



TRANS-AFRICA DIVISION

# Outlook



General Church Paper of the Trans-Africa Division of Seventh-day Adventists

VOLUME LXIV

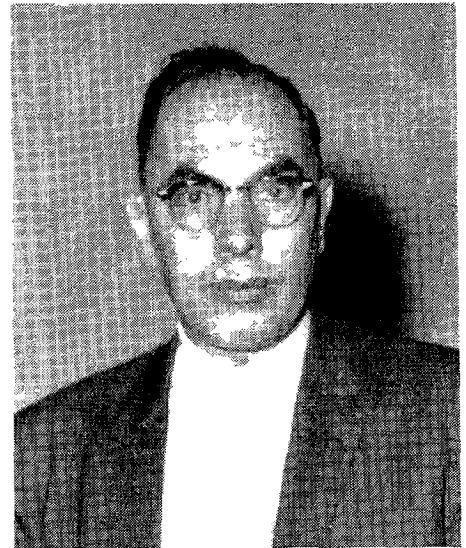
AUGUST 15, 1966

NUMBER 8

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**MERLE L. MILLS**, newly elected president,  
Trans-Africa Division.



**R. M. REINHARD**,  
re-elected treasurer.



**A. W. AUSTEN**,  
re-elected field secretary.



**M. E. LIND**,  
re-elected secretary.

# Greetings

## to the Trans-Africa Division Family



I take this opportunity, as your newly elected president, of sending you greetings from the 50th session of the General Conference, convening in Cobo Hall, Detroit, Michigan, United States of America.

Mrs. Mills and I are looking forward to joining you soon in the great and urgent task of proclaiming the gospel of Christ to Africa. The magnitude of such a task is staggering when viewed from a human standpoint, but despite the multiplied and perplexing problems peculiar to Africa let us claim the promises of God and courageously move ahead in faith. There must be no slackening of our pace nor lessening of our efforts in meeting the great responsibility that God has set before each one of us.

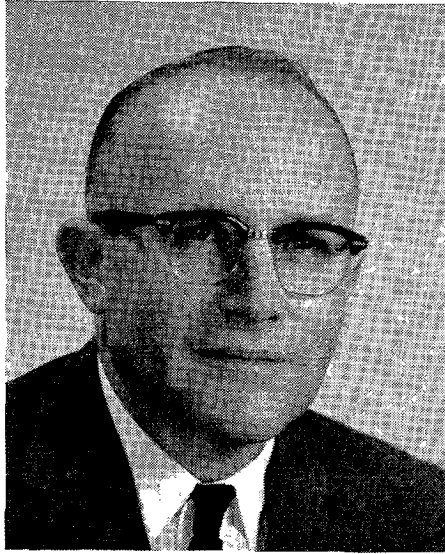
In the little time which remains to accomplish our mission, let us resolve that nothing will interfere with or supersede the work of winning souls. And most important of all, there be no neglect of or indifference to the supreme need of making a personal preparation for the soon-coming of our Saviour.

As I take up the duties to which I have been called, I feel very humble and conscious of my inability to meet this assignment, except as I lean heavily upon the strong arm of the Lord and am guided by His Spirit. As Mrs. Mills and I join the great Advent family in this challenging part of the Lord's vineyard we earnestly request an interest in your prayers that we may be successful and effective instruments in God's hands in helping to finish His work in the great Trans-Africa Division.

—MERLE L. MILLS

(Pastor and Mrs. Mills come to us from the Southern New England Conference in North America. They have two children, a son of 20, and a daughter of 18. Some of our workers and believers will remember Pastor Mill's visit to Trans-Africa in 1959, and the blessings his ministry brought us at that time.

On behalf of our OUTLOOK readers, we extend a warm welcome to Pastor and Mrs. Mills, and assure them that we are behind their program, supporting it loyally and faithfully. They expect to be with us by October 1.—ED.)



