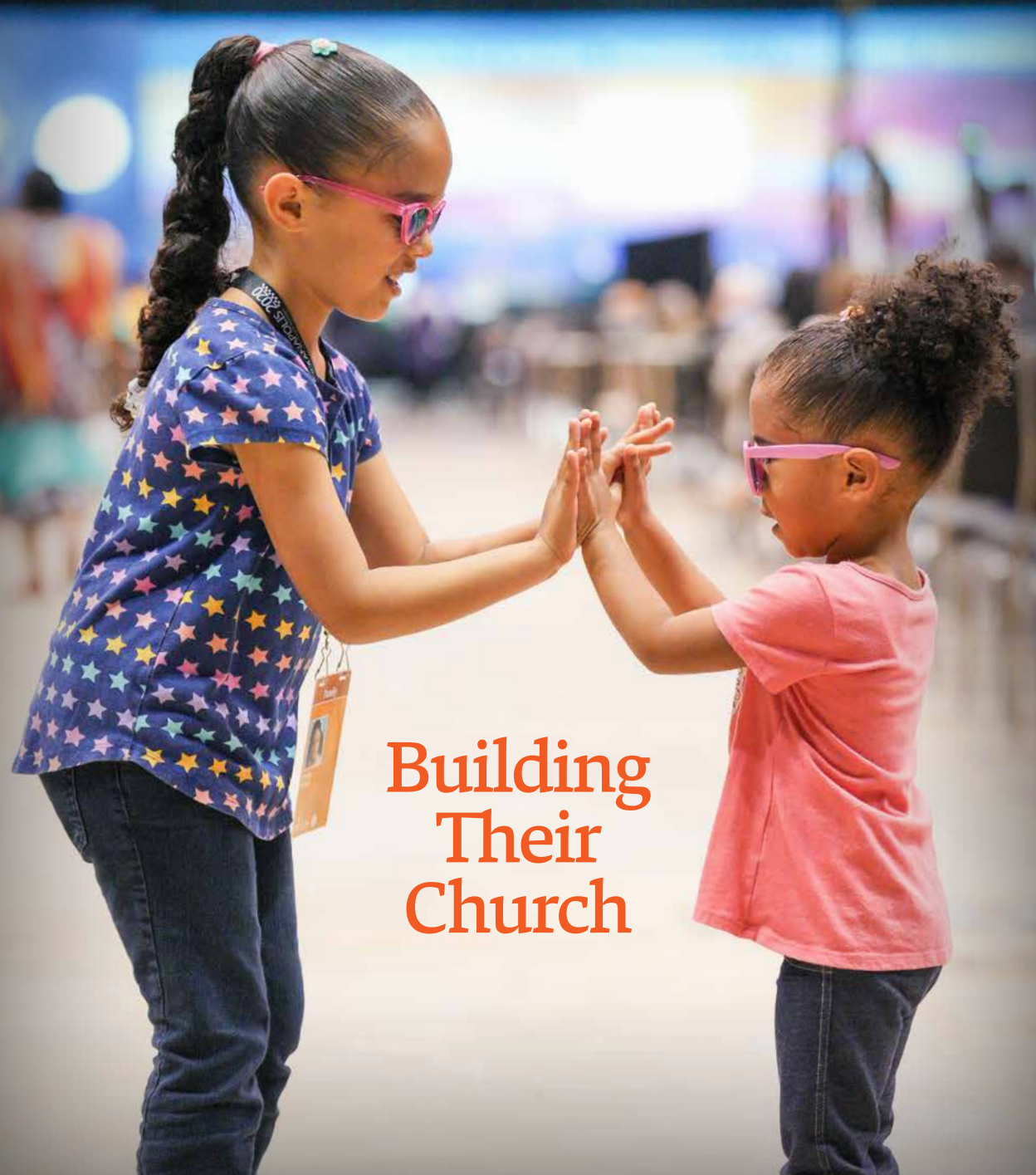


ADVENTIST REVIEW



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HIS Impact On Me

75 Year of Stories Like These



If you have been keeping up with Holbrook Indian School (HIS) then you know a good bit about the culture at this unique Adventist school. We go a little deeper into learning about the background of the Native students that are served, specifically those of the Navajo Nation, by speaking with Navajo Language and Navajo Government teacher, Sam Hubbard.

Mr. Hubbard was first introduced to HIS in the same way many Navajo are introduced to the school—through word of mouth on the reservation. Back in the 1970s, Mr. Hubbard and his family were exposed to HIS through a former Navajo Code Talker with the US military who had good things to say about the school.

Only his sister attended HIS, but Mr. Hubbard would come to know the little school in the desert for himself later as a Bible worker. It was several decades later, after becoming an Adventist, when he felt inspired to become a full-time missionary.

Mr. Hubbard first came to HIS as a Bible worker for one year in 2001, and then later as a bible teacher in 2006 before moving into the Math, Navajo Language, Navajo Government, and maker space teaching roles. Before his time at HIS, he tells us about what led him to become an Adventist.

“I was in my late teens and I was a party animal. I was sick of it and I wanted to stop drinking. I started going to AA meetings and seeing a counselor. One of the things suggested to me by my counselor was prayer. I prayed and I’ve been sober ever since. From that time, I felt like I needed to find a church. I started looking and I found a prophecy seminar in Albuquerque and a few months later I became a Seventh-day Adventist.”

