the results the Lord gave those fields that eagerly worked to implement the small group approach demonstrate that for Euro-Asia, the best is yet to come!

By Healing

Devotional message presented Sunday evening, July 3, 2005

Though perhaps the connection will at first not be apparent, I have selected as a biblical text for the sermon: Galatians 5, verse 1: "It is for freedom Christ has set us free" (NIV).

The Adventist health message is a key issue in this freedom secured in and through Christ Jesus. And the meaning and relevance of the health message are intimately tied to the freedom referred to in this text.

As we shall see, freedom has deep meaning. The need for transformation is, of course, the basis of the life and ministry of Christ. Such a necessity is identified in the opening sentence of the book *Ministry of Healing*, which states, "Our Lord Jesus Christ came to this world as the unwearied servant of man's necessity" (p. 17). This potential need was covered by Christ before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4).

Transformation is distinguished from a new creation in that elements of the former reality are retained. Let me illustrate: My wife and I have a small cabin on a lake. It is an idyllic retreat, and a place of cherished memories. Grandchildren, children, and happy hours together. But the cabin is old—well-built, but not winterized. When discussing its future, some advise us to tear it down and start again; others say, "You could refurbish it." My wife loves the place so much, she wants to save as much as possible of its charm and warmth. We will seek to transform it.

Understanding Biblical Wholism

When Adam and Eve sinned, God loved them so much, He was reluctant to throw it all away. They bore the image of God, you see.

If angels could sweat, they would have broken out in a cold perspiration as they watched the unthinkable. Eve suc-



Allan Handysides
*Director of Health
Ministries, General
Conference*

cumbed to the wiles of the serpent! They comprehended that sin is not an isolated act. Sin is a deforming, enslaving state. By eating the fruit, Eve became a sinner.

Angels knew only too well that this physical act of disobedience broke the spiritual bond with God and warped the mental processes. Sin had taken possession of Eve, and then of Adam—so that they now stood as *sinners*. And while the sin required forgiveness, their *state* required transformation. They were now under the domination of Satan.

As it says in Romans 6:16, "To whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness." Our common parents had been deformed from a perfect wholeness to a broken shadow of what God intended. The synthesis of the body, mind, and spirit gives a present wholeness, which, however, because of sin, is broken and cracked.

Harold S. Kushner tells of a young woman, a victim of incest. She had undergone years of counseling and therapy. "She does not feel whole, because she has never been able to get her brother to say, 'You were innocent, and I did a terribly wrong thing to you.' That one sentence, she believes, would do more to heal her than anything else."

How difficult, when one's healing depends on another. Yet, to be free from the brokenness of sin we require a Savior.

"It is for freedom Christ has set us free."

Enslaved by Satan as sinners, we cannot and are not whole in the way God intends us to be. Fractured physical parts lead to disease; fractured emotions lead to distress; fractured mental outlooks lead to lust; and fractured spiritual relationships yield guilt, remorse, and pain. When Christ died, He paid the price of freedom, but we now were

“sinners saved by grace.”

God is interested that we should be totally free. He wants every component part of our whole to be developed. Knowing we are spiritual, physical, and mental beings, He carefully attends to all our parts. This transfor-

cannot transform themselves. We need the indwelling Holy Spirit to create in us “a clean heart . . . and renew a right spirit within [us]” (Ps. 51:10).

Adventism’s Unique Message

Recognizing this composite whole-

obsessed with pleasure and self. A world that, as Galatians 5:19, 20 describes it, is full of “adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies.” As the third angel calls for those who would distance themselves from these “beastly” behaviors, so health reform requires a yielding to the Spirit. A people heralding the soon advent of Jesus need to show they possess the fruit of the Spirit: “love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law” (verse 23). Adventists are unique in applying such a message to the whole person, calling for transformation in the here and now.

Fundamentals of the Message

One may say, “But I thought the message of health reform had to do with milk and cheese and eggs?”

The fundamental message is the restoration to the Edenic wholeness, to the extent possible here before Christ comes. Health reform is a part of the final call to “come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues” (Rev. 18:4). This is not a do-it-yourself program. Health reform has, as its basis, a yielding of the will to the Holy Spirit.

There are three fundamental steps.

Step 1: Yielding the will, which permits the life to be taken over by the Holy Spirit. Once we do this, attitudes will be changed.

Those who are angry, loud, critical, abrasive in the pursuit of the health message are in fact “teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Mark 7:7), for the first healing that must take place is that of the spirit. The human spirit, with its strivings, ambitions, pride, and arrogance, is to be replaced with the calm and quiet love that comes from God: Having been transformed by the Holy Spirit, such Christians bring to all they meet a healing calm. The close connection between spirituality and health is being redis-

Session Snapshot



PHOTO BY ALDEN J. HO © REVIEW & HERALD

SINGING FOR JESUS: The Coral Jovern Adventista do Rio de Janeiro (SAD) sing for the opening evening meeting, June 30, 2005.

mation, or giving of “freedom,” comes by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit sets us free, but we must cooperate, and accept the freedom.

The famous American artist Winslow Homer depicts in one of his many seascapes, *The Gulf Stream* (1899), what I have always felt must have been a runaway slave. This hapless African lies on the deck of a battered vessel. Its mast has snapped off; it lists precariously; the lowering sky frowns on a tempestuous sea; a funnel cloud threatens; whitecaps race the waves, adding deeper tones of ominous portent over the shark fins that cut in circles around the runaway slave in his shattered craft. In the distance a full-masted vessel plows in determination through the sea—could it be a “slaver”?

The man’s face betrays feelings of hopelessness, dejection, and despair. Trying to free himself, he fails. Sinners

ness as God’s goal for humanity, comprehending the pervasive, all-encompassing, perverting nature of sin, Adventists seek not only forgiveness of sin and justification, but restoration to the wholeness God intended. This process of sanctification is not only an emancipation of the mind, but is to include the body.

Ellen White was shown that health reform “is a part of the third angel’s message, and is just as closely connected with it as are the arm and hand with the human body” (*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 32).

Health reform is to be a cry against all pagan influence. Health reform applies not only to the healing of this disease or another, but to the health of the whole person. It’s concerned not only with food or drink.

The Adventist message of health reform is unique in a world that is

Session Snapshot



PHOTO BY ALDEN J. HO & REVIEW & HERALD

YOUNG AND TALENTED: Miclen LaiPang, age 9, plays the violin for the opening evening meeting, June 30 (accompanied on the piano by Jonathan Mamora).

covered in the scientific community.

Step 2: Changing our way of thinking.

Just as the body, mind, and spirit make up the soul, transformation must address each of these for it to bring healing. Romans 12:2 says, "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Our mental component has to be renewed also for health and healing to take place. Health reform speaks to young people about their sexuality. It speaks to cultures to consider their behavior in the light of the mind of Jesus. It confronts the world church to address issues of domesticity, gender role, and integrity.

Step 3: Mending the broken physical component of wholeness.

