

ADVENTIST REVIEW


July 6, 2005



Mark A. Finley



Gerry D. Kunst



Michael L. Ryan



Lowell C. Cooper



Ted N.C. Wilson



Pardon K. Mwansa



King-Yi Eugene Hsu



Ella S. Simmons



Armando Miranda

GC BULLETIN

15

Nine Who Will Serve General Vice Presidents for 2005-2010

Yesterday at the Session
2

Tuesday Morning
Devotional
4

News of the Session
6

Nominating Report
11

Tuesday Evening
Devotional
12

Proceedings and Actions
14, 20, 27

Southern Africa-
Indian Ocean
Division Report
16

South American Division
Report
24

Understanding the Authority of the Church

BY LES POLLARD

Beginning Sunday, July 3, each morning of the General Conference session in St. Louis ended with a segment called “Profiling Adventist Leadership.” Angel Rodríguez was yesterday’s speaker, dealing with the authority of the church.

I appreciated the clarity of his presentation. He was able to take the whole notion of the authority of the church, starting with a wide-topped funnel, so to speak, and working his way down to a point where leaders could have something to take back to their people.

It’s not that those of us gathered had never heard these things before. But speaking for myself at least, Rodríguez crystallized them, pulled them together. He took great pains to emphasize the fact that *the church acts on behalf of Christ, not independently.*

Especially is this emphasis important at this time of radical independence and relativism. In our post-modern culture it’s so easy for people to say,

“Well, I can be independent and do what I think best in my own local situation. I’m responsible to myself alone.” The result is that what you have in some places is a kind of hyper-contextualization. Especially is this true in certain Western countries where individual freedoms, autonomy, and even the pursuit of happiness are enshrined in their very charter documents.

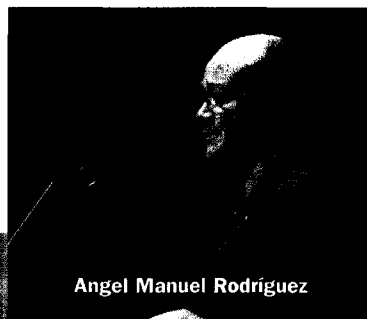
So Rodríguez’s presenta-

tion reminded us of the collective nature of the church—that the church manifests authority as a collective body. (The implication for church discipline, incidentally, is clear—not dis-

cipline in the sense of punishment, but discipline as one of the strategies of “tough love” in behalf of Christ—a prerogative that He has committed to the church to perform. But there was yet another aspect of Rodríguez’s talk that captured my attention. It was his emphasis on the idea that the authority of the church does not reside in any one individual.

So the truth cuts both ways. Indeed, that was the burden of Ellen G. White in the early 1900s, when she repeatedly warned about the danger of kingly power, the centralization of authority in a single individual or a small group of individuals.

If delegates and visitors, as they make their way back to their home fields, could take these basic principles, it could make a significant difference for our church on all levels.



Angel Manuel Rodríguez



THAT’S THE CHURCH: These delegates, lined up at the microphone, demonstrate that we each contribute to the corporate voice of the church, the burden of Rodríguez’s message.

PHOTOS BY ALDEN J. HO © REVIEW & HERALD

Leslie N. Pollard is vice president for diversity at Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, California.



COVER PHOTO BY JOEL D. SPRINGER © REVIEW & HERALD

To Enrich Your Christian Walk

AMAZING JOURNEY, AMAZING GRACE

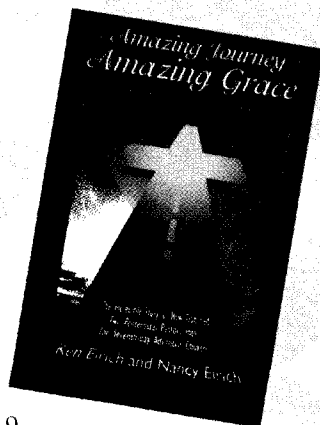
Ken Eirich and Nancy Eirich.

The incredible story of how God led two Pentecostal pastors into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. "An amazing story that will encourage those who may be questioning whether or not God has a plan for their lives."

—Shawn Boonstra.

Paper, 222 pages. 0-9684293-1-9.

US\$14.99, Can\$20.49.

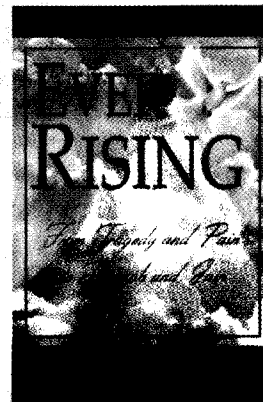


EVER RISING: From Tragedy and Pain to Triumph and Gain
Katie Arnette's extraordinary story of overcoming the devastation of her husband's betrayal will inspire and empower you—not only to survive, but to grow and prosper because of your pain. Includes study guide.

Paper, 153 pages.

0-9746231-0-5.

US\$12.95, Can\$17.45.



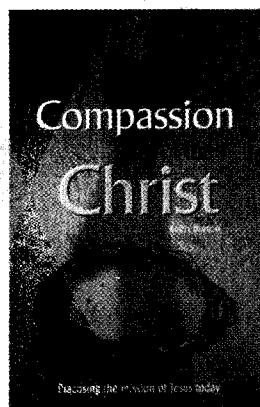
THE COMPASSION OF THE CHRIST

How can we practice the mission of Christ in the twenty-first century? Keith Burton challenges us to move beyond passive reflection on the sufferings of Jesus to an active participation in His compassionate ministry.

Paper, 124 pages.

1-904685-05-6.

US\$10.99, Can\$14.99.

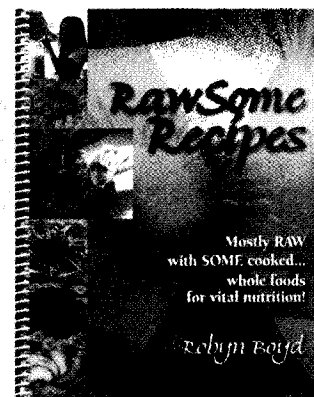


RAWSOME RECIPES

Dishes awesome to taste—RawSome because most of the ingredients are Raw, complemented by Some organic and whole cooked foods. Whether you are a pure raw vegan or lacto-vegetarian, you'll find exciting, palate-pleasing recipes in this collection by Robyn Boyd.

Spiral-bound, 186 pages. 0-943685-41-9.

US\$19.95, Can\$26.95.

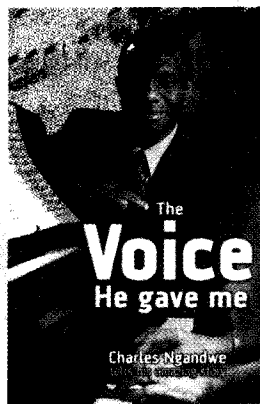


THE VOICE HE GAVE ME

Adventist basso profundo singer Charles Ngandwe tells the fascinating story of how he has used the remarkable gift God has given him. "The first setback might leave us beaten to the floor, but if we can get up and dust ourselves off," he says, "with God's help we can overcome our fear of failure—and start winning!"

Paper, 144 pages. 1-903921-29-5.

US\$10.99, Can\$14.99.



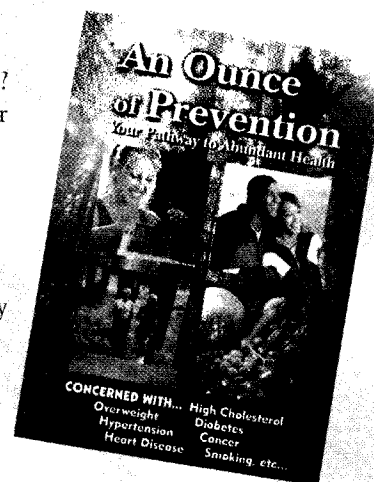
AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

Concerned about your health? Worried about the rise in your blood pressure, cholesterol, weight, and blood sugar? It's our lifestyle! This 64-page booklet will help you make the right choices and will put you firmly on the pathway to abundant health. Great for sharing!

0-00-015240-0.

US\$5.99 each. Box of 100,

US\$29.99, Can\$40.49.



3 WAYS TO SHOP

- Visit your local Adventist Book Center®
- Call 1-800-765-6955
- Online at AdventistBookCenter.com

RA REVIEW AND HERALD®
PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION
HELPING OTHERS PREPARE FOR ETERNITY

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

By His Death on the Cross

Devotional message presented Tuesday morning, July 5, 2005

Isaiah 53 reminds us again and again that the Messiah bore our suffering. “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed” (verse 5, NKJV). This was partly fulfilled in the miracles of healing performed by Jesus (Matt. 8:17). He suffered with the sick and healed them. But the primary fulfillment happened when Jesus bore for us all the suffering that we were doomed to as a result of sin (1 Peter 2:24). Commenting on Isaiah 53:5, Ellen White wrote the passage that many have memorized: “Christ was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserves.”¹

There are three outstanding ideas in the text on the event: (1) It was vicious—He was wounded, bruised, and chastised; (2) It was vicarious—it was not for His own but for our transgressions and iniquities; and (3) It was victorious—with His stripes we are healed.

Vicious

We encounter crosses daily. We’ve seen so many in metal, wood, cloth, and plastic that we have become immune to the pain it inflicted. But the pain of the cross was so severe, a word had to be invented for it—“excruciating,” meaning “derived from the cross.” Painful as it might be, we must be reminded of what Jesus endured on our behalf. Ellen White wrote that if we focus on the cross and concentrate on it, our “spiritual faculties will be charged with divine power direct from God.”²

Jesus’ pain began even before the Crucifixion. Flogging with a whip that slashed repeatedly on bruised tissue, cut progressively deeper, multiplying the pain. The thorns of *Ziziphus jujuba*, long and surprisingly painful, were pressed onto His scalp.



Gordon E. Christo
Director of Higher Education, Southern Asia Division

Weakened by the flogging, and with His head dripping with blood, Jesus had to carry the heavy cross. The rough wood cut into His lacerated skin and muscles. Finally it was removed, but Jesus still had to walk a half mile to Golgotha.

Rough iron spikes tore through the skin, nerves, and sinews of His hands and skewered His flesh to wood. Then another spike was smashed through the bones of both feet, and into the post. From now on, every movement caused intense pain.

When the cross was thrust into the pit dug for it, the flesh of the hands and legs strained at the spikes as the body was jerked, and then again as the body sagged, putting more weight on the nails. Pain shot up from the legs and arms.

Suspended by the hands, the body was in a state of perpetual inhalation. For a gulp of fresh air Jesus had to push downward against the nails in the feet to raise Himself, easing the pressure on His chest. Each time He moved up or slumped down He scraped His raw wounded back on the rough wood. Death was sometimes hastened by breaking the legs, which prevented the victim from raising upward to breathe, resulting in suffocation.

Physical pain is not the only damaging kind, however. Words often cut deeper. They are often harder to bear than physical hurt, and take longer to heal.

The rabble jeered Jesus. They repeated His words—“coming in the clouds of heaven,” “sitting at the right hand of God”—with derision. They bowed and worshipped Him in jest. Then they spat on Him. They mocked the circumstances of His birth and humble life. On every side Jesus could hear insults, outrage, and derision. It continued even as He hung on the cross. “If thou be the son of God, come down.” “He saved others; He cannot save himself!” For hours He bore the jeers and curses of the crowd.

Vicarious

We have all suffered for our own mistakes, and we have suffered with someone else as we saw them either sick, hungry, or hurt. We may have even suffered in place of someone else. People do the work of friends, pay others' debts, and take the blame and punishment that a loved one might escape. This is something we understand even from a young age.

The Old Testament taught removal of sin by the sacrifice of an innocent animal. But the blood of cattle was good only as a symbol. Neither could the blood of a sinful human redeem a fellow human (Heb. 10:4-8). Jesus' righteousness, however, was enough to cover the sin of the entire human race of all ages because He was God (Rom. 3:21). He could not offer His righteousness as a substitute for us without bearing our guilt and punishment.

The punishment part—physical pain—didn't frighten Jesus. But bearing the guilt of our sins was the real scare. Christ bore the sins of the human race in a very real sense, not just on paper or in theory. It was as if sin were literal filth, and the muck of the entire human race was smeared on Jesus' spotlessness. The effect was as if He were responsible for it, and it weighed heavily upon Him. This dirt of the human race and the separation from the Father were the real cross that Jesus bore, the cup that frightened Him. His death on the cross was the proof that He had accepted our burden.

Victorious

The defeat of Satan was prophesied as early as Genesis 3:15. From then on, people looked forward to a Savior who would crush the head of the serpent. By His death Jesus destroyed him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and freed those who all their lives were held by their fear of death (Heb. 2:14, 15). The death of Christ also sealed the fate of Satan. The heavenly beings did not realize fully the character of Satan. But at the cross

the angels fully understood the issues of the great controversy. "The accuser" was overcome "by the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 12:10, 11).

The good news of justification is that Christ's righteousness is free to us. All our own goodness, no matter how well intended, is worth nothing more than filthy rags before God. Jesus told the story of the Pharisee and the publican to illustrate justification. Jesus said

*We are not only
pardoned by grace;
we are also
transformed
by grace.*

it was the publican who went home justified before God, not the one who counted on his own goodness. All the publican had to do was admit he was a sinner and beg for God's mercy.

The good news of salvation does not end with justification, however. The cross also sanctifies us (Heb. 10:10). Sanctified people will live in conformity with God's will.¹ There can be no merit in anything we can do, for sanctification is also the work of grace. We are not only pardoned by grace, but we are also transformed by grace.

Love motivated the sacrifice on the cross (John 3:1), and love constrains us, compels in response (2 Cor. 5:14, 15). The sanctified life is founded upon the power of love.

Love to God is made evident by love to fellow humans (1 John 4:10, 11). Paul says that it is a debt we owe (Rom. 13:8), because the law is based on love to God and to our fellow humans. Love is what transforms us and what makes it evident that we have been transformed. Transformed persons do not slander, but are peaceable and considerate and humble. They avoid quarrels and arguments (Titus 3:2-4, 9).

By His Stripes You Are Healed

Isaiah concludes his famous passage with the phrase "By His stripes we are healed." Healing suggests that we were diseased. The human body cannot heal itself of sin, but Christ's power heals us. If you have a problem, by His stripes you may be healed.

If you love this world and its comforts and joys and are neglecting God, keep your eyes focused on the Savior suffering on the cross. By His **stripes** you are healed.

If you love sin and a particular one has repeated hold over you, Christ's death makes it possible for you to be free. By His stripes you may be truly **healed**.

If you are discouraged and filled with despair, and life looks hopeless, a look at the cross reminds you of a glorious future that will last forever. By His stripes **you, each one**, are healed.

If you are afflicted with self-righteousness and overconfidence, and are proud of your accomplishments, the cross tells you there is no merit in anything you can do. It is by **His** stripes that you are healed.

Christ's selflessness can heal your selfishness, your disinterest in the plight and suffering of others. The power of the cross can provide you with courage, the strength to do what you know you want to. A deep look at the cross can cure you of lukewarmness. If you are bothered by a nagging conscience, by doubts of your salvation, remember that Christ paid it all on the cross.

By His stripes you **are healed—not might be** healed. You **are!**

¹ Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 25.

² Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 44.

³ Ellen G. White, *My Life Today*, p. 248.

To view a video presentation of all devotional messages and division reports, visit the Adventist Review Web site at www.adventistreview.org.

Challenges to Mission

BY DANE GRIFFIN, CORRESPONDENT FOR THE *ADVENTIST REVIEW*, ASSISTANT TO THE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE PRESIDENT FOR MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

For the first time in the church's history a General Conference session is specifically addressing the challenges facing our biblical mandate to evangelize the world. In the unique forum each afternoon church leaders present specific issues that impact the church and its evangelism mission, and then open the floor for delegates to share ideas about the issues raised.

