

July 7, 2005

ADVENTIST REVIEW

GC BULLETIN



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Lilia Krupskaja, Kiev, Ukraine,
participates in the Euro-Asia
Division Report, Sunday, July 3.

The Unbroken Web

July 5, 2005

BY BILL KNOTT

Her feet moved restlessly on the achingly slow down escalator from the main level of the Edward Jones Dome. She clearly wanted to run down the long flight of moving steps, but a sense of propriety held her back. There was no point engaging her in conversation or even extending a greeting as we descended at the speed of crawl.

Waiting below was the focus of her impatience. Another Korean woman, also dressed in traditional national garb, stood at the bottom of our descent, arms already extended, eyes alight with expectation. I watched as the two middle-aged women fell into each other's arms with sighs and tears and expressions of joy so obvious that a knowledge of Korean was not at all required.

A thousand such scenes play out in the hallways and stairways of this immense convention center every day. They are so common and so frequent as to be ignored among the headlines, news releases, and elections of this quinquennial gathering. And yet they are, in an unheralded but entirely real way, the truest story of this session, the most enduring report from a 10-day gathering that has generated much "hard" news as well.

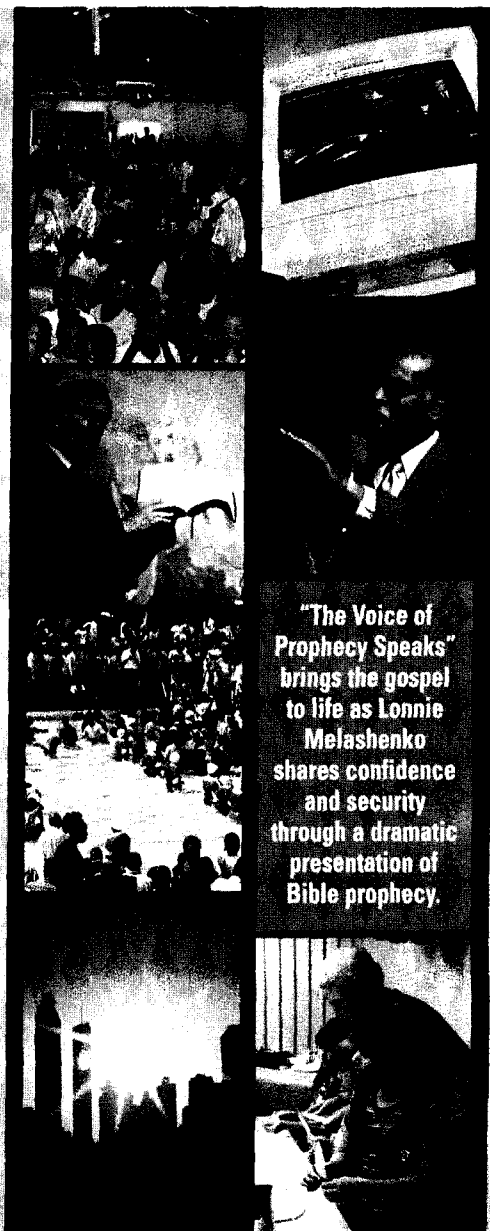
The friendships among God's remnant people are the real worldwide web through which this session's impact will be felt. We tend to speak as though the church is composed of a series of ascending units, each exercising broader and greater powers. In reality, it is held together by tens of millions of friendships, gossamer but entirely substantial ties of affection, warmth, news, and common interest.

Friendships are the real route by which news travels, leaders are evaluated, inspiration is transmitted, witness is carried on. They give this massive assembly its flickers of incandescence,

some promise that its light will last well past the ninth of July.

Bill Knott is an associate editor of the Adventist Review.

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Through His Resurrection

Devotional message presented Wednesday morning, July 6, 2005

On a Sunday morning in the world ruled by the Roman Empire, one of the tombs in a rocky hill not far from Jerusalem was found empty. What was even more intriguing was the explanation of the whereabouts of the body. This explanation has divided all who lived at that time and afterwards into two groups: believers and unbelievers.

What happened on that Sunday morning? The first sunbeams broke the darkness that surrounded earth as a dense veil. "There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven . . . His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow" (Matt. 28:2, 3).¹ The great stone that sealed the tomb was removed as "a pebble"² by the hand of a mighty angel. "The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men" (verse 4).

The air was filled with angels' melodious voices, welcoming the Lord of lords. Sadly, not a single believer welcomed Jesus on the day of His resurrection.

The Open Grave, the Empty Tomb

All the powers of earth wanted to keep Jesus in the grave. Priests and rulers wanted to keep Him there. Roman guards in great number were sent to keep Him there. A great stone had been placed there. Satan wanted to keep Jesus there. But no power in the whole universe was able to keep Him in the tomb.

Throughout the centuries many theories have been cre-



Galina Stele
*Shepherdess
coordinator and
associate director
of the Institute of
Missiology, Euro-
Asia Division*

ated to keep the resurrected Christ from the people. Scholars and skeptics have maintained that the Resurrection was just a plot of His disciples—they stole the body, and then began to preach His resurrection. Others insisted that Christ was not really dead when placed in the tomb—He had just lost consciousness and later revived from the smell of spices and the coolness of the tomb. Other voices insisted it was the hallucinations of the disciples, not the appearances of a risen Jesus.³

But the disciples had neither the strength nor the motivation to steal Christ's body. They were psychologically and mentally discouraged and demolished. Besides, it was impossible to steal the body unnoticed. The idea that Jesus was just unconscious was disproved by Roman soldiers who broke the ankles of two criminals, but didn't do this to Jesus because they saw Him dead (John 19:32). And Scripture disproves the assumption

about hallucinations. Many people saw Jesus alive in different times and places after the Resurrection. The New Testament lists about 10 appearances of Jesus to various people, or groups.⁴ The largest group that saw Jesus alive was made up of more than 500 people (1 Cor. 15:6).

The New Testament devotes a great amount of space to the resurrection of Jesus. The Gospels contain about 150 verses about Jesus' resurrection, plus about another 160 additional notes to this theme in the book of Acts and the Epistles. In these passages there are notes to famous and known people of that time who could easily disprove the story. Besides, many eyewitnesses were still

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alive. In addition, this theme is mentioned 23 times by the apostle Paul.

The rapid growth of the Christian church in the city where all these events took place would be impossible if this event was just a myth. In addition, the radical transformation of the disciples is considered as a great proof of Jesus' resurrection. They underwent such a tremendous transformation in thinking, faith, and dedication that they were ready to lay down their lives for the risen Jesus.

Encounter With the Risen Jesus

On the Sunday evening after Christ's resurrection, the disciples were in a room with the doors locked (John 20:19). They believed He was the Messiah; they expected His coronation, not His crucifixion. Their disappointment and fear were so great that they could not even remember His words about these events (Mark 8:31; 9:9; 10:33, 34; 14:8, 22-24, 27, 28, 41). They found themselves in the dark hopeless pit of despair and fear.

The disciples had lost not only their Messiah; they lost their identity. And with the loss of identity came fear—fear of death and persecution. They were afraid they would share His destiny. That's why they hid and shut themselves behind closed doors (Mark 14:50; John 20:19). That's why none of them helped Him carry the cross (Luke 23:26). That's why most of them watched Him dying on the cross from a distance (verse 49). That's why only one of them was brave enough to stand close to the cross (John 19:26). That's why none of them were brave enough to ask Pilate to give them His body (Mark 15:43).

It was Sunday. The resurrection of Christ had already taken place. But the disciples were still living on Friday! Women had already seen Jesus alive. But the rest of the disciples were slow to believe. They shared the mood of their two colleagues going to Emmaus who explained, "Some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. . . . Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it

just as the women had said, but him they did not see" (Luke 24:22-24). God didn't need to roll the stone away in order to let His Son come out. In His new body, Jesus could walk through walls and closed doors. Jon Paulien observes, "The entrance stone had not rolled away in order for Jesus to get out of the tomb but to let the disciples get in and verify He was gone!"⁴

The news of resurrection had come, but it was too good to be true. Their rational thinking was calling for facts. But then news had come that Peter saw the risen Jesus (verse 34)! A mixture of faith and doubt filled the room. At this critical moment, "Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you" (verse 36).

Jesus' mission to the disciples was not only to bring them peace. They had to return to Scripture and regain their identity. They had to rekindle their faith and receive His mission. Jesus reminded them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.' Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, 'This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day' (verse 44-46). The result of the Bible study was that they were transformed. Their hearts burned with a new vision and message they could not keep to themselves.

The main evidence of Christ's resurrection is *the transformed lives of His followers*. Disciples were transformed into bold witnesses. And all who believed in their message experienced a radical transformation.

The Meaning of the Resurrection

Charles Spurgeon, a great Christian preacher, said: "The fact of the resurrection is the key-stone of Christianity. If the resurrection of our Lord, were to be disproved our . . . faith would be a mere fable. . . . All the great doctrines of our faith would fall away like the stones of an arch if the keystone were to be dislodged; . . . for all of our hope

hinges upon that great fact."⁵

The Resurrection was a climax in the history of salvation. The resurrection also testifies to God's power over the devil and death. It reveals the final outcome of the great controversy. It brings forgiveness of sins to every human soul. It releases the power of the Holy Spirit. The Resurrection gives the hope of the second coming of Jesus and the guarantee of eternal life for everyone who believes in Him. It showed to the whole universe that Christ's sacrifice was sufficient. Without the Resurrection, the cross would be meaningless.

The Resurrection brought the assurance and guarantee of eternal life to every believer. God has the keys of death. The enemy is already defeated!

That Sunday was one of the greatest days in the history of salvation—but the best is yet to come! The risen Jesus will come with the host of angels, graves will be opened, and the righteous will be called out.

The question is: How has the fact of Jesus' resurrection and the evidence of that empty grave influenced me? Have I had an encounter with the risen Jesus? Have I had a radical transformation as a result of this?

God is still taking the initiative to meet you and me on the roads of our lives. He says: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever!" (Rev. 1:17, 18).

What will be our response to the risen Jesus? For He is risen, indeed!

¹Unless otherwise noted, all texts in this article are taken from the New International Version of the Holy Scriptures.

²Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 780.

³See George E. Ladd, *A Theology of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: William Eerdmans Publishing Company), pp. 321, 322.

⁴See Matt. 28:8-10, 16-20; Mark 16:9-14; Luke 24:13-51; John 20:10-27; 21:11-23; Acts 1:8-11; 1 Cor. 15:5-7.

⁵Jon Paulien, *The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier: A Practical Guide to Abundant Christian Living in the Book of John* (Boise, ID: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1995), p. 267.

⁶See C. H. Spurgeon, *Jesus Rose for You*, chapter 1.

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Not all evening reports and musical presentations will be recorded for sale because of copyright restrictions. However,
every effort is being made to make available as much as possible. Visit the AdventSource booth for availability.

Session Snapshot



PHOTO BY ALDEN J. HO F. REVIEW & HERALD

MY TRIBUTE: Joshua Turburan from NAD
masterfully played the piano on Monday
evening, July 4.

A season for everything

and a time for every purpose.

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

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

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GC Session Offering Targets Urban Evangelism

BY ADVENTIST NEWS NETWORK STAFF/
ADVENTIST REVIEW STAFF

The nearly \$66,000 offering collected during worship service on the first Sabbath, July 2, of the General Conference session will help fund Hope for Big Cities, a worldwide urban outreach by the Adventist Church to plant new churches in more than 55 of the world's largest cities. Two other offerings have already been collected during 2005 for the project.

In 1950 only 18 percent of developing countries' populations lived in cities; soon, that number is predicted to be half of those nations' populations. The Hope for Big Cities initiative seeks to reach these major population groups.

The first offering was gathered April 9 in Adventist congregations outside of North America. Churches in the United States, Canada, and Bermuda had a collection for

the project three weeks later, on April 30.

Target cities will include Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with a population of more than 2 million; Mexico City, Mexico, with more than 22 million; and Johannesburg, South Africa. Experts predict that by 2015 the rapidly growing areas of Johannesburg, Pretoria, and their satellite towns will become a single megalopolis, the 12th largest city in the world.

In North America many large cities have been relatively untouched by the Adventist Church. More than 80 percent of North Americans live in metropolitan areas, but most Adventists don't. Only one in three Adventist congregations is located in big cities.

Montreal, Canada, will be the North American target city.

For more information, go to www.hope4cities.org. For complete coverage of the General Conference session, visit the Adventist Review Web site at www.adventistreview.org.

PHOTO BY RICHARD DAWER



TO REACH THE MASSES: The nearly \$66,000 collected on the first Sabbath of the session will help to fund a worldwide urban outreach to plant new churches in more than 55 of the world's largest cities.

Women's Ministries Comes of Age

Far more than retreats and tea parties

BY MELINDA JAMIESON,
REPORTING FOR THE ADVENTIST REVIEW, AND
STEPHEN CHAVEZ, MANAGING EDITOR

This year's session in St. Louis is a time that marks a major milestone for the General Conference Women's Ministries Department, formed 15 years ago at the 1990 GC session in Indianapolis. Since that time more than 600,000 individuals have become Seventh-day Adventists as a direct result of women's service and outreach activities worldwide.

"The most common misconception about Women's Ministries," says Heather-Dawn Small, director of the department, "is that we are all about retreats and tea parties. Women's Ministries is about women working to promote the ministry of the church."