We cannot have a "whole soul" unless we address this aspect of being Christ's witnesses. Not only are Christ's chosen transformed by healing, but they are given a specific purpose "to be occupied in healing." The giving of glory to God is not for God's edification, but a witness to His majesty, a magnification of His character that will be the final call to a

dying world. His children are to be His witnesses.

Early Adventist workers were a sickly lot. The obituary pages in the early *Review and Herald* were filled with young people who died of many disorders preventable by proper lifestyle. The early church was guided by divine revelation about the major health-giving practices of trust, temperance, good nutrition, exercise, pure water, sunshine, fresh air, and rest. It is truly amazing that the application of these principles in the lives of Adventists has been conclusively shown to promote increases in vitality and longevity.

Hundreds of studies have convincingly demonstrated that Adventists have less cancer, heart disease, strokes, hypertension, diabetes, and arthritis when they follow the Adventist lifestyle.

Living as we do, in a postmodern world, people doubt the authority of the church. Skeptics they may be, but when their eyes see the facts and read the data, many are impressed and fascinated. Perhaps one of the saddest features of modern Adventism is that many within the church have

neglected the health message. Perhaps it has been seen as only a litany of *don't's*. But the power behind the Adventist health message is, in verity, that of the Holy Spirit. His fruit transforms us for the purpose of our redemption, but also for that of the world to whom we are called to witness.

As my beginning text says, "It is for freedom Christ has set us free."

- Freedom from fear, shame, guilt, anger, malice, and envy. Oh, what mental health!
 - Freedom from doubt, poor self-image, hopelessness, and futility. Oh, what emotional health!
 - Freedom from hatred, sadness, covetousness, self-flagellation. Oh, what spiritual health!
 - Freedom from isolation, bigotry, racism, nationalism, political encumbrance. Oh, what social health!
- And yes, freedom from so many

Session Snapshot

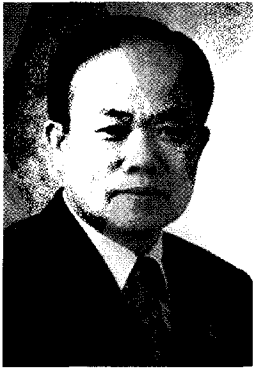


PHOTO BY JOEL D. SPRINGER & REVIEW & HERALD

AFRICAN SMILE: Nancy Onwubuariri shows items on display at the West-Central Africa Division exhibit booth at the 58th General Conference session.

diseases made worse by our lifestyles. We are transformed for healing. We are to experience here a little of heaven's bounty now.

"It is for freedom Christ has set us free."



Jairyong Lee
President

God Will Finish It

Presented Sunday, July 3, 2005

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) is the largest division in the world in terms of population as well as number of non-Christians. About 1.5 billion people, roughly one fourth of the world's population, reside in the NSD territories. Among this population only 3 percent are Christian; the other 97 percent are Buddhists, Taoists, Shinto believers, Muslims, shamans, and atheists.

The challenges before the NSD seem insurmountable with the financial and human resources currently available. However, Ellen White affirmed: "It is God who began the work, and He will finish His work" (*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 507). God Himself will complete this apparently impossible

task through dedicated men and women. We do our best to accomplish the gospel commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matt. 28:19, NKJV).

During the past five years the Lord has blessed the work in the NSD territories. In spite of many challenges and difficulties, by the grace of God, the church and the gospel have been progressing remarkably in many parts of the division territories.

Moving Forward in Mongolia

Boldera sat on his pony watching the clouds scurry across the Mongolian sky. The hot August sun beat down on the treeless plain where he kept his 200 thirsty sheep. The 12-year-old and his pony guided the herd away from the nearby railroad tracks. Later, as the sheep drank at a spring, Boldera sat astride his pony and spoke into the

wind: "Creator of the sky and the earth, talk to me; teach me about life."

As he rounded up the few sheep that had moved toward the tracks, Boldera noticed a scrap of paper lying on the ground. Sliding off his pony, he picked up the paper and read, "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. . . . When he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent" (Luke 15:4-7, NIV).

Other scriptures on that dirty, wrinkled scrap of paper spoke of God's desire for Boldera to repent. Boldera knelt in the tall brown prairie grass and prayed to this God whom he did not yet know. "Creator of the sky, You have spoken to me. I repent and ask You to forgive my sins. Carry me on Your shoulders as You did that lost sheep. Be my shepherd."

God led Boldera to the city of Darkhan, Mongolia, where he met other Christians. There he learned more about the Savior to whom he had prayed. He gave his life to Christ and pledged to follow Him wherever He led. Today he is a soft-spoken teenager, leader of his 43-member Seventh-day Adventist Youth Alive club in Darkhan. Boldera still has that tattered scrap of paper that led him to God. And he has a special burden to reach other Mongolian shepherds with

Statistics of Church Growth

Number of churches:

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 (Dec.)	No. of Companies Dec. 2004
Chinese Union Mission (CHUM)	824	964	904	925	945	1,982
Organized	63	66	65	67	68	33
Unorganized	761	898	839	858	877	1,949
Japan Union Conference (JUC)	115	115	115	115	115	40
Korean Union Conference (KUC)	678	682	688	688	696	196
Mongolia Mission Field (MMF)	1	1	1	1	3	4
Total	1,618	1,762	1,708	1,729	1,759	2,222

Membership of the NSD

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
CHUM	309,043	319,290	325,973	335,223	347,458
Organized	11,811	7,943	8,305	8,793	9,181
Unorganized	297,232	311,347	317,668	326,430	338,277
JUC	14,662	14,740	14,846	14,974	15,061
KUC	159,796	165,472	171,006	176,344	182,936
MMF	109	261	429	531	721
Total	483,610	499,763	512,254	527,072	546,176

the gospel. He wants them to know the Creator and recognize His voice.

Mongolia, greatly influenced by the Soviet Union, was a Communist country for about 70 years. In 1921 the people in the country were deprived of religious freedom. Most became atheists, with little interest in Christianity. In 1991 democracy came to Mongolia, and the door was finally open for evangelism. The membership as of March stands at 750.

The first Mongolian to be ordained as a gospel minister was Bold Batsukh, on Sabbath, August 4, 2001. Pastor Bold's wife, Otgontuya Tserenpil, is a delegate from Mongolia to the 2005 General Conference session.

In order to train future pastors for Mongolia, the Certificate Program in Pastoral Theology was launched during the summer of 2003. Daegeuk Nam, president of Sahmyook University, Korea, was the first instructor for the program, which began with 20 students. These students will work as pastors in Mongolia when they finish the four-year program.

Language Institutes

Seventh-day Adventist Language Institutes, which teach English, Japanese, and Chinese, have made a tremendous impact in the NSD and are most successful in Korea, under the direction of Kim Si Young. Since its inception in 1969, this program has continued to grow. There are now 37 Adventist language schools in Korea,

approximately 44,000 students, 244 expatriate teachers, and 440 Korean teachers. Most students are non-Adventists. Through various mission projects of the language institutes during the past five years, 4,504 people have been baptized.