After becoming an Adventist, Mr. Hubbard says he felt inspired to tell people about it and quit his job to become a full-time missionary. As a teacher at Holbrook Indian School today, Mr. Hubbard continues his missionary spirit. To find out more about the mission field he serves in now, and how to support, visit HolbrookIndianSchool.org



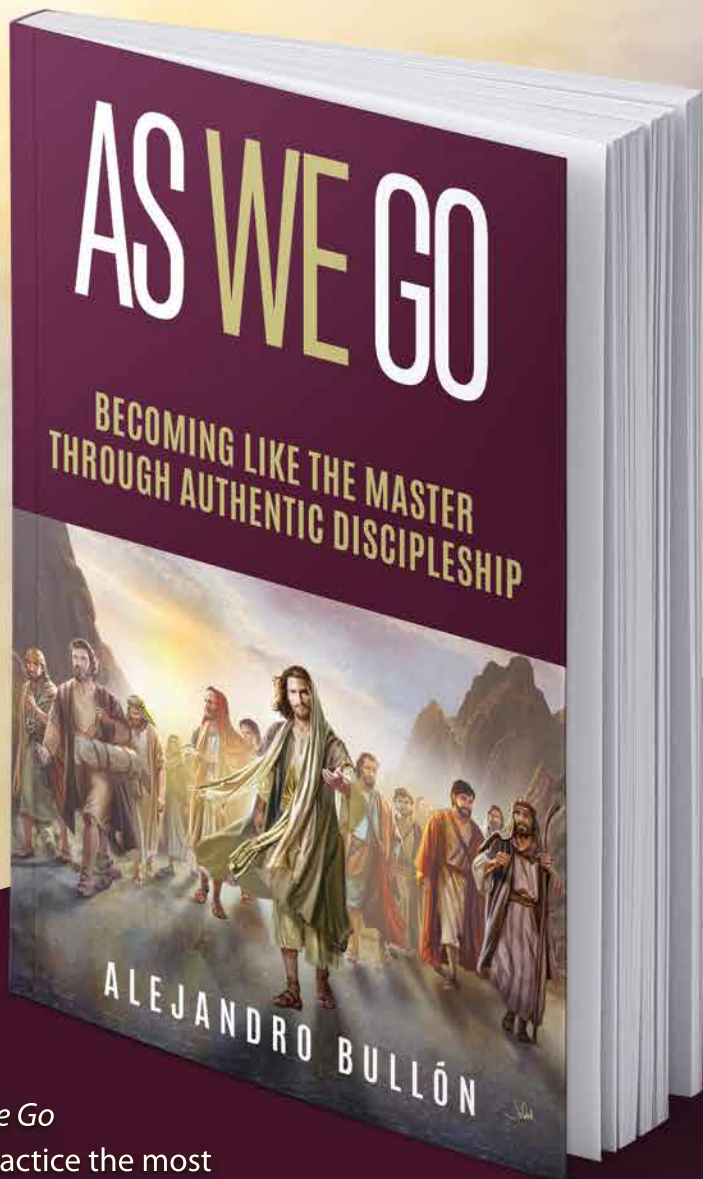
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General Conference
Sabbath School and
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USING OUR INDOOR VOICES



Dozens of sociologists and culture researchers have documented the pent-up aggression that has followed the worldwide pandemic like an unwelcome summer heatwave.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) data for 2021 reveals a 750-percent increase in unruly passenger behavior over 2019, the last full pre-pandemic year. The rate of incidents already reported in 2022 will push the annual total to an all-time record.¹

Public school (and private school) board meetings across the United States have exploded with parent anger as passionate speakers harangue administrators and each other about issues as diverse as library books, critical race theory, and the perceived politics of teachers and principals.

The appalling incivilities daily witnessed among government legislators toward each other and even toward the institutions of the government they are sworn to support portend a new Dark Ages for reasonable conversation. They are incited to this destructive rudeness by media pundits who gain audience share as they grow ever more shrill.

It's not a good moment for quiet listening and helpful conversation. As one child long ago observed when asked why he wasn't looking forward to participating in a school play about the story of Creation, "The snake has all the lines."²

So it is that we must hear again the counsel many parents—including this one—long ago shared with our children: "Remember to use your indoor voice."

It's wisdom not lost on many delegates participating in this 61st General Conference Session. I have watched, I have heard, as men and women living a global culture that only knows how to

shout have sought to modulate their voices when speaking to each other and the causes they believe in. At moments when they could have picked up the cudgels of angry rhetoric, they paused, drew breath, and found a quieter alternative. They have searched for—and found—the language of respect: *"I know my brother at the other microphone believes differently . . ." "I politely disagree with the ruling of the chair . . ." "I'm requesting that we take more time to consider this difficult issue."*

This is a witness of its own to the power of the gospel to overcome cultural bad habits. The rhetoric of Jesus showed all the dynamic range God gave to humans created in His image. He could shout at winds and waves but spoke quietly to broken, frightened people. He might accurately dissect the hypocrisy of religious leaders, "but tears were in His voice as He uttered His scathing rebukes."³ He was content to listen to the uneducated and unrefined when He could have instructed or informed them. He whose voice penetrates the outer reaches of the universe and makes something out of nothing knows which voice to use when speaking to the hurting and sinful: "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph 1:2, NIV).

*"Be like Jesus, this my song; in the home and in the throng . . ."*⁴ 🕊

1. Federal Aviation Administration, "Unruly Passengers," https://www.faa.gov/data_research/passengers_cargo/unruly_passengers.

2. Jean Kerr, *The Snake Has All the Lines*, (Greenwich, Conn.: Crest Books, 1962).

3. Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ* (Oakland, Calif.: Pacific Press, 1892), p. 12.

4. James Rowe, "I Would Be Like Jesus," *The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal* (Hagerstown, Md.: Review and Herald, 1999), no. 311.

Bill Knott is the executive editor of Adventist Review Ministries.