The first meeting, held on Sunday, July 3, focused on how the Adventist Church can better support the spirituality of its members. Mark Finley, newly elected vice president for world evangelism, presented some statistics of spiritual markers for the worldwide membership.

According to Finley, a 1992 worldwide survey conducted by the Institute of Church Ministry found that only 51 percent of members have daily devotions or personal worship time, and only 57 percent attend worship on a weekly basis.

"The question is," Finley said, "if our people do not have a strong devotional life themselves, how can they share anything with others?"

Citing the same survey, Finley said that only 37 percent of Adventists worldwide are regularly involved in witnessing, and only 34 percent give to missions on a routine basis.

Finley then asked the delegates to address three specific questions in their responses:

1. Can spiritual revival happen naturally?
2. Can we cooperate with the Holy Spirit to bring about revival and renewal?
3. What can the General Conference, divisions, union conferences, conferences, and local churches do to reverse the trend of people not having a consistent devotional life?

Lay delegate Ann-May Wollan, from the Trans-European Division, reminded the gathering that 57 percent of Adventist children are ultimately leaving the church. According to Wollan, the church must take another look at the emphasis being placed on Sabbath school and training our children to be active, vibrant members.

Another lay delegate, Simon Merart Serrant from the Inter-American Division, asserted that spirituality is suffering and revival is lacking because many church members have lost confidence in leaders at every level of administration. "There needs to be perfect transparency in leadership," Serrant said. "Ministers and leaders need to be people of faith and transparency as well as servants to the people."

Several delegates took the microphone to affirm Serrant's statement.

Exchanges in the daily session have been frank, open, and spirited. Five one-hour meetings are being held throughout the week, addressing the church's role in society, curbing apostasies, the church's relationship to cities, and the church and secularism.

For more information go to www.adventistreview.org.

New SID President Elected

BY SANDRA BLACKMER, NEWS EDITOR, *ADVENTIST REVIEW*

Paul S. Ratsara, who has served as secretary of the Southern African-Indian Ocean Division (SID) since 2000, was voted by General Conference session delegates on July 4 as the division's new president.

Also elected at the session were the following 12 incumbent division presidents: Luka T. Daniel, West-Central Africa Division; Laurie J. Evans, South Pacific Division; Ulrich W. Frikart, Euro-Africa Division; Alberto C. Gulfan Jr., Southern Asia-Pacific Division; Jairyong Lee, Northern Asia-Pacific Division; Israel Leito, Inter-American Division; Geoffrey G. Mbwana, East-Central Africa Division; Ruy H. Nagel, South American Division; Don C. Schneider, North American Division; Artur A. Stele, Euro-Asia Division; D. Ronald Watts, Southern Asia Division; and Bertil A. Wiklander, Trans-European Division.

Each of the above presidents also functions as a vice president of the General Conference.

"I'm on my knees," Ratsara told the *Adventist Review* when describing his reaction to the election. "I see the possibilities and dreams for the church, and I look forward to working with our office team."

Previous to serving as the division's secretary, Ratsara was ministerial secretary and stewardship director of SID from 1999-2000, and president of the West Congo Union from 1994-1999.



Paul S. Ratsara

PHOTO BY JOEL D. SPRINGER / REVIEW & HERALD

He has a master of divinity degree equivalency from the Adventist University Zurcher in Madagascar, and plans to complete his doctoral studies this year. He is fluent in Malagasy, French, and English, and also speaks Portuguese.

Ratsara and his wife, Denise, have two teenage sons, Paul and Moïse, and a daughter, Mary, who is attending college.

Three Statements Released

BY SANDRA BLACKMER, NEWS EDITOR, AND STEPHEN CHAVEZ, MANAGING EDITOR, ADVENTIST REVIEW

In an effort to raise public awareness of Seventh-day Adventists and their beliefs, the General Conference Communication Department released to the press on July 5 three statements:

On Being Transformed in Christ—An Affirmation of Christian Values and Quality of Life: The Adventist Church believes that the “world is in need of people whose lives are examples of historic Christian values,” and that “we place high value on simplicity and the virtues that long have formed the bedrock of society—family, integrity, work, honesty, and purity.” The newly released statement highlights two key elements of lifestyle that affect the quality of life—the Sabbath and healthful living.

“Adventists observe the seventh day, Saturday, according to the biblical injunction . . . and spend the Sabbath in worship, with family, and in helping others.” Also, Adventists “place a strong emphasis on health,” which comprises “a healthful diet (including a vegetarian diet), exercise, sufficient rest, trust in God, and abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, and other harmful drugs.” According to the statement, these elements of faith challenge the

“moral ambiguity and decay of values that pervade society, and give witness to the quality of life available to all who respond to the gospel invitation.”

Religious Extremism—A Danger to Religious Liberty:

The statement declares that Adventists have promoted religious liberty since the church’s inception and believe that “every person has freedom of con-

science and the right to religious expression, subject to the equal rights of others.

Adventists defend the religious freedom of all people.”

The statement goes on to say that there are “two dangerous opposing forces . . .

at work in the modern world,” an anti-religious secularism and the growth of religious fundamentalism,

described as religious extremism. These forces “have the capacity to infringe on religious freedom.”

Respect for All People—Making Churches and Community Safe:

“The Seventh-day Adventist Church affirms the dignity and worth of each human being as the handiwork of the Creator and the focus of God’s redemptive action in Jesus Christ,” reads the final statement released to the press. “We stand with other religious and community leaders who decry all forms of sexual abuse and family violence as well as all trafficking and exploitation of

women and children, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, social, economic, and health status. We believe that to remain indifferent and unresponsive is, in effect, to condone, perpetuate, and potentially extend such behavior.” The statement also describes policies and procedures the church has put in place to help accomplish these goals, including child-protection policies in

Adventist churches and schools, and the humanitarian efforts of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency.

General Conference church leaders answering questions at the press conference included the chair of the Statement Committee and general vice president Ted N. C. Wilson, Communication director Ray Dabrowski, Women’s Ministries

director Heather-Dawn Small, Family Ministries associate director Karen Flowers, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty associate director Jonathan Gallagher, and vice president for world evangelism Mark Finley.

When asked how the statements will be disseminated throughout the church, Dabrowski and Flowers explained that they will be providing resources to undergird the statements through the churches, schools, and pastors of the world church.

The full text of these statements can be found at www.adventistreview.org.



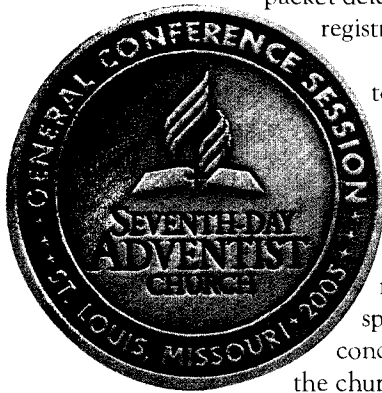
GETTING THE WORD OUT: Heather-Dawn Small, director of GC Women’s Ministries, and Karen Flowers, associate director of Family Ministries, discuss efforts to inform church members about the three statements released on Tuesday, July 5.

PHOTO BY ALDEN J. HO © REVIEW & HERALD

Commemorative Medallion Given to Delegates

BY SANDRA BLACKMER, ADVENTIST REVIEW NEWS EDITOR

Among the many mementos given to the 58th General Conference session delegates is a solid brass 2½-inch medallion depicting St. Louis, Missouri, and commemorating the session. The medallion concept was developed by conference leaders of the Mid-America Union, and the memento was included in the packet delegates received at session registration.



“The medallion is a gift to the delegates from around the world,” says Dennis Carlson, president of Mid-America Union, “and we hope it will serve as a happy reminder of the time spent together in St. Louis conducting the business of the church and advancing the mission of Jesus.”

On one side of the medallion, starting with the St. Louis Gateway Arch, the image

invites the viewer to travel across the plains, through the large cities, and on to the mountains on the west side of the Mid-America Union territory. The image is circled by the names of the local conferences ministering in that region. The other side of the coin commemorates the 2005 session, and also has printed on it the church’s official logo.

Speaking in Many Tongues

BY SANDRA BLACKMER, ADVENTIST REVIEW NEWS EDITOR

The immense global diversity of today’s Adventist Church is evidenced during the 10-day General Conference session by some 206 volunteer interpreters—a large number of them delegates—who translate worships, meetings, and programs simultaneously into as many as 20 languages, reports Odette Ferreira, director of Adventist Colleges Abroad and organizer of the translation service. Each of the twelve most commonly spoken languages in the church has its own FM radio frequency during the session. Adventist World Radio provided delegates who need translations of meetings with a free small digital AM/FM radio.

Because of the intensity of the job, translators switch off every two hours. “It’s so taxing,” said Ferreira as she described the struggles of translating detailed information, such as that contained in treasury reports. Translating for speakers who talk very quickly is also a challenge. “Most of the translators are certified professional interpreters,” she added.

The 12 languages in which translation is provided via FM frequency are Spanish, Portuguese, French, Russian, Romanian, German, Japanese, Korean, Serbian-Croatian, Chinese, Bulgarian, and Czech. American Sign Language is also provided.

“It’s really important work because if we didn’t have the interpreters, a great number of people from throughout the world wouldn’t understand what is being said,” said Ferreira. “Some of the volunteers who have come from abroad are paying all their own traveling and housing expenses. I’m very thankful for these people.”



Session Snapshot



PHOTO BY ALDEN J. HO & REVIEW & HERALD

IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE: Translators work in 12 languages from high above the stadium floor.

Studio in a Car

BY MICKEY NICKLESS,
CORRESPONDENT FOR ADVENTIST
REVIEW, COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR
OF MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

The diversity of the Spirit's gifts is well represented by the nearly 300 exhibits at the General Conference session. From Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to Your Story Hour, these varied ministries share their experi-

preparing radio broadcasts for the four language groups were not available in 2004. A technician there discovered that if the windows and doors of a Land Rover were closed, the ceiling and side insulation provided a quiet place in which to record programs using a laptop computer. AWR technicians simply parked the vehicle under a tree and went to work. When the laptop battery would begin to run down, they would start the vehicle's motor and recharge the battery.

The programs needed music, but

Racing Around St. Louis

BY BONITA JOYNER SHIELDS,
ASSISTANT EDITOR, ADVENTIST
REVIEW

More than 100 young adults are participating in Impact St. Louis (ISL), a young adult evangelistic initiative taking place during the General Conference session that hopes to make a lasting contribution to the city of St. Louis.

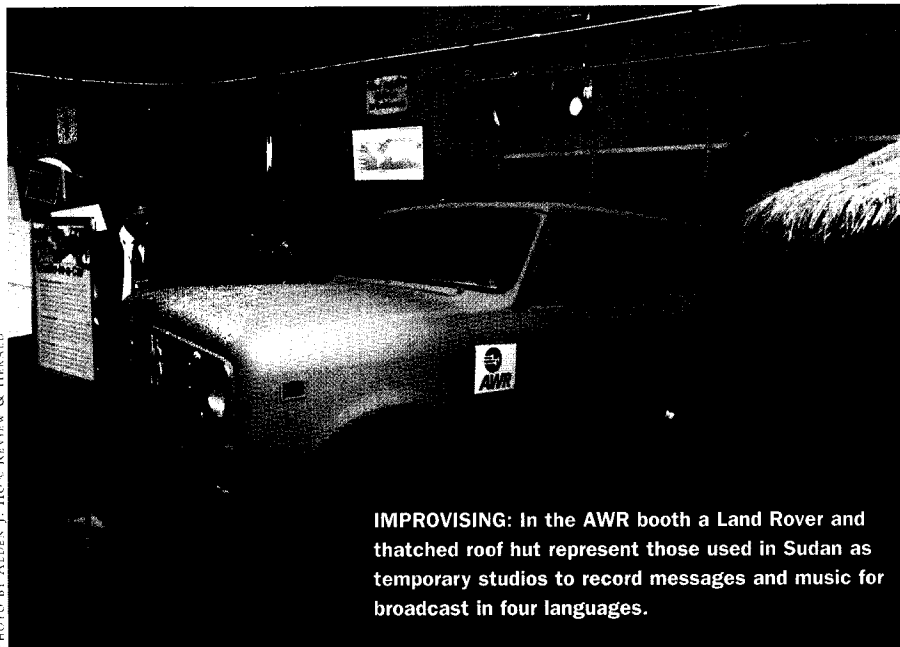
Young men and women from all parts of the globe—Asia, Africa, Australia, Central America, Europe, North America, and South America—have come together for 10 days to see how they can share the love of Christ with area residents in unique and memorable ways.

"These young adults are proud of their church, and of being its service arm here in St. Louis," said James Black, youth director of the North American Division and director of ISL. "We hope that our church and these young people will make a difference during their stay."

The leaders of ISL are working closely with several area Adventist churches to ensure that when ISL concludes, the people of St. Louis will remain in contact with Adventists. The area churches plan to continue the work after the GC session concludes and the other young people return to their homes.

"We learned a lot from Impact Toronto," said Brian Collick, assistant communication director. "While we believe we made a positive impact there, we are working more intentionally here to make a lasting impact."

One of the first activities the group embarked on is The St. Louis Amazing Race. This "race" took the young adults to several stops along the metro rail to engage with residents of St. Louis. The youth formed groups, and their assignments were to approach strangers, tell them why they're visiting St. Louis, sing a song, and have the strangers sign a statement to verify



IMPROVISING: In the AWR booth a Land Rover and thatched roof hut represent those used in Sudan as temporary studios to record messages and music for broadcast in four languages.

ences, offer support to the church and its leadership, and testify to how God is working in their ministry or region. Exhibit booths at the session provide an opportunity for them to solicit support for their ministries.

Adventist World Radio (AWR), the mission radio arm of the Adventist Church, has a particularly creative exhibit. Near the entrance to the AWR booth, an aging Land Rover and grass hut decorate one side. AWR president Benjamin Schoun tells the story of this display and AWR's shortwave, AM/FM, satellite, and Internet broadcasts, which reach people who are inaccessible using conventional outreach methods.

One such story involves the Sudan region of Africa, where facilities for

again, no studio existed. Once more, ingenuity won out. An isolated thatched roof hut was chosen as a temporary studio. A musical group from the local Adventist secondary school at Maridi, Sudan, along with some local church groups, was able to record music for the broadcast recordings. Since that time a studio facility has been built.

The results of these broadcasts have been dramatic. Nearly 2,500 Bible studies have been generated by these broadcasts. In one region where there is no postal system, people walk to the studio bringing their requests for Bible studies.

AWR is currently broadcasting in nearly 70 languages.

To read more, go to www.adventistreview.org.

that they completed their assignment.

"The people have been very receptive," said Sandra Silva, an ISL participant. "Many have hardly heard of Adventists, so they have been eager to talk with us and have been happy to see young people involved. It has been a joy to share Jesus in a new way."

During the remainder of their time in St. Louis, the leaders and participants of ISL will be involved in ministries in the areas of grief, clown ministry, homelessness, health, music, prayer, and recreation—to name a few.

Cesar Gonzalez, communication director for ISL, said of the race, "Our main purpose was to have fun, but also to get to know the city better. And that happened. The young adults prayed with people, got e-mail addresses, and even made contacts with former Adventists. Today our ministry started in St. Louis—and it went very, very well."



PHOTO BY ALTON J. HINCHER, ADVENTIST REVIEW, 8 HERALD

THE 006 TEAM: Young adults participating in Impact St. Louis speak with a passerby on June 30, 2005.