In a day or so Mrs. Pierson and I will be leaving the 50th session of the General Conference which has been in progress here in Detroit since June 16, and we will be travelling towards Washington. As you may know we have been called to other responsibilities, but before we take up these new duties, we want to send our warm Christian greetings to our workers and believers back in Trans-Africa where we have been labouring for the past 8 years. These have been happy years for Mrs. Pierson and me. There have been many problems, some frustrations, and not a few perplexities, but we are grateful to the Lord for what He has been pleased to accomplish during this period in challenging, emerging Africa. We are also grateful to each one of you for your prayers, your loyal support, and your Christian love and fellowship. All of these have contributed to the effectiveness of our program, and we thank you sincerely.

Now as Pastor Merle Mills takes over the leadership of the Trans-Africa Division, I know you have a very fine man

of God at the helm, one who will lead you wisely and in the fear of the Lord. I have every confidence that Trans-Africa will go on from strength to strength for the speedy finishing of the work. I shall be looking forward to hearing of outstanding achievements for God in your great land.

One thing that we rejoice over—we may be leaving Africa but Africa will not be leaving us. *You will still be in our parish!* We will, in a sense, be part of the Trans-Africa Division family and as such will always be happy to hear from friends there and will always want to do anything within our power to help the work and workers on that great continent.

We take this opportunity of wishing every one of you the rich blessing of the Lord. Be faithful, dearly beloved! The Lord is coming soon, and we want you to be with us on the sea of glass when Jesus appears.

Maranatha!

Robert H. and Dollis Pierson.

## Report of the T.A.D.

**Presented at the 50th General Conference Session, Detroit**

Africa—what a continent of challenge! No longer the dark continent it once was, Africa is a land where yesterday joins hands with tomorrow, creating a glad, yet ominous today.

Africa is a land of bustling modern cities with well-stocked stores and every modern convenience. Salisbury, Johannesburg, Cape Town, and other large African cities could be set down in any part of America or Europe and be a real credit to the area fortunate enough to have such an addition of enterprise, culture, and beauty.

Trans-Africa is large—sprawling over some 12 million square miles of blue sea, parched sands, and snow-clad peaks,

pleasing plateaux, and steaming jungles—with every type of terrain and climate in between.

Distances are great. It is more than 4,000 miles from our westernmost church on historic St. Helena Island in the Atlantic to our most easterly church in the palm-studded Seychelles group a thousand miles from Mombasa in the Indian Ocean.

Trans-Africa territory reaches from unentered Tristan da Cunha a thousand miles northward to the borders of Sudan and Ethiopia—a distance greater than from London to the Arabian Sea or from Singapore to Melbourne.

In this fabulous sweeping complex live

millions of people from many lands, representing many cultures, speaking many languages, and worshipping many gods.

The people of Trans-Africa are a lovable people—colourful, persevering, responsive—in most instances eager to hear the Word of God. What a challenge to the mission-minded church of the remnant!

The Adventist Church in the new Africa is a large, rapidly growing family composed of some 60 nationalities and tribes. Multiplied thousands of Africans, Europeans, Asians, and mixed races speaking 40 languages comprise the body of Christ in our part of this great continent. Workers from 20 near and distant lands have responded to calls from the mission board to serve in Trans-Africa. Here our worker group of some 4,000 is welded into a mighty army of dedicated soldiers of the cross.

### Public and Personal Evangelism

The rallying cry in Trans-Africa is "Evangelism!" This has been the key of our program during the past four years. Our lands have been on fire with evangelism—worker evangelism and lay evangelism, literature evangelism and medical evangelism, educational, institutional, and departmental evangelism.

Our workers and laymen have held all kinds of efforts—large and small, short and long, in our villages and in our cities.

At the close of 1965 there were some 125,000 persons in baptismal classes throughout the Division.

This is the hour when every branch of our work exists for but one purpose—to prepare men and women to live *for* Christ in this present evil world and to live *with* Christ in that glorious kingdom. He has gone to prepare for those who love Him.

During the past quadrennium more than 98,000 persons have been added to the church in Trans-Africa either by baptism or profession of faith. Thousands more have joined our baptismal classes. This means that on an average for the past four years a new church of 67 members has come into existence in our field every 24 hours.

We humbly thank God that this report is possible despite the turbulent times in which we live. We give Him all the glory for what has been accomplished through His grace and power.

### Literature Evangelism

Paul Owour, a humble farmer, was called from the plough into the bookmen's army in the East African Union.