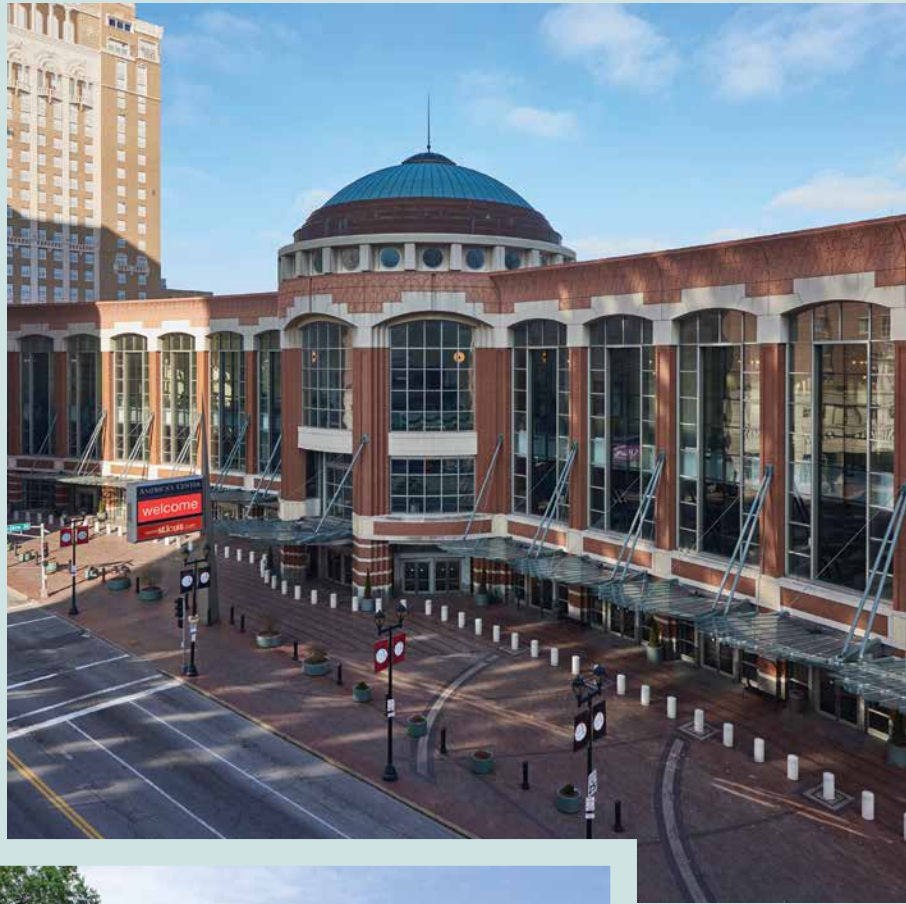
DESTINATION:

ST. LOUIS





St. Louis is a vibrant city for many cultures, ethnicities, and adherents of many faiths. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is holding its 61st General Conference Session at America's Center where the 58th Session was held in 2005 and 62nd in 2025.



The second largest city in Missouri, St. Louis was founded by French fur traders in 1764. The iconic Gateway Arch, built in the 1960s, honors the westward expansion of the United States in the early nineteenth century. Take time to discover the many cultural and historic landmarks St. Louis has to offer.



WHY WE GO

General Conference Sessions give a whole new meaning to "I Will Go."

MARK FROELICH © AR

James White, cofounder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, made his way with his wife, Ellen, to the sixth General Conference Session, held in Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1868. On the way they preached at two different churches. James had been battling some health issues and had reduced his workload. He was no longer serving as president but was still actively involved in the relatively new denomination. I imagine him falling onto his cot, weary from travel.

The 1868 session was by all accounts a good one. "The business sessions throughout were largely attended, and characterized by a spirit of union and an earnest desire to advance the cause," J. H. Waggoner reported. "Perhaps we have never held a conference where more perfect harmony prevailed. In this we have a complete vindication of our organization."¹ James White, however, saw it a bit differently. Ever the businessman, driving himself while pushing others, he thought there might have been a few distractions.

"This [General Conference Session] is not a good time for a general gathering of our brethren and sisters to enjoy a spiritual feast. Not understanding this, many have come to our annual conferences, spent a week's time, and gone home disappointed. They had no special interest in the business sessions, thought they occupied too much time, and concluded that their brethren were becoming formal and backslidden. In this they were mistaken. Meetings for transaction of business are necessary and right. Let those attend our annual meeting who have a part to act in them; and let those who have no special part to act in our general assemblies for the transaction of business remain at home, instead of bringing their wives and children to such assemblies to burden the church that entertains them, for nearly or quite a week, they, meanwhile looking on, and getting tempted because there are no more religious exercises."²

Now, to be fair to White, his point was twofold—General Conference Sessions were a time for business, not spiritual feasting. And this was a

preamble into a proposal to begin holding camp meetings where families would be welcome, business set aside, and time devoted to preaching, teaching, and visiting. He might have also been aware of the cost of providing extra people with tents, bedding, food, and more.

While we can allow that he may have had a point, even several, General Conference Sessions always seem to draw a crowd. The last session in 2015 drew crowds up to 50,000 on the second Sabbath. Why do we go?

DIFFERENT YEAR, SAME REASONS

I spent the past several weeks perusing GC Session *Bulletins*, which contain the reports of the meetings. They've been published by the *Review* staff since the denomination was organized (see article on p. 8). At first they were mostly minutes, but they began to expand at the 1909 session. While the times and technology changed, the reasons for attending session clearly did not. Here's a quick summary of seven reasons Adventists attend session, whether it is the nineteenth century or the twenty-first.

PEOPLE It may be the number-one reason given. This is a time to greet old friends, coworkers, fellow mission workers, or "celebrities." There is nothing that enthralls some members more than to see a well-known evangelist, a television media host, or the General Conference president himself, walking down the hall.

MISSION The costumes, the music, the food, and more help one understand the fact that this is truly a worldwide church. The 1958 session was the first to hold a mission pageant complete with country placards and a parade down the center aisle. It's been the highlight of subsequent sessions up through 2010.

SCOPE I well remember watching my nine-year-old stand on the floor of the stadium in Toronto, Canada, slowly turning around as 70,000-plus voices sang "We Have This Hope." Nothing says "big church" more than standing in a sea of Adventists focused on Jesus.

MUSIC The best of the best Adventism has to offer in music is at a General Conference Session. The biggest choir, the largest

orchestra, children, quartets, different languages, instruments, and more—a session arena is the finest free concert this side of heaven.