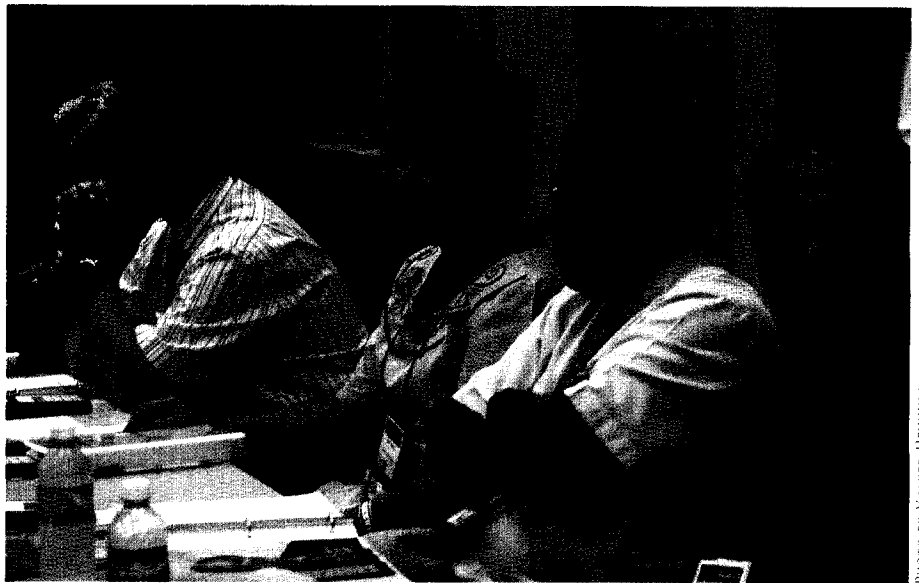


PHOTO BY VOLKER HESNING

BEFORE THE VOTE: Nominating Committee members review résumés and evaluations while discussing possible candidates for church leadership roles.

How Does the Election Process Work?

BY SANDRA BLACKMER, NEWS EDITOR, ADVENTIST REVIEW

The 14-million-member Adventist Church is represented at General Conference sessions by 2,000 delegates from around the world. The "regular" delegates number 1,240 and are chosen from the church's nearly 100 unions and about 540 conferences and missions. The remaining 760 delegates are called delegates at large and represent the 13 world church divisions and the organizations of the General Conference.

These 2,000 delegates caucus at the session and select representatives to serve on the Nominating Committee, which, after reviewing job responsibilities, brings recommendations to the floor of individuals to serve in more than 100 top leadership roles in world church and division offices. Nearly 200 individuals from all parts of the world church serve on the Nominating Committee.

Those elected at the session are the

General Conference president, vice presidents, secretary, undersecretary, associate secretaries, treasurer, under-treasurer, and associate treasurers; director and associate director of each GC department and association; director and associate directors of the GC auditing service; the GC auditing service board; division presidents, secretaries, and treasurers; and general field secretaries.

The Nominating Committee brings recommendations to the floor, at which time all 2,000 delegates, including the Nominating Committee, vote to accept or reject the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. Those elected to office serve in these positions for the next five years, until the next General Conference session is held.

At Annual Council following the GC session some positions are appointed. They are director of Archives and Statistics, director and associate directors of the Biblical Research Institute, and editors and associate editors of the principal denominational journals prepared at the church's world headquarters.

To get complete election results from the General Conference session, visit the Adventist Review Web site at www.adventistreview.org.



FRIENDSHIP: Gorge Tello Vasquez and Gerardo Humberto Medina Alva pose next to the South American Division exhibit booth.

PHOTO BY JOEL D. SPRINGER & HERALD

Nominating Committee Report—5

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

East-Central Africa Division

Secretary: Blasious M Ruguri
Treasurer: R Martin Moores

Euro-Africa Division

Secretary: Gabriel E Maurer
Treasurer: Peter R Kunze

Euro-Asia Division

Secretary: Michael F Kaminsky
Treasurer: Guillermo E Biaggi

Inter-American Division

Secretary: Juan O Perla
Treasurer: Filiberto M Verduzco

North American Division

Secretary: Roscoe J Howard III
Treasurer: Juan R Prestol

Northern-Asia Pacific Division

Secretary: Akeri Suzuki
Treasurer: Donald W Upson

South American Division

Secretary: Raul Gomez
Treasurer: Marino F de Oliveira

South Pacific Division

Secretary: Barry D Oliver
Treasurer: Rodney G Brady

Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division

Secretary: Solomon Maphosa
Treasurer: Jannie Bekker

Southern Asia Division

Secretary: John Rathinaraj
Treasurer: G S Robert Clive

Southern Asia-Pacific Division

Secretary: G T Ng
Treasurer: Keith R Heinrich

Trans-European Division

Secretary: Harald Wollan
Treasurer: Johann E Johannsson

West-Central Africa Division

Secretary: Gilbert Wari
Treasurer: Ceazar J Hechanova

UNDERSECRETARY AND ASSOCIATE SECRETARIES—CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

This item was discussed further and will be brought back to the morning session.

LOWELL C COOPER, *Chair*
DOUGLAS CLAYVILLE,
Secretary

LARRY R EVANS, *Actions Editor*
JANET C UPSON, *Recording Secretary*

Nominating Committee Report—6

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

General Conference

General Field Secretaries:

Gary D Krause
Angel M Rodríguez

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries

Director: Martin W Feldbush

Children's Ministries Department

Director: Linda Mei Lin Koh

Communication Department

Director: Rajmund Dabrowski

Education Department

Director: C Garland Dulan

Family Ministries Department

Director: Ronald M Flowers
Associate Director: Karen M Flowers

Health Ministries Department

Director: Allan R Handysides

Ministerial Association

Secretary: James A Cress

Public Affairs & Religious Liberty Department

Director: John Graz

Publishing Ministries Department

Director: Howard F Faigao

Trust Services Department

Director: Jeffrey K Wilson

Women's Ministries Department

Director: Heather-Dawn Small

Youth Ministries Department

Director: Baraka G Muganda

ARMANDO MIRANDA, *Chair*
ROSCOE J HOWARD III,
Secretary

LARRY R EVANS, *Actions Editor*

ROWENA J MOORE,
Recording Secretary

Proclaiming Calvary's Wonders

Devotional message presented Tuesday evening, July 5, 2005

A British preacher provided guidance for a young seminarian. He said to him, "Son, in England each town, village, and hamlet has a road that leads to London. In the same way, whatever scriptural passage you preach, make sure you find a road to Calvary." This preacher was encouraging his protégé to proclaim Calvary's wonders in a way similar to what the apostle Paul emphasized. Paul wrote these words to the church at Corinth:

"Dear brothers and sisters, when I first came to you I didn't use lofty words and brilliant ideas to tell you God's message. For I decided to concentrate only on Jesus Christ and his death on the cross (1 Cor. 2:1, 2, NLT).

Proclaiming Calvary's wonders requires an appreciation for the importance of the cross. The cross provides us with insights into life's meaning and gives sinners and saints our most useful knowledge—a road map to our eternal destinations. It teaches us the victory of apparent failure. Calvary's wonders convert sinners and provide peace for wounded consciences. That "hill far away" promotes holiness, preparing a spotless church to meet its celestial bridegroom. Perhaps this is why Paul also said, "As for me, God forbid that I should boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Gal. 6:14, NLT).

Calvary's Wonders

Calvary brought seven wonders.

The *first* came when Jesus entered the pool of suffering with a merciful prayer, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). He taught us to love our enemies, and His deeds matched His rhetoric.

The *second* wonder came with the salvation of a dying thief. Jesus' enemies asserted, "He saved others; himself he



Barry Black
*Chaplain, U.S.
Senate*

cannot save" (Matt. 27:42). He proved them wrong when He stopped dying long enough to transform the cross into a baptismal pool and prepare a felon for eternity. Through parched lips He whispered to the thief, "You will be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43, NKJV).

The *third* wonder was the darkness from noonday until 3:00 that afternoon. This eerie ebony blanket seemed to indicate nature sympathizing with its dying Creator. Dionysius, who witnessed this darkness, declared that it signaled the coming of some extraordinary event. God seemed to be covering His Son's wretchedness from a cynical public's view.

The *fourth* wonder came with the splitting of the temple veil, indicating the abolition of the Jewish sacrificial system. No longer is the blood of bullocks and goats or sheep and pigeons required. Now anyone can enter the presence of God. This rending means that humanity now has the only mediator needed between God and humankind, our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 2). We can, therefore, come boldly before God's throne (Heb. 4:16).

The *fifth* wonder emerged with an earthquake that seemed to shake the planet's physical and moral foundations. Our world seemed to convulse with remorse that its Maker experienced unspeakable anguish. These tremors must have brought terror to the hearts of the onlookers, for it seemed that apocalyptic consequences were at hand.

The *sixth* wonder involved resurrection. In the wake of the earthquakes the graves of certain righteous dead were opened, and they came forth (Matt. 27:52, 53). What an amazing happening! Life reawakened in the face of the impending death of Christ. When the first Easter dawned, these resurrected ones entered Jerusalem to be seen by many.

The *seventh* wonder came from the testimony of a Gentile soldier. God rarely leaves Himself without a witness.

Even the rocks stood ready to give their testimony (Luke 19:40). No disciple spoke up, but a Roman centurion shouted, "Surely, this was a righteous man" (Luke 23:47).

The Man of One Theme

The apostle Paul expressed a determination to become a person of one theme. He focused his preaching solely on the cross (1 Cor. 2:2). When Paul preached, a person didn't have to guess about the thesis of his sermon. He boasted only in the cross (Gal. 6:14). In doing this, Paul helped us see what the focus of our preaching and witnessing should be: Calvary, Calvary, Calvary.

One American presidential candidate, seeking to emphasize one theme, had as his slogan: "It's the economy, stupid!" For Christians who preach or witness, it's the cross, sisters and brothers. This wonderful simplicity excludes everything that might deprive the gospel of its power and glory. We exult in a single theme, the cross.

Life's Meaning

The cross enables us to know better the meaning of life. It particularly throws light on the problem of human suffering. In the light of Calvary's wonders, we gain a better appreciation for why bad things happen to good people. If the spotless Messiah could not escape pain, why should we be exempt? If Jesus became "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3), we too must be ready to bear a cross. Calvary reminds us that life is real and earnest, that resurrection can follow our greatest tragedies, and that suffering can be redemptive. It tells us that victory can be near the borders of apparent defeat.

Think of the blessings that came from Joseph's 13 years of suffering. Because he bore his cross with dignity, Egypt eventually became the bread basket for nations. Joseph's fidelity saved tens of thousands from starvation, including the members of his own family. In spite of his brothers' homicidal intentions, God transformed evil into good.

We see God do the same thing at Calvary. Jesus' enemies meant His crucifixion for evil, but God used it to save the world. His death proved that those who lose their lives for others will find it. Jesus looked beyond Calvary to the joy that was set before Him and despised the shame (Heb. 12:2). He knew that the Father would use His sacrifice for global redemption.

Useful Knowledge

We should proclaim Calvary's wonders because they provide us with the most useful knowledge. The cross excludes everything that might deprive the gospel of its power. Calvary provides the center of human salvation. In commenting on John 3:16, Martin Luther once said: "If the entire Bible was lost except for John 3:16, there is enough grace in this one verse to save the world."

The apostle Paul decided not to waste time with extraneous matters. He gloried only in the cross. He believed that Calvary provided everything people need for salvation. It is the only safe rule for faith and practice.

The cross should be the litmus test for all doctrines and dogmas; it gives a knowledge that leads to salvation. One sage minister, critiquing a colleague's sermons, said, "They have no blood in them." Spurgeon used to advise his students, "Whenever you preach, as quickly as possible, make your way to Calvary."

Conversion Power

Jesus once said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32). We should proclaim Calvary's wonders because of their converting power. Years ago, at an evangelistic meeting in which I participated, a young man stumbled into our service. We later learned he was high on drugs and alcohol. A deacon volunteered to escort the young man from the service. However, the rest of us decided to let him stay. He slept off his inebriation on one of the back pews. Night after night he continued to show up high, and we continued to preach the cross and let him sleep. Somehow

through the fog of his intoxication, the story of Calvary's wonders seeped into his heart. Eventually he was baptized and became a significant administrator in my church. Calvary possesses converting power.

Balm for Wounded Consciences

Romans 5:9-11 reminds us that we are reconciled to God through Jesus because of Calvary. That reconciliation means a conscience without offense toward God or humanity. What wonderful peace floods the souls of those who know that the penalty for their sins has been paid.

Conscience often makes us cowards. Proverbs 28:1 tells us that "the wicked flee when no one pursues" (NKJV). We see this in the case of Joseph's brothers (Gen. 42:21, 22), who thought most of the negative things that happened to them meant that God was paying them back for their transgressions. How often we mistakenly assume we are reaping what we've sown. This is not the case at all.

Promotes Holiness

Proclaiming Calvary's wonders promotes holiness. One hymn writer said, "When I survey the wondrous cross . . . my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride." The cross unleashes a love of Christ that constrains us (2 Cor. 5:14) and enables us to overcome the enemy by the power of Christ's blood (Rev. 12:11). Many remember the transformations that occurred as people viewed Mel Gibson's movie, *The Passion of the Christ*. One Texan man confessed to a murder after beholding Calvary's sacrifice.

I'm determined to know nothing except the crucified Jesus Christ—this will be my story and song throughout the ceaseless cycles of eternity. As long as I have life, I will glory in the cross, proclaiming its power to transform lives.

To view a video presentation of all devotional messages and division reports, visit the Adventist Review Web site at www.adventistreview.org.

Fifth Business Meeting, continued

58th General Conference session, July 3, 2005, 2:00 p.m.

GERRY D. KARST: We turn now to our regular agenda. On page 91 in your backup material we have the Protocol Statement on Additions or Revisions to the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs. We have discussed this item in detail, but it seems that there are others who wish to speak. We would invite you now to come to the microphone, be prepared to speak to it, and if your comment has already been repeated by somebody else, please allow others to speak.

[After several speakers were given opportunity to share their concerns, a motion to close discussion was moved, seconded, and voted.]

We have before us now the Protocol Statement, and we will vote on that document. [The document was approved.] We can now go to the item Growing in Christ—Addition to the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs.

I think it needs to be pointed out here that what is contained in this is not new to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It's new only in the sense that it has not been included in our Statement of Fundamental Beliefs. But this is something we have always believed and held as a church. I am asking Dr. Rodriguez to lead us into the discussion.

ANGEL RODRÍGUEZ: You have in your hands a document eight pages long called "Proposal for a New Fundamental Belief." Mr. Chairman, we would like to read this document, hopefully with PowerPoint presentation, and at the end we'll read the statement itself, which is on a separate page, and from there the chair will decide how to handle the item.

Mr. Chairman, I would like now for the delegates, together with me, to read the statement, the new proposed edition to the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs. So if you pull out the paper with the statement, let's read together Growing in Christ. [The statement was read.]

Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that this statement be added to the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. [The motion was seconded.]

GERRY D. KARST: We now come to the discussion on the statement itself, and I would like to propose to the delegation the same time limit of three minutes that was in place during the previous hour.

RICHARD ELOFER: I would like to thank you for this addition to the

Statement of Fundamental Beliefs. That is very necessary. But we have to remember that when a fundamental belief is voted and accepted, it is printed everywhere.

And we have to remember that there are more than 1 billion people on the earth for whom the cross is not a very good word. And I don't know why we want to absurdly start the statement by saying, "By His cross Jesus triumphed . . ." Why can't we simply say, "By His death on the cross," or "By His sacrifice on the cross"? We will not offend so many people in the world.

GERRY D. KARST: Thank you, Pastor Elofer. I'm wondering if there is a response.

ANGEL RODRÍGUEZ: Thank you for the comment. We're dealing here with a theological statement, and the significance and meaning of the statement has to be determined by the context in which it is made.

This is not addressing a sociological issue; this is addressing a basic biblical truth, and that biblical truth should be clearly affirmed by us. In the Christian world Adventists have been kind of shy in confessing the saving power of the cross of Christ. And this statement is emphasizing that dimension. The statement itself, the way it reads, should not be offensive to anybody. It doesn't address their concerns raised by the speaker. Even though I do sympathize much with his comments.