### Statement by R. H. Pierson

*Upon Being Elected President of the General Conference*

Brother Chairman, Pastor Figuhr, delegates assembled here in this great conference this afternoon: I hardly know what to say. The very thought of accepting the solemn responsibility makes me tremble. Never has a man stood where I stand just now, who has needed your prayers and your support more than I do. With God's help and with the cooperation of the very fine leaders scattered around the world, I'll do my best. My faith and confidence in this message, its ultimate and early triumph, was never stronger than it is today.

With you I wish to rededicate my life to the finishing of the work in this generation. My heart is too full to say any more just at this time, but I appeal to everyone in this great auditorium to unite your hearts, your hands, and your prayers for a great forward movement of the cause of God. Pray for me.

Some time ago he felt a great burden to sell literature in a certain community near Lake Victoria. Upon his arrival he found the people very much out of harmony with his plan.

"We don't need you here!" they frankly told him. "The people here are not Christians. They are not interested in your religion. They will not buy your books. You will only starve to death here. Go away!"

But Brother Owour, with the divine

imperative resting upon him, felt impressed that he should carry out his plan.

"I will get along all right here," he replied courageously. "The people need my books. You need not fear that I shall starve to death. I have three helpers who always work with me, and together we shall succeed."

The people looked mystified, for he appeared to be alone.

"Three helpers?" they inquired. "Who are the others?"

"Well, you see," our literature evangelist continued confidently, "God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit have promised to help me. They have never failed me!"

The result? Today in this little heathen community, so hostile at first, there is a fine church organization of 70 baptized members. Brother Owour and his three heavenly Helpers succeeded again.

Our army of intrepid literature evangelists are blazing new trails through the jungle and over the veld of our great sprawling field. Our publishing houses and school presses are turning out literature in 34 languages. But we should be doing much, much more in getting the printed page into the hands of knowledge-hungry sons and daughters of Africa.

We are competing with many ideologies today. Now is our time to place the Advent message in the hands of people who are willing and eager to read. Today is the day for the printed page in Africa.

The past four years have been encouraging ones in our publishing work. The Lord has blessed J. N. Hunt and our



View of rostrum and congregation at 50th Ge



literature evangelists in their ministry for Him.

Our total deliveries for the quadrennium ending December 31, 1961, were nearly \$995,000. During the past four years this total has climbed to more than \$1,538,000.

In 1962 we had only 265 regular colporteurs. Today we have an army of more than 400 full-time literature evangelists. These men and women of God are interested in souls as well as in sales. On an average our literature evangelists were responsible for 220 converts every month during the past four years.

#### Classroom Evangelism

According to a recent annual report from the General Conference Department of Education, about one fourth of the denomination's schools and students are in the Trans-Africa Division. Never has there been such a determined quest for education as we are witnessing in Africa today. Our schools are more than "bursting at the seams"—they are literally pushing out the walls. In one year we had to turn away more than 10,000 children and young people seeking entrance into our institutions. There were not sufficient funds, facilities, or personnel.

Our schools have not only been imparting head knowledge to the youth of Africa but Christian teachers have made them truly evangelistic agencies as well. During the past four years 11,024 students were baptized.

The Trans-Africa Division is operating two senior colleges. We also operate three junior colleges. Thirteen secondary schools are woefully inadequate for the needs of our field.

## MORE THAN ONE MILLION FOR EVANGELISM

by C. L. TORREY

*Retiring Treasurer of the General Conference*

One of the outstanding high-lights of the 1966 General Conference session thus far was the Million Dollar Offering for world evangelism on Sabbath, June 18. The total reported was \$1,191,006.54.

Following Pastor Robert H. Pierson's earnest and inspiring message at the 11-o'clock hour, the presidents of the overseas divisions, the union presidents of the North American Division, and the General Conference institutional leaders each in turn stepped forward to the pulpit and reported the amounts raised by their respective fields and institutions toward this offering. In addition to this, the congregation made a further substantial contribution.

The loyalty of our people to the Advent cause was demonstrated yet again. We are assured that our members are solidly behind our world program, and that they are determined to press forward to finish the task. On behalf of the General Conference, the union and local conferences, missions, and institutions I take this opportunity to express to our brethren and sisters all around the world our deep gratitude for their generous and sacrificial gifts for the winning of souls and the hastening of Christ's Advent.