Language school programs are also conducted in the Japan Union Conference and the Chinese Union Mission. A new language school will open in Mongolia in the near future.

Go One Million and Sow 1 Billion

In accordance with the General Conference plan, the Go One Million (GOM) initiative was launched in 2002 to encourage church members to participate in personal evangelism. From 2002 through 2004, 131,421 kits

were distributed to the church members, who used them to give Bible studies to others.

After the GOM initiative, we launched the Sow 1 Billion initiative to distribute brochures to tens of millions of people in the NSD territories. So far we have printed and distributed 36 million brochures.

Pioneer Mission Movement

The Pioneer Mission Movement (PMM) is the NSD's Global Mission project for planting new churches in its territories. Its goal is to send 100 church pastors to other countries within the NSD territories for cross-cultural missionary work. They will serve in the mission field a minimum of six years, including one year of language study.

During the NSD's midyear committee held in 2002, the Pioneer Mission Movement was officially voted. As a result of this committee action, the first group of five Korean PMM ministers, along with their wives and children, were dedicated and commissioned in a solemn dedicatory service in the presence of hundreds of church members at the Sahmyook University auditorium in Korea. Jan Paulsen, president of the General Conference, in his charge to the missionary pastors, reminded them of the importance of missionary work and prayed for the power of the Holy Spirit to be poured upon them.



Adventist young people in Mongolia



The dedication service for the PMM pastors and their wives

Japan was the first country chosen to receive the PMM missionaries. Although Japan is one of the most developed countries in the world, it is one of the most underdeveloped in terms of Christianity. The Christian population is less than 1.2 million, less than 1 percent of the total population of about 127 million. The lack of pastors is causing growth in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Japan to come to a statistical standstill.

After 100 hours of intense missionary training in the areas of mission, health ministry, mission strategies, and spirituality, the first group of PMM missionaries left their homes in Korea on April 1, 2003, and proceeded to Japan for one full year of language

study, to be followed by five years of service as church planters.

Ten Korean pastors were selected as the second group of PMM missionaries. In 2004 they left Korea with their families for language study and evangelism in Japan and Taiwan, five families to each country.

In 2005, 13 Korean PMM pastors were trained and, together with their families, sent to plant churches in unentered territories in Japan, Mongolia, and Taiwan. Presently 28 PMM pastors and their families are serving as church-planting missionaries in the vast territory of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

In order to support the PMM pastors in the field, the Golden Angels singing

group was organized with seven volunteer musicians in 2004 and eight in 2005. They assist PMM pastors with public evangelistic meetings and revive the hearts of young people in the NSD territories. In addition to their music ministry they visit people door to door, distributing brochures and giving Bible studies.

1000 Missionary Movement

The 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM), with Kim Yo Han as director, trains and sends young people to different countries of the world so that they can devote one year of their lives to sharing the gospel. The goal is to train and send 1,000 volunteer missionaries each year.

Since the 1000MM was launched in 1993, 3,200 young people from 45 countries have joined it and given a precious year of their lives in the mission field as volunteer missionaries. Through their efforts about 35,000 people have been baptized, 355 church buildings have been constructed, and 460 churches and companies have been established in 40 countries.

Looking Ahead

During the past quinquennium the Chinese Union Mission, Japan Union Conference, Korean Union Conference, Mongolia Mission Field, and 119 large and small church institutions have been greatly used by God to spread the three angels' messages to the millions of people in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division territories. We praise God, for He has accomplished many wonderful things for the salvation of the people through His church.

The NSD is one of the most challenging divisions in the world, with many obstacles to evangelism. The economy is unstable, and the political situation in many countries is somewhat unpredictable. Nevertheless, the Lord is leading the work of His church. As we continue working together, united in spirit, the Lord will open the door of evangelism. We will move forward, trusting in the Lord until we accomplish the gospel commission in the entire world. Maranatha!

Baptisms and Professions of Faith					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
CHUM	20,394	14,565	6,724	9,279	12,273
Organized	522	450	403	517	426
Unorganized	19,872	14,115	6,321	8,762	11,847
JUC	335	290	294	336	303
KUC	6,129	5,960	6,041	6,881	6,987
MMF	47	152	168	103	178
Total	26,905	20,967	13,227	16,599	19,741

Continued from page 12.

But I want to honor one particular person this evening. I want to honor her for tomorrow, July 1. She has put up with me for 50 years, half a century, and that is no easy task. It requires a lot of love, patience, and tolerance and quite a lot of forgiveness, and she has brought that to our lives. And it has been a good life together. Now, I wondered, *What should I do?* I probably should have bought 50 roses. It seemed a lot, and I wondered, *Would she even be able to carry that?* So I went the other way. [Presented flower to Kari.] With just one rose, because really that says it all to me. She is a rose to me. Anyway, I just had to share that with you. Half a century is quite a while. Of course, they started them very young in those days.

As we continue the evening, we will now share with you, not through a comprehensive global report (that will come to you through the reports every evening from the 13 divisions), but through some selected snippets of our global church as it witnesses for Christ and serves as Christ's hand reaching out into the community.

And sometimes, as I travel around, I ask our church, "Is your city, is your community, is your country, a better place because you are there? Does the presence of an Adventist church in a community make any difference? Would anyone notice if your church was no longer there?" If the answer is no, then we are failing in our mission as a church and in our responsibility as Christ's representative. So this evening Kari and I want you to meet a few people who are making a difference in their community.

May I invite the Azevedos, Sergio and Marli Azevedo, to please come and join us? They are two of the leaders behind this extraordinary project. Tell us, how did it all start?

SERGIO AZEVEDO: The project began on a Friday evening, on a day close to Christmas. We thought about how we ourselves, our church and our community, could do something to help people in need. And so right after we finished supper we sat down, set up the plans, and decided to show it to our church so that we could get started. And so the pastor agreed that on the following Sabbath we would be able to present the project to the church. Consequently we gave the church two tasks.

The first task was to collect the greatest amount of food that they were able to so that it could later be distributed through ADRA to the members of the community. And the second task was for the church to work together so that they could bring people from different classes of society to work together with the church.

JAN PAULSEN: This is amazing. Do you take food into the towns, into the

favelas, to the poor people? Where do you get it from? Who gives you this food?

MARLI AZEVEDO: The food usually comes from donations from people in business. Usually people who are in businesses that do not belong to church members. Within the 10 years that the project has existed we have had more than 100,000 people donating.

JAN PAULSEN: Wonderful. Do you see the picture? Here is a church, or rather a couple in the church, who get the idea that they will go to some of the rich people, some of the businesses, and collect food for poor people, so that they can enrich their Christmas. Thank you. [Another video was shown to the attendees about an Adventist layperson, Eileen Marie from Mauritius.]

KARI PAULSEN: This story of Eileen Marie truly is an inspiring one. She has sometimes been called a "one-woman force for the good of the community." I wish that she could have been here tonight, but I did talk to her on the phone earlier. That conversation follows.