UNITY We may go into a session with an agenda that causes anxiety, disagreement, or tension, but by the end of the 10 days we still emerge one church, one faith, with one hope in the soon coming of Jesus.

HISTORY The first session took place when the denomination was organized in 1863. Since then, the church has previously come together 60 times to do business. To attend is to acknowledge your part in this ever-flowing story known as the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

BUSINESS Last, but certainly not least, is that sessions, as James White reminded members in 1868, are about church governance. While we may understand church boards, strategic plans, budgets, and more, it goes to a whole new level when delegates from around the world come together to talk about their church.

AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE

James White would be astounded at the sixty-first General Conference Session. To see 2,680 delegates coming together to do business, representing countries as far to the east and west as one can go, would certainly make an impression. My guess is he would also be pleased that this particular session, trimmed down to strictly business without all the usual frills and flourishes, is exactly how he thought it should be.

No matter what reason brought you here, we are glad you've come. To be a part of a session is unlike any other experience the Adventist Church has to offer. We see our church through different lenses, our idea of church is expanded, and we realize we're part of something really big. But to worship together with fellow believers from around the world offers probably the most important insight—you get a front-row seat to see how God has led and blessed this church for the past 159 years. And that is the best reason of all. 🍀

¹ *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, May 26, 1868.

² *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, July 14, 1868.

Merle Poirier, attending her eighth session and working her fifth, is the operations manager of Adventist Review Ministries.



THE ROAD TO ST. LOUIS

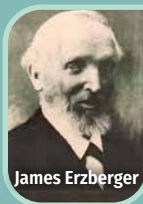
Highlighting Past GC Sessions



1871
First woman elected to officer status—Mrs. A. P. Van Horn elected Treasurer

1868
Voted the opening of mission work in California

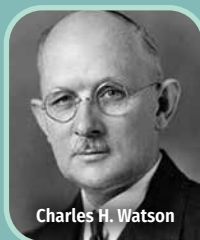
1863
Seventh-day Adventist Church is organized



James Erzberger

1870
James Erzberger first delegate from outside the United States

1874
Voted to send J. N. Andrews to Europe as a missionary



Charles H. Watson

1930
First non-North American elected president (Charles H. Watson)
Denomination reduced staff about 50 percent
First time a motion picture was used
Bulletins produced by Telecord

1922
First time more than 500 delegates (581)
First Mission Round Tables—workshops for foreign mission workers

1936
First session where the evenings were wholly given to division reports

1946
Last time in an Adventist facility (Sligo Church)
First session recorded
First mention of a theme song



1958
First mission pageant

1926
Bookstand and other exhibits set up around campus
First public address system used

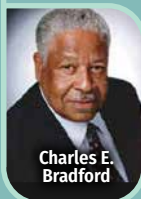
1918
First time in a non-Adventist facility (San Francisco, CA)
First time to have exhibits with bookstand

1970
First time more than 1,500 delegates (1,782)
First African-American elected associate secretary (Charles E. Bradford)

1980
Voted 27 Statements of Belief
First non-North American Secretary elected (G. Ralph Thompson)

1954
First time more than a 1,000 delegates (1,109)

1962
First time "We Have This Hope" is the theme song. Will be used four more times.
First African-American elected as general vice president (Frank L. Peterson)



Charles E. Bradford

1975
First time held outside the United States (Vienna, Austria)
First quinquennial session

1876

Held in Lansing, Michigan

First time outside Battle Creek

1882

First time outside of Michigan (Rome, NY)

1889

First time more than 100 delegates (109)



1901

Major reorganization of church structure

Voted to move college from Battle Creek to Berrien Springs, Michigan

Elected a chairman, not a president

First stereopticon report (slides)

1879

Established first mission board

1888

New emphasis on righteousness by faith in Christ

O. A. Olsen elected president, first one born outside the United States

1891

First biennial session

1909

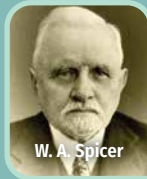
First held on a quadrennial basis

First to have delegates from each major continent

Last session Ellen White attended

North American Negro Department created

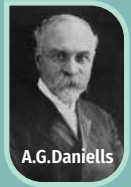
“Anxious hearts were waiting in the distant fields to know if the General Conference would call for retrenchment and delay, or sound the note of advance. Advance is the word, and the trumpet call of the conference gives the order with no uncertain sound.”
—W. A. Spicer, *Review and Herald*, June 15, 1905



W. A. Spicer

1903

Idea of president reinstated after much debate



A. G. Daniells

1913

First division voted (European division)



1905

First time held in Takoma Park

Established the Foreign Department

Workers recommended for Europe, Africa, China, South America, and Japan

1990

Women's ordination is considered for vote

GC downsizes staff by 20 percent

Euro-Asia Division created

Global Mission established

2000

Extensive revisions to the *Church Manual* on issues of marriage, divorce, and remarriage

2015

Third vote on women's ordination



1985

Voted to merge five departments into one “Church Ministries” department.