Our 1,054 elementary schools should be doubled, as 2,294 teachers seek to cope with the task of instructing more than 86,512 children and youth. Some of our greatest needs and problems are in the field of education.

#### Sabbath-school Evangelism

Brother Oneas Gutu works in our division office in Salisbury. Oneas rides his cycle 30 miles to and from work every day. He leaves home at five o'clock in the morning, stops by the railway station to sell magazines to passengers travelling by early morning trains, and then rides on to work.

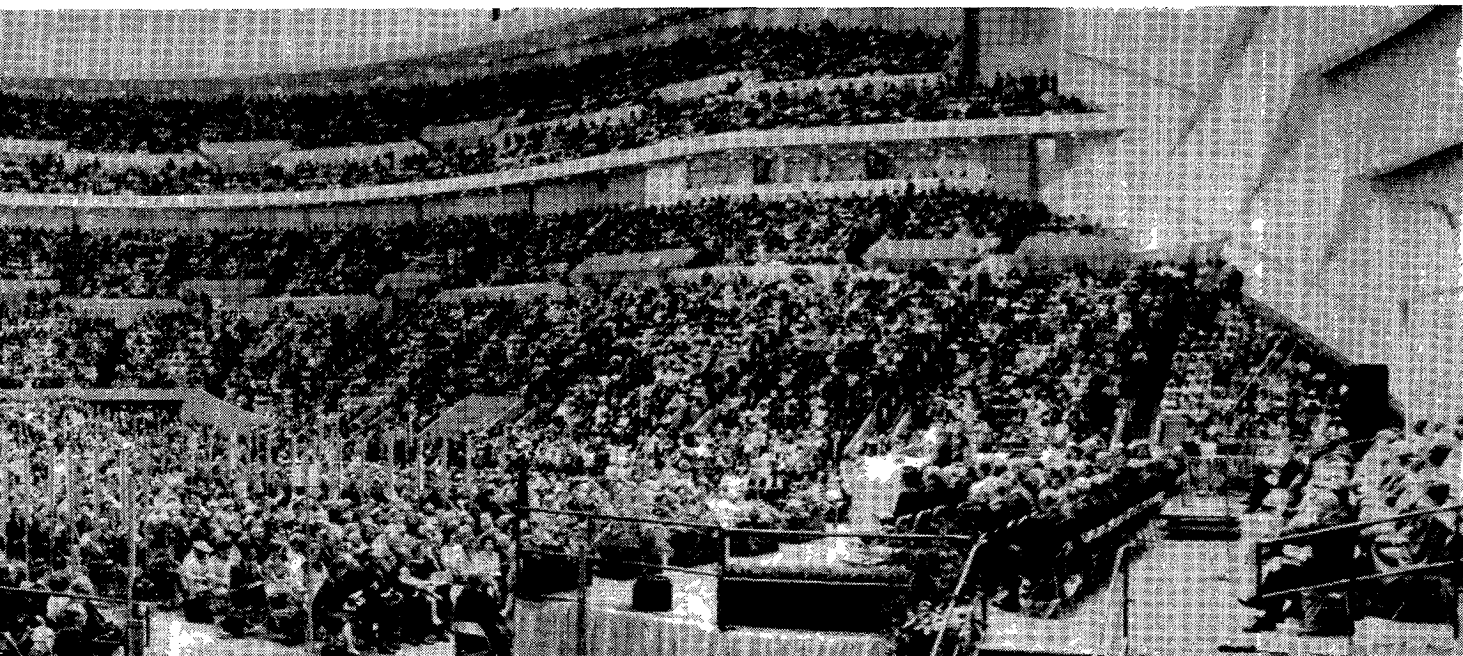
On Sabbath, Brother Gutu conducts a branch Sabbath-school. The first one he

started grew until it had 46 members. When the school was well established he turned it over to fellow workers and went to a new location to open another Sabbath-school. Today his branch schools have 61 members, and already nine persons have been baptized.

When you think of Sabbath-schools in Trans-Africa, however, you usually think in terms of acres rather than numbers. In 1953 we had 221,000 Sabbath-school members. In 1957 this number had increased to more than 293,000.