In the past 14 years more than \$400,000 has been



BEAUTY ON THE INSIDE: Newly elected General Conference vice president Ella Simmons spoke to a packed auditorium of more than 2,000 people for the July 6 Women's Ministries/Shepherdess International meetings held at the session. "Although there is nothing wrong with our looking good," Simmons told the audience, "we have to have something inside our heads, and we must be engaged in the work that is the fulfillment of our God-given purpose in life. Let us pray that when Jesus takes a deeper look at us this morning—and I know He will—that He will find that fruit for which He is searching."

awarded in scholarships, mostly to women in developing countries who are seeking to improve their educational and economic conditions. A major source of scholarship funding is a women's devotional book, prepared by the Women's Ministries Department and compiled from submissions prepared by women around the world. According to Small, scholarships are granted with the expectation that the resulting educational experience will enhance women's effectiveness in ministering to their local churches and communities. In most developing countries as little as US\$300 can fund an entire semester of college or university education.

In addition to providing materials and moral support for women involved in serving their communities, the Women's Ministries Department serves as an advocacy group for global issues that directly affect women and children: illiteracy; poverty; and physical,

emotional, and sexual abuse. The department represents the church on the United Nations' Committee on the Status of Women, and works with other nongovernmental organizations to help relieve some of the greatest examples of global human suffering. "Every woman has a ministry,"

maintains Small. "Our purpose is to help them develop a passion for ministry."

For more information about the activities of the Women's Ministries Department, visit www.um.gc.adventist.org.

Nominating Committee Close to Wrap-up

BY ADVENTIST REVIEW STAFF

The Nominating Committee neared the completion of its work during the Wednesday morning business session. Most of the nominations were to fill the associate director slots for the General Conference departments (for a complete listing, see the Nominating Committee Report in *Bulletin 7*).

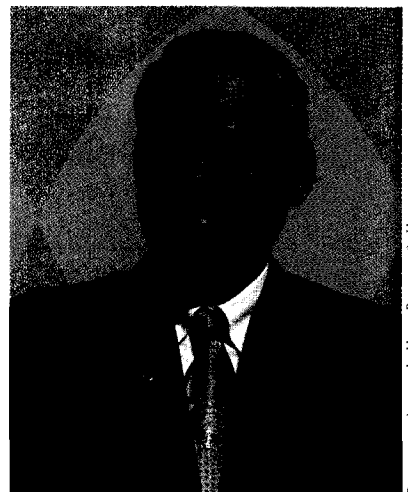
The General Conference Publishing Department saw the election of a new director, following the retirement of Jose Luis Campos. Howard Faigao, previously associate director of the department, was named director. A native of the Philippines, Faigao was publishing director of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division prior to joining the Publishing Department of the General Conference in 2000. He is an ordained minister, and he and his wife, Ana, have two grown children.



Rosa Taylor Banks

In a historic move, the Nominating Committee recommended Rosa Taylor Banks as an associate secretary of the General Conference Secretariat. Banks will be filling the position vacated by the retirement of Theodore T. Jones.

Prior to her nomination as associate secretary, Banks was associate secretary and director of Human Relations for the North American Division. Her election to General Conference Secretariat makes her the first woman to occupy that position in the church's 142-year history. A credentialed commissioned minister, Banks and her husband, Halsey, have three grown children.



Howard F. Faigao

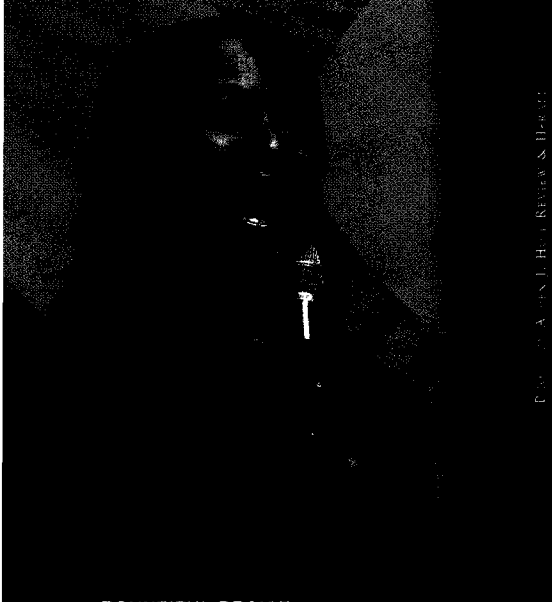
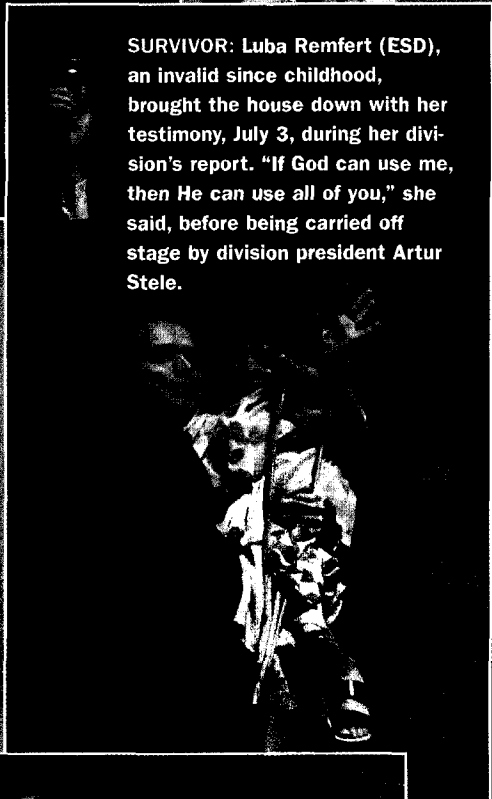


Photo: Alan H. Review & Herald

BOUNTIFUL PRAISE: Walesia Robinson Cates from the NAD sings for the Sabbath afternoon Global Mission meeting, July 2, 2005.



SURVIVOR: Luba Remfert (ESD), an invalid since childhood, brought the house down with her testimony, July 3, during her division's report. "If God can use me, then He can use all of you," she said, before being carried off stage by division president Artur Stele.

ARTIST AT WORK: A member of the "Impact St. Louis" street artist ministry places her mark on the mural the team is making, July 4, 2005.

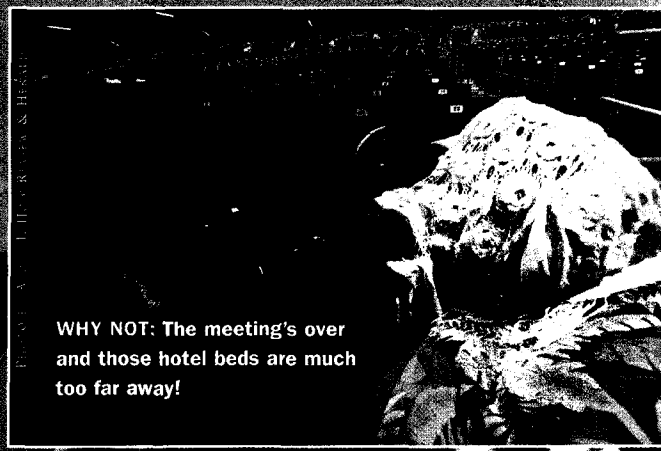
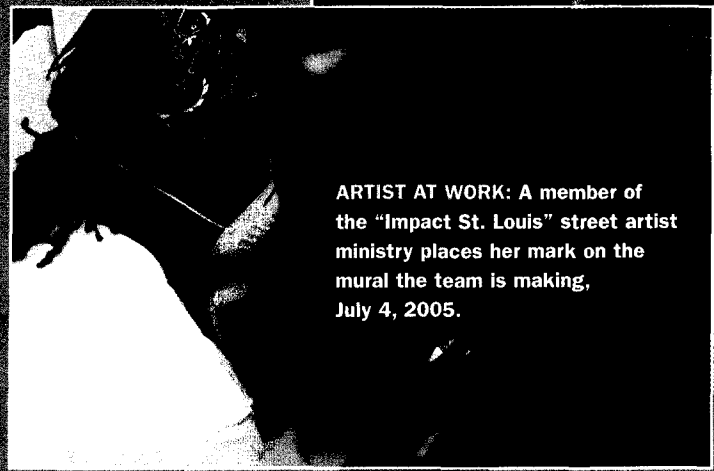
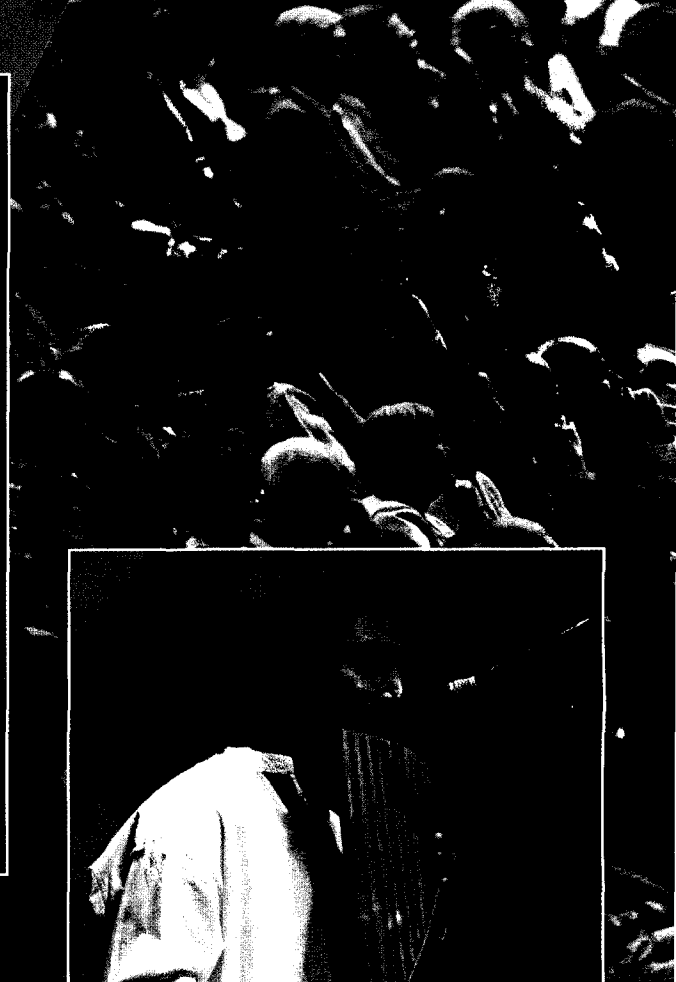


Photo: Alan H. Review & Herald

WHY NOT: The meeting's over and those hotel beds are much too far away!



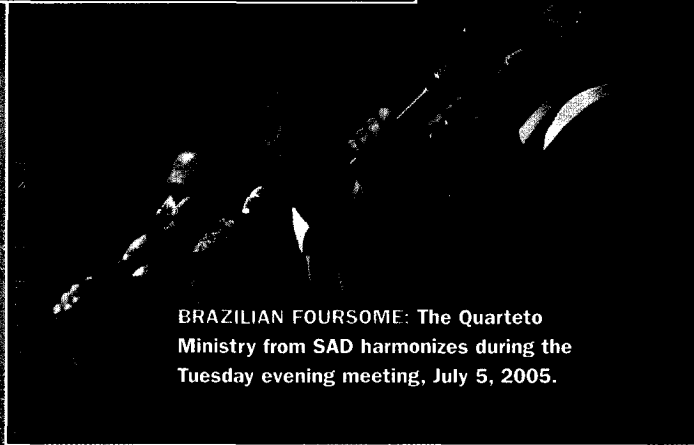
WISTFUL MELODY: Ramiro Ledezma, Euro-Asia Division, plays the Quena pipes during the evening meeting, June 30.



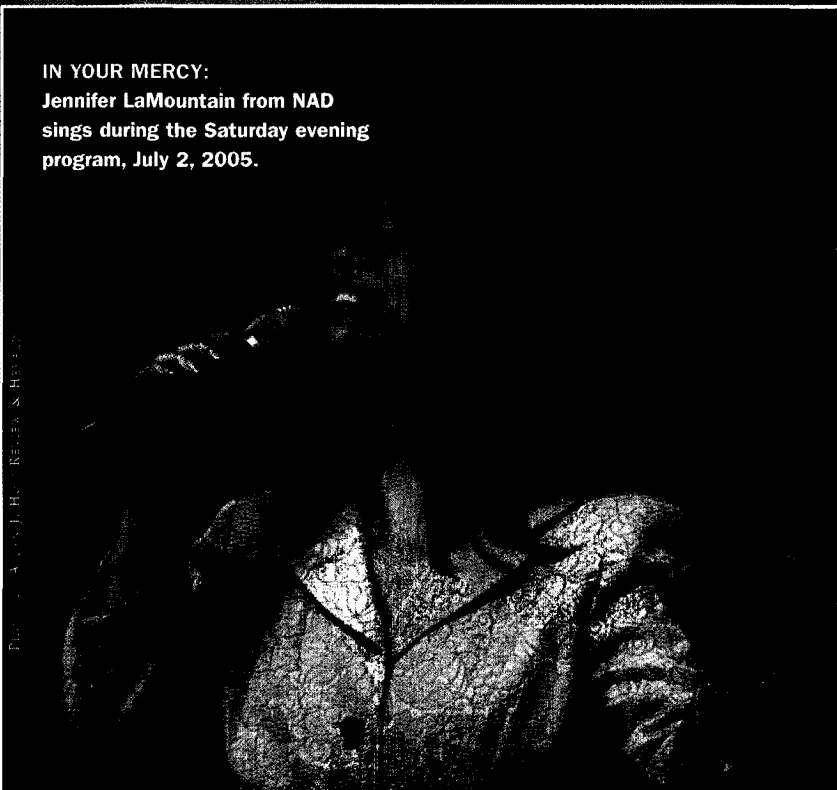
COMPASSION: Anthony Kent from SPD presented the evening devotional, Monday, July 4.