Voted first African as Africa-Indian Ocean Division president (J. J. Nortey)

1995

Second time women's ordination is considered for vote

2005

First female vice president elected

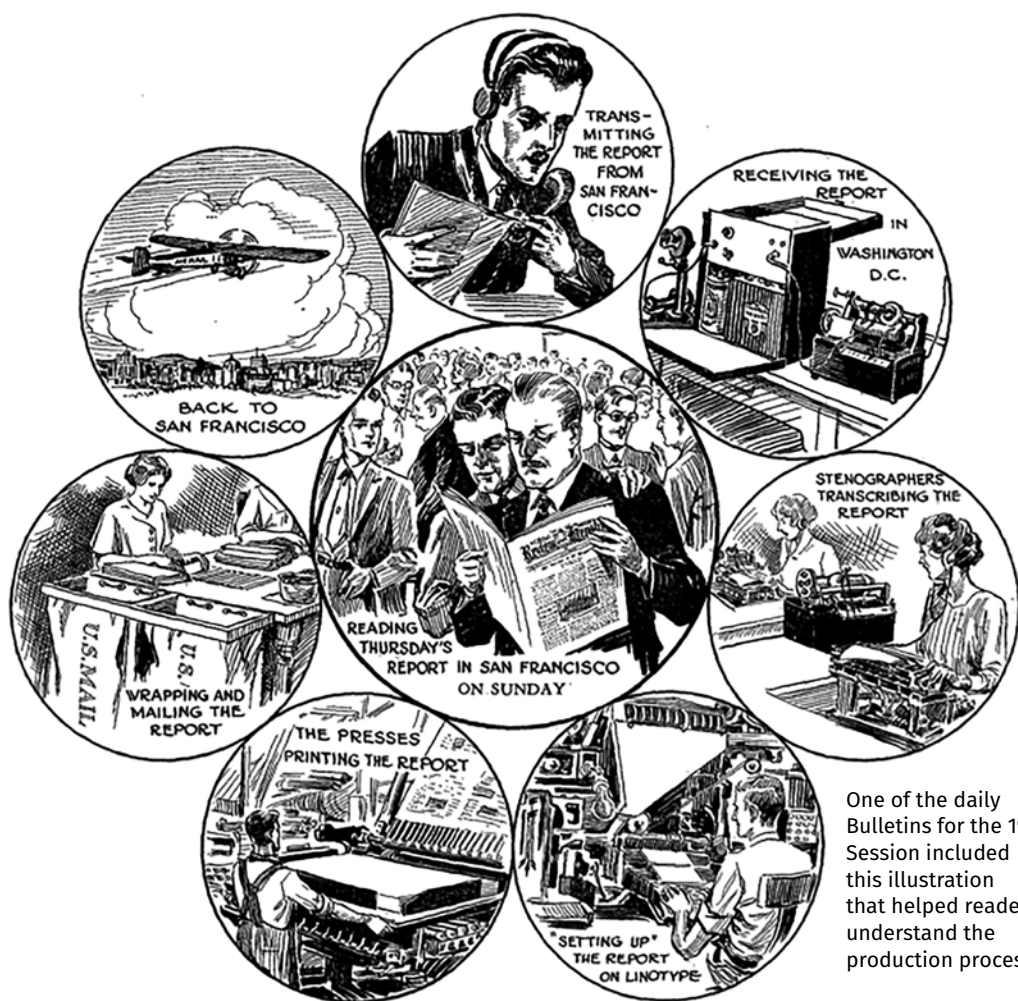
28th Fundamental Belief voted



Ella Simmons

DAVID B. SHERWIN © AR

FROM SESSION



One of the daily Bulletins for the 1930 Session included this illustration that helped readers understand the production process.

TO SESSION

One continuous presence you can count on.



The *Adventist Review* team for the 1954 GC Session was led by editor, F. D. Nichol (seated).

Great things begin small and then grow larger.” So begins an article by Lora E. Clement¹ in the first *Bulletin* of the 1926 General Conference Session.² Her words might actually be considered prophetic, but I’m getting ahead of myself. Let’s return to when it all began.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church was organized in 1863, during its first General Conference Session, held in Battle Creek, Michigan. The proceedings of the next Session, in 1864, were also duly reported in the *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*,³ closing with this: “Voted, That the doings of this Conference be published in the *Advent Review*.”⁴ Thus began a tradition that has continued since the beginnings of this denomination—a relationship between General Conference Sessions

and the *Review* as the official recorder for its members.

Sessions were held annually from 1863 to 1889. All of the meetings were held in Michigan, with but three exceptions: Rome, New York (1882); Oakland, California (1887); and Minneapolis, Minnesota (1888). Since the ability to communicate over long distances was limited to the written report and postal system, there was a delay before any reports appeared in the *Review*. For example, when the Session met in Oakland, California, in 1887, the first reports were printed about 10 days after they had been written. They consisted of an eyewitness account presumably written by editor Uriah Smith from Salt Lake City, Utah, on his way to the Session, and upon arrival before the meetings commenced.



Corinne Wilkerson (Russ), types copy into the Telex machine for the 1970 GC Session. The copy was then sent to the Review and Herald Publishing House for typesetting.

Both are newsy, firsthand reports offering members a vivid and detailed account with such clarity that readers today can still feel part of the experience.

DISTANCE COMPLICATES THINGS

The 1930 Session brought new challenges. The General Conference, editorial offices of the *Review*, and the Review and Herald Publishing Association (RHPA) were located in Takoma Park, Maryland, outside Washington, D.C., while the Session was in San Francisco, California. The commitment to deliver timely reports now had the added complication of 3,000 miles. Undeterred, the staff, with help from the Dictaphone Company of Washington, D.C., created an ingenious system that allowed the daily *Bulletins* to be delivered with little delay in reporting Session events (see illustration on p. 10).

Similar to today, a portion of the *Bulletins* were completed before the Session actually began. Reports and features were designed and ready for the press. Each evening at 6:00 p.m. in San Francisco, the editor transmitted the important events of the day by telephone. The receiving telephone in the Maryland office recorded the message on wax records. As soon as a record was filled, a stenographer transcribed the message. As a page was com-

pleted, it was hurried to the typesetters. Each of these articles would be marked “telephone copy” to indicate its breaking news quality. Less-urgent material was sent via airmail. The combination of the telephone and airmail system allowed the *Bulletins* to be placed on a plane and sent to San Francisco in time to be read in California the next day.⁵

For more than four years prior to the 1946 Session, plans were to hold the General Conference Session in St. Louis, Missouri. A short time before the Session was to begin, administration was made aware that the city of St. Louis would not be able to accommodate the 900 delegates expected or the thousands of guests that would descend upon the city. After serious discussion and prayer, it was decided to hold the 1946 Session in Takoma Park, where the General Conference office was located. While this must have been joyous news for the *Review* staff, it would be disappointing to the many who wanted to attend. The “denominational public” were cordially asked to stay home, as this would be a “strictly delegated Session.” This development allowed the daily *Bulletins* to report the daily news within 24 hours, something that has remained until today.