According to the most recent figures available from J. B. Cooks our Sabbath-schools have nearly reached the half-million-member mark that we set as our

*(Continued on page 8)*



Conference session, Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A.

# Opening of the 50th Session of the General Conference

Thursday-Friday, June 16, 17

By H. M. TIPPETT

As the fiftieth session of the General Conference opened in great surges of praise to God at Cobo Hall in Detroit tonight, with swarming thousands of believers mingling with delegates from every State in the Union and from 189 countries around the globe, I thought to myself that Isaac Watts's great hymn of exultation had come into its prophetic fulfillment:

"We'll crowd His gates with thankful songs,  
High as the heavens our voices raise:  
And earth, with her ten thousand tongues,  
Shall fill his courts with sounding praise."

From the metropolitan areas of the world's great continents they have come, and from farthest mission outpost. Representing more than 700 languages of earth, they are here from the cathedral cities of Europe and the rural crossroads of America, from the lands of David Livingstone and William Carey, of Adoniram Judson and Hudson Taylor. How inspiring to hear them singing under the enthusiastic leadership of Sunny Liu, singing evangelist for the North Pacific Union, with Dr. Warren Becker of Andrews University at the console of the great Rodgers pipe organ and organist Van Knauss of Faith for Today at the piano.

And what were they singing? Already you have guessed it. None other than the same songs that have kept bright the Advent hope through 12 decades of watchful waiting for our Lord to come.

At the first General Conference in 1863, twenty delegates from a half dozen States, along with a handful of believers, sang from that first *Advent Hymnal*:

"Soon He comes! With clouds descending;

All His saints entombed arise.

The redeemed in anthems blending  
Shouts of victory through the skies."

This Thursday evening 100 years farther on, 8,000 voices were singing the same theme: "The Golden Morning Is Fast Approaching" and "We Are Nearing Home."

The music committee for this session, headed by Charles Keymer and Wayne Hooper, spent many months planning for

special music for the scores of meetings that will be held. At this opening service, the Hymnsingers of Glendale, California, led by E. Lorne Jones, and made up of the King's Heralds, Del Delker, and Mrs. Maurita Phillips, sang "He's Coming Soon Again, I Know," and "Come Unto Me." The smooth tones of Prof. Norman Krogstad's baritone horn in a special arrangement of "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" afforded a change in mood from the vocal ensembles.

Those who attend these great gatherings of the church are fortunate to hear some of the well-known singing groups from our more populous church areas. The southern California ministers' chorus under E. Lorne Jones is one of these. Their two numbers, "In God Is My Salvation" and "Allelujah, Sing to Jesus" were one of the highlights of this first song service.

At eight o'clock, the upper balconies of Cobo Hall were beginning to fill as the General Conference officers and invited guest speakers took their places on the platform. Office secretaries responsible for recording the proceedings, public-relations staff members, REVIEW AND HERALD reporters and editors, and the session photographers occupied tables in front of the rostrum. Seated in chairs in front of

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## Department Secretaries of the Trans-Africa Division

*Elected at 50th General Conference Session.*

*Education and Sabbath School:*

G. F. CLIFFORD

*H.M., Church Development, and Stewardship:*

T. M. ASHLOCK

*Medical and Temperance:*

M. H. SCHAFFNER

*Ministerial and Public Relations:*

A. E. COOK

*Publishing:*

J. N. HUNT

*Y.P.M.V., Radio/TV and  
Bible Correspondence Schools:*

B. E. JACOBS

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the delegates on the main floor were dozens of veteran workers, present by special invitation of the General Conference officers. The soft radiance of happy memory rested on their faces as they recalled their own days of valiant leadership in the long procession of the faithful who have helped proclaim the Advent message around the world since 1844.

How appropriate then was the opening song announced by Theodore Carcich, vice-president of the General Conference for North America, "Lead On, O King Eternal." The hope and aspiration it expresses have long been inscribed on every believing heart, and no one needed a songbook.

Vice-President F. L. Peterson read Luke 21:25-36, the words of Jesus not long before He said farewell to His disciples. The familiar words surely must have gripped the attention of this great throng with new meaning: "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

General Conference secretary W. R. Beach offered a moving prayer of praise to God for what great things He has done in this past quadrennium, and pleaded that unity and humility might mark the triumphant progress of His people as they move on to the conclusion of the task given them to finish.