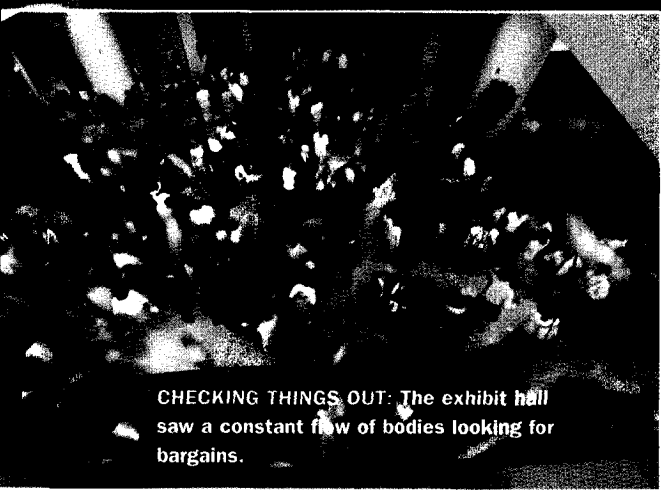
TAKING IT IN: One delegation listens during the Friday evening program, July 1, 2005.



BRAZILIAN FOURSOME: The Quarteto Ministry from SAD harmonizes during the Tuesday evening meeting, July 5, 2005.



IN YOUR MERCY: Jennifer LaMountain from NAD sings during the Saturday evening program, July 2, 2005.



CHECKING THINGS OUT: The exhibit hall saw a constant flow of bodies looking for bargains.

A Look Behind the Scenes

Adventist Review talks with Jere Patzer, chair of the General Conference session's Nominating Committee and president of the North Pacific Union Conference

BY SANDRA BLACKMER, NEWS EDITOR, ADVENTIST REVIEW

Reports are circulating that this session's Nominating Committee has accomplished all its work in the shortest amount of time in living memory. Do you think that's a good thing for the process?

It's true that this group has completed its work quickly, but the fact is, it started out very slow. The Nominating Committee is approximately 10 percent of the delegation. This group is very diverse. They're representing 200 countries, 13 divisions, and in a sense every person in that room is a minority. With few exceptions, virtually no one knows more than a handful of people when they walk in the door. And 80 to 90 percent of those who served on the committee were serving for the first time in this role.

We had 130 positions to fill, and it's only good to move through quickly if you're covering what needs to be covered. On items that required more time, we spent more time—agonizingly long times in some cases. But when it was an incumbent who is well respected, appreciated, and everyone knows he or she did a stellar job, there's no reason to sit there a long time and talk about that. Their skills and respect were also confirmed by written evaluations. So we had to balance more discussion and less discussion. So, you bet we're pleased that we're done this soon.

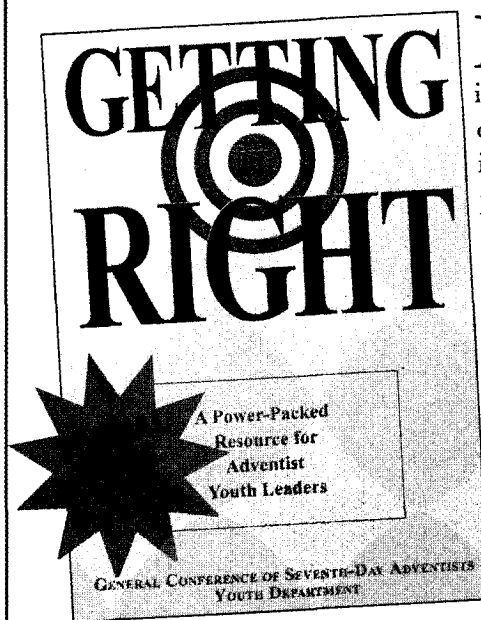
Stories in the hallways are using terms such as *frank*, *spirited*, even *turbulent* to describe the atmosphere

in the Nominating Committee in its opening deliberations. Are those accurate descriptions, and did that change as you passed through the five days of your work?

Frank and spirited, certainly, but turbulent might be a bit strong. There was a clear transition as the group began to develop cohesiveness and

build trust, and that took a number of hours. We also used a lot of time for orientation—going around the room and everyone saying who they were and where they were from. It gave a great feel of mixing and warmth, and you realize you're part of something a whole lot bigger than just yourself. It's obvious that when you have this kind

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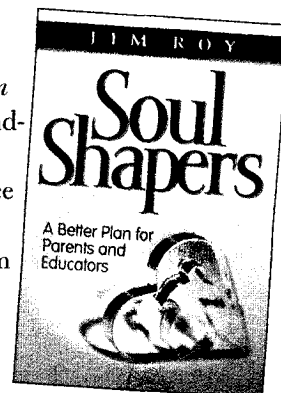
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Jere Patzer

of diversity, the only way you can come out of this with unity is by God's Spirit.

We were also conducting a giant committee meeting with Portuguese, Spanish, and Russian translations going on. The rest of the group understood very well the need for this.

Your committee has recommended women for important leadership posts in the world church—associate treasurer, associate secretary, general vice president. What would you say is the message of those elections to a church that is still divided on the question of women in professional ministry?

The message is clear, that while we were not addressing the ordination issue, there is no question that women currently do and will continue to rightfully carry an increasing load of responsibility in top leadership roles.

One delegate this morning moved that some process be developed that would result in a smaller number of incumbents being returned to office by recommendation of the Nominating Committee, and others have referred to an "unprecedented continuity" in leadership. How does the church stay fresh and alive to new people and new ideas?

Admittedly it is a high percentage of incumbents, and that's as it should be. These are lifetime professionals contributing tremendously to the work of the Lord. Our church is a successful

organization, and there are many factors that contribute to that. Our leadership is obviously a key element of that. If we were going in the wrong direction, there would certainly be a call for change. You stick with a winning team. It was very obvious that there was respect and even love for our current leadership by the

majority of our church.

How did the voting process work?

It was definitely high tech. There are keypads: you register your vote using the keypads, and then your vote is tallied instantly on the computer. The system is governed so no one can vote more than once. I can push my

button three times, but the computer will take only the first one, unless I change it. It was completely confidential. No one can challenge the voting process itself.

Is there anything that you would change about the process?

The process works. Do you have to have faith in the process? Absolutely. If we didn't believe that God is still ultimately in control of this church—the outcomes—sure we would be frustrated. God has ways of taking our work—and even our mistakes—and correcting them in time. And I sincerely believe that despite the sometimes strong differences of opinion, there wasn't a person in the room who didn't abdicate his or her own personal wishes and ultimately want God's will to override. When you've got that basic understanding, you know you're going to come out well.



PHOTO BY JOEL D. STRINGER / REVIEW & HERALD

EXTRA! EXTRA! For the first time in recent history, the daily *Bulletins* for this General Conference session have been sold by a group of hardworking Adventist "Newskids." Stationed at four prominent locations around the America's Center and the Edward Jones Dome, they work in teams of two. The Newskids are the children of General Conference personnel attending the 10-day session. Coordinated by *Adventist Review* summer worker, Melinda Jamieson, they include: (Front Row—left to right) Melissa Guth, Janae Rose, Kaitlin Yingling, Sara Rose, Melinda Jamieson, coordinator; (Second Row) Anais Guth, Chantelle Stewart, Camilyn Clayville, Cherilyn Clayville; (Third Row) Brady Knott, Lisa Poirier, Evan Knott.

AT RIGHT: Michelle Park. Not pictured: Jerard Small.



PHOTO BY ALDEN J. HO / REVIEW & HERALD

BULLETINS FOR SALE: Michelle Park, one of the *Review's* Newskids, speaks with a potential customer in the exhibit hall.

For Teaching

Devotional message presented Wednesday evening, July 6, 2005

“The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others” (2 Tim. 2:2, NIV).

Growing up with a staunch Anglican father, who not only cherished his church, but also woke us at 5:00 a.m. for devotions, and punished by cane any laxity on our part, I became a devout Anglican.

However, in 1982, the gospel net cast by Pastor Arthur Bushnell caught me, thus uprooting me from Anglicanism. The personalized follow-up teachings by the evangelistic team melted my heart. Their simplicity as they taught moved me to embrace Adventism.

Consequently, Jesus initiated an ongoing transformation that empowers me to teach the gospel. My testimony is another comma in the story being written in heavenly books of many Adventists who are attempting great things for God after transformation through teaching.

The Centrality Teaching

Teaching is simply the communication of experience. It's painting in the mind of another the picture in one's own mind. Its centrality is underscored by the following inspired examples and statements.

- Teaching was central in the earthly ministry of Jesus the Rabbi.
- Jesus highlighted teaching as a central strategy for global evangelism.
- In 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul pointed Timothy to teaching as an effective method for passing the torch of faith to four “generations” at a time.
- Ellen G. White underscores the explosive power of



Joy Gashaija
*Director, Children's
 and Women's
 Ministries
 Departments, East-
 Central Africa
 Division*

teaching: “There should be less preaching, and more teaching. There are those who want more definite light than they receive from hearing the sermons. Some need a longer time than do others to understand the points presented” (*Gospel Workers*, p. 407).

- Teaching is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. “It was he who gave some to be . . . pastors and teachers” (Eph. 4:11).

The explosive influence of teaching is clearly attested in the earthly ministry of Jesus—the Master Teacher.

Jesus the Master Teacher

Jesus used teaching effectively for reaching people from all walks of life. He taught to present Himself as Immanuel—the Word made flesh. Using rich imagery, He pointed to Himself as “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).

A parent, upon inquiring from a psychologist about the most effective style of training children, was told, “Example, example, and example.” This was Jesus’ main method of instruction. His lifestyle was central to His effectiveness. Ellen White writes: “The officers who were sent to Jesus came back with the report that never man spoke as He spoke. But the reason for this was that never man lived as He lived. Had His life been other than it was, He could not have spoken as He did. His words bore with them a convincing power, because they came from a heart pure and holy, full of love and sympathy, benevolence and truth” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 469).

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the teaching methods of Jesus were tailored to fit the needs of each group, person, or situation. Full of love, Jesus always devised creative ways to meet the needs of every person.

Indwelt and empowered by the same Spirit, we too will

devise creative ways to teach others about the power that has marvelously transformed us.

Venues and Avenues of Teaching

To prepare for the imminent return of Christ, venues and avenues such as homes, schools, and churches have been divinely appointed.

1. Homes. The child's first school is the home. Therefore, parents must train their children when they are young and impressionable. Ellen White reminds us: "Parents, your own home is the first field in which you are called to labor. . . . God will hold you responsible for this work which He has left in your hands" (*The Adventist Home*, p. 200).

Training our children to love God is a life and death undertaking, because it pits us against Satan, who knows the invincible power residing in children trained in truth! The apostle John underscored this in 1 John 2:14: "I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one" (NASB).

To protect and extend his turf, Satan, with great cunning, is busy attempting to snatch our children. He wants them to join his ragtag army that wages guerrilla warfare against us, the church of the living God.

His flaming arrows may have hit their mark and pierced our hearts with sorrow and inconsolable grief as we regretfully contemplate the plight of our backslidden children. Feeling like helpless, battered victims, we may have given up fighting for the souls of our children! We may be drowning in self-pity, as rivulets of tears stream from our eyes while we mourn the wreckage of our fondest dreams for our children shattered by the enemy.

Fellow struggling, sorrowing parents, let's arise now from the mourner's couch and claim these promises in the name of Jesus! First, here is a text from 1 John 4:4: "You are from God . . . and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world" (NASB).

Matthew 16:18, 19 tells us, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

And finally, Revelation 12:11: "They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death" (NIV).

Let's decide now to battle the kingdom of darkness inch by inch to reclaim

*Let's decide now to
battle the kingdom
of darkness inch
by inch to reclaim
our children!*

our children! Let's fight, assured of victory through the blood of the Lamb. Using the keys given us by Jesus, let's open the prison doors of hell and unchain our children from the shackles of Satan. Dressed in God's full armor, let's intercede for the salvation of our children, clinging to God's promise in Isaiah 60:4, 5: "Lift up your eyes and look about you: all assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy" (NIV).

2. Schools. God continues to use our schools to train workers to perform great feats for Him. We thank God for our many dedicated teachers, with high academic achievements, who help our young people know the Lord Jesus—whom to know is eternal life.

Fellow teachers, we could be geniuses in this world but illiterate in real wisdom, which is the fear of the Lord. Therefore, I ask:

• Do we see teaching just as a career, or a divine calling to prepare students to discern and follow God's will in their lives?

• Do we truly desire to see our students develop the mind of Christ?