TECHNOLOGY EXPANDS, MEN (AND WOMEN) RUN TO AND FRO

The 1950 Session brought even better technology when “scientific recording instruments” were making their appearance. This time, not for reporting, but for the transcription of each meeting. General Conference Secretariat was responsible for a word-for-word transcription of each meeting. Until this Session, proficient secretaries in amazingly rapid shorthand took the minutes. For the first time, a SoundScriber machine wrote on five-minute discs. Each disc was handed to a secretary who transcribed the proceedings using a typewriter. It was reported that 40 to 50 discs were needed per meeting.

The same concept, developed in 1930, was used in 1954, but expanded. When the editor called into the Maryland office, church members were invited to attend. The telephone not only created

The *Adventist Review* team at the 2000 GC Session in Toronto, Canada, led by editor, William G. Johnsson.



wax discs but was connected to an amplifier in the Review and Herald Publishing Association (RHPA) chapel. In this, members could hear the news even before seeing it in print.

By 1975, when the experienced *Review* staff could run a Session from miles away, the General Conference Session was in Vienna, Austria! Foregoing the tradition of producing a daily *Bulletin* wasn't an option anyone wanted to consider, so a new plan was developed. The first seven of the 10 *Bulletins* were printed in two places—Vienna and Takoma Park. Three thousand copies were printed and distributed to the delegates in Vienna. Then every second day, the pasteup of the pages and photo negatives were sent via airmail from Vienna to Washington, D.C. Plates were made; *Bulletins* were printed and mailed to subscribers. Because half of each magazine was prepared in Maryland prior to the Session and the rest finished onsite, the resulting product had two different typefaces within the same magazine.

As someone about to participate in the production of the daily *Bulletins* for the fourth time, I can absolutely affirm the stress documented by each *Review* team no matter where the Session was located or

what year it occurred. The stress is real. Even with the advance of computers and digital cameras, publishing a 48-page magazine in less than 24 hours produces its own kind of pressure. Hearts are grateful when the work stops for the Sabbath, and the staff gains a respite . . . until Saturday night, that is.

Until the 2015 Session the *Bulletins* were still printed in Maryland and flown to the Session. Melinda Worden, RHPA vice president, has memories that still cause her stomach to flip-flop. The 2005 Session in St. Louis had the first magazines arriving at the airport and being driven by truck to the stadium. Unfortunately the date, July 4, was a national holiday in the United States, which included a parade that blocked off city streets. Prayers and a rising sense of panic were mixed among the staff as the magazines arrived just in time for editor Bill Johnsson to ascend the platform and present the first magazine to president Jan Paulsen.

The 2010 Session brought magazines to Atlanta via private plane. Imagine Worden's surprise when she got a call at 2:00 a.m. from the pilot saying he'd lost the alternator of his plane and had to make an emergency landing. Safe but incapacitated, he



DAVID B. SHERWIN © AR

managed to get to another plane and fly the magazines in to make the morning deadline.

Former assistant editor Steve Chavez has fond memories of his work with *Adventist Review*. His best memories come from the camaraderie of the staff. While it was a stressful environment, the staff worked together toward a common task that created strong working relationships. One notable memory for him was the 2000 Session in Toronto, Canada, where the *Review* staff worked in a glass-walled enclosure in the middle of the exhibit hall. Chavez remembers it as something that sounded like a good idea, but in reality caused much distraction and disruption.

A VIRTUAL FEAST

One interesting parallel in each Session is the advance of technology. As was noted, while each Session had something to overcome, new technology would be available to resolve the challenges. It has been seven years since the *Review* staff produced daily *Bulletins*. While we had a modest digital presence in 2015, 2022 will prove to be a virtual banquet for not only delegates but all members around the globe. Producing a monthly magazine as a daily is certainly challenging, the reality today is that no one waits 24 hours for news. So while it might seem fast, it's no longer fast enough. We will, in addition to the daily 48-page print *Bulletins*, now provide up-to-the-

minute news, podcasts, video, and social media, along with the business proceedings and actions. All will be found at one location on our website, making it easily accessible to all users (adventistreview.org/gcsession). Video of the meetings will also be live-streamed on the *Adventist Review* website. Plan each day to visit, where you will find helpful navigation tools to access regular and bonus features.

Not everyone can attend a General Conference Session. Since the beginning *Review* readers have read reports that serve as their eyes and ears at the Session. Reporters made an effort to help members experience their world church. You will find this Session no different. We are committed to using every technology possible to bring you everything from St. Louis—the sights, sounds, and colors, in print, in video, and through amazing photography. And, if we don't see Jesus come before 2025, I promise we will be here to serve you again. That you can count on. 🍴

¹Lora E. Clement was then the editor of *The Youth's Instructor*.

²*Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, May 27, 1926, p. 1.

³The name of this publication has changed so frequently through its 170-plus years, from here on out it will be referenced as the *Review*.

⁴*Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, May 31, 1864.

⁵*Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, General Conference Bulletin 3, June 2, 1930, pp. 1, 2.

Merle Poirier serves as operations manager for Adventist Review Ministries.



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NEWS MOMENT

Ukrainian Union Conference delegate Andrii Shevchuk stands draped in his country's flag during a time of corporate prayer for Ukraine.

JOSEF KISSINGER © AR



WHEN THE SPIRIT FALLS



MARK A. FINLEY

Some assignments seem difficult; others seem impossible. When Jesus said to His disciples, “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8), the task seemed impossible from a human perspective. How could a small, frightened group of disciples ever shake the Roman world?