Hello, Eileen Marie; it is so nice to be able to talk to you on the phone today, but I am sorry that you are not able to be with us at the session. It puzzles me a little that you are working with so many aspects of human suffering. In today's world we are flooded with news of destruction, war, and all kinds of sadness. Sometimes it is all too much, and we long for some beauty and peace in all of this. Yet you work with so many aspects of human hopelessness.

EILEEN MARIE: What you need to know is that I have suffered very much and I can understand those who are suffering. That was the main reason—love for those who were suffering—that pulled me to this kind of work.

For me, I have learned to endure this kind of work, but I pray every day and ask God to help me to do this work.

KARI PAULSEN: Thank you so much. It has been a joy to talk with you.

In the Gospel of John we read that He, Jesus, was the Word. He was God, He is God, and through Him everything was made. When He walked on this earth, He preached, He prayed, He raised from the dead, He healed, and He helped. And often, He reached out His hand.

We thank the Lord tonight for the Eileen Maries of this world who have learned from our Lord to reach out their hand. [A video about Romania was presented.]

Romania is a country of majestic beauty, haunting music, and rich history. A country rich in poetry, in literature, in architecture, but also a country in which war and repression and poverty have played a big role, and today you see so much of Romania that has been marred by all of this.

I'm happy tonight to have with me

Cristian Modan, our youth director in Romania, and Christian Militaru, one of the young people who took part in a project called "Once You Serve."

You saw part of it on the program, and they don't go just to help the poor people, but also to try to improve buildings such as schools, hospitals, parks, etc.

KARI PAULSEN: Pastor, you are kind of a driving force in this, and you have taken part in so many projects. What do the people say when you come and do these things?

CRISTIAN MODAN: Actually, the more visible the project is and the smaller the village is, the faster everybody hears about it. I think that there are three major impacts. The first is the work that we do.

The second impact is basically laying down a Christian example for the people. I remember two officials who asked us how we educated our kids like this. They said that they needed this in their schools—that they had never had that kind of success. The mayor of one town, looking at the young people working, said that he had never seen people working—for free—with so much enthusiasm.

The third impact is the relationship with the local community. This project is building a bridge between the church and the local community. The friendship that happens there will bring the gospel also.

KARI PAULSEN: Praise the Lord! Christian, you went and took part in the project. Do you have any memories you'd like to share?

CHRISTIAN MILITARU: Well, I will always remember the moments that people came to us and asked, "What are you getting paid for this? We really appreciate what you're doing for us, but we can't afford it, you know? We have nothing to pay you." Of course, we try to explain that our work was voluntary and that we expected nothing in return.

KARI PAULSEN: Thank you. Pastor, how have the young people taking part in these endeavors been impacted? What have you observed in all of this?

CRISTIAN MODAN: Well, I didn't meet all 4,000 of them that got involved in the 180 mission trips. But those that I have seen changed a lot. They learned about teamwork, and the young people came back very good friends and ready to go again and do something for the church.

KARI PAULSEN: I can see that. And we really appreciate that you've come here tonight to share this with us.

JAN PAULSEN: As a church we are a believing community. We are a preaching community, we are a teaching community. We go to the Bible, we open it, we read it, we interpret it, we share it. But the question that we must also take with us is *What else do we do?* How do we reach into the lives of people? People who endure many

daily, ongoing sufferings. We need to discover that somebody cares about them. Do we do this as a church? It's important. Thank you to those who shared their experiences and testimonies with us.

Now, we are a global family—there are 13 divisions around the world. And I've asked one representative from each of these 13 divisions to join us here. They will join with Keri and me and will have a brief moment of prayer together. By our holding hands together we will symbolically demonstrate the bondedness of the church globally.

Pray with us.

It's been a wonderful privilege for me to serve the Lord and the church in a very trusted role for the five years that are now coming to an end. The colleagues I work with are the finest professionals who love the Lord and are committed to His mission and to the mission of the church. And therefore in a way the assignment, although it is a busy one, has been uncomplicated and immensely rewarding. Our emphasis during these past years has been on mission. Annual Councils have consistently, in the actions they've taken, focused on this.

We have supported a range of initiatives such as Go One Million, Sow 1 Billion, the 10/40 window, the Year of Evangelism, the Elijah Project, and several others that have ensured that mission has been the context in which all decisions have been made with regard to what we will prioritize and how we will use our resources. We hold that when we engage in mission the church comes alive. For then and only then, the church becomes what it was designed to be.

In the words of inspiration God says to His people, "I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you, and I will make you to be a light for the Gentiles, to open the eyes of the blind, to free the captives from prison, and to release from prison those who sit in darkness" (see Isa. 42:6, 7). And more recently to us as a people, the church of Christ on earth was organized for missionary purposes. And God desires to see the entire church devising ways and means whereby high and low, rich and poor, may hear the message of truth.

All that we are and all that we do finds its meaning in this. If we spend our resources and energies otherwise, we will have wasted them. I look back over the past five years, and I want to recognize and honor in particular the increasing number of lay members in our church who are engaged in mission. Whether it be in building churches or in building communities of faith by building schools or orphanages, or by feeding the poor or healing the sick, or by being partners in small group evangelism, they have participated in mission.

Multiple thousands of laypeople are

involved every day as volunteers in the mission of the church. Theirs is a service of love. They ask for nothing except to be allowed to take part. Our mission, my friends, is broad and inclusive, and there is room for all. I thank you, and I honor you for what you do. The agenda and the mandate for mission are Christ's. And until He comes, this we will do. And we will do it together. Among our institutions there are probably none that reach more people daily than do our educational centers. They touch 1.5 million children and students every day. I honor them tonight for their ministry. And I say to them, "We need you; we cannot finish what we are here to do without you." So I ask you, I beg of you, I encourage you, continue to love the Lord and care for His youth by teaching them the values and the identity that Christ has given us. Now a word about this particular session that we have come to. Early in the history of General Conference sessions, our pioneers made room for very important considerations and studies of biblical and spiritual matters. With the passing of time, maybe in part reflecting the increasing complexity of our global work, so much of our agenda at sessions have been occupied largely by election issues, by constitution and bylaws and by *Church Manual* matters.

That is important, and we will do some of that also this time. However, in planning this particular session, we have set aside significant blocks of time, quality time, to the consideration of some matters that are of critical importance to our spiritual life and to our witnessing life as a church and as a community of faith. Five mornings, from 10:45 until noon, beginning this Sunday, we will focus on the nature and character of Adventist leadership. What makes Adventist leadership special? What are its hallmarks? What is its genius?

There will be five different presentations, followed by discussions and input from the delegates, from the floor, from you. These are five highly protected periods, and we want all delegates present. The Nominating Committee will not meet during those five presentations. We want the leadership of the church, whether it be elected leadership or lay leadership. For leadership you are; that's why you are here. We want the leadership of the church, from all levels, to be present and to take part in these considerations.