• Do we take time to really pray for our students, yearning to affect them positively for the eternal kingdom?

Oh, for transformed teachers who see a citizen of heaven in every student and seize every opportunity to impart eternal values!

3. Church. Through the various spiritual gifts, including teaching, as listed in Ephesians 4:11, God raised the church to be:

• A hospital to dispense the balm of Gilead to sick sinners.

• A ship to transport saints into the heavenly harbor.

• A city of refuge for the fugitives escaping from the devil.

• A fortress sheltering the saints from the "trinity of hell"—sin, the devil, and the world.

• An oasis in the desert to quench those thirsting for the Water of Life.

• A bakery serving fresh Bread of Life from the oven of heaven.

• A haven of peace in a violent world.

• A Bethel where people encounter God.

• An orchard where the starving can eat the fruit from the tree of life.

• A ray of light in a dark world.

• A cooling shade for the weary heavenly pilgrim.

Leaders, have we empowered our members to point others to Jesus as the authentic answer to life's deepest questions through teaching?

My Appeal

Using the divinely appointed venue and avenues to teach, let us fulfill the threefold mission of our church—exalting the Savior, equipping the saints, and evangelizing the sinners. May all transformed teachers hear the grand invitation on that day: "Well done, good and faithful servant! . . . Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matt. 25:23, NIV).

Seventh Business Meeting (continued)

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

LOWELL C. COOPER: We are ready to return to some business, and we have exactly 23 minutes in which to do business, because at 4:00 there is a special feature that begins here.

We were looking at item 304, and we are in the midst of a discussion about the question of the secretary and treasurer of the North American Division being named as associate officers of the General Conference.

ROBERT E. LEMON: Just a clarification, Mr. Chairman. I have had a number of individuals ask me why the North American Division treasurer or secretary would have a special status different from the secretary or treasurer of other divisions in relationship to being an associate within the General Conference office. Some have said that this must be historical, and it is true that the North American Division and the General Conference were one entity up to 1985. In the year 1990 things were divided even more completely.

Others have said that the reason for it must be that the North American Division provides more tithes and offerings. Both of those facts are true, but those are not the reason that this special relationship needs to continue. Many may not realize that in separating the North American Division and the General Conference a number of institutions and organizations in North America serve both the division and the General Conference. We share many of the functions that the divisions would be carrying elsewhere. As this division was made between the North American Division and the General Conference, it was felt that it could save the whole church an awful lot of money if some of those functions remained as joint functions.

So I would give that as an explanation as to why this is not just a past historical thing nor a financial thing but rather a relational plan whereby we are trying to save money and operate more efficiently.

LOWELL C. COOPER: Thank you very much. Let's move to Ricardo Graham, who is at microphone 6.

RICARDO GRAHAM: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Just one item relative to the discussion on the wording for the proposed change in this agenda item. I am wondering if the spirit of the wording would be violated by removing the pronoun "his" altogether, thus reading, "The secretary of the North American Division, by virtue of election to that responsibility, shall also be an associate secretary of the General Conference."

LOWELL C. COOPER: Can we take that by common consent? It doesn't change the meaning of the statement at all, and perhaps is a cleaner reading of it. So unless there's an objection, we'll say that it is ordered, and thank you very much for the suggestion.

RICARDO GRAHAM: I am a member of the North American delegation, and it is not my personal desire to usurp an authority of any other division. And I don't think that our entire delegation would disagree with that opinion. Thank you.

LOWELL C. COOPER: Thank you very much.

ESMERALDA GUZMAN-HARRIS: Good afternoon. I am representing the North American Division; however, I was born in Cuba. I came from my country in 1980 in a very small boat along with my family and 33 other people. I am standing here as a living testimony of God's grace and mercy.

Many of us sitting here come from places where we are not allowed to express ourselves in our own countries. I encourage you to recognize the contributions that North America has made to all of us in the Adventist world. My brothers and sisters, I believe that we all agree that each division represented here today has some way benefited from the generosity of the North American Division.

LOWELL C. COOPER: Sister, thank you very much.

ARNOLD TRUJILLO: I just want to assure the delegates from the other divisions that I as a delegate find no desire on the part of our officers to add additional responsibilities on the General Conference level.

LOWELL C. COOPER: Thank you. I'd like to appeal to the people who are speaking to speak precisely to the motion.

CHARLES BRADFORD: Mr. Chairman, I really am not speaking precisely to the motion, but I want to take this opportunity to say that we do not have divisions as constituent bodies. The General Conference is the constituency, and we are all subsumed under the General Conference. We must not think of us and them—it is altogether the General Conference. The highest body in the field that is a constituent body is the union; after the union comes the General Conference, which in turn divides itself into the divisions and works through the divisions. I do thank the Lord that progress has been made so that the North American Division is no longer a stepchild but a

member of the family.

LOWELL C. COOPER: Thank you very much, Elder Bradford. I believe that when the item was introduced this morning it was explained that this is not an addition to the constitution; this practice is already enshrined in the constitution in the instructions to the Nominating Committee. The purpose of the action was merely to raise the same point in other parts of the constitution that describe the various officer groupings.

We are now at 4:00. Let's move to Dr. John Fowler until we get a signal that the next group is ready.

JOHN FOWLER: Mr. Chairman, this morning a very vocal speaker mentioned about the relationship between the North American Division and the General Conference and the functioning of the Nominating Committee, all in one speech. It was said that this church belongs to the world. It's not a North American church; it's a global church. I agree very fully with that statement. This is a global church, and I have yet to see anyone in North America claim otherwise.

It has also been said that North America tends to dominate the world church, but I have been noticing the reports of the Nominating Committee, which do not convey to me a North American church. Many of the officers come from other parts of the world.

I must say that there is an element in which North America is dominant, and that is in providing means, providing personnel, and providing resources generously for the work of the church throughout the world. To that dominance of the North American Division I bow my head and thank my Lord.

LOWELL C. COOPER: All right, folks, we are going to have to leave this item and pick it up later. I trust that in the future we will also be able to discipline ourselves to focus on the motion. Thank you very much. We will now listen to a special program about Adventist health.

LOWELL C. COOPER, *Chair*
DOUGLAS CLAYVILLE, *Secretary*
BILL BOTHE, FRED THOMAS, and
CLAUDE SABOT, *Proceedings Editors*

Continued on page 19.



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D. Ronald Watts
President

Empowered for Effective Witness

Presented Wednesday evening, July 6, 2005

The Southern Asia Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (SUD) includes India, the world's largest democratic nation, and the nearby countries of Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives. Nepal is a Hindu kingdom, Bhutan is predominantly Buddhist, and the Maldives are Islamic.

India is a secular state of 1,070,000,000 people—the world's second most populous nation. It is multicultural, multilingual, and multi-religious. The dominant religious faith is Hinduism, but its more than 100 million Muslims, 30 million Christians, and numerous Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists are all guaranteed democratic and religious freedom under a modern, liberal constitution.

Christian churches are thought to have existed in India almost from the time of the apostles. Portuguese traders brought Catholic missionaries to India first around 1500 A.D. Lutheran missionaries from Germany arrived on the Coromandel coast in Southeast India as early as 1706. Baptist William Carey, known as the father of modern missions, arrived in Calcutta in 1793. Bible translation into local languages and modern education began shortly after these early European missionaries arrived.

The nineteenth century was a period of expansion for the Christian faith in India as hundreds of pastors,

teachers, printers, and medical missionaries arrived in the subcontinent. The mainline denominations of Europe, North America, and Australia all had mission societies working here.

When the first Seventh-day Adventist workers arrived in the 1890s, there was already a well-established Christian presence in the land. The first outreach of Adventists in the land naturally was to those Christians of other denominations, teaching them the significance of the Bible Sabbath.

Adventist pioneers Percy Magan and Stephen Haskell surveyed India for mission work in 1890. Shortly afterward, Adventist colporteurs began selling books in the cities of India. In 1895 D. A. Robinson, Georgia Burrus, and Martha May Taylor—the first workers appointed by the Mission Board—began Adventist work in Calcutta, then the capital of British India. Their work was broad-based from the beginning, including health ministry, publishing, educational and religious outreach, and an orphanage.

By the time of India's independence from Britain in 1947, there was a sizable constituency of several millions of Christian believers in the land.

Many of the European and American mission bodies established national churches and left their believers in the subcontinent to develop further on their own on a self-supporting basis. They also encouraged them to become part of united Christian bodies. However, since millions of these believers subsisted in poverty in the rural areas, many of them were left as sheep without a shepherd. Pastoral care by the church unions seemed to

concentrate on the city parishes, and village believers were left without care. When Adventist laymen and pastors conduct revival meetings in their villages, many flock to listen to Bible lectures. When they learn of the Bible Sabbath, they embrace it wholeheartedly.

Focusing on gathering these village Christians, providing them simple houses of worship and some volunteer pastoral care, has enabled the church in SUD to experience numerical growth in the current period.

Five years ago, the church had a listed membership of 350,000 in 3,554 congregations and groups. As of January 1, 2005, the membership has grown to 919,000 in 7,000 congregations and groups.

The East-Central India Union, along the Bay of Bengal on India's east coast, has been experiencing a powerful spiritual revival during this period. From a membership of 139,388 five years before, as of January 1, 2005, this union had grown to 510,397 adherents—a growth of 266 percent. Pastor Choudampalli John is the president of this union.

The Lord has used several important agencies to bring about this increase. There is a deep hunger for the blessing of God in answered prayer among the peoples in this region. Many testify of remarkable healing of the sick and expulsion of demons in answer to prayer. Crowds of villagers in this area will sit quietly for hours listening to the Word of God.

In many agricultural villages alcohol consumption has become a major problem. Both men and women work

in the fields all day and come home with aching muscles and weary limbs. The men customarily go to the toddy shop and drink, and the women go home to cook food for the family. The men drink and argue, and some come home and abuse their wives verbally and physically.

In one village all the families became Adventist. Drunkenness and wife-beating disappeared from the village. Peace and happiness became an important feature of village life. Two government health officers in charge of 30 villages in the area observed this dramatic change. Some weeks later they approached the pastor in the area. "We have prepared 20 of the villages in our care. Please come and make all the people Adventists. We will support you," they offered. This is typical of the change that takes place in village life when the families embrace the Adventist lifestyle and message.

Sheep Without Shepherds

Many of these people's ancestors became Christians four or five generations ago. But since there were no churches, pastors, or Christian teachers in these villages for several decades the people know little of Bible truth. They feel they are like sheep without shepherds. Their children grow up without being disciplined. Many do not have Bibles to read, but they have a deep hunger for spiritual truth. Often the whole people group or clan in the villages together decide to unite with our fellowship. They search out their relatives in other villages, and so the message spreads rapidly.

Indian church leaders and local pastors in this area plan church planting programs where 10, 25, 50, or 100 villages are taught the Bible truths simultaneously. Teams of pastors and laypeople are invited from abroad to participate in these multiple-village programs. They assist local pastors with health talks, music, children's stories,

Bible teaching, and prayer in public and in the homes of the people. Seeing the felt needs of these believers, they often assist in helping the new village congregations to have a plain, solid, and permanent house of worship.

Special mention is made of the Fjarli family from southern Oregon, who have participated in nine such multiple-village programs and have organized funding for the construction of 500 houses of worship in villages and towns. This has been done in partnership with Maranatha International, which organized the construction of prayer halls.



Large crowds attended evangelistic meetings in the division a few years ago.

Other teams of laypeople and pastors have come three, four, and five times to participate in such multi-village programs and are much appreciated. Bob Robinson, of Oregon, has effectively organized many such teams.

We greatly appreciate the initiative of Gospel Outreach, a supporting ministry from Walla Walla, Washington. With their assistance, stipends are provided to volunteer Bible workers to assist in the preparation of villages for multiplanting programs and to provide such Bible workers for a minimum of three to five years following the public phase of the programs. These volunteers visit the homes of member families daily for prayer and Bible study and conduct evening and Sabbath programs in the local church. They cover health and Bible topics, family concerns,

literacy, and other training. This is to establish the new congregations in a strong manner in Adventist teaching and lifestyle.

Global Mission from the central office has been a major presence in the division during this quinquennium. With their assistance, the Northern India Union has grown from 40,702 members to 100,000 members—a rate of 145 percent. This union has a population of a half billion people, but vital progress has been made during this period under the leadership of M. C. John. Here again are many neglected Christian groups in the villages that

respond to our message in a positive way.

The Western India Union, led by G. E. Sharon, has also shown strong growth during this period, growing from 27,848 members five years before to 90,299 adherents in the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat. This is a growth of 224 percent.

Growth in Nepal has also been encouraging. Membership has grown in five years from 979 to 2,575—a growth of 163 percent. David Tamsang is the director of the Nepal Field.

The Gujarat Conference, under the leadership of Pankaj Parmar, has grown in this period from 4,174 members to 18,013—a growth of 331 percent. Here again, whole Christian congregations from other communions have united with us along with their pastoral leaders.

In five years the newly organized Southeast Andhra Section grew from 3,000 to 48,142—an increase of 1,500 percent. Most of these were families whose forebears became Christians 150 years ago. P. Wilbert is the section president.

These growth statistics fill our hearts with gratitude for the work of the Holy Spirit in empowering our believers and pastors for effective witness. We recognize that we have a great responsibility to nurture these

new members and provide leadership training and pastoral care.