The odds were against them. The population of the Roman Empire in the first century was between 59 and 76 million. The band of believers that met in the upper room the 10 days before Pentecost numbered a mere 120. The ratio of Christ’s followers to Roman society was 1 to 500,000.

The book of Acts is the story of transformed disciples, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Acts 2 records the story of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the fullness of heaven’s power. The results were amazing. Luke testifies that “those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them” (Acts 2:41).

Through the Spirit’s power they accomplished in one day what would have taken decades in their own strength. But that was just the beginning. Acts 4 continues this triumph of the grace of God. “However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand” (Acts 4:4).

When the Holy Spirit is poured out in the fullness of heaven’s power, miracles happen. The impossible becomes possible. Insurmountable obstacles fade into insignificance. In the first century the bastions of hell were shaken, and “believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women” (Acts 5:14). Some historians estimate that by the end of the first century there were as many as 1 million believers, or one in every 60 people, in the Roman Empire.

The Bible predicts that God will pour out His Spirit again at the end of time. Ellen White writes, “The lapse of time has wrought no change in Christ’s parting promise to send the Holy Spirit as His representative. It is not because of any restriction on the part of God that the riches of His grace do not flow earthward to men. If the fulfillment of the promise is not seen as it might be, it is because the promise is not appreciated as it should be. If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit.”

The task of completing God’s mission on earth might seem impossible, but God will pour out His Spirit in latter-rain power on a praying people totally consecrated to doing His will. The work of God on earth will be finished. The mission will be completed. Christ promises that “this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matt. 24:14). May that day come soon, and may we be the generation that experiences this mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit. ▀

*Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1911), p. 50.

Mark A. Finley is assistant to the president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

“SHAMELESS AUDACITY”



DWIGHT K. NELSON

A friend drops by at midnight. You have no food, so you race next door hoping to awaken your neighbor. Needless to say, your neighbor isn't happy! He refuses to answer. But you keep ringing his doorbell. And here's how the story ends:

“I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need” (Luke 11:8).¹

“Shameless audacity.” Isn't it high time God's people display some “shameless audacity”?

Let's say we go shopping. As we walk in, a salesperson calls us over. “I'm going to give you one of two gifts. In fact, I'll let you open both before deciding which you'd like to have.”

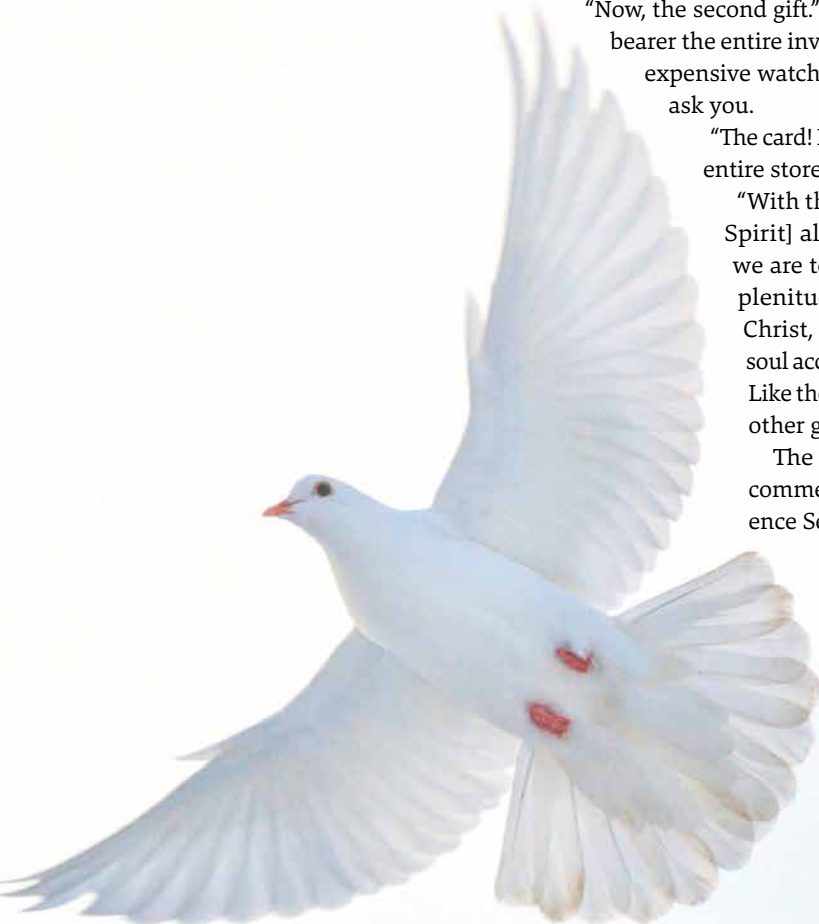
I open the first box. Inside is an expensive watch. “Wow!” I exclaim.

“Now, the second gift.” Inside is a card: “Granted to the bearer the entire inventory of this store.” I look at the expensive watch. “Which one should we take?” I ask you.

“The card! Because we get the watch *plus* the entire store!”

“With the reception of this gift [the Holy Spirit] all other gifts would be ours; for we are to have this gift according to the plenitude of the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul according to the capacity to receive.”² Like the illustration, one gift brings every other gift—every blessing with it!

The one gift we must ask for at the commencement of this General Conference Session is the one Gift that brings



all others. When you have the Holy Spirit, you have Jesus. And when you have Jesus—you have everything.

The Holy Spirit will bring *My presence*: “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever. . . . I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you” (John 14:16-18).

The Holy Spirit will teach *My truths*: “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you” (verse 26).

The Holy Spirit will offer *My testimony*: “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father . . . he will testify about me” (John 15:26).

Five years ago I was given a book called *Steps to Personal Revival*, by Helmut Haubeil.³ That book changed my life; my ministry; and the way I pray, lead, preach, and live. No one ever told me we are to pray for the *daily* baptism of the Holy Spirit. The original Greek in Luke 11:13 reads: “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who [daily, continually] ask Him?”