Then came what was one of the special music features of the entire evening, when the laymen's choir under Frank L. Foote of Battle Creek, against a brilliant background of trumpet fanfare sang, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." That it inspired everyone needed no demonstration.

Taking an offering for session expenses from an audience the size of this one in less than five minutes is a tribute to the preplanning organization that goes into preparations for a General Conference. This was accomplished by C. L. Torrey, General Conference treasurer.

Expressions of gratification and appreciation were made by R. R. Figuhr, General Conference president, for the facilities of Cobo Hall, for the courtesy of Detroit city officials, and for the co-operation of the newspapers in giving the session publicity. He noted that the population of metropolitan Detroit is about 1.6 million, and that is the current estimate of baptized believers professing the Advent faith.

Remarks of welcome were made by Jere D. Smith, president of the Lake Union Conference, host to this fiftieth session, and by N. C. Wilson, president of the Michigan Conference. This is the

thirtieth of the regular sessions of the General Conference held in Michigan, most of them in Battle Creek. Two were held in Lansing. Besides these, five special sessions were held in this State.

Dr. Henry Brown, Director of the Detroit Historical Museum, represented Mayor Jerome P. Cavanagh in an address of welcome on behalf of the city of Detroit. He particularly urged all delegates in their free hours to visit the cultural attractions for which the city is noted. He explained that the inability of Mayor Cavanagh to be present was due to ceremonies attending his election as president of the American Association of Mayors.

The theme song of the 1962 General Conference, "We Have This Hope," was so popular that it was adopted again for this one, and it was sung most effectively by the combined ministers' chorus and laymen's choir, then by these groups and the congregation together.

A message from the Honourable Lester B. Pearson, Prime Minister of Canada, was read by J. W. Bothe, president of the Canadian Union Conference. It praised the work of Seventh-day Adventists and their fine spirit as citizens of the Commonwealth.

A touching message of hope and confidence and good wishes from members in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics came from the church in Moscow.

Pastor Figuhr suggested that a message of loyalty and assurance of prayer be sent to President L. B. Johnson and his associates, for wisdom and direction in these stressful times. The suggestion received a popular response.

The actual business of the conference got under way with the seating of delegates. As each group was called, the members of it stood in their appointed places on the floor. Outside of North America, the division sending the largest delegation was Inter-America, with 168. The smallest was the Middle East Division, with 12. What wonderful stories of progress and providence, of trial and triumph, of mischance and miracle, these delegates will have to tell as the conference swings into full stride. How that first General Conference of the early church in Jerusalem would rejoice to see this day. A total of 1,415 delegates were seated.

The appointment of standing committees was done in due order, and tomorrow the machinery of organization will begin its appointed tasks. Those who work on these committees find that a great conference like this is no holiday, for the long hours of deliberation are exhausting.

Before Pastor Figuhr began his quad-

rennial report, he spoke feelingly of the passing of two stalwart workers whose leadership in the world affairs of the church was outstanding. One of these was former General Conference President C. H. Watson, and the other the long-time editor of the REVIEW AND HERALD, F. D. Nichol. He mentioned the esteem and affection in which both were held.

President Figuhr's address [reported that] the accession of nearly a half a million members in the last four years should give cause for rejoicing that the advance has been so great; on the other hand it should stimulate solemn reflection on its significance as a sign that time must surely be waning. Soon thousands will be converted in a day, the great controversy will come to its consummation and the general session of the redeemed will be held in a world complete in Him who is our salvation.

It was with regret, therefore, that the delegates heard the announcement of Pastor Figuhr's retirement following his formal report. His three quadrenniums of ranking leadership have been 12 years

of consistent advancement for the cause of truth. Some of us learned to love and appreciate his quiet strength in classroom days, and others have evaluated his faithful and loyal service through long years of association with him in the Philippines, in South America, and in the homeland. His retirement puts a grave burden on the nominating committee that will be formed before this report appears. President Figuhr's final counsel will find a loyal response: "It is in the middle of the road where constructive work is done."

**NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that in terms of the Rhodesia Conference constitution a session of the conference is called to convene at Anderson Memorial School, Gwelo, on Sunday and Monday, September 11, 12, 1966, to:

(a) Elect officers, departmental leaders, and an executive committee.

(b) Transact such other business as may properly come before the session.

The first meeting will be held at 9.00 a.m., Sunday, September 11, 1966 at Anderson Memorial School, Gwelo.

J. D. Harcombe, President  
C. K. Willmore, Secretary

**Trans-Africa Division  
OUTLOOK**

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MISS M. B. DAWKINS ..... Editor  
MERLE L. MILLS ..... Consulting Editor  
G. S. STEVENSON ..... Asst. Editor

**SUNSET CALENDAR  
OCTOBER 1966**

	7	14	21	28
Cape Town	6.52	6.58	7.03	7.10
Johannesburg	6.10	6.14	6.18	6.22
East London	6.13	6.19	6.24	6.31
Port Elizabeth	6.24	6.30	6.35	6.42
Bloemfontein	6.19	6.23	6.27	6.32
Pietermaritzburg	6.02	6.07	6.11	6.17
Durban	6.00	6.06	6.09	6.15
Windhoek	6.52	6.55	6.58	7.01
Bulawayo	6.05	6.07	6.09	6.12
Salisbury	5.53	5.54	5.56	5.59
Gwelo	5.57	5.59	5.01	6.03
Lusaka	6.05	6.06	6.07	6.09
Blantyre	5.38	5.39	5.40	5.42
Elisabethville	6.06	6.06	6.07	6.07
Nairobi	6.23	6.22	6.19	6.19
Mombasa	6.13	6.12	6.11	6.10
Kisumu	6.33	6.31	6.29	6.28
Kampala	6.41	6.39	6.36	6.36
Dar-es-Salaam	6.17	6.16	6.15	6.15
Tabora	6.41	6.41	6.40	6.39



W. DUNCAN EVA, recently elected president of the Northern European Division.

**General Conference  
Appointments**

*Vice-Presidents:*

R. S. WATTS, M. V. CAMPBELL,  
F. L. BLAND, T. CARCICH

*For North America:*  
NEAL C WILSON

*Secretary:*  
W. R. BEACH

*Treasurer:*  
K. H. EMMERSON

## Report of the T.A.D.

(Continued from page 5)

goal last General Conference time. We now have two unions with more than 100,000 Sabbath-school members in each of their fields! We believe in the Sabbath-school as the gateway to, and the heart of, the church.

In our lands where there is much poverty and disease, medical work plays a most important role in our over-all program. In seeking to follow in the steps of the Master we have laid emphasis on the medical work.

In Trans-Africa we have ten hospitals, attached to which are five leprosariums. Usually our bed capacity of more than 1,000 is far over-taxed. We also operate 66 clinics and dispensaries scattered strategically throughout our seven unions. Ninety-six doctors and nurses, assisted by nearly 300 helpers carry the burden of this work.

During the past quadrennium much has been done in the way of material improvements at our medical institutions. New wards have been erected. New clinic buildings have gone up. New staff homes have been provided. At Malamulo a completely new, modern leper hospital is now in use. But there are still many more needs to be met in our medical program.

### Financial Blessings

Now a quick glance at the financial side of the picture. Despite war, chaos, and inflation in some fields, and mild economic recession in others, God has wonderfully blessed His people. In the quadrennium ending in 1961 our division tithe income was \$3,460,000. During the past four years the total increased to \$4,612,876.80. For this we are profoundly thankful to the Lord.

Our members want to do their share in helping to finish the work all over the world as well as in our Division. Although a high percentage of our believers come from extremely low income areas, their giving has advanced in an encouraging manner during the past four years. For the quadrennium ending at the last General Conference session our gifts to missions totalled \$1,730,669. The past four-year total was \$2,031,318.80.

We have all had our heartaches as well as our joys in Trans-Africa. In one week during August of last year two of our stalwart leaders were stricken. P. J. van Eck, principal of Helderberg College in South Africa, and C. T. J. Hyde, field secretary for the Trans-Africa Division in Salisbury, passed to their rest within a few days of each other. With other of their fellow workers who laid down their armour during the past quadrennium they

await the call of the great Life-giver on the resurrection morning.