WILLIAM G. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, the statement is almost an exact statement of Colossians 2:14, 15. This is exactly what the text says—that by His cross Jesus triumphed over the demonic forces.

Now, at the time of the New Testament the cross was offensive to many. Paul tells us that in 1 Corinthians 1. And in today's world the cross is still offensive, but it seems to me that we must stand by what the Scriptures say—that by His cross Jesus triumphed—even though it may offend some people.

MICHAEL URBATZKA: I have two short remarks and then one question. First of all, for me the title of this twenty-eighth belief does not match with the content, and also the wording in the whole belief does not satisfy me. And second, I believe that we as a church are going in the wrong direction by adding an extra point; in a few years we will add another point, and so on. I think we have too many beliefs already; therefore, I am voting against this point.

My question is: What happens to the

church member baptized in accordance with the 27 beliefs who does not accept the twenty-eighth? And also the pastors—do we have to disfellowship them? What do we do with them?

MICHAEL L. RYAN: I would like to emphasize that in the preamble we indicated that this is not new theology! Seventh-day Adventists have believed for many years what we've written here. I have had opportunity to visit hundreds and hundreds of new congregations that had been established in places where we have never before entered. And as I go there I find that the vast majority of the people live their daily lives in fear of evil spirits. The first question that our frontline workers who are there presenting the gospel and the three angels' messages are asked by the population is "What is your God going to do about the evil spirits that control my life?" I have heard some answers that I am not comfortable with. And in those answers they make accommodation that we cannot offend the evil spirits. And there are some other comments that we would struggle to endorse with our theology. Day by day we are establishing more and more new congregations. And the explanation that's given on this question is defining the church. In a few more years I'm afraid that we may go to some areas and be very surprised at what our theology has become on this point.

GERRY D. KARST: Thank you for your comment.

CHRISTIAN FREI: When I first heard about this new fundamental belief, I really got excited. However, as I studied the contents some questions and concerns came to my mind. My concerns are related to what I perceive as an unbalanced and incomplete view of what hinders and fosters spiritual growth. Regarding the hindrances to spiritual growth, I feel that the external hindrances, Satan and evil powers, are stressed very much; while the inward hindrances to spiritual growth are neglected. I am sorry to say that as it reads now, I'm not going to be able to support this fundamental belief.

GERRY D. KARST: Thank you for your comments. We have a response, please.

ANGEL RODRÍGUEZ: This is not a perfect expression of an essential biblical teaching. Words are not enough. We need to remember that other statements in your fundamental beliefs deal with some of the

Continued on page 20.

The Hometown Paper for a Worldwide Church

Order the *Adventist Review* before
July 31, 2005 and pay only \$31.95
for 36 issues.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

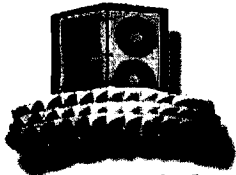
State/Prov/Code _____

Send with check to:
Adventist Review
P.O. Box 1119
Hagerstown, MD
21741.



1-800-456-3991

The Complete Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal on 33 CDs



Uses include...

- evangelism
- home worship
- church worship
- nursing homes
- prison ministries
- solo practice
- outdoor church
- learning new hymns

More Accompaniment Discs



1-800-35-HYMNS
1-800-354-9667



Hymns Alive

- Superb Quality
- 20+ Hymns/Disc
- Leather Binder
- 700 Hymns
- Index Included

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

Hymnals and song books sold separately

He Is Our Song - 156 songs on 4 CDs - \$49.95

Sing for Joy - 150 songs on 4 CDs - \$49.95

If purchased separately on tapes they would cost over \$700

also
**3D Bible
Visual
Aids**



8" tall 17" tall

Dan 7 lion, Dan 2, 3 images

**Sabbath Songs for Tiny Tots
Cradle Roll** on 1 disc US\$19.95

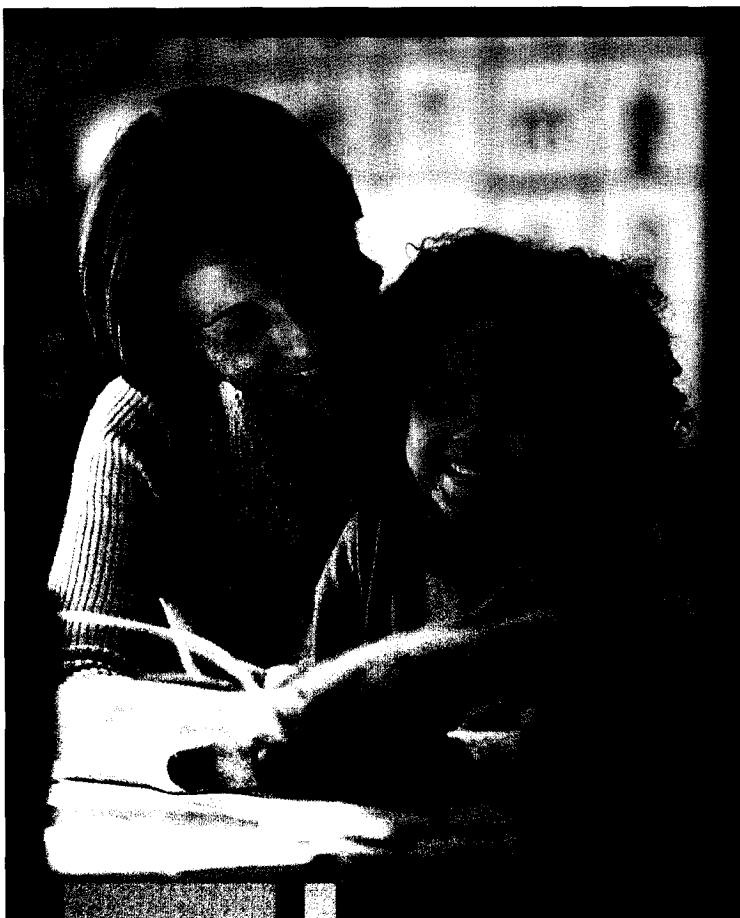
**Sabbath Songs for Tiny Tots
Kindergarten** on 2 discs US\$29.95

Little Voices Praise Him -
on 4 discs - US\$69.95

Please Add 5% for shipping.

Songbooks sold separately.

Office: (770)-562-2544 Satisfaction guaranteed
[web page] www.35hymns.com also available at your local ABC



What does a five-year-old have in
common with a college sophomore?
More than you might think.

Griggs University/Home Study International offers programs that fit, whether they're into ABCs, or English lit. In our book each student is a wonderful work in progress. With our dedicated teachers and advisors offering enthusiastic support, everyone is encouraged to reach for their best.

For more information visit us at www.hsi.edu
or give us a call at 1-800-782-4769.



12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600





Pardon Mwansa
President

Facing the Future With Confidence

Presented Tuesday, July 5, 2005

From two came three!" The Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID) was born on January 1, 2003, from the Eastern Africa Division and the Indian Ocean Division, the two divisions that administered most of Africa up to December 2002.

This new entity has three official languages—English, French, and Portuguese—instead of just one. It is comprised of 23 countries and territories that stretch from the southern regions of the Indian and Atlantic Oceans to the northern borders of Angola, Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique. It is administered from Harare, Zimbabwe, and has a population of 135,000,000. It is organized into eight unions, three of which now have conference status. It enjoys the lead within the Adventist world family for its population to member ratio. Notice the following statement from the General Conference *Statistical Report* (October 8-14, 2004, page 1):

"Seven of our 13 world divisions now have a population to member ratio less than the 468 worldwide average. Indeed, two have less than 100: Southern Africa-Indian Ocean with 80 and South Pacific with 88."

Among SID's unions, Angola and Mozambique have unique challenges as a result of their recent civil wars. Acknowledging this situation, the General Conference president, Jan Paulsen, visited both unions assuring them of his support. Since then the SID administration and department directors have made every effort to train and

develop the local leadership in both countries.

How Has the Church Grown?

In the first two years of its growth (2003/2004) SID increased in membership from 1,624,282 to 1,840,540, a net increase of 13.3 percent, or 216,258 members.

During the Year of World Evangelism 2004 the net growth was 126,772 members—an increase of 7.4 percent over the previous year.

In Zambia there is now one member for every 22 people in the general population. In Zimbabwe it's one in 24. It is expected that both these unions will break the 500,000 membership mark during 2005, while the division's membership is expected to pass the 2 million mark in the same period.

How Is Such Growth Possible?

Apart from the invaluable involvement of our pastors, there are numerous other factors that promote membership growth. The most important is lay involvement. Many of SID's laypersons are committed evangelists who conduct their own campaigns.

Catherine Banda of Malawi Union is an example. She has no formal training in public evangelism other than a brief seminar in preaching conducted by her local pastor. Undeterred by this, she began to hold small public meetings. Four were baptized after her first attempt, 30 after the sec-

ond, and 28 after the third. Recognizing her zeal, the South Malawi Field formally assigned Catherine to conduct a campaign in Bulaka, a town with a small Adventist population where recent evangelistic programs by experienced pastors had been aborted because of the community's hostility toward our message.

Upon arrival at Bulaka, Catherine found opposition to her ministry from an unexpected source—the church itself. The local elders were not impressed that a woman had been sent to preach, and they told her that "this is not a place for amateurs!"

Catherine prayed through the night, pleading with the Lord to soften the hearts of these men. He did, and the next day they reluctantly permitted her to commence her campaign in this Muslim-dominated area. At the end 58 souls were ready for baptism, including the village chief, who chided the local church leaders with these words at his baptism: "You Adventist men, how come you had this great truth for years and you never told me?"

Another reason for growth is boldness and innovation. An example of this is the willingness of the church to seek unconventional ways of reaching those who would normally not darken the door of an Adventist church. For example, in the city of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, the Makokoba Adventist Church recently targeted



Mrs. Catherine Banda is a successful lay evangelist.

the Big Bhawa beer garden, one of the oldest beer halls in the country and a popular venue for live musical entertainment. They brought their top choirs and singing groups to entertain the crowds with the best in gospel music and a selection of prayers.

Another example of this innovative and bold approach to evangelism is the recent airing of Hope Channel on Africa's biggest satellite subscription network for 10 months free of charge. This meant that a potential audience of 2 million viewers in sub-Saharan Africa was exposed to our message.

Locally originated satellite evangelism has also played a significant role in evangelization, the most recent of which was the Voice of Prophecy campaign uplinked from Lusaka, Zambia, resulting in more than 20,000 baptisms.

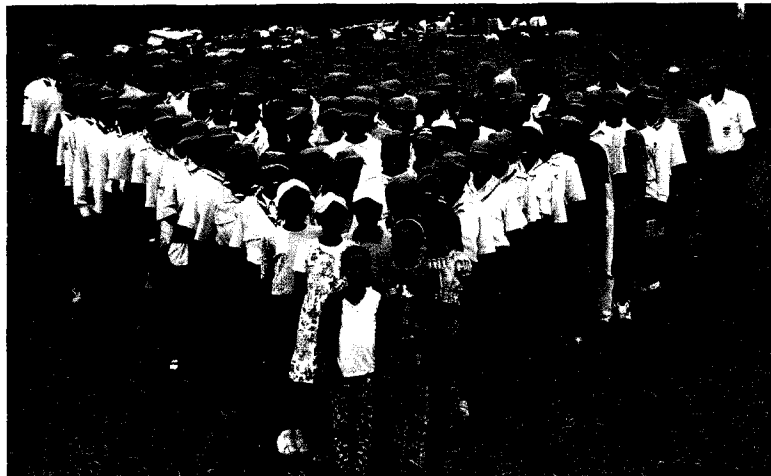
In February this year the youth of the unions launched the Elijah Project, which plans 650 evangelistic campaigns by June 2005.

The Sow 1 Billion program has distributed 92,250,000 tracts in 10 languages.

Staying Focused Is Not Easy

Keeping a large and rapidly growing organization focused on key objectives is necessary but not easy. Recognizing this, the SID administration has established the Eight Focus Issues—eight core issues to concentrate on growth, spiritual nurture, unity, self-support, leadership training, ministry to minorities, the fight against HIV/AIDS, and Christian Education.

Each of these issues has a specific set of desired outcomes and action plans to support it. These have been printed in the three official languages of the division and circulated widely. Seminars promoting them have been held for the workers



Pathfinders attend the first camp to be conducted by the new Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

across the division.

The Eight Focus Issues

1. Growth

We have already referred to the SID's membership growth of 126,772 (7.4 percent) for 2004. This membership increase resulted in the establishment of 176 new churches and 315 companies during the same period. If we take the two-year period of 2003/2004 the growth figures for churches and companies are shown in table 1:

2. Spiritual nurture

Spiritual nurture doesn't happen naturally; people don't automatically "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18, NIV). The church needs to be intentional about this core issue, so SID has set aside this year as a Year of Revival and Spiritual Nurture.

Plans have been laid to foster a climate of revival and spiritual nurture throughout the division. This includes the distribution of special nurture literature, conducting thousands of revival meetings, and the special region-wide SID Business and Professional Persons' Camp Meeting held in Johannesburg,

South Africa, during February under the theme Nurturing Excellence. The latter event was attended by more than 600 laypeople and church employees. It showed that our members are active witnesses at every level of civil society and government.

This emphasis on revival and nurture is also intended to proactively address one of the division administration's other deep concerns: *membership retention*. This past year

we were blessed with a net increase of 126,772 members, but that was after we sadly removed the names of 21,052 members who no longer attended.

While we have a deep concern for those who have not yet heard the Advent message, we remember these people who slip unnoticed through the back doors of our churches. During 2003 they were equal to 20.5 percent of those who joined our church (*Membership Retention Analysis—1999-2003, GC*). Losing one member for every five or six we gain is too high a price to pay.

3. Unity

Comprised of people from Africa, the islands around its coasts, and Europe, our division is a rainbow of human diversity that needs careful Spirit-led management. We want each of our members, irrespective of his or her age, gender, language, cultural identity, nationality or race, to feel an integral part of church life. To achieve this we have encouraged all our organizations and committees to reflect a spirit of fairness, impartiality, and inclusiveness in all their election, appointment, and recruitment processes.

Among the specific challenges involving unity is the situation in South Africa, where ongoing negotiations are under way with a view to merging the racially aligned Transvaal and Trans-Orange confer-

Table 1

	January 2002	December 2004	Increase	Percentage
Churches:	6,216	6,735	519	8.4
Companies:	11,194	12,001	807	7.2

ences, and the Southern Hope and Cape conferences for greater efficiency and unity within God's church. Significant progress has been made to this end, and we give God the glory for this.

4. Self-support

Numerical and spiritual growth are not the only characteristics of a mature church. Another important quality is self-support, a core value to which the SID administration subscribes. SID has had one of its largest union missions, Zambia, recently obtain union conference status. It is expected that two more, the Indian Ocean Union Mission and the recently formed Botswana Union Mission, will soon be ready for conference status.

During the same period we also witnessed the formation of the North Mozambique Field, and the granting of conference status to the South Botswana Field and the South Zambia Field.

5. Leadership training

In SID we cannot afford to ignore the implications of a sustained growth rate of 7.4 percent, for if we continue to grow at this rate, we will need to make significant provisions for the 789,525 members who will swell our ranks by the next General Conference session.

We will need to train motivated and skilled leaders to manage this vast future membership. If we base our calculations on one pastor serving 1,000 new members, we will need to train and graduate 790 pastors during this quinquennium.

If we assume that these new members will be grouped in congregations averaging 250, then there will be 3,158 new church boards to form and train. If these congregations are going to be grouped into fields or conferences of 78,952 members each, we will need to find and train administrators and support staff for 10 such organizational entities.