This will be followed by five periods in the early afternoon, from 2:00 to 3:00, beginning also this Sunday—five presentations that will focus on mission, and they are very, very important to the spiritual life of the church. We will consider the church and spiritual life, the church and society, the church and apostasy, the church and the cities, the church and secular life. There will be short (10- to 15-minute) pre-

sentations of each of these topics, but most of the time has been set aside for you delegates to come to the microphones, to share your convictions, to tell us what the Lord is placing on your heart, the burden you feel, the vision and understanding you have—to tell us how we can do, and plan, and think better for the church to become stronger and more effective, and more useful to God. Careful notes—I will stress this—careful notes will be taken of the comments you make so that these do not disappear with the air you breathe. They will have a life in influencing our planning and thinking after this session and what you have said, the collective input of this body, will find its way into the thinking and planning of programs and initiatives that eventually will be presented to Annual Councils. So we are serious about this; we do want to hear what you have to say in these matters, so please plan to be present at these sessions. As I look to the future, there are obviously many things that occupy my mind. Can I mention just two? First, the involvement of youth in the life and witness of our church. We have to do better than we have in the past. Second, the need among our people for a much broader sense of ownership in everything that the church is about. The church is all of us, and it has to do with what's going to happen with us. I am very pleased with the increasingly strong and creative participation by laity in the governance, life, and witnessing of our church. They have been blessed with resources; they have spiritual gifts; and clearly they know that they are going to have to answer to God for how they use them. And that is good, that is wonderful, but it's not enough. Please don't hold back. Come and give all you can, do all you can, and let yourself be fully drawn into this.

Can I say a word to you who are young? I mean you who are between 15 and 30 years of age. There are not many of you here this evening, there are not many more who will see this by satellite, but those of us who are here will need to take this with us back to our respective churches, back to the young people; we need to communicate this to them. So I am speaking to you who are young, you who are students, you who are young professionals: I want you to come in and to partner with the rest of us.

I want to make room for you, for you have energies and ideas that no one can quite match. If you don't find the church interesting, you can make it interesting; just don't walk away from it. For walking away is the worst possible thing that you can do. Look, it's Christ we are talking about. Don't turn your back on Him. For if you do, all you are left with is Peter's haunting question, "To whom shall we then go? I want you who are young, I want the women, I want laity, and these three, they overlap."

Session Actions

*Fifty-eighth General
Conference session, June 30,
2005, 6:45 p.m.*

GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION 2005—NOMINATING COMMITTEE—APPOINTMENT

VOTED, To appoint the following as members of the standing Nominating Committee for the 2005 General Conference session:

Abreu, Onilza Gerth
Acevedo, Daniel
Acevedo del Villar, Cesario
Agyeman, Charlotte Osei
Alemu, Haile
Allen, Patrick L
Andreasen, Niels-Erik
Argüesta, Alfredo
Ash, John William III
Astrouski, Maisei
Baker, Delbert W
Balais, Sylvain
Balboa, Sergio
Barba Briceno, Luis Estuardo
Bastien, Antonine
Beagles, Kathleen
Behrens-Basaraba, Berel Lyn
Bina, Steven Magesa
Bonetti, Vic
Brito, Mario Alberto
Brown, Everett
Browne, Benjamin P
Bruinsma, Reinder
Bryant, Glenward Alex
Buba, Gyang
Burgos, Victor
Bustamante, Eliseo
Bustintza Cabala de Carbo, Leonor Segunda
Butler, Joy
Calderon Miranda, Mario Augusto
Camacho, Angelina
Cardoso, Izeas
Carlson, Dennis
Catton, Carolyn
Charles, Leslyn
Cheatham, Charles
Cho, Chul Soo
Choudampalli, John
Christo, Gordon
Cobb, Beverly
Colney, Lalchansanga
Davai, Thomas
Dayson, Nestor
De Gracia Gonzalez, Jose Abdias
De Pina, Irlando Pereira
Devadhas, Justus
Dlamini, Phetsile
Eisele, Melvin

Elias, Teodoro
Ellazar, Winilfredo
Farnsworth, Ruth
Ferreira, Victoria Edith
Ferreyra Castillo, Melchor Augusto
Fontaine Marquez, Daniel
Gashajia, Joy Mulikanwa
Gerhardt, Johann
Godina, Zmago
Gomez Jimenez, Cesar
Gonzalez, Luis
Guaite, Alberto F
Gustin, Patricia
Haapasalo, Erkki
Habingabwa, Uzziel
Helminen, Atte
Hap, Benjamin
Heyaime de Jimenez, Claritza
Hibbert, Julian Gavin
Hiroshima, Phil
Hong, Myung Kwan
Hutano, Teodor
Iglesias, Pedro Walberto
Inada, Yutaka
Jackson, Daniel
Javier Perez, David
John, Masih C
Kadmiel, Sujatha Vijaya Kumar
Kaiser, Kim
Kalbermatter, Ignacio Luiz
Kamwendo-Kaunda, Jane
Kendel, Ole Bjorn
Kim, Chang-Su
King, Donald
Kozakov, Victor
Krupskiy, Volodymyr
Kyaw, Saw Muller
Laryea, Seth Abang
Laurent, Max-Rene
Lee, Harold
Leitao, Paulo
Liberanski, Pavel
Lima, Jose Carlos de
Lotca, Victor
Lozano Vergara, Leonel Eduardo
Machamire, Paminus
Machel, Gunther
Malaba, Raphael Nyongesa
Maphosa, Norman
Maphosa, Solomon
Mascarenhas, Heber
Masih, Younis
Matandiko, Cornelius
Mathema, Zacchaeus
Mayr, Siegfried
Mensah, Peter O
Mfune, Saustin Sampson
Monnier, Eric Philippe
Monteiro, Tereza Cristina Queiroz
Monterroso Cabrera, Cesar
Mostert, Tom
Muasya, Musyoka Paul
Musasya, Makulambizya
Navales, Jonathan
Ndulu, Ayubu
Ngalamlume M, August de Clerc
Niconde, Victor Rosario N
Nixon, Robert

I want you to claim and to accept a much, much greater share of the ownership responsibility in our church. Do not define the church as something other than yourself. That would be a mistake. The church is not defined by election, nor is it by who pays your salary. The church is defined by faith. Do you have faith? OK, you are the church. So I say to you, especially you who are young, Come walk with me for Christ and for the church. I will do my best to make space for you. For you are my wanted partner. Christ invites you, the church needs you, and we are all one family of faith.

KARLA RIVERA: [Rendered a vocal solo, "Consecration."]

[Videos on mission and on Holland, Korea, and ADRA were presented.]

OAKWOOD AEOLIANS: [Sang "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."]

REGINALD O. ROBINSON: As we have seen snippets of the president's review of events and of the advancement of the kingdom of God around the circle of the globe, we cannot help singing, "To God be the glory, great things He hath done; so loved He the world that He gave us His Son, who yielded His life an atonement for sin, and opened the life gate that all may go in." [The audience was led in hymn singing and praise.]