Spicer Memorial College remains the premier pastoral training institution for this field, but two-year post-high school ministerial training programs are also being carried forward in five additional seminaries.

Approximately 2,500 simple church buildings have also been constructed for the new believers. Maranatha International has constructed 1,000 of these. The Quiet Hour donors have provided 350 houses of worship. In addition, Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings and many individual donors, including the McNeilus Family Trust, have provided church buildings. Many persons of Indian origin living abroad have also provided for the construction of churches. Each donor is greatly appreciated. However, we still have 3,000 congregations without a house of worship. We pray that God's people will help us meet this need.

Care of Children

The McNeilus Trust has also constructed a school for blind children in Bobbili in Andhra Pradesh and sponsors more than 700 orphans in Adventist boarding schools in India. The Asian Aid Organization sponsors 3,800 children of limited economic background in the boarding academies and day schools and operates several orphanages and a boarding facility for hearing impaired children. Children's Health and Education Relief Canada sponsors several hundred children in Adventist schools.

International Children's Care supports orphan children in their sponsored homes in Narsapur. The Quiet Hour has provided funds for children's hostels in several locations in connection with Adventist schools, such as Bangalore, Bidar, Zaheerabad, Belgaum, Nepal, and Hapur.

Organizational Development

To care for growth in membership, growth in organizational structure has also been executed. Three new unions were organized and 30 new local missions (regions) formed.

City Initiative

To concentrate on growth in membership in major metropolitan cities, five metro missions have been formed in Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Delhi. Scores of new congregations have developed in these large cities through this organizational enhancement. For example, 13 new companies of believers have come into being in New Delhi, and 40 in Hyderabad. Chennai city now has 61 churches and companies, Bangalore has 67, and Mumbai reports 62 congregations meeting each Sabbath.

The Tithing Principle

We recognize that providing pastoral care for the new believers and congregations long term requires careful planning and strong stewardship education. We believe that the biblical system of tithing, if carefully followed, will enable the local fields in the medium and long term to provide pastoral care and oversight for even the village congregations.

This will greatly be assisted by establishing city congregations where the income of members is higher and the tithe income is shared for caring for pastors in village districts. Our metropolitan cities with multiple congregations, such as Chennai and Bangalore, are recently showing annual tithe increases of 25 and 30 percent in an environment of low inflation.

Four of our seven unions reported tithe increases of 20 percent and more in the past calendar year. This is the result of growth in membership but also reflects the rapid economic development taking place in India's industrial cities. This, if continued, will provide a stronger economic base for the church in Southern Asia.

The biblical system of tithing faithfully practiced will be a source of strength and continued growth in membership.

Institutional Structures

The division now has six senior colleges to give opportunities to Adventist youth to acquire profes-

sional training. Four schools of nursing operate in Nuzvid, Surat, Ottapalam, and Ranchi. Surat College has opened a bachelor's degree nursing course and also offers several paramedical degree programs. Spicer College has applied to the Maharashtra state government for a state charter for a private university, which it is expected to be received this year.

Adventist Health International assists the division in operating 12 small hospitals in India and Nepal. They are providing management development and resources for facilities enhancement, which is highly appreciated.

Boarding high school facilities are available to the major linguistic groups in the division, and day schools serve the general public in more than 200 locations. The day school in Ahmadabad, in Gujarat State, has 5,000 students and exerts a strong influence for the cause.

Looking Ahead

The peoples of the nations of Southern Asia are deeply religious. They place a high value on spiritual things. The values that Seventh-day Adventists believe and practice are very attractive to many.

Family solidarity, the need of children to live in nurturing families, integrity of life, devotion to God, prayerfulness, healthful living, respect for elders—all these virtues are highly admired in Southern Asian society.

These values of society harmonize well with the values of Seventh-day Adventists. The hope we have for a glorious future through the plan of salvation has a strong appeal.

Jesus of Nazareth is widely admired by multitudes in Southern Asia. As more and more people learn of our beliefs, more and more will unite with us in preparation for history's coming climax.

There is here a firmament of chosen ones who will yet shine forth as the world's darkness deepens.

Continued from page 14.

Seventh Business Meeting Actions

July 4, 2005, 2:00 p.m.

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

Eighth Business Meeting

58th General Conference session, July 5, 2005, 9:30 a.m.

ERICH W. OLM: [Opening prayer.]

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Good morning, brothers and sisters. We have a partial report from the Nominating Committee.

JAN PAULSEN: Mr. Chairman, before we come to the report from the Nominating Committee, I would like to make a couple of comments. First, an apology. On Sunday evening a number of the finest leaders were honored at the Oakwood College Bradford-Cleveland Institute awards banquet. I stopped by to recognize these persons who have served the church in such an outstanding manner. I made a public recognition of three of the six names, but failed to recognize the full list.

Charles Bradford, E. E. Cleveland, C. D. Brooks, Neal C. Wilson, Calvin B. Rock, and Phyllis Ware. These individuals are all household names in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They represent leadership and ministry of the kind that are models for many of us to emulate. So please accept my apology.

My second comment has to do with the reports that are being brought in from the Nominating Committee. I know that not having much information about them seems frustrating to many of you. We are going to have the individuals walk in here briefly for you to see them. We appreciate that many of you are at a General Conference session for the first time and that you may not recognize even those who are being returned to office. They will come on the platform, and you will see who they are, and a brief statement will be made about their service and their current position.

That was not an oversight, but rather a choice we made. It has been the way we have done it. We work through a

Nominating Committee that is a large committee of some 200. You chose the composition of the Nominating Committee, and by the choices you made, you also expressed due trust in those individuals. They are the ones that will look at the details and say yea or nay, and look at the candidates and weigh them against other possible candidates. It's tempting to ask, "Are we only rubber-stamping?" But there is an element of trust that has to go into this. You need to know that these names that are being brought forward have been carefully considered, that many details have been examined by the people you chose to be Nominating Committee members.

One additional comment about the relationship between the General Conference as a world headquarters and the North American Division. I understand that there was some discussion generated here on the floor about the nature of this relationship and about the status of some of the officers who serve in the North American Division and those who serve at the world headquarters.

As you know, until very fairly recently (that is, about 15 years ago) there was no North American Division. There was no boundary between the General Conference and the North American Division, our church in North America. They were blended into each other. And the governance for our church in North America was directed out of the world headquarters by the officers elected at the General Conference session as officers of the global church.

And this simply reflects the fact that since our very beginning our church in North America has been the largest partner, the one on whom the rest of the church historically has depended for so much of our outreach, for so much of the international work we have engaged in as a church, and for the selection of personnel for overseas assignments and the distribution of financial resources. North America has been the major contributor to the finances and resources of the church. But about 15 years ago we decided that it would be good for the church in North America to be organized as a division, the same as our other world divisions. You have officers selected and chosen who have a particularly designated responsibility to their own region. It does not wipe out the special relationship between the North American Division and the General Conference as a world headquarters.

It is, after all, our host division. We share offices together. What is done in one part for one segment is applied similarly to the other, so that we are bonded together in the policies and the way we do things. North America is not separated in the

Continued on page 27.



Ulrich Frikart
President

With God on Our Side, Everything's Possible

Presented Wednesday evening, July 6, 2005

After studying, praying, and searching for God's will under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, during the Annual Council of November 2000, the members of the Executive Committee of the Euro-Africa Division (EUD) adopted the following commitment for the years 2000-2005 (shortened here for space):

"It was within the territory of the Euro-Africa Division that God shook Christianity during the Reformation period. It is this territory which was also the first missionary field of the SDA Church. We deeply believe that God is still working with power in all the territories of our division.

"We commit ourselves:

- To Jesus Christ, the heart of our message, worship, life, and work;
- To the Adventist message, founded on God's revelation in Scripture;
- To the sharing of the Adventist message as understood by our worldwide church;
- To improve our institutional structures and practices and to focus on our mission;
- To acknowledge that our mission goes far beyond any local church interests and has a worldwide scope;
- To unite all the energies and resources of the church in evangelism;
- To accept the great challenges of successfully reaching the secularized people, the inhabitants of Islamic territories, and the immigrants.

"To reach these goals, we dedicate ourselves:

- To develop among us authentic and mutual trust, love, and respect;
- To integrate our children and youth into the life of the church and into evangelism;
- To promote within the church and society an Adventist lifestyle for better living;
- To make the lay members of our churches the front line of the mission in fruitful cooperation with the pastors."

The Complexity of the Euro-Africa Division in a Global World

Have we succeeded in fulfilling these goals?

The answer is not easy to give, considering the challenges of the Euro-Africa Division: secularized countries, former Communist countries, Muslim countries.

When we look at our division, we are stricken by the diversity of the nations and peoples that make up its churches and have shaped its mission. The Euro-Africa Division consists of six union conferences, five unions of churches, and the attached Trans-Mediterranean Field. Its territory spreads over Eastern Europe, Western Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East, all representing different religious majorities.

The Vatican, Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, and several smaller territories are predominantly Roman Catholic. Germany and Switzerland are partly Protestant, while the churches in Romania and Bulgaria face major Orthodox populations. In addition, we also work in

Muslim North Africa, Turkey, Iran, and Afghanistan.

In spite of this diversity, our division is united in the common goal of bringing the good news of Jesus Christ and His soon coming to every people and family within our division territory. Today the total population in our territory is 561,356,000, with a church membership of 190,000.

Sharing the gospel represents a big challenge, not only because of the cultural diversity and language barriers. The growing indifference toward religion in the secularized countries of Western Europe and the strictly fundamentalist societies of the Muslim countries could prove insuperable obstacles to the preaching of the gospel.

But with God on our side, everything is possible. With creativity, our ministers, church members, and institutions are reaching out to people, going "to the marketplace."

Janka's Story and Health Ministries

Janka, a young atheist woman living in Slovakia, was a translator for a series of Adventist health talks and became interested in health. She wanted to know more about this topic and about Adventists and their beliefs. Today she is a committed and active church member.

No matter where people come from, they want to live a meaningful existence with a good quality of life, and are therefore interested in health. For this reason, the Health Ministries Department reaches out to all classes of people with the comprehensive message of salvation, integrating all aspects

of life—body, mind, soul, family, and neighbors.

We have two well-equipped hospitals: Clinique La Ligniere in Switzerland, and Krankenhaus Waldfriede in Berlin, Germany. Besides curative health care, both work also for prevention by offering seminars on a multitude of health topics. This made them both eligible to become members of the WHO network of health-promoting hospitals in Europe.

Besides these large institutions, we have three lifestyle centers: Herghelia in Romania, a health clinic in Lisbon, Portugal, and “Die Arche” in Germany, which provide inpatient treatment on the NEWSTART basis and also offer a variety of health seminars.

Our hospitals and lifestyle centers are places where the people must go. But we also must go where the people are. This is being achieved through the health expos and health clubs. The expos are standardized health fairs that operate for a few days in public places. Overall health assessment, lectures, and personal counseling are the main features. Compared with the traditional stop-smoking seminars or cooking classes, which address only one lifestyle aspect, the health expos cover the entire lifestyle, including the main killer diseases, such as heart attack, cancer, hypertension, and diabetes, as well as depression and spiritual aspects. This method works well for secular people as well as for Muslims. Another positive feature is that the involvement of lay members revitalizes the churches that participate.

After the health expos have created a desire for more information, the health clubs come into place. These are organized groups of people who meet regularly—once or twice a month—for lectures and discussion of topics regarding health, family life, and spiritual matters. Health clubs provide people with the opportunity to get acquainted with church members, their lifestyle and beliefs, on a safe basis. They represent an important

step toward church attendance.

Health expos and health clubs are well-established activities in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Portugal, and Bulgaria. We would like to give special credit to the Portuguese Union and its health ministries director for their committed service and input in this area. These activities are being developed in Germany, Austria, Romania, and soon will be developed in the other countries of our division.

Youth and Education

As it does every five years, the EUD Youth Department had its



Participants at a youth congress in Wroclaw, Poland, in July 2000, included young people from both the Trans-European Division and the Euro-Africa Division.

International Youth Congress in Wroclaw, Poland, in August 2004. For the first time in many years, it gathered 3,000 young people from more than 40 countries in the two European divisions (the Trans-European and Euro-Africa divisions organized the congress together) and other parts of the world.

“Time for Action” was the theme, to emphasize that we live in a special moment of history. We wanted to reaffirm that Jesus is coming very soon. Today, more than ever, it’s “time for action.”

In Stuttgart, Germany, a group of about 40 committed young people, mainly students, are carrying out a creative evangelistic program to reach unchurched downtown youth. This program, called Generations, consists of several activities targeted to young non-Adventists: The Underground (a special meeting corner to socialize and

share literature, talks, music, religious TV programs, videos, movies, etc.); FridaysatSeven (special programs for Friday evenings in the youth hall), and Generations worship services at church on Saturday evening, with special music, relevant speakers, sensitive topics, and a large participation of young people.

An average of 100 non-Adventist young people attend these meetings, which provide many occasions for Bible studies every week. The group operates an attractive Web site, www.generation-s.info, as an active link with their growing audience.

In France a nationwide and ongoing evangelistic effort named “Generation Mission,” conducted by the youth leaders and involving hundreds of young people, is showing promising results. We praise the Lord for the motivation and commitment of our younger generation.