6. Ministry to minorities

In SID there is a growing conviction that in order to fulfill the mandate to proclaim the gospel to all (Rev. 14:6),

Table 2

Category of Institution:	Number of Institutions	Enrollment
Primary/Elementary Schools	178	68,478
Secondary Schools	78	32,297
Colleges and Universities	10	3,597

we need to intentionally foster ministry to the racial, cultural, and linguistic minorities among us. At every level we are encouraging the establishment of minority ministries committees to be "tasked with the development of plans to cater for effective ministry to, and for, minority groups."*

In our largest union, Zimbabwe, the administration has appointed persons at union and conference levels for minority ministries, and we hope that similar action will soon be taken in other unions.

The division also encourages special ministries to groups with unique needs or circumstances such as women, children, refugees, professionals, prisoners, migrant laborers, etc.

7. The fight against HIV/AIDS

It is a chilling reality that of the 10 countries most affected by HIV/AIDS, nine of them are in SID's territory. The figures that follow, drawn from the *Population Reference Bureau (2003)*, give an idea of the challenge:

Swaziland	38.8 percent
Namibia	21.3 percent
Botswana	37.3 percent
Zambia	16.5 percent
Lesotho	28.9 percent
Malawi	14.2 percent
Zimbabwe	24.6 percent
Mozambique	12.2 percent
South Africa	21.5 percent

Percentages may deceive us here, because they mask the actual number of people who have this disease, and just one example may make the picture clearer. With a 21.5 percent infection rate and a population of about 45 million, it means that as many as 9.5 million South Africans may already be infected.

To personalize this even further, in Zimbabwe they plan to baptize 80,000 new members this year. If they do, about 19,680 of them (24.6 percent)

could be HIV positive. This is a human crisis of staggering proportions that we cannot delegate to the health-care professionals in our 82 clinics and 11 hospitals—it is a challenge for all our

members.

In response to this challenge, orphanages have been opened. The division and its unions are working with a major international donor organization in a Training of Trainers Programme (TOTs) to produce a team of skilled trainers to educate large numbers of selected members as caring support persons in their communities.

In addition to this, there are teams of employees, such as the HIV/AIDS unit at Maluti Adventist Hospital in Lesotho, who do internationally recognized work in the development of effective community-based systems for the care of AIDS orphans and people living with AIDS.

8. Christian education

The provision of quality Christian education poses a daunting challenge to SID and the present enrollment picture is shown in table 2.

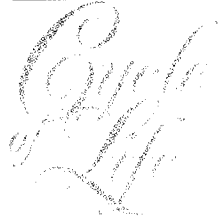
During the next five years we will have to increase the capacity of our schools and colleges significantly to keep pace with the estimated membership growth.

Conclusion

Our history as the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division has been brief, but you have seen evidence of the Holy Spirit at work. Most of our plans, such as the Eight Focus Issues, are just beginning to bear fruit. But if the Holy Spirit has done so much already, we have the confidence that He will do even more by Atlanta 2010, if Jesus tarries that long.

In closing, I wish to express my special thanks to our heavenly Father, who so graciously supplies our every need.

**Eight Focus Issues: Desired Outcomes and Action Plans*, a Southern Africa-Indian Ocean publication, 2004, p. 15.



“Sometimes you have to face harsh realities before you know what’s right.”

*Pastor Minervino (Minner) and Evelyn Labrador
Clearwater, Florida*



The first question our financial advisor asked us about retirement was: Do you have a will and other estate planning documents? We didn't. Within weeks, two tragedies in our church showed

us how important estate planning can be. A beloved deacon suffered a serious stroke. Machines kept him alive, but he could no longer communicate. Loving relatives found themselves in a painful argument – a conflict that could have been avoided, if only our church member had signed an advance medical directive. Then, a young couple related to a church member died in a car accident, leaving two young children. Because there was neither a will nor

guardianship papers, the family had no way of knowing what the parents' wishes were for their children. Before the issue was resolved peaceably, probate costs had significantly reduced the children's insur-

ance benefits and inheritance. When we thought about our own family, we knew we couldn't live with uncertainty. We had to fulfill our obligations as parents, as pastors of the flock and as responsible stewards of God's goods. Now that we have wills we are so relieved. We know that if anything happens to us, our sons will be raised in a home we've chosen for them.



Call us Toll Free: 1-877-WILLPLAN

Continued from page 14.

issues being raised. Therefore, we must see this proposal in the light of the other fundamental beliefs.

FRANK SAM BARDEN CHIRWA: I understand that this is to be the twenty-eighth fundamental belief for the church. My first concern is the broadness of the belief itself. I understand that this proposal has been prompted by the fears of occultism, ancestral spirits, and mysticism, which I think could have been tackled on their own rather than in a broad statement of growing in Christ.

My second concern is that the new standards and belief statements have been made at the higher level of the church and that those statements are being taken to the grassroots level, where, because of different understandings, cultural perspectives, and educational backgrounds, confusion will be created.

GEORGE ATIGA: I would like to think that I grow in Christ not because of what I do, but because of what He has done for me. Lines 16 and 17 say that "Jesus' victory gives us victory over the evil forces that still seek to control us, as we walk with Him in peace, joy, and assurance of His love." Do we infer here that we share in the victory of Jesus Christ if we walk with Him in peace, joy, and assurance? This is something that is contrary to what we have heard the other day about the righteousness of Jesus Christ being the only thing that can give us victory over sin.

WILLIAM G. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, the statement is meant to say exactly what our brother just said. No wording is perfect, but it does not say "if we walk," but "as we walk." And you'll notice that the next sentence begins with "now." In other words, this is the state of being in Christ, and as with the Spirit dwelling within us, so we are united in His victory. It is meant to make the very point that our brother is making.

PAUL PETERSEN: Our division is concerned about two major issues: 1. We have large sections in the South Pacific Division where the question of evil spirit is of great importance and significance. 2. The South Pacific Division's biblical research committee has voted that in at least two areas the statement is theologically wrong. It is not, in our view, an expression of a consensus of believers.

LILY KIDENDA: I would like to speak in support of adding this belief to our fundamental beliefs.

JOHN FOWLER: Mr. Chairman, I

stand to support the statement. This statement is nothing new. This summarizes what the Seventh-day Adventist Church stands for and what is expected of every believer.

ONALOPO AJIBADE: I see need for this statement, and I believe it is coming at a right time. As I understand it, while we are in Christ Jesus we overcome evil forces. No longer do we live in darkness, in fear of evil powers.

GERRY D. KARST: Thank you very much. Our next speaker represents a group

suggestions. Some of them involving or including the words "Victory in Christ," longer titles, even two-part titles. If you look at our other fundamental beliefs, their titles are quite short. We've tried to keep this consistent with the other beliefs. And having gone back and forth and looked at many suggestions, we are open to a better title if someone can come up with it. It seemed to us overall that growing in Christ is the best because growing in Christ is based on Christ's victory first of all.

GERRY D. KARST: Thank you for the explanation.

DONNA RICHARDS: I'm in very strong support of the new fundamental belief for several reasons, but I am sadly amused that we want as Americans to relegate evil and demonic forces to countries other than our own. Recently our church brought in a Baptist preacher to speak to our young people and parents about the evils of hip-hop music and what was behind it. And it was disclosed that spells are cast on some of these songs that will addict our young people to pornography and other sexual aberrations.

GERRY D. KARST: Thank you very much. We are going to pause here. We now have a report from the Nominating Committee, and if there is time after they have given their report, we will continue with those who were in line. We have them here on our screen. At this time I am going to ask the chairman of the Nominating

Committee to address us, and also because of the nature of the report that's coming I will turn the chair over to Dr. Paulsen.

JERE PATZER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've had an energized day, a good day, a positive day. We have a full report that's coming through despite the fact that we broke for the good leadership section this morning. We are pleased to tell you that we have some good things to report to you. This is a historic day in some ways. There have been some strong opinions expressed in one way or another, and yet the spirit of unity that God can bring is still residing and presiding there in our committee room.

So on this important aspect of our Nominating Committee report I know that we have your full attention. I'll ask Dr. Delbert Baker, who is our secretary for the Nominating Committee, to bring us the names.

DELBERT BAKER: [The secretary of the Nominating Committee presented the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for general vice presidents of the General Conference, which included three new vice presidents, one of whom,

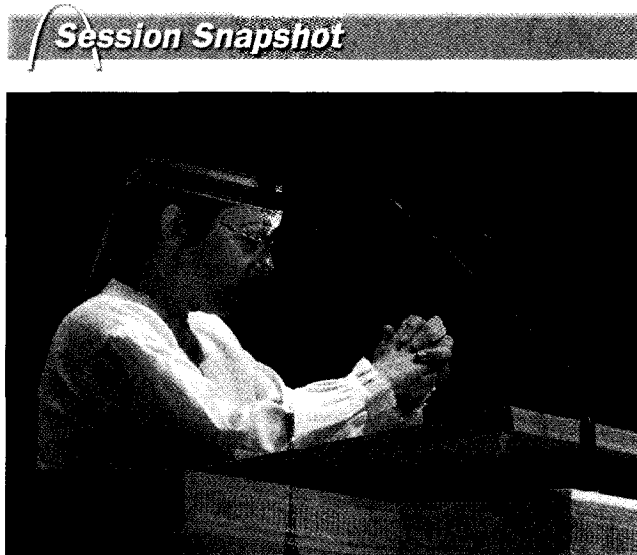


PHOTO BY JOEL D. SPRINGER & HERALD

Session Snapshot

PRAYER: Eva Saarits (TED) offers the invocation for the July 3 Festival of Mission evening meeting of the GC session.

of people in the war-torn country of Iraq—a group for whom many of us have been praying. He comes from the city of Baghdad. And I'm wondering if you'd like to give a round of applause in appreciation for our people in that country. [Applause.]

BASIM FARGO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, brethren and sisters. Sometimes the devil comes to a person through dreams. What is the role of dreams?

GERRY KARST: We're really not discussing the "Proposal for a New Fundamental Belief." It was simply information and background. We're discussing the actual belief.

BASIM FARGO: Oh, I see. I'm sorry. Thank you.

DUNCAN O. MUMBO: The title of this belief is confusing to me.

GERRY D. KARST: Thank you for your observation. This has come up numerous times. And we've had an explanation, but perhaps we need to address it one more time.

WILLIAM G. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have wrestled with the title. We have looked at many, many

Ella Simmons, is the first woman to be elected as a vice president of the General Conference. Ella Simmons was introduced and gave her reaction as follows:]

ELLA SIMMONS: Good afternoon, brothers and sisters in Christ. As many have so aptly observed this afternoon, this is truly a historic moment for our church. I am really proud to be a Seventh-day Adventist this afternoon. I believe I hear bells tolling in the courts of heaven announcing a transition in Christ for God's church today. I am very mindful of the fact, however, that those bells toll not for Ella Simmons, but for this church, for you. I simply pray, and ask you to pray for me, that I will never be caught up in the moment, that I will never be caught up in the position, that I will never see self or seek for self, but will be used as a humble vessel for Christ and Christ alone. Thank you for your trust. [Applause.]

[In addition to the general vice presidents, Dr. Baker presented recommendations from the Nominating Committee for the presidents of the 13 divisions. This list included one new president. These recommendations were approved by vote of the delegates. The details can be found in the actions of the session.]

[Jan Paulsen, in tribute to retiring general vice president Harold W. Baptiste, spoke of his long life of service to the church and his outstanding contributions to the mission of the church.]

HILDBURG HOPF: [Benediction.]

GERRY D. KARST, *Chair*

JAN PAULSEN, *Chair*

THEODORE T. JONES, *Secretary*

BILL BOTHE, ATHAL TOLHURST,

FRED THOMAS, and CLAUDE

SABOT, *Proceedings Editors*

*Fifth Business Meeting
Actions for the entire meeting
may be found on pages 30, 31
of Bulletin 4.*

Sixth Business Meeting

*58th General Conference
session, July 4, 2005,
9:30 a.m.*

RONALD FLOWERS: [Welcomed the delegates and offered the opening prayer.]

BAHAMAS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH MEISTER-SINGERS: [Rendered a special item of music.]

EUGENE HSU: Good morning, delegates. Welcome to this morning's business session.

As you recall, at our last business session we did not finish the item Growing in Christ. So we will pick that up this morning.

GEORGE REID: I would like to commend the people who have worked on this statement. They have had a very difficult job. They have been dealing with the plasticity of language to try to transmit correct thoughts, and I do not want to attempt to edit from the floor. But there are two things raised in the discussion yesterday that I think deserve at least a little attention.

The first of them deals with the very first sentence. We begin the statement with "By," which is an instrumental preposition and tends, in some senses, to detract from the real point that is coming, "His cross Jesus." I would suggest that we might do better to use a word such as "At," rather than "By," for "At" is not instrumental; it is a matter of location. Not that "By" is unbiblical. The Bible uses expressions this way, but the cross has become an icon that has been misunderstood and used even as a magical quality in folk religion, and I think that that is one reason that Adventists shy away a bit from that particular use.

The committee was charged with trying to bridge the difference between the last part of Romans 7 and the first part of Romans 8. They have done very well.

The last thing I want to address is the last sentence. It begins with a dependent clause. If you read that clause carefully, it does very well in setting the stage of what we are trying to say. However, I think we would be less subject to misunderstanding if we could begin this last sentence with an independent idea rather than a dependent idea. This statement is going to be analyzed and reanalyzed throughout the future.

EUGENE HSU: Do we have a response from our presenters?

WILLIAM G. JOHNSON: I greatly appreciate the remarks from Dr. Reid. Just a short response. Almost every phrase in this proposed fundamental belief comes directly from Scripture, and I think this is one large reason that Adventists are able to rally around the fundamental belief. Scripture itself uses the word "By" rather than "At" in Colossians 2:14, 15, and that is why it is there. It is what we find in Scripture. This is what is driving that particular wording.

ANGEL RODRÍGUEZ: I would like to add a comment to what Elder Johnson has just said. I have to confess to you that we looked again and again at the first sentence

of this statement, and we finally decided with tremendous support through e-mails that we needed to retain "By His cross." "By" is instrumental. The element of dynamism is dynamic. Something dynamic was taking place on the cross. This idea is somewhat weakened if we substitute it with the preposition "At." There was a conflict on the cross, and Christ came out victorious. That is the idea. Now to the last sentence.

If the primary clause, the main clause, which happens to be the last one, is read by itself, it can be misunderstood, but if you read it in conjunction with the introductory clause, then you shouldn't have any problem, because we are talking about an individual who has surrendered his or her life to Jesus and now is in loving service acting on behalf of Christ, and it is that person who, in his daily experience in life, enjoys the sanctifying dimension. So if we read the sentence as a unity, I don't think there is room for misunderstanding, and it is going to be very difficult to come up with a statement that is phrased in such a way that everybody here will say, "This is it." We need to allow for some freedom in order perhaps to develop the theology of the statement in the future.

CLAUDE RICHLI: I would like to lend my support to the intervention of the pastor who came yesterday representing the Adventist Jewish Relations Center in Jerusalem. We live in a time when the church is witnessing openings in the Muslim world, which really is perhaps the last frontier for us as a church, and I have listened very carefully to both the arguments.

I think that we do need to pay attention to the fact that we do not want to create an additional burden between the Christian community and the Muslim community, as well as the secular community, around the symbol of the cross just by choosing a vocabulary, a language, that can easily be tempered by adding a simple word or two to the effect that we are not talking about the cross as a symbol.

I know, Mr. Chairman, that while we are not here to edit, I would still want to make a motion to amend those first words, to alleviate the burden that is now placed on the church, which is seeking to reach out to the Muslim population at an opportune time in history.

EUGENE HSU: Thank you for your comments.

ANGEL RODRÍGUEZ: So the basic question here is the question of how you handle a misuse of a Christian image. Because it is misused, should we ignore it?