TED N. C. WILSON: Thank you, Brother Robinson. We thank you for your patience; the list of appointments to the Nominating Committee has been compiled and will be presented to you momentarily. We have an interesting announcement. Earlier today you heard that if you wish to preserve your room card intact you should not put it into the same pouch that holds your name tag, because of the magnet. You also heard that you should be very careful about credit cards getting near that particular magnet. We have information from the resident cardiologist that anyone—and this is a serious announcement—who has a surgically implanted defibrillator should not wear that particular magnet around their neck.

We would like to invite Larry Evans, the undersecretary of the General Conference, to come forward. And we have a report to bring to you regarding the caucus arrangements that have been made for the Nominating Committee. [These arrangements were explained to delegates.]

Thank you very much, and that concludes the business activity for this evening.

RHONDA KARR: [Benediction.]

TED N. C. WILSON, *Chair*

MATTHEW A. BEDIAKO, *Secretary*

BILL BOTHE, ATHAL TOLHURST,

FRED THOMAS, and CLAUDE

SABOT, *Proceedings Editors*

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 Nrihanabayo, Antoinette
 Nwaogwugwu, Gideon
 Obas, Etzer
 Ola, Joseph Adebisi
 Oliveira, Wandyr Mendes de
 Orillosa, Edwina
 Osborn, Richard
 Ott, Rubin
 Ottesen, Bjorn
 Padmaraj, Daniel
 Palacio, Julio
 Patzer, Jere
 Perla, Pablo
 Perry, Cecil
 Perupogu, Wilbert
 Porter, Thomas
 Phulusa, Alex Mchuka
 Queiroz, Geovani
 Quinteros, Guido Rodolfo
 Ramos, Jose Miguel
 Raso, Bruno Alberto
 Raso, Bruno Alberto
 Rathinaraj, John
 Reichel, Benjamin Arturo
 Retzer, Gordon
 Roger, F Guy
 Rosat, Denis P
 Rugelinyange, Amon
 Ryan, Anna
 Sanchez Garcia, Hector Manuel
 Sepang, Bobby Joutje
 Sharon, Gibeon Ebenezer
 Shiraishi, Takashi
 Silva, Helder Roger Cavalcanti
 Simek, Pavel
 Sinaga, Houtman Elysha
 Situmorang, John Maruli
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 Souza, Moises Batista
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 Tang, Roxana Hiem Soon
 Tausere, Nemani
 Tchamembe, Rita
 Thundiyl Parambil, Pothan Kurian
 Tkachuk, Vladimir
 Toledanes, Jemuel Mateo
 Tombs, Sydney Thomas
 Townend, Bill
 Trevino, Max
 Trotman, Jansen
 Trujillo, Jacques
 Tunnell, Dale
 Vaca Espino, Jaime Segundo
 Van Treec, Klaus
 Wakaba, Velile Siza
 Walshe, Alan
 Wani, John Luga
 Warden, Ivan Leigh
 White, Louise
 Wilson, Brenda
 Wolde-Endreas, Solomon
 Wright, Walter L

Wu, James Sze Fai
 Zhukalyuk, Mykola
 Zilgalvis, Valdis
 Zivanovic, Miodrag

Lowell C Cooper, Ted N C
 Wilson, Chairmen
 Matthew A Bediako, Secretary
 Larry R Evans, Actions Editor
 Janet C Upson, Rowena J Moore,
 Recording Secretaries

Second Business Meeting

*58th General Conference
 session, July 1, 2005,
 9:30 a.m.*

MARTIN W. FELDBUSH: Good morning and welcome to the General Conference session on this beautiful morning of Friday, July 1, 2005. [Prayer in English.]

JOHN GRAZ: Mr. Chairman, dear brothers and sisters, it is a pleasure for me to introduce Dr. Lynn Jost and Mrs. Jost. Dr. Jost represents the Mennonite World Conference governing council and also serves as member of the national leadership board of the Mennonite Brethren Church. Brothers and sisters, you know that Mennonites and Adventists have always had good relations. And we appreciate your presence among us. We welcome Dr. and Mrs. Jost.

LYNN JOST: Thank you, John. In the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord, I bring you greetings on behalf of the Mennonite World Conference. This represents 1.3 million sisters and brothers in a global community of 95 national Anabaptist Christian churches from 51 nations. Greetings from our president, Nancy Heisey, and executive secretary, Larry Miller. As your sisters and brothers we pray God's richest blessing on your gathering for the fifty-eighth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists here in St. Louis. Our prayer is that through these sessions you will grow in three distinctive Christian qualities that we share with you: the qualities of peace, praise, and purpose.

May you represent God so clearly that the world will find God's love irresistible. As Jesus' followers, may we share Christ's good news with God's world. May God bless you richly.

HAROLD W. BAPTISTE: The business session of the General Conference is now

open. The first item that we have to present before you is a report from Undersecretary Larry Evans.

LARRY R. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, we wish to complete the report from the caucus groups that met last night by adding the following names, which should be seen on the screens shortly. I move the recommendation to add the following names: Bert Beach, Ted Ramirez, Calvin Rock, Ardis Stenbakken, G. Ralph Thompson, Robert Swieczey. [The motion was seconded and voted.]

Mr. Chairman, we would ask that those individuals report immediately to room 276, where the Nominating Committee is convening.

Next we are going to call on Elder William Johnsson from the *Adventist Review*; he has a special presentation at this time.

WILLIAM G. JOHNSON: Ladies and gentlemen, for 120 years the *Adventist Review* has been the medium by which the record of the General Conference session is kept. We publish daily bulletins. Those of you who are delegates have already received the bulletin supplement. This is something different this year. We have gathered together all the reports from the departments and services into one volume, and you should have already received that.

From here on, day by day we gather materials and go to press each night, and the following morning you will receive another bulletin. These bulletins are free to all delegates. They will be handed out to you morning by morning, except tomorrow morning. Those who are not delegates may buy these bulletins. This year we have a wonderful group of young people who are helping us sell these bulletins, and here is one. This is Lisa Poirier. She is one of our bulletin young people. Pastor Paulsen, I would like you to meet Lisa Poirier.

JAN PAULSEN: Thank you, Lisa, for giving me the first copy of the first bulletin, and I will read it with great interest.

HAROLD W. BAPTISTE: Thank you; give them a hand again. I will now call on Matthew Bediako, the secretary of the General Conference, to present his report.

MATTHEW A. BEDIAKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once more I want to welcome all the delegates, special guests, protocol guests, and spouses who are here this morning. I want to give thanks to our heavenly Father, who has granted us traveling mercies to assemble from all over the world.

I would also like to express special appreciation to Congressman Roscoe G. Bartlett, who used his influence and took time off from his busy assignment to work with us on visas for delegates. [Special mention was made of a number of individuals who worked on the visa problem.]

I want to appeal to the delegates who

made a promise to the counselors who interviewed you. I hope you will fulfill those promises to regain the good name of the church in some of these countries. In some places we had to send the General Conference Financial Statement to prove that we have the resources to sustain you while you are in this country.

I would like to give a little explanation about the report that I will be bringing this morning. It contains the full report from all the departments, all the divisions, all the services as we have them. I will just give an overview of the report, without going into the many details. [Elder Bediako presented his associates at the General Conference level and at the division levels. He then presented the Secretariat report. After presenting the report, he moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and voted.]