The 10/40 Window

Did you know that September 11, 2001, raised more serious questions in Muslim minds than it strengthened Islam? That one of the most frequently asked questions among Muslims is about Jesus? That young Muslims are searching the Internet to know more about Jesus? A personal outreach ministry is developing in all of the Muslim countries of our division (Afghanistan, Iran, Libya, Turkey, Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia) and in Bulgaria and France as well. In four countries people are being baptized, and the tithes are steadily increasing.

Contextualized radio broadcasting is the main tool for low-risk preaching. Production is done in France (14 and a half hours per week, preparing 750 hours a year of broadcasting) and in four other branch studios. Assisted by AWR, three full-time producers, an army of 14 occasional workers (most of them laypeople), and five volunteer workers prepare broadcasts in seven languages: French, classical Arabic, dialectical Arabic, Berber, Kabyle, Turkish, and Farsi (spoken in Iran). This is a tremendous challenge. We

thank the Lord for the growing success of our radio broadcasts, be it by short-wave or by satellite distribution, as in Italy and Romania.

One of our pastors/producers has followed up 152 Bible study series with listeners. In order to strengthen the AWR ministry, we have created the first contextualized Web site with a French address: www.voixdesesperance.com. This makes it possible not only to listen on shortwave radio or on satellite, but now by downloading French, Arabic, and, soon, English programs.

A Variety of Other Evangelistic Activities

During the past quinquennium we have experienced significant developments and deep changes, which show that the Lord has led us to strengthen and to experience unity in diversity.

The restructuring of our division territory as of January 2003 has represented a major change in the life and work of the Euro-Africa Division. By this action two of the largest and fastest-growing unions have been incorporated into the newly created division in Africa. This experience meant more than the readjustment of our membership by more than 50 percent. It also meant the change of a mutual relationship of giving and receiving with a field so different from the European field.

For the European part of the Euro-Africa Division, this territorial restructuring has represented a challenge with a strong motivational potential. Major evangelistic events have strengthened the confidence and the courage of our European church members. The enthusiastic participation in satellite evangelistic campaigns produced by our unions has given a strong support to our church members and has motivated them to share their faith with people around them. Satellite campaigns were broadcast from Germany, France, Italy, Portugal, and Romania, including two satellite campaigns specifically designed for young people. Prioritizing its financial means, the EUD was able to lead out in these initiatives with the support of the

General Conference and the proficiency of the team of our media center in Darmstadt.

Evangelism has become an important element of our church's life. Euro-Seeds, starting in 2001 as an ongoing process, has contributed to evangelism through church planting. Different models have helped to reach out to our diverse society. Youth Challenge in Austria, the Go Conferences in Germany, the Hope church in Paris (France), the One Year for Christ project in Geneva (in close cooperation with the José Figols Youth Center and the Theological Department of the Saleve Adventist University), and the Pioneer Church Planting Volunteers' Program in Romania have significantly contributed to the establishment of many new congregations.

Sow 1 Billion has motivated many members to distribute leaflets inviting people to study the Bible. With the financial help of one of our major institutions, in Germany alone about 17 million "Take Jesus" cards have been distributed. There has been a dramatic increase of enrollments for Bible studies. All these actions have led to a new awareness of the evangelistic potential of our lay members and youth.

In 2003 the Spanish Union organized a field school for evangelism with international participation. The aim was to prepare for the Year of World Evangelism in 2004, during which more than 500 lay members throughout the division discovered their call to preach the gospel in public evangelistic campaigns. Another 700 are preparing to join the group. Motivated pastors and members have contributed toward a membership net increase of 5.01 percent during the first four years of the quinquennium, totaling 171,076 members as of June 30, 2004.

Involvement in Society

The idea of becoming relevant to the community has generated creative actions on the local and national levels. In Romania, *Tinserv* (in English, "Youthserve") has become a program known for its involvement of groups of

young people helping the poor, sometimes even building houses for people in need or helping them in their daily struggles. The Italian Union concept of using local churches as community social centers, and the Bulgarian projects helping ethnic groups such as the Romani population, have made an impact on the image of the church in society.

Successful symposiums on religious liberty organized in Paris (France), Rome (Italy), Madrid (Spain), Sofia (Bulgaria), Prague (Czech Republic), and other places demonstrated a substantial contribution toward better awareness of the needs of minorities in Europe, thus providing a deeply appreciated report for governmental entities.

Humanitarian projects highlight the earnestness of the Euro-Africa Division's desire to get involved in the society of which the Seventh-day Adventist Church is a part. They include the program initiated by ADRA/Switzerland for continually feeding thousands of children in North Korea, the extraordinary commitment of our ADRA team in Afghanistan and the instantaneous help of ADRA/Germany for the homeless after the earthquake in Bam (Iran), the tremendous efforts after the tsunami tragedy in Southeast Asia, as well as the Friedensau University projects in India and its participation in the Commission for Minorities at the United Nations in Geneva, and the volunteer teams from our youth groups and schools such as Marienhoehe in Germany.

Conclusion

Sharing the gospel in the Euro-Africa Division territory is a tremendous challenge. But we have nothing to fear. God is with us.

Ever since M. B. Czechowski and J. N. Andrews set foot on our continent, the mission has been our reason for existence. In the words of Emil Brunner, "*The church exists by mission just as fire exists by burning. Where there is no mission, there is no church*" (*The Word and the World*, p. 108).

In the Footsteps of Paul

Based on 30 years of research, Tony Moore's fascinating series takes you back in time and helps you understand the world of the Apostle Paul. Each of the 20 thirty-minute presentations was filmed on location and will bring



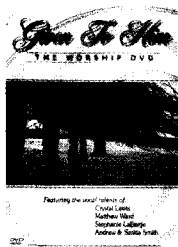
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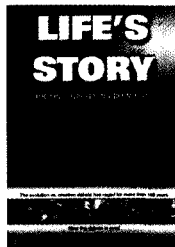
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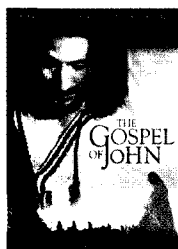
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It's the same old, same old at the local diner, where the regulars retread old banter. And some new guy sits alone at the counter. Then, a simple idea shatters that dull routine. Nothing would be the same again. Based on a true story. DVD, 90 minutes. 825346209296. US\$17.95, Can\$26.95.



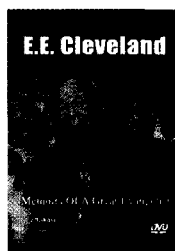
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Luka T. Daniel
President

A Period of Change and Explosive Growth

Presented Wednesday evening, July 6, 2005

We entered this quinquennium under the name Africa-Indian Ocean Division (AID), celebrating the division's twentieth anniversary during our 2000 year-end council. During that historic meeting, in which the division changed to its current name, we looked back and saw how the Lord had blessed our division.

The AID was established at the 1980 General Conference session. It began with a membership of 333,001, and in 20 years it reached 1,452,735 members. It began with a total of 47 church entities (45 missions and two conferences, Ghana and Nigeria). Twenty years later the number of local conferences had increased to 16, bringing the total number of church entities to 58. From one institution of higher learning we ended the 20 years with six. The period saw the development and consolidation of unity despite the diversity of languages and cultures in the 32 countries that made up the division.

At the time the Ghana Union Conference, the first union conference in sub-Saharan Africa, was just 11 months old. (Ghana was also the country of the first local conference in 1970.) The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the entire West African subregion owes its beginning to Francis I. U. Dolphijn, an African who, in 1888, began keeping the Sabbath after reading literature sent by the International Tract Society that had been supplied to him by the

captain of a ship anchored in Apam, in present-day Ghana.

The Change and the Challenge

In 2002 another child was born, the recommendation of a General Conference commission on Africa. The new child was initially named the Western Africa Division (WAD), but the name was later modified to West-Central Africa Division (still WAD). The child was actually a triplet. Two other divisions were born along with it, the East-Central Africa Division (ECD) and the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID).

WAD was left with five of the 10 major entities that made up the former AID, namely, Central African Union Mission, Ghana Union Conference, Nigeria Union Mission, Sahel Union Mission, and West African Union Mission. Luka Tambaya Daniel was president; Gilbert Wari, secretary; and Ceazar Hechanova, treasurer. The membership was instantly reduced by almost two thirds, from 1,582,959 to 628,303. Thus ours became the smallest of the new divisions in terms of church administrative entities and membership.

We did, however, retain three institutions of higher learning: Adventist University Cosendai in Cameroon, Babcock University in Nigeria, and Valley View University in Ghana. These institutions have so excelled in quality Christian education that they rank among the best in their respective countries. The last two have been fully chartered in the past quinquennium, thus attracting an influx of students as

well as visits from government leaders of the countries they serve. Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo worshipped with the Babcock University community at the University church in October 2002; and Alhaji Aliu Mahama, vice president of the Republic of Ghana, was guest speaker at the Valley View University graduation in September 2003. Most of the 2,982 people baptized through the involvement of the three universities in 2003 were formerly non-Adventist students.

In spite of the huge reduction in the size of our division, there were a number of positives. Travel expenses became more cost-effective. Formerly there were times when some of us had to go through Europe to get to some destinations within the division. Unity also became easier to achieve and maintain with this smaller size.

Integrated Evangelism Outreach

In order to boost our membership we continued our outreach drive with the involvement of all the departments of the church. We integrated it with similar outreach initiatives from the General Conference, such as Go One Million, Sow 1 Billion, and, in 2004, the Year of World Evangelism. We also continued what has come to be known as Partnership Evangelism, an outreach relationship between our division (AID/WAD) and conferences, unions, and self-supporting ministries in North America.

A few of the successful Partnership Evangelism campaigns of this quinquennium include the following:

In Cameroon the government generously allowed us to use the national stadium in Yaoundé free of charge to run the Visions for Life satellite series in November 2002. The main speaker was Doug Batchelor, director of Amazing Facts, with support from the Adventist Television Network (ATN). More than 1,000 people were baptized at the main site alone.

In preparation for the Yaoundé satellite evangelism, thousands of Bible studies were conducted by church members, old and young, male and female. One of these dedicated members, Josephine Wagu, enrolled 1,350 students in Bible courses; 185 were baptized. One of those baptized went immediately to Adventist University Consendai to study theology. The Bible lesson studies were followed by about 1,000 small group minicampaigns run by ministers and lay volunteers, coordinated by Gabriel Boakye-Dankwa, director of the division's Office of Evangelism and Global Mission.

In Nigeria the church hosted the Visions for Victory satellite evangelism series, with Don Schneider, president of the North American Division, as the main speaker. The King's Heralds quartet from America, the Nigerian National Choir, and other singing groups from Nigeria's 10 conferences provided inspiring music. The series was uplinked from the Enyimba Stadium, Aba, home of the Enyimba Football Club.

The evangelistic outreach, conducted through most of November 2003, brought into the church an initial total of 19,662 new members nationwide, including more than 3,000 from the main site. "Sixteen new Branch Sabbath Schools were established, and two new churches were planted," reports Joseph A. Ola, formerly president of the Nigeria Union Mission, now president of the North-

Western Nigeria Union Mission.

In Ghana the Carolina Conference evangelism organization deployed students and lay preachers to run campaigns in more than 70 sites in the country. Peter O. Mensah, president of the Ghana Union Conference, reported a bountiful harvest of 7,603 new members.

Partnership Evangelism is not limited to the use of the services of foreign partners only. Allah-Ridy Kone, president of North Cameroon



Pathfinders during a march-past at the first division Pathfinders camporee in Lome Togo, August 2004

Conference in the Central African Union Mission, has been using conventional public evangelism, baptizing hundreds of people, including Muslims. He uses a kind of partnership evangelism that engages preachers from both the union and the division. Last year he used the services of Pulcherie Tchoualeu, wife of the former union conference president. In that one year Mrs. Tchoualeu led out in two public campaigns, resulting in the baptism of 259 people.

In Gambia, E. Haapasalo, president of West African Union Mission, reported the baptism of 86 people at three sites in and around the capital, Banjul. This is the first of its kind in Gambia, which is predominantly Muslim. Some of the new converts are being sent as pioneer witnesses to their people.

Self-support

We strongly believe that mission status is a temporary arrangement for any administrative entity. Hence we have vigorously pursued the goal of developing our missions into conferences. At the final AID year-end council, held in Yaoundé, November 2002, the remaining three missions in Nigeria were granted conference status. With that action, all the church administrative entities in Nigeria became conferences.

This development encouraged the Nigeria Union Mission to request reorganization into two union conferences. Carlyle Bayne, former field secretary in charge of strategic planning and stewardship, began processing the request. When he went back to the Inter-American Division on permanent return, his successor, Danforth Francis, continued this work with equal enthusiasm.

A survey team from the General Conference recommended the creation of two union missions: the Eastern Nigeria Union Mission (ENUM), with a membership

of 127,201 and headquarters in Aba; and the North-Western Nigeria Union Mission (NWUM), with 90,482 members and headquarters in Lagos. Both membership figures are as of December 31, 2003. At its past year-end meeting, the WAD elected officers for the two new unions. For the NWUM they are J. A. Ola, president; O. Okonkwo, secretary; and M. M. Dangana, treasurer. G. C. Nwaogwugwu, B.E.O. Udoh, and E. G. Manilla were elected as president, secretary, and treasurer, respectively, for ENUM. The two union missions were challenged to work toward becoming union conferences within two years.