Or should we place it where it should be? And it seems to me that the death of Christ on the cross is at the very heart of the Christian gospel, and the statement is placing the cross in its proper perspective.

And it's telling us that the cross as a symbol has been misused throughout Christian history, but it has nothing to do with an instrument of torture to other human beings.

This is the way that we as Adventists read it; it has nothing to do with attacking other human beings. The cross was where Christ defeated evil powers and freed us in order to love Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, every human being on Planet Earth. By trying to correct that perception, we are at the same time affirming the theological significance of this phrase in the Bible.

Now, the other question has to do with substituting it with the Resurrection, because it is with the Resurrection that Christ defeated the evil powers. If you read the Bible, you remember the Adventist understanding of the cosmic conflict. Christ's defeat of evil powers began in heaven.

It took place also throughout His earthly life. At the cross, at the Resurrection, in our own lives. It will take place also at the Second Coming and at the end of the millennium. So the question is At which moment was that victory final? And it seems to me that the heart of the conflict was on the cross, and everything from that point on is dependent on what happened on the cross.

EUGENE HSU: Thank you for the clarification.

NILTON AMORIM: This question has been given before to different organizations throughout the world.

I believe that if we were to open any of the 27 doctrines today for discussion, we would probably have the same long discussion. Mr. Chairman, I want to paraphrase the Bible and say that we have gone around this mountain long enough. It is time to move on. Mr. Chairman, I move the previous question. [The motion was seconded and approved by a two-thirds majority.]

EUGENE HSU: Thank you. We can now return to the main motion. But before doing so, we should pray. I've asked Brother Vernon Parmenter to offer prayer. Shall we bow our heads? [Vernon Parmenter offered prayer.]

[The motion to accept the addition to the 27 fundamental beliefs, entitled Growing in Christ, was voted.]

EUGENE HSU: Brother Parmenter, what is our next item?

VERNON B. PARMENTER: The next item is a recommendation that the nomenclature for the Publishing Department be changed to Publishing Ministries Department. I so move. [The motion was seconded and voted.]

Mr. Chairman, the recommendation is to amend a nomenclature for the Youth Department, that it be called the Youth Ministries Department. I so move. [The

motion was seconded and voted.]

We now go, Mr. Chairman, to the constitutional agenda. Elder Evans will bring us to item 301.

LARRY R. EVANS: Item 301 has to do with membership—Article IV of the constitution. Lines 16-19 read, "Any conferences, missions," and please note the asterisk, "and unions of churches directly attached to the General Conference and any conferences, missions and unions of churches directly attached to a division that have been or shall be properly organized." We're replacing the word "all" with "any," to make it more specific. This was done a while ago, actually, by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. In several areas of the world, local field units not holding conference status may be classified with terminology other than mission. For the purpose of Article IV, such field units may be considered equivalent to a mission, provided they have two or more officers and an executive committee and observe a schedule of regular constituency meetings. I move this amendment.

EUGENE HSU: It's been moved. Any second? All right, we have a speaker.

GUILLERMO MAGANA: I had a question on the previous motion about the name change of the youth, but you didn't give me time to come up to the microphone. And I don't want to backtrack, but I was just curious why we were doing the name changes to those departments.

EUGENE HSU: I think we have a response from our Youth Department director.

BARAKA G. MUGANDA: The reason we are changing the name from Youth Department is that we want to be known as a ministry. This is going to give strength to the department. We have the Adventurer Ministry, the Pathfinder Ministry, the Young Adult Ministry. We want to be known as a department that serves its young people. It will empower them to do the ministry of evangelism.

EUGENE HSU: Thank you very much, Brother Muganda. Now, let's come back to the motion that is on the floor. [The motion was seconded and voted.]

VERNON B. PARMENTER: The next item, Mr. Chairman, is 304.

LARRY R. EVANS: This is regarding Article IV—Undersecretary and Associate Secretaries, with the insertion an addition, Section 2, to read: "The secretary of the North American Division, by virtue of his election to that responsibility, shall also be an associate secretary of the General Conference." I move it. [The motion was seconded.]

EUGENE HSU: The Nominating Committee is coming right now with its report, so we will wait for them. Apparently we still have a few moments, so let us

continue.

HERBERT GIEBEL: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If in fact the division presidents are vice presidents, does it also follow that the division secretaries are associate secretaries as well?

EUGENE HSU: No, the division secretaries and division treasurers are not General Conference associate secretaries and associate treasurers. Only the North American Division secretary and treasurer are also General Conference associate secretary and associate treasurer.

HERBERT GIEBEL: That may be very appropriate. Could you give us a brief explanation just so that everybody is clear on that?

LARRY R. EVANS: The reason for this is that historically the North American Division has been at the home base, and therefore it can participate in the actions and the responsibilities there.

EUGENE HSU: Yes, you may recall that some years ago the North American Division and General Conference were one body. It was only in the 1980s that they were fully separated.

KENAOPE KENAOPE: I'm not so much worried about the marriage between the General Conference and North American Division. I'm thinking about the global church. What would happen if in the future the General Conference moved to some other country? Just food for thought.

EUGENE HSU: Thank you for your question and comments.

VERNON B. PARMENTER: Mr. Chairman, there is a little history that I think might help. There was a time when the North American Division and the General Conference were all one and the same thing. And even today there are many areas of work within the General Conference where there are shared responsibilities.

EUGENE HSU: Thank you for the clarification.

KENAOPE KENAOPE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I hope we will consider that in our future proceedings.

ADEFEMI ADESINA: I think that this recommendation to amend this part of our constitution will be adding to the privileges of the North American Division. If we need an associate secretary, why not elect one? If we need an associate treasurer, why not elect one that will be for all the world, rather than making the treasurer or secretary of a division be the representative of the world church?

LARRY R. EVANS: It is important that the field understand that there are several associates chosen from different parts of the world field. North America does not try to represent the world field. We have other associate secretaries that are very much in touch with the world field. So much is

asked for from North America that to have a secretary there that would serve as a liaison is not asking for special privilege but rather a privilege of service. The North American Division secretary simply helps facilitate the process of sending missionaries to other parts of the world from North America. The same can be said with the treasurer of North America, which we will talk about later.

EUGENE HSU: Thank you for the comments. Let us now receive the report from the Nominating Committee.

JERE PATZER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman; it is good to be back here. And I got the tail end of that explanation by our undersecretary, Larry Evans, and that was a very good explanation that would be a complement to the discussion that we had in the Nominating Committee this morning, because in certain areas we need to be particularly sensitive to the representation around the world.

DELBERT BAKER: This is our fourth report, and the Nominating Committee recommends the name of Larry Evans for the position of undersecretary of the General Conference to serve for the next term of office. I so move it.

EUGENE HSU: OK, it's been moved. Do I hear a second? It's been seconded. Any comments or observations? I'll give you a minute to walk to the microphone if you wish. I see none. All in favor, please raise your voting card. Thank you. Opposed, the same sign. It is carried.

JERE PATZER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman; there was good support on the floor in the Nominating Committee for Larry Evans. We will then move to the associate secretary position. There are four of those. You will note that when our secretary mentions the places they have come from, there is some diversity there geographically; however, once again, in this particular area they are selected for their specific expertise in this category.

Having said that, I will tell you that all four of these are incumbents and that all of these were recommended by our General Conference secretary Elder Matthew Bediako.

[Moved, seconded, and voted the following names as associate secretary of the General Conference: Douglas Clayville, Agustin Galicia, Vernon Parmenter, Claude Sabot.]

We will now move to the area of the Treasury, and the first position we will take up is the undertreasurer.

[Moved, seconded, and voted Steven G. Rose as undertreasurer of the General Conference (incumbent).]

DELBERT W. BAKER: Now the four names for associate treasurer of the General Conference.

[Moved, seconded, and voted the following names as associate treasurer of the

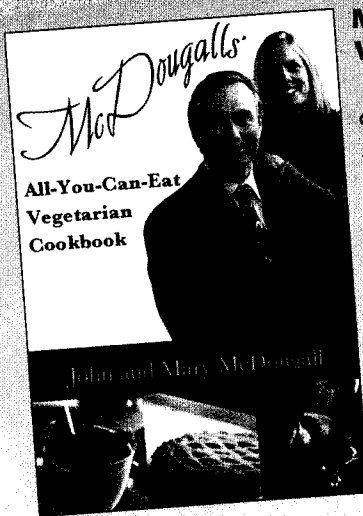
General Conference: Jose Lizardo (incumbent), Roy Ryan (incumbent), Daisy Jane Orion, George Egwakhe.]

ROBERT E. LEMON: We have two new associate treasurers. Daisy Orion comes from the Philippines. She has a bachelor's degree in business from Philippine Union College and a master's degree in health administration from Loma

Linda University. Daisy served at the Manila Adventist Hospital for a number of years in various positions: accountant, comptroller, and finally as vice president of finance when Asia-Pacific formed a hospital corporation with many large hospitals. In 1996 the General Conference asked Daisy Orion to be the director of planning for

Continued on page 27.

Live well. Live free.



McDougall's All-You-Can-Eat Vegetarian Cookbook

Contrary to the anticarb movement, the eating program described in this book makes healthful starch-based foods the centerpiece of a fat-reducing, wellness-promoting diet.

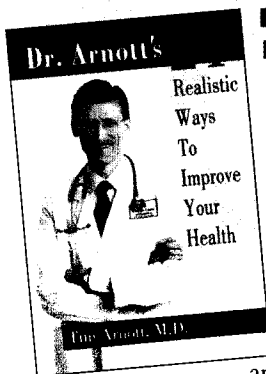
Dr. John McDougall, best-selling author and creator of the nationally renowned diet and exercise McDougall Program, presents some favorite vegetarian recipes from he and his wife's very own kitchen.

0-8163-2104-3.

Paperback.

US\$1.99,

Can\$2.69.



Dr. Arnott's 24 Realistic Ways to Improve Your Health

Tim Arnott, M.D., of the Lifestyle Center of America, has produced this helpful book of short, practical suggestions based on scientific research

and a Bible-based lifestyle. Following his advice will help you live longer, happier, and more healthfully!

0-8163-2029-2. Paperback.

US\$1.99, Can\$2.99.

From Pacific Press®

The harvest is ripe



Tobacco: You Can Be Free!

Loma Linda University.

No matter how difficult it may have been in the past, if you want to break free of tobacco, this practical booklet will provide you with the tools you need.

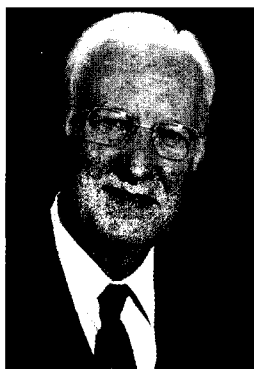
0-8163-2012-8. Paperback.

US\$.99, Can\$1.49.

Quantity pricing available.

© 2005 * Prices subject to change. 182/55590

**Available at your local ABC: 1-800-765-69545
or online: www.AdventistBookCenter.com**



Ruy H. Nagel
President

From Small Beginnings, a Bountiful Harvest

Presented Tuesday, July 5, 2005

The first pages of the Seventh-day Adventist Church history in South America were written with sacrifice, hard work, and tears. I am certain that the last pages of its history will soon be written under the power and influence of the Holy Spirit.

With just 4,903 members scattered among 88 churches, the South American Division (SAD) was organized in the city of La Plata, Argentina, on February 16, 1916. Religious prejudice and great distances were constant obstacles. Additionally, the world was experiencing the consequences of the First World War.

During the last decade of the nineteenth century, when the first missionary contacts were made in Argentina, Pastor F. W. Westphal wrote about the difficulties faced by the pioneers. "I will never forget the little mud house of Brother Riffel, where I stayed. The church members took me to several places each day, and I held from two to four meetings daily, in addition to the visits and the Bible studies. After several weeks, we organized the first church in South America." It was the church in Crespo in Argentina, with 35 members. This took place on September 9, 1894. Today we are 2,415,392 members, in 7,801 organized churches and 9,539 companies. As we look at the past, we praise God for the wisdom, strength, and inspiration that He has granted to His people since that humble beginning.

What Is the Secret?

Why does the Seventh-day Adventist Church grow at such a tremendous rate in South America? First of all, God has poured out innumerable blessings on His people. Second, it is owing to the spirit of religiousness found in the majority of the inhabitants in the countries that make up our territory. Third, the church members on our continent have a strong missionary profile. Additionally, they like to work in an atmosphere of cooperation. In 1986, when the South American Division completed 70 years of existence, Dr. Mário Veloso, the division secretary at that time, made a precise synthesis of the missionary spirit of our people.

"The church members have a clear concept of identity, they know that they belong to God's people, and they are satisfied with Him. The mission of evangelizing the world, given by Christ to the church, is present in all activities. Each congregation considers itself an agency for winning souls and an instrument of evangelization. There is a unifying plan that guides all activities of the church in South America, which obeys one clear evangelistic objective. The majority of the organized churches and companies are relatively small fraternal groups, and the large churches are working with a defined program of subdivision and formation of new congregations and churches. The church members and administrators at all levels—local church, conference/mission, union and division—fulfill their tasks basing themselves on defined principles of church growth" (*Adventist Review* [Portuguese], October 1986, p. 11).

Today, almost 20 years later, the same spirit and enthusiasm are still characteristic of the Seventh-day Adventists in the eight countries of our division: Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile, Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador. However, a new motivation factor has given a special color to the church's mission.

Integrated Evangelism

For almost 10 years now, all church activities have two key words as a parameter, which summarize our work philosophy: integrated evangelism. This is not a different plan from that established by the General Conference, but it is a strategy that attempts to bring the church departments, at all levels, to work on common goals in a spirit of mutual cooperation so that each member may be spiritually strengthened and feel the desire to win new disciples for Christ.

Integrated evangelism is a lifestyle of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in South America. We do not have a diversity of plans, but only one plan that includes and respects the individual characteristics of each member, employee, and leader within a supportive framework.

This work philosophy contributes to the spirit of unity among us, for Jesus prayed, "that they all may be one" (John 17:21). This integrated action is also an efficient and economic form of utilizing the tithe, offerings, and material and intellectual resources of the members. Thus the church fulfills its mission in the world. "The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the

gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God's plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 9).

Integrated evangelism has changed the mentality of our ministers and leaders. No one works alone. Because of this harmonious action, the results have been impressive. In December 1999 our division had 1,701,617 members. At the last General Conference session we affirmed that we hoped to reach 2 million members. And God heard our prayers. On December 31, 2004, we had 2,415,392 members. This represents a growth of 41.95 percent over the previous quinquennium. Therefore, it is clear that joint efforts under divine blessing produce surprising results. During this quinquennium Brazil became the country with the greatest number of Seventh-day Adventists in the world: 1,329,662.

Methods That Work

The evangelistic strategies put into practice in the South American Division have not changed significantly, because they continue to give excellent results. Public evangelism and personal evangelism are based on the trio "pastor-elder-member," in a coordinated action of denominational employees and lay members. Everything revolves around this "trio."

The methods, programs, and ministries that we develop constitute the pillars that sustain our integrated evangelism. I would like to present a few highlights:

Small groups. In the 10 unions that make up our territory, we have more than 60,000 small groups that meet weekly to study the Bible, pray, and witness. One highpoint of these meetings has been reading the magazine *Prayer Makes a Difference*, which is about intercessory prayer. The motivating influence of this publication has revitalized the missionary spirit in our churches.

Caravan of Power. The Peru Union pioneered this method, which involves ministers and members in a bold evangelistic project. After the preparation



The Caravan of Hope held in the Rio Grande do Sul, which attracted 30,000 people at the Beira-Rio Soccer Stadium in the city of Porto Alegre

work, planting, and cultivating of the Adventist message for six months, the Caravan of Power, under the leadership of Pastor Alejandro Bullón, held meetings in 17 locations, with attendance of up to 20,000 people in some places. The final phase of the campaign was held September 15-20, 2003, in the Lake Titicaca area, baptizing 10,534 people.