Every Wednesday afternoon I chair the appointees committee, where we invite individuals to leave their homes, their culture, and their families and go out somewhere in the world to work. Recently it has dawned on me that some of these people leave their homes, their families, and do not come back. They die in their workplace. This morning I have invited a young woman who went with her parents to Palau. Unfortunately her father, mother, and brother were murdered. She herself was mistreated and was left to die; only her guardian angels saved her life.

I would like to invite Melissa to come to the platform. Melissa de Paiva represents children whose parents have made the ultimate sacrifice and who have come home alone. Melissa wants to be a missionary in Palau. I'd like to invite Mrs. Paulsen to present these flowers.

KARI PAULSEN: I've been asked to give Melissa this arrangement of flowers. She's a flower in herself, and I think one of the most beautiful flowers the Lord ever made, both on the outside and inside. And we give her these flowers as a small token of our love and our prayer for her future.

MATTHEW A. BEDIAKO: Thank you, Melissa.

There's one person who has worked for 17 years at Secretariat. She has served as a consultant. She's everything to Secretariat. She has given me a letter that at the end of August she will be retiring.

Elaine Robinson has been working behind the scenes day and night. I need to apologize to her; she didn't want to come up here, but I feel strongly that she needs to be recognized. And I want my wife to present flowers to Elaine for the assistance she has given to Secretariat, the immense help we have received from her. Thank you, Elaine, and God bless you. We also have a plaque to express our appreciation to Elaine. And the undersecretary will present it.

LARRY R. EVANS: The plaque reads,

"Presented to Elaine A. Robinson at the 2005 General Conference Session in St. Louis, Missouri, in Special Recognition in Gratitude for Your Professional Contributions and Dedication as Assistant Secretary of the General Conference and for 30 Years of Steadfast Commitment to the Work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, From January 1, 1960, to August 31, 2005."

Elaine, we are very pleased to present this.

HAROLD W. BAPTISTE: A wonderful report has come from Secretariat. I want to call on Bert Haloviak to present the report from Archives and Statistics, which is part of Secretariat.

BERT HALOVIK: The six-page printed report before you is not only available to the delegates but will also be printed in the *Adventist Review* report of this session. As we reflect upon our statistical growth during the past half century, I believe it is the God-given spirit of care for the needy of the world that helps account for our remarkable growth. We began this half century with 972,000 members in 1954, 50 years ago. And our membership at the end of 2004 was 13,936,932, almost 14 million.

There is a very sobering side to this subject. Although more than 5 million new believers joined our community during the past quinquennium, more than 1.4 million left our community. The bottom line for this quinquennium is that for every 100 accessions, more than 35 others decided to leave.

That total is considerably more than the 24 subtracted for every 100 added that we reported at our 2000 session. It meant that while 2,765 joined us each day, 821 left. Our net growth was only 1,641 daily, with a resulting annual growth rate of 4.9 percent, the lowest since the 1960-1964 period.

A subtitle to this quinquennium might be the quinquennium of church membership audits. During the past five years a majority of the world divisions have undertaken the painful responsibility of church audit. The resulting careful look at local church membership records has shown a decrease in the verifiable baptized membership of more than 800,000 during this quinquennium. Nevertheless, despite what the audits suggest, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is poised for a period of major growth within the near future, now that our membership roles are more accurately reflected. We are the inheritors of the blessings that God has poured upon our predecessors, and continues to give in the advancement of the kingdom.

HAROLD W. BAPTISTE: We want to thank Secretariat very much for the very comprehensive report they have presented to us.

I now call on Robert Lemon to present the Treasury report.

ROBERT E. LEMON: [Elder Lemon

presented his associates at the General Conference level and at the division levels.]

Donald E. Robinson is our senior in Treasury. Don has been at the General Conference the longest. Don has served as both undertreasurer and associate treasurer of the General Conference. He will be retiring. Don has served for 44 years in Treasury work.

Dennis Keith is one of our associate treasurers. Dennis is also retiring. Dennis has had 35-plus years of denominational service. He has served overseas as an inter-division worker.

Gary DeBoer, who was an associate treasurer, has retired during this quinquennium. Gary got bored after being retired, so he is back working, but he is working at Pacific Press at this point.

Robert Rawson, who has served so many years in leadership positions in the world field, served as General Conference treasurer from 1995 to 2002, and has retired during this quinquennium.

Donald Gilbert retired in 1995. We want to thank all of you for your service.

During this quinquennium we have had, unfortunately, two former treasurers of the General Conference, Elder Lance Butler and Elder Kenneth Emmerson, pass away. We, with their families, grieve their passing, but we praise the Lord that we do not grieve as those who have no hope. We look forward to that day very soon where we can all be reunited.

[Elder Lemon then introduced the Treasury report and a five-year summary of the General Conference Financial Statement. He reported that the total revenue coming to the General Conference per year, averaged over the past five years, was \$152 million, made up of \$74 million in tithes, \$50 million in offerings, \$9 million in donations, and \$19 million in investment income, restricted funds, and fees for services.]

STEVEN G. ROSE: [Elder Rose explained how this \$152 million is spent. He stated that 57 percent of the total expenditures are spent as appropriations to the divisions and to General Conference institutions.]

Over this period the expenses have been relatively consistent. However, you will notice that the General Conference administered funds in the year 2000 were considerably higher than they have been for the remaining four years.

The reason for that is the expenses that were incurred in the General Conference session in 2000 in Toronto, Canada. There also have been some increases in the Interdivision Employee or the Missionary Program.

In the other classification of expenses, in 2004 there was a transfer of property back to Loma Linda University, which showed up as an expenditure of \$6.8 million. It was

to account for the transaction even though there were no funds that were exchanged. This property had been held in the General Conference Quasi Endowment Fund.

Moving to the General Conference administered funds: these are 10 percent of our total expenses on an average basis. Global Mission, Disaster and Famine Relief, and Thirteenth Sabbath projects funds are included under the appropriations section, as they are passed on to the various divisions, and include such items as Adventist Television Network, Sow 1 Billion, Go One Million, General Conference session expenses, *Ministry* magazine, and the mission quarterly.

The cost of operating the General Conference headquarters has averaged approximately \$28 million per year during this quinquennium. This is 19 percent of the total expenses. It includes the costs of various services and ministries provided from the world headquarters, including the cost of staffing and operating the office complex. The cost in 2004 was 2.04 percent of tithe or 1.5 percent of total worldwide tithe and offerings.

Net assets, or what we commonly know as net worth, increased from \$169 million to \$199 million during this quinquennium. Working capital and liquidity have remained above the 100 percent of policy recommendations throughout the quinquennium.

ROBERT E. LEMON: Let's take a look at a few significant items that have affected us during this quinquennium. Just before the 2000 General Conference session, the Spring Meeting voted a new tithe-sharing formula that reduced tithe from the North American Division from 10.72 percent to 8 percent and increased it from the other divisions from 1 percent to 2 percent. The net result was approximately a \$12 million a year decrease in the budget for the General Conference. However, because of the blessings of the Lord, there has been a strong increase in tithe each year.