Other Developments

God has helped us acquire some sophisticated equipment for our publishing house, the Advent Press. With

a four-color press, the facility is now equipped to print books that are not only affordable, but also of superior quality. Our goal is to make it the printing press for all of Africa.

Similarly, we purchased a machine that can produce quality video programs for our media center in the office headquarters. In fact, we used it to produce our video report for this General Conference session. These two organizations are serving as the centers of the production of materials for both outreach and spiritual nurture.

We can report some encouraging developments in our health ministries, too. For years the only eye hospital in our division has been the one at Gleï, in Togo, Sahel Union Mission. But in January 2004 another one was added with the dedication of the Seventh-day Adventist Cooper Eye Center in Monrovia, Liberia. This project began in 1999 with a visit of the regional officials of the Christian Blind Mission that eventually led to the choice of our hospital as one of the centers to provide eye-care services in Liberia.

In the meantime we are still struggling to solidify our postgraduate medical education at the Seventh-day Adventist Hospital Ile-Ife in Nigeria. We are encouraged by an increase in the number of Adventists coming into the program. With the decision to make the Seventh-day Adventist nursing school at Ile-Ife a degree-awarding institution, the school has begun a process of affiliation with Nigeria's Babcock University.

Special Events and Features

We ended 2003, our first year as the West-Central Africa Division, with a number of landmarks. The year-end council was graced with the presence of our world church leader, Jan Paulsen. He cut the ribbon for the multipurpose building that is, for practical purposes, the Riviera

Seventh-day Adventist Church. The same day a government official cut the tape for the completion of the general renovation and extension of our office building, accomplished loan-free and debt-free.

In August about 3,000 women camped at Grand Bassam, near Abidjan. The General Conference was represented by its former Women's Ministries director, Ardis Stenbakken.

Also in August about 2,000 youth had their Pathfinder camporee in



Women leading out in Sabbath school classes during the International Congress of Adventist Women held in the division

Lomé, Togo. Matthew A. Bediako, secretary of the General Conference, attended the occasion. The young people returned home with testimonies of rich spiritual experience.

Another special event was the inauguration of the two union missions in Nigeria, which took place on the grounds of the proposed office of the new Eastern Nigeria Union Mission. It was the culmination of a special session of the former Nigeria Union Mission and its final year-end meeting. A vote to dissolve the union was taken and the two new unions went into action and elected their department directors and laid plans to move toward becoming union conferences. Before the Sabbath sermon, a message of goodwill from the Abia State governor, Orji Kalu, was read by his deputy, Chima Nwafor. Choirs in colorful traditional costumes from the five conferences of the new ENUM provided the

music. Elder Bediako preached the sermon for the worship service, in which he called the congregation to rededicate themselves to ideals of spiritual maturity demonstrated in self-sacrificing love that ignores regional and/or ethnic boundaries.

The services were conducted on the site of the proposed office complex of the new ENUM, a large piece of land worth 8 million naira (more than US\$57,000). The entire piece of land was purchased and donated to the

ENUM by E. O. Adaelu, an Adventist lay leader and industrialist. Another church elder, Frank Adieleuwa, provided the sand that has been used for construction to this point. Dr. Adieleuwa supervises a ministry to the destitute and those in prison. His unique ministry garnered so much public attention that the federal government of Nigeria appointed him national prison counselor. He was also recently appointed director of the Hope Channel of the Adventist Television

Network in Nigeria.

Quinquennial Objectives

We plan to implement three overarching objectives for the next quinquennium, christened Win One, Every Day With Jesus, and Global Mission. We plan to join the rest of the world in achieving these objectives through training, soul winning, church planting, spiritual nurture, and self-support.

Since the primary duty of the church is soul winning, we plan to use the first objective, Win One, as a means of doubling our membership during the next quinquennium. We plan to use the slogan "Win One Each One, Each One Win One!" We believe that with a program like this, supported by good training, God will use all, ministers and members alike, to make the doubling of our membership in five years a mission possible.

Continued from page 19.

same way that our world divisions that operate in their specific regions away from the General Conference are separated.

When we set up the North American Division as a separate division and loosened it from the General Conference, we allowed it to have its own budgetary provisions and finances, which it uses to administer the work in North America.

However, there are a number of institutions in North America that are General Conference institutions, owned and operated by the global church, such as universities, publishing houses, etc. They clearly are in North America, and it could well be argued that they belong to the North American Division, but we chose to make them General Conference institutions because they serve the global church. All the other divisions have their own universities and publishing houses. North America is different. For that reason it is important that we keep a close relationship with the officers of the North American Division and the officers of the General Conference. They are part of our thinking and planning process. In recognition of that close tie, the one who is chosen as secretary of the North American Division is also an associate secretary of the global church, the General Conference. The one who serves as treasurer for the North American Division is also an associate treasurer of the General Conference. This arrangement was made long before we set up the provisions for a separate North American Division. The president for North America, however, is not listed as a general vice president; but he (as well as all other division presidents) is listed as a vice president of the General Conference. And those of us who work at the General Conference and in the North American Division know how important it is that we stay together. Thank you very much.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Thank you, Dr. Paulsen, for your comments. [Called on Jere Patzer, chairman of the Nominating Committee.]

JERE PATZER: We have 15 names to present to you from the Nominating Committee this morning. These 15 names are ones that are, with exception of one, incumbents. And so they may very well be familiar to you.

DELBERT BAKER: I will read the complete list first, and then we will go back and take each name one by one. [The list can be found in the actions of this session.]

JERE PATZER: We will now take each of these individuals name by name and ask our chairman to call for the vote.

DELBERT BAKER: For the director of publishing we have a new individual, Howard Faigao, and our chairman will comment about our recommendation.

JERE PATZER: This is to take the position that Jose Campos has been so ably fulfilling since the year 2000. Jose Campos is retiring at this time. Brother Howard F. Faigao is a very talented, committed, dedicated individual. He speaks Filipino as well as English. Ordained in 1981, he has served in several different fields, but his love has been publishing. He has been associate director since the year 2001, and so in a sense he is an incumbent to that office. Before that, he served in various parts of the world in publishing work and publishing leadership. That's a very brief biographical sketch, which should at least give you a little sense of who Howard Faigao is. [Each name was voted on and accepted.]

ARMANDO MIRANDA: You will recall that we are considering an amendment to Article IV of the General Conference bylaws. We have spent a considerable amount of time on this item. Hopefully we will be able to bring it to a resolution during this session. Please go to item 304.

CLAUDE RICHLI: I don't know if this is in order, but I rose to the microphone last afternoon for the matter that pertained to item 207, Growing in Christ.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Well, it's not the time; we have on the floor the motion regarding 304, thank you.

DIONISIO OLIVO: Mr. Chairman, I move the previous question.

[The motion was seconded and voted.]

ARMANDO MIRANDA: We can now take up item 304, an amendment to the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Article IV, Section 2, which now reads as follows: "The secretary of the North American Division, by virtue of election to that responsibility, shall also be an associate secretary of the General Conference."

[Item 304 was voted.]

Let's go to item 305, which is related to item 304: "The treasurer of the North American Division, by virtue of election to that responsibility, shall also be an associate treasurer of the General Conference."

[Item 305 was moved, seconded, and voted.]

In harmony with a promise I made to him yesterday, I would like to ask Dr. Geraty to speak.

LAWRENCE T. GERATY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I want to affirm our General Conference president and the Nominating Committee and this general body for electing Dr. Ella Simmons to the position of General Conference vice president. Having worked with her for four years at La Sierra University, I can tell you that she is a spiritual as well as academic leader. She is a person who is articulate and carries herself with dignity, and I know that her whole life has really prepared her for

this responsibility.

Sunday morning I stood to support the two resolutions that we voted on the Holy Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. As you all know, it is much easier to pass resolutions than to live with the implications in ordering our lives accordingly.

Too often our traditions or cultural norms seem to influence us more than the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

So I want to commend the organizers and again this body for adopting these resolutions. Ellen White tells us in *Testimonies to Ministers* to search the Scriptures, and states, among other things, that "we should not study the Bible for the purpose of sustaining our preconceived opinions, but with the single object of learning what God has said" (p. 105).

So with that spirit I move that in the next quinquennium the General Conference Committee systematically review denominational policies and procedures in light of the two resolutions we have voted. In that way, we will not lose the value of those two documents that were voted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. [The motion was seconded and voted.]

CLAUDE RICHLI: Mr. Chairman, I have been waiting in line to have the opportunity to speak, and I was twice reminded that I was out of order, but I believe that I am in order now, since the chairman made a promise to me yesterday.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: You are right. I apologize for that. Please go ahead.

CLAUDE RICHLI: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am rising, in the wake of the technical problems that occurred yesterday when I was unable to make my points, to make a motion to reconsider the action on the fundamental belief Growing in Christ, and send it back to the committee.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to state emphatically that I am not bringing this motion out of a sense of being personally slighted by the procedure, but because I wish to give us a chance to be perceived by millions of Muslims as their friends and not their enemies.

I believe that this is of vital importance as we seek to answer the greatest evangelistic challenge that still remains before us. Thank you. I move to reconsider the action on the fundamental belief Growing in Christ, and send it back to the committee.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Let me say that under the *General Conference Rules of Order*, the motion to reconsider must be made by one who voted for the motion, and since you voted against, you cannot make a motion to reconsider.

CLAUDE RICHLI: If that is not possible, Mr. Chairman, then let me move to rescind the previous action.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: OK, you are now asking to rescind the motion. Is there

a second? We have a second. In this case, according to our rules and procedures, we need to have a two-thirds vote to rescind the action. Is there any discussion?

OKORIE C. ANYAOGU: Mr.

Chairman, I need clarification. Has this issue been voted yet? Are we discussing the election of Ella Simmons as one of the vice presidents?

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Please allow me to interrupt you, because we are discussing at this moment whether to rescind the item on fundamental beliefs. Please come back later. This is the time to make some comments or observations regarding the motion that we have on the floor. Thank you very much.

PETER ROENNFELDT: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the motion to rescind and give this item the opportunity of going back to the writing committee. You've heard explained from Claude Richli the problems that we have had with the technology yesterday prior to vote, and I was one of those who had registered my name to speak before the chair called for the person who moved question on the previous motion. This is a most important issue for us to give consideration to, and the fact that such a large number of people voted against that motion is a matter of serious concern to the church.

And I believe that their voting was based on two issues. One was our concern to include just a couple of words that would give explanation to the cross. The cross was not seen as an icon in this setting. The other was the concern that the process simply was not working yesterday prior to this most important vote, and I would urge the delegates to give the opportunity for this item to be discussed and go back to the writing committee to take into account the seriousness of the mission that we have as a church. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Thank you very much. We need to be focused on the fact that the motion is to rescind.

RICHARD ELOFER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to say that I support fully this motion from Claude Richli. I would like to address my remark to every delegate here. Please don't vote against this motion. We are not against this fundamental belief. We agree with the fundamental belief. We just want correct formulation so that it helps us reach the people we have to reach. And if we have this opportunity to send the text back to the writing committee, we will have a chance to be heard by this committee, and maybe we will have a correct formulation.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Thank you, Elder Elofer. We have a point of order.

VIOLETO BOCALA: Yes, Mr.

Chairman, point of order. If I understand it right, the previous speaker's motion was to rescind the action.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: That's correct.

VIOLETO BOCALA: If we vote to rescind, we will dispose of the action. And if I understand it right, he has no objection to that fundamental belief, but only to some technicalities. Mr. Chairman, I think the right motion should be to reconsider so that we can rediscuss it. But rescinding the fundamental belief will dispose of it.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Thank you, but we have the motion to rescind on the floor.

VIOLETO BOCALA: Mr. Chairman, that is the very reason I call for the point of order. Elder Richli has no objection to the recommendation. He wants to make some revision only. So it should be simply a reconsideration.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Yes, the delegates are hearing what you say, but we are here to decide what we're going to do with the motion that we have on the floor. Thank you very much.

KEN STANTON: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the motion. I want to draw the body's attention to the protocol for the revision of the fundamental belief that we recently voted. And part of that protocol indicated that the purpose of adding to or revising a fundamental belief was for the benefit of the church as a whole. Now the result of some suggestions of minor changes to the wording of the proposed fundamental belief has created significant opposition. That indicates that the expression in the form it was presented did not meet what leaders in some areas of the church considered would be of benefit to that part of the church, and therefore it didn't meet the test of that protocol. With some minor changes it will meet that test, and I therefore support the motion to rescind.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: All right, you are in favor.

NEIL WATTS: I was concerned that some may have received the impression that Dr. Paul Pedersen from our Biblical Research Committee was not representing the leadership of our division, and that is incorrect. The presidents, the executive committee, and the unanimous vote of the Biblical Research Committee did support his objections to the statement as originally given.

So I'd just like to support those who would like to reconsider this. I think that with just a few words changed to alleviate some of the concerns we could have consensus. This is such an important statement. It is not worth going away from this General Conference session with tension and contentions over such an important issue that I think can easily be resolved by a few minor modifications of the statement as originally presented. Thank you.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Thank you very much. Let me clarify: the issue before

us is not to reconsider; the motion is to rescind.