The second Caravan of Power was held in the Brazilian state of Rondonia and generated a 50 percent plus growth rate in the number of baptisms in the first quarter of 2004 (from 2,900 to 4,400). From July 30 through August 7 the Caravan visited 12 cities, with the final program held in the state capital of Porto Velho. A total of 40,000 people attended the meetings.

In 2004 other campaigns of this type were held in Brazil. The Rio Grande do Sul Conference commemorated their first 100 years by promoting a Caravan in five stages, resulting in 400 baptisms in this difficult area. In the final phase, with the participation of Pastor

Bullón, 30,000 people attended the meetings held at the Beira-Rio Soccer Stadium in the city of Porto Alegre.

Easter week evangelism. During the period of Easter week, ministers and members unite to evangelize neighborhoods adjacent to churches. The meetings are held nightly in churches and rented locations. Many lay members preach, taking advantage of the religious interest of people at this time. During the past quinquennium thousands of people were baptized as a result of this method.

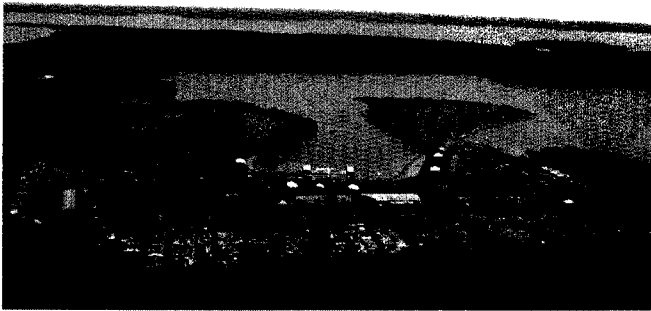
Publishing work. This area of the Lord's work prepares the way for public and personal evangelism. Our division has two publishing houses, one in Argentina, which serves seven countries of the Spanish language, and another in Brazil, for the Portuguese



A Caravan of Power meeting at Lake Titicaca Mission, Peru

language. The force of our publishing work can be measured in the following terms: the Brazil Publishing House consumed 4,500 tons of paper in 2004 in the preparation of books, magazines, and tracts. In the past quinquennium, literature evangelists sold books and magazines valued at US\$106,048,282.73. The unions, conferences, and institutions have purchased thousands of books and magazines for evangelization. The Northeast Brazil Union alone, located in a region facing economic difficulties, purchased 50,000 copies of the book *Christian Service*, by Ellen White, to use to train and motivate members.

Women's ministries. Women in our churches participate in many work fronts. They are active in small groups. In 2004 this ministry prepared and distributed a magazine on abuse and vio-



South American Pathfinder Camporee held near the city of Santa Helena, Brazil, with 20,000 Pathfinders in attendance

lence in the family, which caught the attention of federal and state representatives. Another valuable contribution has been their work of reception at the doors of our churches. Many non-Seventh-day Adventists attend church meetings because of the smile and hospitality offered by the women in our churches. Women's ministries is completely consolidated in South America, working in harmony with the philosophy of integrated evangelism.

Children's ministries. Although implemented a short time ago on our continent, this ministry is already showing positive results. One of the blessings of this ministry has been the participation of boys and girls as child preachers. In the Northeast Brazil

Mission, a 13-year-old girl named Ariane de Melo Felipe has prepared more than 100 people for baptism. She preaches and gives Bible studies to youth and adults.

Radio and television. The influence of the Seventh-day Adventist radio stations in South America has been decisive in evangelization. In the year 2000 we had 42 radio stations. Currently we have 78 scattered throughout South America, thanks to the financial support of churches, lay members, and a Seventh-day Adventist businessman. These stations, which operate in buildings owned by the church, broadcast religious music, biblical seminars, health topics, education, etc. On the occasion of an evangelistic campaign, the nearest radio station promotes the event. Approximately 300 non-Adventist radio sta-

tions have rebroadcast the New Time network programming.

It Is Written is broadcast by secular television stations, but the church continues to operate a satellite system in conjunction with the General Conference that reaches other divisions. The church

also utilizes seven open TV stations and 200 cable stations. Nearly 2,000 secular radio stations rebroadcast the *Voice of Prophecy*, *Voice of Hope*, and *A Light on the Path* programs.

Week of reaping. With support and participation from ministers and lay members, all evangelistic efforts during the second semester of each year are channeled toward two weeks of reaping: one in September and the other in December, resulting in large baptisms.

Youth and Pathfinders. The spring baptism, held in the month of September and promoted by the Youth Department, is a tradition in South America, and offers motivation and vitality to our youth. Thousands of preteens, teens, and youth have been

baptized during this week.

In the majority of churches youth hold their program called Youth Worship on Sabbath afternoons. Most teens and preteens who attend church are part of the Pathfinder Club. In January 2005 we held the South American Pathfinder Camporee in the city of Santa Helena, Paraná, Brazil, with 20,000 Pathfinders in attendance. Broad press and television coverage were given to this event.

Weekly church meetings. One of the secrets of the church's strength in South America is the interest of its members in attending Sabbath school, worship service, evangelistic meetings on Sunday nights, and prayer meetings on Wednesday nights. Attendance is sacred. In any church, chapel, or rented meeting hall, in large cities as well as small towns, our church members meet to praise the Creator.

A Bright Future

The next quinquennium is promising, because we have an army of denominational employees and church members who are devoted to the task of leading people to Christ. There are 5,489 denominational employees, 5,500 full-time literature evangelists, and 11,326 student literature evangelists. We have four universities, seven schools of higher learning, 773 elementary schools and academies, 21 hospitals and clinics, two food factories, two publishing houses, 78 radio stations, and many television programs.

At the South American Division council held in Brasilia in November 2004, the union, conference, and institution leaders reaffirmed their objective of applying the philosophy of integrated evangelism.

In South America we still have many locations without an Adventist presence. This is a challenge for the Global Mission program. However, we are certain that if the Lord has helped us up to this point, we can count on the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and we can write the final paragraph of the history of the church on the South American continent.

Continued from page 23.

Global Mission. She has dealt with all the divisions of the world in connection with that, traveling to the divisions. She has been doing all of the budgetary side of that. Daisy has a quiet but very forceful way of dealing with items, and we appreciate the work that she does.

George Egwakhe comes to us from the West-Central Africa Division, from the country of Nigeria. George has a bachelor's degree from Andrews University and a master's degree from Central States University in Oklahoma. George has a wide experience in treasury work. He has been treasurer of the Central African Union and a publishing house manager. He has been an associate treasurer and undertreasurer in the Africa-Indian Ocean Division, vice president of finance for the Adventist University of the Philippines, and treasurer of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. George has a very nice way of working with people. He is an extremely talented person, but he is also a tremendous technician and trainer.

EUGENE HSU: [Adjourned the meeting.]
SAMUEL CASTELLANOS: [Benediction.]

EUGENE HSU, *Chair*
VERNON B. PARMENTER, *Secretary*
BILL BOTHE, ATHAL TOLHURST,
FRED THOMAS, and CLAUDE
SABOT, *Proceedings Editors*

Sixth Business Meeting Actions

July 4, 2005, 9:30 a.m.

GROWING IN CHRIST—ADDITION TO THE STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS

VOTED, To end discussion on the item, Growing in Christ—Addition to the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs.

GROWING IN CHRIST—ADDITION TO THE STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS

VOTED, To approve the following document, Growing in Christ, as an addition to the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs:

Growing in Christ

By His cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the

demonic spirits during His earthly ministry has broken their power and made certain their ultimate doom. Jesus' victory gives us victory over the evil forces that still seek to control us, as we walk with Him in peace, joy, and assurance of His love. Now the Holy Spirit dwells within us and empowers us. Continually committed to Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we are set free from the burden of our past deeds. No longer do we live in the darkness, fear of evil powers, ignorance, and meaninglessness of our former way of life. In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of His character, communing with Him daily in prayer, feeding on His Word, meditating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for worship, and participating in the mission of the Church. As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit sanctifies every moment and every task. (Ps 1:1, 2; 23:4; 77:11, 12; Col 1:13, 14; 2:6, 14, 15; Luke 10:17-20; Eph 5:19, 20; 6:12-18; 1 Thess 5:23; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18; 2 Cor 3:17, 18; Phil 3:7-14; 1 Thess 5:16-18; Matt 20:25-28; John 20:21; Gal 5:22-25; Rom 8:38, 39; 1 John 4:4; Heb 10:25.)

(This fundamental belief should be numbered as #11 [after #10, The Experience of Salvation and before #11, The Church].)

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT—CHANGE OF NAME

VOTED, To change the name of the Publishing Department to Publishing Ministries Department.

YOUTH DEPARTMENT—NAME CHANGE

VOTED, To change the name of the Youth Department to Youth Ministries Department with adjustments to be made in all appropriate documents.

MEMBERSHIP—CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution, Article IV—Membership, to read as follows:

ARTICLE IV—MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1 The membership of the General Conference shall consist of:

a. All union conferences and union missions that have been or shall be properly organized and accepted by vote of the General Conference in session.

b. Any conferences, missions*, and unions of churches directly attached to the General Conference, and any conferences, missions and unions of churches directly attached to a division, that have been or

shall be properly organized.

*In several areas of the world, local field units not holding conference status may be classified with terminology other than "mission." For the purposes of Article IV, such field units may be considered equivalent to a mission provided they have two or more officers and an executive committee and observe a schedule of regular constituency meetings.

UNDERSECRETARY AND ASSOCIATE SECRETARIES—CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

This item was discussed for some time and will be brought back to the afternoon session.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT #4

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

General Conference

Undersecretary:
Larry R Evans

Associate Secretaries:
Douglas Clayville
Agustin Galicia
Vernon B Parmenter
Claude Sabot

Undertreasurer:
Steven G Rose

Associate Treasurers:
George O Egwakhe
Jose R Lizardo
Daisy Jane F Orion
Roy E Ryan

Adjourned

EUGENE HSU, *Chair*
VERNON B PARMENTER, *Secretary*
LARRY R EVANS, *Actions Editor*
ROWENA J MOORE, *Recording Secretary*

Profiling Adventist Leadership

Monday, July 4, 2005,
10:45 a.m.

[The meeting was opened with prayer.]
HAROLD W. BAPTISTE: The second session of the Profiling Adventist Leadership symposium is now called to

order.

LOWELL C. COOPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today the comments from the floor will be fielded by a panel. I'll introduce the panel: Dr. Richard Osborn is the president of Pacific Union College. Next to him is Dr. Beverly Cobb, a delegate from the Columbia Union in the North American Division. Dr. Cobb has a doctorate from Andrews University, and her dissertation was on the spiritual formation of nursing students. Sitting next to Dr. Cobb is Ted Ramirez, who is a corporate transactions attorney and a member of the General Conference Committee. It's also a privilege for me to introduce Dr. Lyn Behrens, this morning's presenter. I suspect that everyone already knows that she is the president of Loma Linda University and Medical Center.

Dr. Behrens received her medical education in the country of her birth, Australia. She came to Loma Linda many years ago. Her résumé reveals that she has held many positions of leadership at Loma Linda. What you would not know from looking at her résumé is that Dr. Behrens is the longest serving president. It has been my privilege for the past several years to be a board member at Loma Linda, and in the course of our work we have discovered that there are many accrediting agencies and consultants that pay visits to the campus. I have had an opportunity to have an interface with a number of those, and I want to report to you many of these individuals and groups have spoken about their awareness of the personal commitment of Loma Linda to the mission of continuing the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. It is a commitment that is palpable on that campus.

Brothers and sisters, that kind of commitment does not happen by accident. It's the result of very intentional leadership by a committed collaborative and spiritually oriented team that we have at Loma Linda University and Medical Center, and Dr. Behrens is the leader of that team.

LYN BEHRENS: Good morning, and thank you, Elder Cooper. We are so blessed to have had a long line of wonderful chairs of our board who have brought superb governance to our organization. [Dr. Behrens made a presentation entitled "Integrity—A 21st Century Imperative."]

HAROLD W. BAPTISTE: Thank you very much, Dr. Behrens. [Applause.] We lost some time this morning. So we need to make very efficient use of the time we have available. Will you please approach the microphones with your questions? We shall deal with them as they come to us.

ARNOLD TRUJILLO: My question or observation really is more related to the presentation that was made yesterday rather than today, but I think I would like the panel to address that. One of the things that I fear more than anything else as a

conference president is "groupthink," where the conference committee would agree to the various ideas that I may present to the committee for consideration.

RAMON H. MAURY: I want to express my deep appreciation for that refreshing touch of air this morning. I have only one question: Would it be possible to serialize

Session Snapshot



PHOTO BY ALDEN J. HO & REVIEW & HERALD

BELIEF: The Michael Choir (NSD) sings "I Know Whom I Have Believed" during Sunday's evening meeting.

this marvelous presentation in the new magazine *Adventist World*!

HAROLD W. BAPTISTE: Thank you, Elder Maury. We'll take note of that.

MELVIN PAUL: Sometimes the auditors find discrepancies in financial matters. Their reports often have explicit recommendations, but the administrators do little or nothing to rectify these errors. I have heard individuals say that they are not concerned with the auditors' report, because they are connected with the powers that be and will remain in office.

HAROLD W. BAPTISTE: Would anybody on the panel like to address this?

RICHARD OSBORN: I think that sometimes in constituency meetings the auditors' reports are not taken as seriously as they could be. It's one of the routine parts of the agenda. But I think that the management letters that go to the various entities need to be shared by administrators so that the governing boards are aware of

the management letter.

HAROLD W. BAPTISTE: Thank you very much.

ALFREDO GARCIA-MARENKO: I come to the podium to thank the administration and also Dr. Behrens for this fine paper and presentation. It's the finest paper on integrity that I have read and heard in this church. And it's about time. I applaud this initiative of our world church.

HAROLD W. BAPTISTE: Thank you also.

C. GARLAND DULAN: Just a brief question to the panel on the issue of letters of recommendation. Since many of us receive these, what is the responsibility of an individual who is asked to write a letter of recommendation or to give a recommendation for someone that they cannot really recommend positively?

ROBERT OSBORN: I have very strong feelings on this question because I tend to give very honest recommendations of strengths and weaknesses. And sometimes it hurts a candidate, especially if all the other recommendations are positive. Recently we interviewed an individual for vice president. A student on our search committee asked: "What are your weaknesses?" And the candidate had thought about the question and said, "These are two or three of my weaknesses." I think that if we were a lot more honest in the recommendations that we give each other, we would enhance our recommendation system so that we're very honest with each other but not with a desire to hurt the candidate. We're not going to find perfect people. It would benefit the integrity of the church in a tremendous way. But it's something that we're all going to have to agree to do; otherwise, we will hurt people.

HAROLD W. BAPTISTE: Thank you very much. We will return to the panel.

TED RAMIREZ: Thank you, Elder Baptiste, for the opportunity to address this particular question. It also coincides with the position requested to be addressed by Elder Trujillo on the matter of how church bodies balance our preference for consensus as people of faith with the need to be sufficiently direct and sufficiently formal, to be clear and to be fair.

It has been my observation that especially in a multilingual environment such as this one, oftentimes efforts made to be open and deliberate and to allow many people to have a voice become misinterpreted. The translations sometimes are not precise, and sometimes the words that we speak fail to convey our intentions.

HAROLD W. BAPTISTE: Thank you very much. We have exhausted our time. This meeting is adjourned. [Benediction.]

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

Seventh Business Meeting

58th General Conference
session, July 4, 2005,
2:00 p.m.

GERRY D. KARST: Welcome to the afternoon session—The Challenge of Mission. But just before we get into that, the Nominating Committee has a partial report to bring to us at this time.