Over the period of the past 75 years there has been a considerable shift in giving patterns, particularly as they relate to mission offerings. The mission offerings are those funds that come through the General Conference budget for the strengthening of the work in parts of the world where we don't have any work or have very little. For the past 25 years the mission offering has remained within a couple million dollars of \$50 million. We praise the Lord for the faithfulness of our members in giving, but the mission offering has not captured the imagination of our membership as it should.

The total mission offering and local offerings back in the 1930s were close to 85 percent of tithe. In 2004 that number was down to a little more than 40 percent.

Also on the issue of the mission offering, project giving has been on the increase, and

we praise the Lord for the funds going to these special projects. Those who give to those projects give with the expectation and the desire that the fruit of those projects will be maintained and increased. One of the big problems with such heavy dependence on project giving is that we tend to have very short attention spans. Often the emphasis moves to other projects.

We need to increasingly focus the resources of the General Conference on major unentered areas. We need to increase the participation of women and young people in the life and leadership of the church. We need to strengthen Adventist education and focus on the mission of Adventist education. We need to continue our mission of mercy to a hurting world through our health message and institutions and through our humanitarian outreach.

The Lord has blessed in a tremendous way during this quinquennium. We praise the Lord for His blessings, that the Lord has even greater blessings in store for each of us as we remain faithful.

Mr. Chairman, that is the Treasury report, but we will still need to deal with the audited statement. I would move acceptance of the Treasury report. [Because of time constraints, the report was tabled to be taken up at the next session.]

HAROLD W. BAPTISTE: We have an important announcement concerning tomorrow's meetings. On Sabbath morning the doors will be opened at 6:30 a.m., and there will be a musical program that begins at 8:30 a.m. Everybody is encouraged to be within the dome in the convention center by 9:00 a.m. to avoid possible conflict with an Independence Day parade that will be marching around here during the Sabbath hours. Many of the streets will be closed during the event.

KOREL NOWAK: [Benediction.]

HAROLD W. BAPTISTE, *Chair*
DOUGLAS CLAYVILLE, *Secretary*
BILL BOTHE, ATHAL TOLHURST,
FRED THOMAS, and CLAUDE
SABOT, *Proceedings Editors*

Session Actions

58th General Conference
session, July 1, 2005,
9:30 a.m.

GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION 2005—NOMINATING COMMITTEE— ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

VOTED, To add the following as members of the standing Nominating Committee for the 2005 General Conference session:

Beach, Bert B
Ramirez, Ted
Rock, Calvin
Stenbakken, Ardis
Swezey, Robert
Thompson, G Ralph

SECRETARY'S REPORT

VOTED, To accept the report of the General Conference Secretary, Matthew A Bediako.

STATISTICAL REPORT

VOTED, To accept the statistical report from the Director of Archives and

Nominating Committee Report—2

VOTED, To approve
the following partial
report of the Nomi-
nating Committee:

GENERAL CONFERENCE

Secretary: Matthew
A. Bediako
Treasurer: Robert E.
Lemon

Statistics, Bert B Haloviak.

business session.
Adjourned

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made to table this item. The vote was taken by a show of hands and it was,

Voted, To accept the motion to table the Treasurer's Report until the afternoon

Harold W Baptiste, Chairman
Douglas Clayville, Secretary
Larry R Evans, Actions Editor
Janet C Upson, Recording Secretary

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Subscriptions: Twelve monthly issues: US\$18.95 plus US\$12.00 postage outside North America; 42 issues of the weekly *Adventist Review*: US\$42.95 plus US\$12.00 postage outside North America; full 52 issues (weekly and monthly): US\$61.90 plus US\$24.00 postage outside North America. Single copy US\$3.25. To order, send your name, address, and payment to your local Adventist Book Center or *Adventist Review* Subscription Desk, Box 1119, Hagerstown, MD 21741-1119. Prices subject to change.

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The *Adventist Review* (ISSN 0182-1119), published since 1843, is the general paper of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is published by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and is printed 40 times a year each Thursday except the first Thursday of each month by the *Review and Herald* Publishing Association, Periodicals postage paid at Hagerstown, MD 21740. Copyright © 2005, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.
Vol. 182, No. 29



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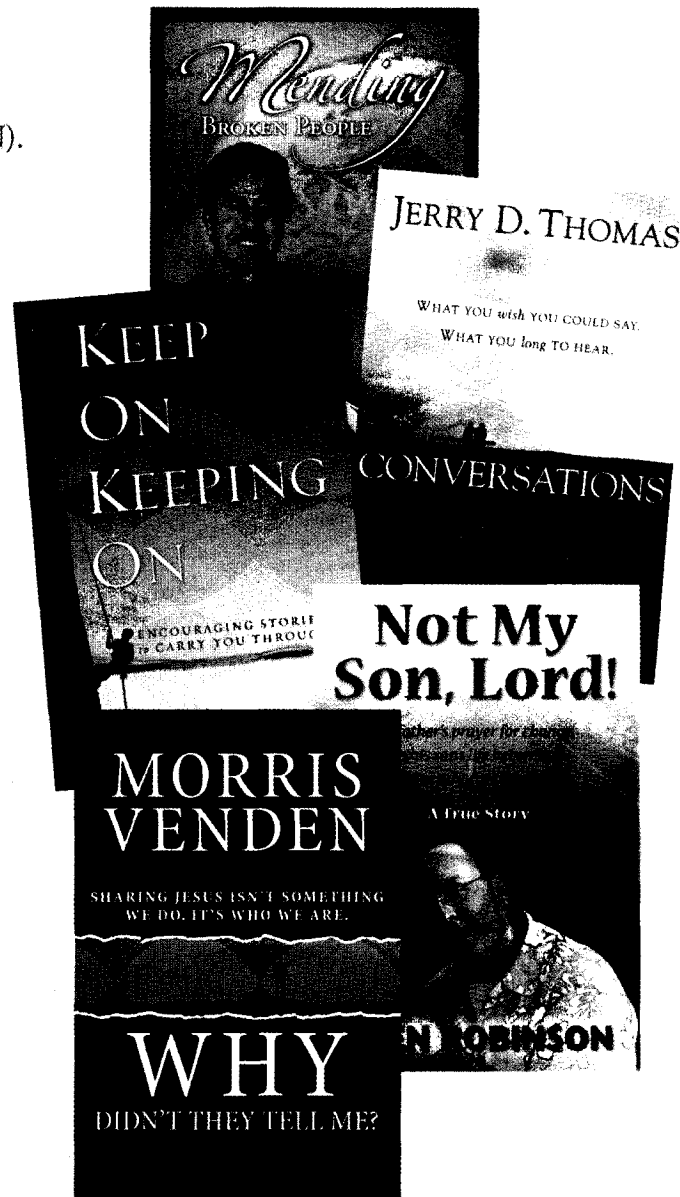
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