JOHN FOWLER: Mr. Chairman, I stand to speak against the motion. If some think that certain words expressed here, such as the cross representing an icon or an idol offensive to certain population groups, then I would like to submit that there are phrases and statements in the entire 27 fundamental beliefs that are also offensive to many population groups. I come from a country that has more than 900 million Hindus who cannot conceive of the shedding of blood as a remission of sins or to accept Jesus as the Son of God.

What we vote here is not to please various populations. What we vote here is not an evangelistic statement. This particular statement has had input from the world church for two years, and I do not think it is proper after voting that statement by an overwhelming majority to come back and reconsider or rescind the statement. Therefore, I would appeal to the delegates to reject this motion and let the statement stand as it is. Thank you.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Thank you. We have two points of order.

PATRICIA GUSTIN: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure whether this is a point of order or simply a question for clarification. For some of us who perhaps are less familiar with this procedure or for whom English is not our primary language, perhaps we need to clarify the difference between *rescind* and *reconsider*.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Thank you for calling our attention to that.

ROSCOE HOWARD: Let me just share something with you. The reason Elder Richli could not move to reconsider was that he was a dissenting vote and that by parliamentary procedure you cannot move to reconsider the motion if you were a dissenting vote. Thus he changed his motion, making it to rescind rather than to reconsider.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Thank you very much for the clarification.

PATRICIA GUSTIN: What are the implications if we vote to rescind?

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Elder Howard, can you help us?

ROSCOE HOWARD: If we rescind the motion, then it would be completely deleted, as though it has not been brought to this body. On the other hand, to reconsider would make it possible to amend the motion.

PATRICIA GUSTIN: Is our choice, then, either to vote this down or wait five years to reconsider?

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Not necessarily.

PATRICIA GUSTIN: What are our choices, Mr. Chairman?

ARMANDO MIRANDA: If this motion is defeated, the next step will be to

reconsider.

PATRICIA GUSTIN: Thank you.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: I would like to invite Dr. Walter Carson, our parliamentarian, to present an explanation.

WALTER E. CARSON: Let me basically tell you where I think we are. The first proposed motion was to reconsider. If we had voted to reconsider the motion, the new fundamental belief proposal would be before the body for further consideration and discussion once again. The body could refer the matter to a committee, or it could process the matter in some other way, if it were once again before us. But the gentleman that made the motion to reconsider could not properly, under our rules, make that motion, because he had voted against the motion when it was first before us. He understood that, and when he was told that fact, his recourse, on his own volition, was to make a motion to rescind.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Thank you very much, Dr. Carson. Our time is over, but we need to continue the discussion. We need to table the motion. Does someone want to make a motion to table?

ROSCOE HOWARD: I would so move, Mr. Chairman.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: [The motion to table was seconded and voted.]

JOHN GRAZ: Mr. Chairman, brothers and sisters, dear friends, it is a great honor and a pleasure to introduce Reverend Jean Arnold de Clermont, president of the French Protestant Federation and chairman of the Conference of the European Churches, which represent more than 220 million believers. Reverend de Clermont is the official voice of Protestants in France, among whom Seventh-day Adventists are included. He has been a great defender of religious freedom, and his interventions have been helpful for Adventists.

JEAN A. DE CLERMONT: Brothers and sisters, I bring you the warmest salutations from the French Protestant Federation and the Conference of European Churches. This morning I want to say that in our secularized Europe and maybe secularized world we should not be in competition one with the other, but should fully respect our diversity of spirituality and theology, working together in our common mission to bring to the people the Word of God. This is my strong conviction, and this is why I am so happy to share this conference with you. Thank you.

JOHN GRAZ: Mr. Chairman, brothers and sisters, dear friends, Adventists and Baptists share many common beliefs. Baptists, like Adventists, believe in the Word of God, baptism by immersion, and religious liberty. In many places Adventists and Baptists join together to defend and promote religious freedom. It is a pleasure for me to introduce Pastor John Truex, who represents the Baptist World Alliance and

its nearly 50 million members.

JOHN TRUEX: Thank you, Dr. Graz. It brings us great joy to bring you greetings on behalf of the Baptist World Alliance and our president, Dr. Billy Kim, of Korea. Later this month in Birmingham, England, the Baptist World Alliance will meet celebrating 100 years of existence. So we join with you—may God bless your congress and give you much joy and hope in the coming years of ministry. Thank you.

BERT BEACH: Brothers and sisters, I take great pleasure in introducing to you another distinguished churchman, Dr. Paul Reiter, who is the executive presbyter of the local regional body of the Presbyterian Church (USA), with whom we have had very good relations, especially through the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. Dr. Reiter tells me that he has been very interested in watching our proceedings, and we are happy to have him here to give a few words of greeting to this body.

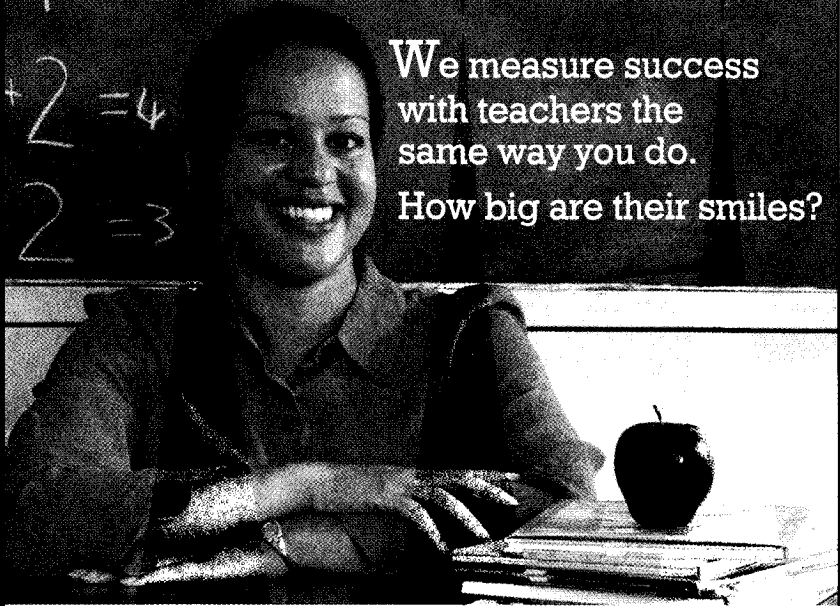
PAUL REITER: Good morning, sisters and brothers. I bring you greetings on behalf of the Presbyterian Church (USA), 11,000 congregations across this country representing nearly 3 million Presbyterians. I serve as the executive presbyter of the Presbytery of Giddings Lovejoy here in the

Greater St. Louis area, serving 100 congregations, and all of those congregations and our 25,000 constituents bring you a word of greeting and welcome here to Greater St. Louis. Our title, "Giddings Lovejoy," comes from Salmon Giddings, who was a church planter and evangelist west of the Mississippi, and Elisha Parish Lovejoy, who was an abolitionist who was martyred in his opposition to slavery. This tension of mission and evangelism is at the core of our work together as Presbyterians and also in the interfaith work that we have done together with the Seventh-day Adventists. On behalf of my sisters and brothers, I bring you these words of greeting and am delighted that we can share in this transforming work of Jesus Christ that is at the core of our united mission together as we seek to bring to the world the face, the witness, and the life of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your kind welcome.

SAMUEL MISIANI: [Benediction.]


ARMANDO MIRANDA, *Chair*
ROSCOE J. HOWARD III, *Secretary*
BILL BOTHE, ATHAL TOL-HURST, FRED THOMAS, and CLAUDE SABOT, *Proceedings Editors*

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Eighth Business Meeting Actions

July 5, 2005, 9:30 a.m.

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

UNDERSECRETARY AND ASSOCIATE SECRETARIES—CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

VOTED, To end discussion on the item, Undersecretary and Associate Secretaries—Constitution and Bylaws Amendment.

UNDERSECRETARY AND ASSOCIATE SECRETARIES—CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

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

ARTICLE IV—UNDERSECRETARY AND ASSOCIATE SECRETARIES

Sec. 1. An undersecretary and associate secretaries shall be elected to share with the secretary the responsibilities of the office. They shall perform such duties connected with the Secretariat as may be assigned to them by the secretary or by the Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. The secretary of the North American Division, by virtue of election to that responsibility, shall also be an associate secretary of the General Conference.

Sec. 3. The role of the General Conference undersecretary and associate secretaries, in relationship to the divisions, includes the following:

- a. To serve as liaisons with division secretaries as assigned by the General Conference secretary.
- b. To facilitate the processing of calls for interdivision employees.
- c. To recruit interdivision employees to fill the needs of the division.
- d. To assist the divisions with person-

nel and policy matters.

UNDERTREASURER AND ASSOCIATE TREASURERS CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Article VI—Undertreasurer and Associate Treasurers, to read as follows:

ARTICLE VI—UNDERTREASURER AND ASSOCIATE TREASURERS

Sec. 1. An undertreasurer and associate treasurers shall be elected to share with the treasurer the work of the office. They shall perform such duties connected with the Treasury as may be assigned to them by the treasurer or by the Executive Committee. They may be authorized by the Administrative Committee to sign checks under the instruction of the treasurer.

Sec. 2. The treasurer of the North American Division, by virtue of election to that responsibility, shall also be an associate treasurer of the General Conference.

Sec. 3. The role of the General Conference undertreasurer and associate treasurers, in relationship with the divisions, includes the following:

- a. To provide financial counsel, information, and analysis.
- b. To assist in conducting financial surveys as requested.
- c. To respond to special requests submitted by the division treasurers.
- d. To invest the assets of the divisions as requested by the divisions.
- e. To assist in international banking arrangements.

REVIEW OF DENOMINATIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

VOTED, To request the General Conference Committee during the next quinquennium to systematically review denominational policies and procedures in light of the Resolutions adopted on the Holy Bible and Spirit of Prophecy.

GS GROWING IN CHRIST—ADDITION TO THE STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS

A motion was made to rescind the action taken on July 4 on the document, Growing in Christ—Addition to the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs. The motion is held until the time of the next business session.
Adjourned.

ARMANDO MIRANDA, *Chairman*
ROSCOE J HOWARD III, *Secretary*
LARRY R EVANS, *Actions Editor*
ROWENA J MOORE, *Recording Secretary*

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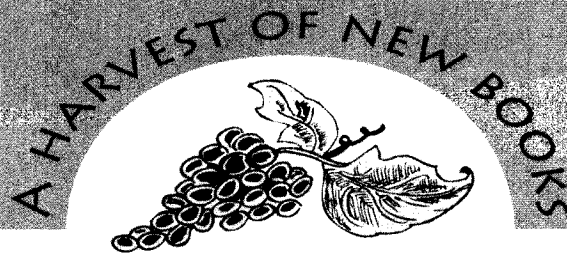
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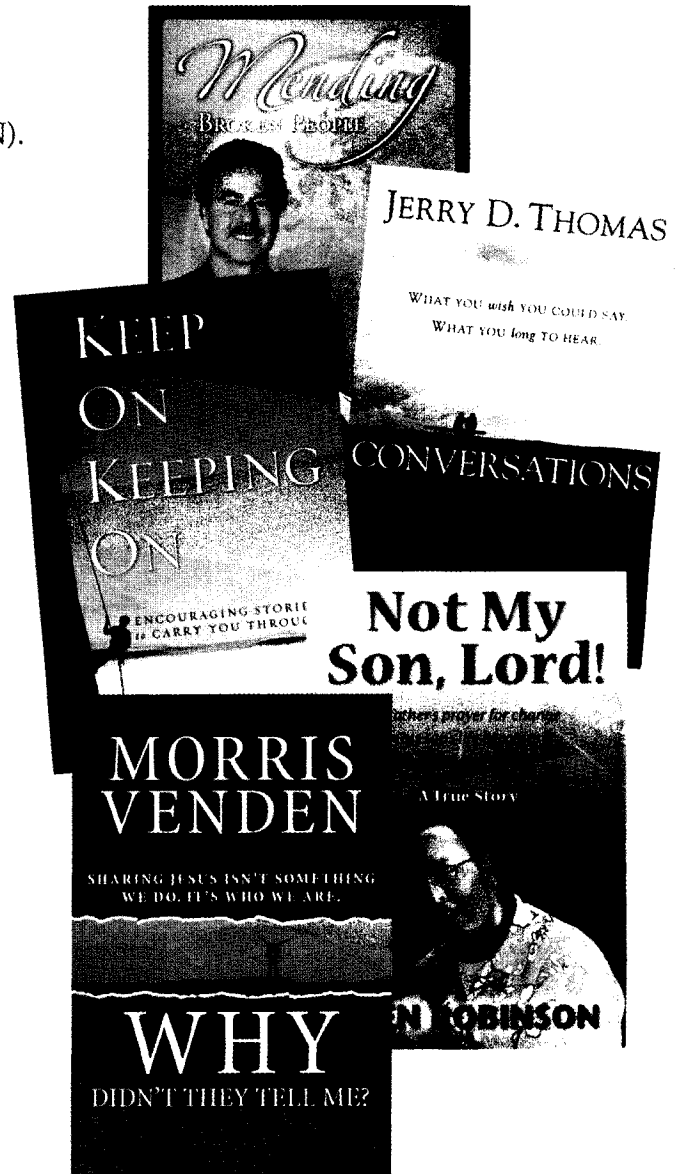
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