Taking courage and faith from their intrepid example, we who remain to face the challenge of the task in Africa rededicate our lives to the finishing of God's work in this great continent.

With confusion and frustration haunting us almost continuously for the past six years, workers in Trans-Africa have found comfort, courage, and power in prayer.

Our Division Fellowship of Prayer has called multiplied thousands of God's peo-

ple to the throne of grace each morning as we pray for workers and laymen as well as for fields and institutions.

Today as we face the future in Africa we solicit a continued interest in your prayers. We dare not face what lies ahead in our own strength. But through God's plenteous grace and mighty power we have no fear but that the truth will triumph gloriously in challenging emerging Africa in *this* generation, for "this work was wrought of our God" (Neh. 6:16).

## A Tribute to F. D. Nichol

Francis David Nichol, esteemed and beloved editor of the *Review and Herald* for 39 years, passed to his rest suddenly on Friday, June 3, 1966 in Takoma Park, Washington, D.C., at the age of 69. An autopsy revealed a traumatic tear in the aorta.

Here follows excerpts from a tribute written by his close associate in the Review office, K. H. Wood.—*Ed.*

Francis David Nichol was a great and good man. He was great in physical vigour, great in intellect, great in human emotions, great in deep convictions. And all that was great about him he dedicated to the Advent cause. As a skilful editor and eloquent preacher he applied the total capabilities of his tireless energy and brilliant mind to the task of articulating clearly the unique purpose of the great Second Advent Movement. With a single-mindedness that sometimes mystified and awed even his associates, he proclaimed both the truths held in common with all Christian bodies and those Biblical insights that are God's special gift to the world through the Advent people.

He not only proclaimed those truths, he defended them with all the sanctified vigour and wisdom at his command. He felt called upon to be one of God's lawyers in a world where higher criticism and scientific discoveries had placed historic fundamental Christianity on trial for its life. That he made a strong defence for truth, no one can deny.

And what he preached he lived. He believed that the Advent message must go to all the world in a brief span of time, and he always did more than his part to undergird that advance by generous contributions.

Pastor Nichol lived the kind of Adventism that seemed both reasonable and relevant in a twentieth-century context. He fought all forms of fanaticism, and even as he did so performed a successful marriage between faith and reason in his own life. Better than most people, he exemplified the beliefs of Adventism. . . . One of the many telegrams of condolence that have poured in since his death says, in part: "No one has served the cause of Christ with more devotion or with such fearless courage. He will long be re-

membered for his contribution to the church."

Some men shine with almost dazzling brilliance when before large crowds, but show up poorly in the person-to-person, day-by-day working relationship. This was not true with Pastor Nichol. While he had few, if any, peers in public presentations, he was likewise exceptional in many traits that are revealed only behind the scenes. He expected his fellow workers to put forth their best efforts, but he understood that the human element is uncertain at best, and when mistakes were made he always accepted the full responsibility as editor. He never tried to shift the blame to others, never sought to hide behind lesser men. . . .

What can we say in such a limited time to give any adequate picture of this man who used his God-given gifts so unstintingly in the service of the One who gave them? . . . Though he sometimes thought his brethren were mistaken in their decisions, he joined hands with them, so dedicated was he to the unity of the church. . . . He possessed such an abundance of natural talents that it would have been easy to grow more dependent on self and less on the Lord, yet he paused for short prayers at regular intervals during each day at the office, seeking wisdom and strength from Him who alone is the source of all things good.

Words cannot capture the essence that was Elder Nichol—the sparkle, the good humour, the rugged individualism, the mighty intellect, the deep spirituality. As the poet Browning wrote, ". . . all gifts which the world offers singly, on one head combine!" In our loss perhaps it would be appropriate to express our feelings through the famous literary passage borrowed for use in connection with the death of America's recent young president:

"When he shall die,  
Take him and cut him out in little stars,  
And he will make the face of heaven so fine  
That all the world will be in love with  
night,  
And pay no worship to the garish sun."  
Speaking personally, I can only say that a giant has fallen, and like a towering tree in the forest felled by a woodman's axe, his passing leaves "a lonesome place against the sky."