NIELS-ERIK ANDREASEN: The Nominating Committee has another partial report. This is for the secretary and treasurer of each division in the world field.

[The complete list can be found in the General Conference Sessions Actions.]

GERRY D. KARST: We will now transition to another challenge. You will recall that yesterday we dealt with the challenge of spirituality. Today we will deal with society. Mike Ryan is going to make a presentation. Once again, we will invite you to be engaged in the discussion to provide feedback.

We like to talk about the good things, but here we want to focus on some of the challenges and get your opinions on how we can better address these and move the mission of the church forward. We appreciate the level of involvement yesterday. We look for that to happen again today, and I will turn to Mike Ryan.

MICHAEL L. RYAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has had the biblical instruction to take the gospel of Jesus to the world. And as we look around the world, we recognize that it is made up of different cultures, different peoples, different languages, and different customs. But the Bible is clear: we are to be the salt of the earth, and we are called to mingle with people. We are called to know their joys, their cares, their needs, and their fears.

It brings us to a very important question. How does the church interact with society?

I just want to make a very quick review, if I can, of some of the challenges, some of the cares, some of the huge concerns, of the global family. At least 1.1 billion people live in extreme poverty; there is a strong possibility that that number has greatly increased. The prevalence of hunger can be as high as 30 percent in some regions of the world.

Twelve million American children experience hunger each year. Up to 70 percent of rural areas in some regions of the world lack access to good sanitation.

Also, at the end of 2003, AIDS left 15 million children orphans. The illiteracy rate of the world is 18.3 percent.

When we come to a General Conference session, we hear reports, and I praise the Lord for these reports. Great things have been done. This church is one whose membership is growing at a rapid rate, and I praise the Lord for that, but there are certain issues that we need to be honest about. How does the church score when it comes to interacting with society?

Surveys indicate that less than 20 percent of the Adventist Church is making an impact in their community, or interacting with their community. Among churches in North America, community service and ministry was a priority in only 15 percent of churches.

A healthy church must be active in relating with society, and it must first listen to the needs of the community. It has been called to reach and then respond proactively to meet those needs.

Let us turn to the Bible, and we are very familiar with what I would consider to be a biblical mandate. It says in John, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35, NKJV).

We can turn also to James, and there it is recorded, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27, NKJV).

Also, in the Gospel of Matthew is a most dynamic and touching parable: "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the king will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundations of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me'" (Matt. 25:33-36, NKJV). These are those who are welcomed to the kingdom.

Today in our church we need to have more Daniels working daily in society bringing the salt of the earth to the governments of the world. We also need to have more Esthers willing, despite great personal peril, to risk all to help save the lives of millions of people about to face a horrible death. We also need to have more Dorcases, who, by their love and action, touch the lives of society and give clear witness to the real love of God that they serve.

The biblical instruction is clear: we are to be interacting with those who have very little hope, who have many needs. We're to be a representative of Jesus for them.

Let's just take a brief look at what Ellen

White says: "Christ's methods alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good, and He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"

The question today that I want to bring is Why has the church's response to the needs of society been limited? We have to share with each other, so that we understand what the concerns are. What are our problems? Also, what values and organizational changes need to be adopted by the church in order to realize a greater percentage of Adventist members involved in community projects? What do we need to change?

I want to tell you an experience that I had not too long ago. I happened to be visiting Sydney, Australia, and I was invited to attend a church that was not far out of the city. And just before I walked into that particular church, a church that was addressing a wide range of needs, I came into the parking lot, and there I saw about 20 Harley-Davidson motorcycles. And there were those standing around who were dressed in a manner that might make some uncomfortable. We went inside the church, and there I met people whose profession would be questioned. But it made my heart feel warm when I found that that church provided babysitting services and that they worked with those mothers, and that day I had an opportunity to meet some of them and shake their hand and hear them say, "Jesus is important to me." I walked to a bulletin board, and I stood there and looked at postings that displayed opportunities to become involved in the community.

You know, I praise God for a church that ministers to the community.

Today I think lack of community involvement is a serious problem. We need to discuss this, to consider the questions that I placed before you. I would just like to invite Elder Finley and Pat Gustin to come up. I'd like them to place this in focus and add their ideas to what I've presented.

PAT GUSTIN: We're putting all of our thoughts into the context of mission. And one of the things that we emphasize with outgoing missionaries is that Jesus was the greatest preacher and teacher of all time. But we know that He spent more time healing people and ministering to people's needs in that way than He did preaching and teaching. People knew Jesus, and they knew His heart. Every Adventist church should be so well known in every aspect of our communities that no one will ask, "Adventists? Who are they?"

MARK FINLEY: The past 35 years I've traveled the world holding evangelistic meetings in the major cities of the world. As I've traveled and held evangelistic

meetings in almost every continent, this single fact stands out in my mind. Where the church is actively involved in the community, God does something special when we're holding evangelistic meetings. When ministers and members discover their gifts and reach out in harmony to meet practical felt needs, God opens hearts and minds. My question is this: If your church closed its doors tomorrow, would the community beg it to open the doors again because it's meeting the needs and making an impact on the community?

GERRY D. KARST: Thank you for a stimulating presentation. It's now your opportunity to respond. I'm going to invite individuals to come to the microphones and share with us your suggestions and ideas on this challenge to mission.

RICHARD ELOFER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am working in Israel and in Palestine also. How can we speak about mission if we are not ready to take into consideration the people that we want to reach for Jesus? Often we show that we are not ready to be sensitive to a minority, to another group of people. And in that way it will be very difficult for us as Adventists to reach other people. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is all over the world. When we write a statement, we must be able to think about all the people all over the world and all the minorities. Thank you.

MICHAEL L. RYAN: Richard Elofer and I have worked very closely together, and he's a very good friend. The latter part of your question I think I'll leave for some others to take up. But you know that we have a major concern in the church and that is to develop contextualized material that is specifically relevant to people in every type of culture and language group. In all of our writing we need to be sensitive to the concerns that may cause problems in various areas. But this needs to be something that is carried to the conference level and union level and church level. Because the best contextualized material will come from those sources, not from the General Conference. We certainly want to support and encourage it. But Edler Elofer has put his finger on something that is a tremendous challenge to the church. Something that we need to express.

GERRY D. KARST: Thank you, Elder Elofer, for your comments on this. We need to be sensitive about these kinds of issues, so that we can make friends and not turn people away.

CYNTHIA TUTSCH: I would like to express gratitude to Mike Ryan for this very important presentation. I think that the underreported story in the Adventist Church today is Ellen White's involvement in social issues as well as the involvement of early Adventist pioneers in social activism. I think that as we look for ways to be involved with the community in

social issues we will better capture the vision of our pioneers and be more able to finish the work.

GERRY D. KARST: Thank you very much.

FLAVIA R. KABAHENDA: I'm concerned that Adventists have seemed not to want to mingle and associate with others who don't belong to the church, especially in their events. For instance, we need to involve ourselves in public events. We cannot address people's concerns if we are not ready to integrate with them. For example, this conference was planned long ago, and the people who spearheaded the planning knew that today would be Independence Day for America. Why should we confine



A DAY AT THE EXHIBITS: Fatmata Kargbo, Margaret Aminatu Senesie, and Margaret Conteh, from Sierra Leone (WAD), stroll through a crowded exhibit area on July 4.

ourselves here and not go and interact with people in their celebrations of independence? Because it is on such days that addresses are made to specific concerns. How far have we gone without independence? What are the problems that we need to address? How can we find out if we don't associate with people on such events, if we are not going to share in their concerns?

GERRY D. KARST: Thank you very much for your comments. And once again, these comments are all being recorded and taken down, and will be given careful attention.

JONATHAN KUNTARAF: Thank you so much for the presentation given by Elder Mike Ryan. I understand that only a small percentage of our members are involved in community affairs.

GERRY D. KARST: Thank you very much.

GUILLERMO MAGANA: I am a student from Andrews University. And the church has done a wonderful job in certain areas, but not so in others. The speaker spoke about mingling with other people, but we do not mingle very well with those of other faiths. I see many youth who are afraid to mingle with other people who are

not in the church. While we are young we need to make friends other than Adventists, because that's the only way we are going to be able to preach the Word to others. Finally, I have read that 70 percent of the church members are under the age of 30, yet there are only 34 delegates here who are under the age of 30.

GERRY D. KARST: Guillermo, thank you very much for coming to the microphone. You represent that youth group that is underrepresented, and hopefully for the future we can have that changed.

DELORES RICHARDSON: I'm from the North American Division, and I'd like to congratulate the committee in bringing this to the forefront at this session. It is something that has been a tremendous concern of mine over a long, long period of time. In the area where I live Adventist churches are not known in the community. We do not always have to reinvent the wheel. There are so many community organizations that are doing a lot of good things in the community, from health care to sessions that deal with violence, drug addition, alcohol addition, and physical and mental abuse among women and children. And yet we act like an isolated little group that is known only by the fact that we go to church on Saturday. Our integrating into the community at large is very, very poor. So I'm glad to know that we are addressing this issue, because it is one form of witnessing. It is not enough for us to preach the gospel and not to be a part of the solution in terms of making a better quality of life.

GERRY D. KARST: Thank you very much. I see that our time is running out. Let me remind you that if you do not have an opportunity to speak today, please write down your suggestions and see that they get to Mike Ryan, because these will be incorporated into the final reports that are produced.

BENJAMIN CLAUSEN: I am at the Geoscience Research Institute. There is one important area that I don't know too much about, and that is how to reach the academic community. I am especially interested in that, since I am in the area of science. I look at origins issues—evolution and creation—but there is a wide range of other issues in science that it would be useful for us to address in perhaps a more aggressive way.

This is a people group that perhaps we don't often find ways of reaching for Jesus.

I have found that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is academically respectable and intellectually responsible, especially in the area of science, because we see God as Creator and because of our medical ministry that is based on science.

Dr. Rasi has done a great service in his work with the Faith and Science seminars in many parts of the world, and this might

be one area that we could look at more carefully.

GERRY D. KARST: Thank you very much.

ALEX R. PONNIAH: Allow me to thank Elder Mike Ryan for the excellent presentation. The point that I would like to make, Mr. Chairman, is the necessity for training. We need our individuals to be trained so that they can interact with society. This is often lacking in our churches in our mission fields.

GERRY D. KARST: Thank you very much. We're going to give the last word to Mike Ryan, followed by a prayer of commitment and dedication, and then we will go directly into the business agenda, at which time I will invite Elder Cooper to

come and take the chair.

MICHAEL L. RYAN: [Summarized the points that had been made in the discussion that had taken place.] There's much that could be said, and I hope that this is the beginning, the catalyst, of moving our church to a position where we feel it's part of our obligation to touch the community with the wholistic hope of the gospel.

GERRY D. KARST: Thank you, Elder Ryan. I invite you to stand now for our prayer of consecration.

MARK FINLEY: [Offered prayer.]

GERRY D. KARST, *Chair*
DOUGLAS CLAYVILLE, *Secretary*
BILL BOTHE, FRED THOMAS, and
CLAUDE SABOT, *Proceedings Editors*

ADVENTIST
Review

Publisher General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Executive Publisher William G. Johnson

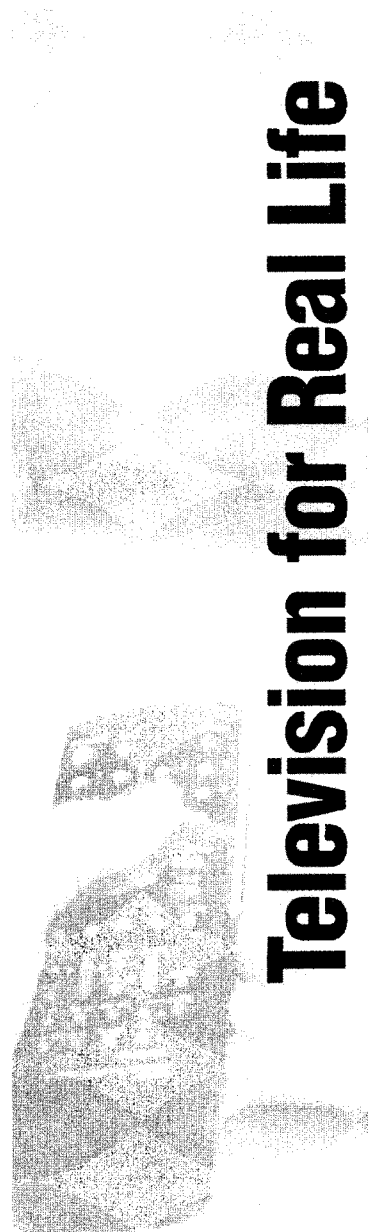
Publishing Board: Jan Paulsen, chair; Ted N. C. Wilson, vice chair; William G. Johnson, secretary; Armando Miranda, Steven Rose, Charles C. Sandefur, Don C. Schneider, Robert S. Smith, Heather-Dawn Small, Robert W. Nixon, legal advisor

Editor William G. Johnson
Associate Editors Roy Adams, Bill Knott
Managing Editor Stephen Chavez
Online Editor Carlos Medley
Assistant Editors Kimberly Luste Maran, Bonita Joyner Shields
News Editor Sandra Blackmer
Technology Projects Coordinator Merle Poirier
Project Coordinator Rachel Child
Administrative Assistant Larie S. Gray
Marketing Director Jackie Ordelleheide Smith
Art Direction and Design Bill Kirstein, Bill Tymeson
Desktop Technician Fred Wuerstlin
Ad Sales Genia Blumenberg
Subscriber Services Steve Hanson

E-mail: Internet: letters@adventistreview.org
Web site: www.adventistreview.org

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.

For changes of address: Call 1-800-456-3991, or 301-393-3257, or e-mail addresschanges@rtpa.org
For subscription queries: Call 1-800-456-3991, or 301-393-3257, or e-mail shanson@rtpa.org



Television for Real Life

EXPLORING THE WORD

A young adult study group joins Lonnie and Jeannie Melashenko on *Exploring the Word*. Pastor Melashenko includes practical applications as he teaches Bible doctrines.

The Voice of Prophecy

Box 53055, Los Angeles, CA 90053

www.exploringtheword.com • www.vop.com • E-mail: gospel@vop.com

The Adventist Review (ISSN 0161-1119), published since 1849, 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 plus 9 extra issues during the month of July 2005—total 54 issues, by the Review and Herald Publishing Association. Periodicals postage paid at Hagerstown, MD 21740. Copyright © 2005, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Postmaster: Send address changes to Adventist Review, 55 West Oak Ridge Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740-7301. Texts credited to NIV are from the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers. Texts credited to NKJV are from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. Vol. 182, No. 31

BOOM!

...Now, I didn't say that these were particularly intelligent young men. They filled that enormous glass jar with explosive powder, clear up to the top. Then one of them realized, "Hey, if we're going to build this firecracker, we're going to need a fuse!"

So they took a piece of scotch tape. They poured powder down the middle of the scotch tape, rolled it up and stuck it in the top of the firecracker. And there, with the world's largest firecracker on the coffee table and a pile of explosive powder right beside it, one of them got the bright idea to test the fuse...

Adventist Preaching At Its Best

If you haven't yet heard one of the powerful sermons by It Is Written's new speaker/director Shawn Boonstra, you owe it to yourself to pick up the **FREE CD** sermon at our booth (#1534) during GC Session. Or simply download a **FREE MP3** sermon from our special GC website:

itiswritten.com/sermons

You can also request the free CD by calling **805-955-7755**. The CD is free at our booth during GC. If we need to mail it to you, we greatly appreciate a contribution of \$3.95 to cover shipping and handling costs. Free CD limited to stock on hand.



It Is Written—providing a heritage of great Adventist preaching.
George Vandeman, Mark Finley and Shawn Boonstra



IT IS WRITTEN