“Morning by morning [Jesus] communicated with His Father in heaven, receiving from Him daily a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit.”⁴ If the Saviour of the world needed the daily baptism of the Holy Spirit, how much more do leaders, members, pastors, evangelists, and teachers of the Adventist Church? It cannot be a once-a-quinquennium or twice-a-year emphasis whenever delegates gather. Unless we discover a daily connection with Jesus through the Holy Spirit, we will not be able to pull off Pentecost. Unless there is daily baptism, there will not be collective revival—period.

As William Miller said, “Today, TODAY, and TODAY until He comes.”⁵ And He’s coming sooner than you think. “Nothing but the baptism of the Holy Spirit can bring up the church to its right

position, and prepare the people of God for the fast approaching conflict.”⁶

Let us call upon the Holy Spirit with shameless audacity. “Today, TODAY, and TODAY until Jesus comes.”⁷

Dwight Nelson is the lead pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church, in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, all Bible texts are from the New International Version.

² Ellen G. White, *Ye Shall Receive Power* (Hagerstown, Md.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1995), p. 221.

³ Helmut Haubeil, *Steps to Personal Revival* (Vienna, Austria: TOP Life Wegweiser-Verlag GmbH, 2016).

⁴ Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, November 21, 1895.

⁵ Francis D. Nichol, *The Midnight Cry* (Takoma Park, Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1945) pp. 179, 180

⁶ Ellen G. White, Letter 15, 1889, Manuscript Releases (Silver Spring, Md.: EGW Estate [Nos. 97-161], 1987) vol. 2, p. 30.



TRUSTING GOD'S WORD



BARRY C. BLACK

I was failing ninth grade with a consistent D average, more than I deserved. My teachers refused to make me repeat a grade, not because they were merciful, but because one year with me was enough. This all took place at a Christian school that exposed me to God's Word. One day my life was changed by reading Matthew 5:41: "If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles" (NIV).

Immediately I decided to do everything twice, reading chapters, writing essays, and preparing for exams. I challenged myself to go beyond the minimum. That simple commitment enabled me to go from a ninth-grade failure to a tenth-grade valedictorian. God's Holy Spirit-inspired Word transformed my life. I discovered a supernatural ally who provided me with the life-transforming resources of sacred Scripture.

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

God gave us His Holy Spirit to be our comforter (John 14:16) and helper (verse 26). This Spirit guides us to truth (John 16:13), prays for us (Rom. 8:26), lives in us (1 Cor. 6:19), and provides us with the resources of sacred Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16, 17). Because of the Holy Spirit, Scripture isn't a private human invention, for holy people spoke and wrote inspired by Him.

Second Peter 1:20, 21, states, "Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God" (NLT).^{*} It's simple. The message of the Bible originated with God and not humanity.

As we begin digesting the Spirit-inspired Word, spiritual growth happens. We no longer have to guess about humanity's origin and purpose: Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where are we going? We don't have to be puzzled about our destiny or speculate regarding the final destination toward which the whole creation moves. The Holy Spirit has provided the words and interpretations that solve these riddles.

The Holy Spirit informs us of the coming of a Messiah, providing a detailed description of His life. The Holy Spirit inspired people to paint word pictures of a child who would be born of a virgin in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) and would flee to Egypt. This child would dwell in Nazareth, receiving an anointing by the Holy Spirit to minister throughout Galilee (Isa. 61). The prophets foretold this Messiah would heal the sick and be rejected by humanity, wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities (Isa. 53).

Remarkably, the Holy Spirit provides the resource that enables believers to please God. He inspired the Holy Bible, which produces faith: "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17). We develop faith by hearing God's Word. "And without faith, it's impossible to please God" (Heb. 11:6, NIV).

Thank God for the Holy Spirit, who inspired the Book that produces the faith that pleases God. Trust God's Word. 🦋

* Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Barry C. Black serves as the sixty-second chaplain of the United States Senate.



AROUND THE WORLD IN ADVENTISM

The following pages contain facts, faces, and extracts from the General Conference Session reports of 13 world divisions and three of the attached fields of the General Conference.—Editors.

CHINESE UNION MISSION (CHUM)

The Chinese Union is developing a theological library, initially focusing on translating 70 of the best Seventh-day Adventist theological books into Chinese. Completed books can be downloaded for free and used by leaders and members worldwide.



ECD MEDIA CENTER

EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION (ECD)

The East-Central Africa Division's Mission Extravaganza drew crowds of up to 50,000 in Kampala, Uganda. Community members were blessed by free medical services, exhibits, and evangelistic messages. More than 8,600 people chose to follow Christ, and 41 new churches were planted as a result.

EURO-ASIA DIVISION (ESD)

In April 2022 conflict erupted between Russia and Ukraine, resulting in more than 4.5 million refugees, thousands of dead and wounded, and countless destroyed houses and church buildings. Through collaboration with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), the Euro-Asia Division provided assistance with lodging, transportation, food and medicine, clothing, and hundreds of tons of humanitarian aid.



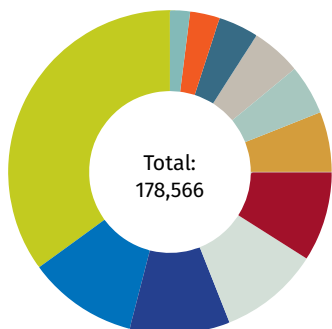
ESD



INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION (IAD)

When an earthquake rocked Port-au-Prince, Haiti, killing more than 300,000, Greger Figaro began leading worship services in front of his home for the homeless who gathered there. For more than five years they worshipped under a tent right in the middle of the street. Today, the Église Adventiste Galaad church has its own property and building overflowing with more than 500 members.

EUD MEMBERSHIP BY UNIONS



- Austrian Union (2%)
- Swiss Union (3%)
- Bulgarian Union (4%)
- Czecho-Slovak Union(5%)
- Italian Union (5%)
- Portuguese Union (6%)
- South German Union (9%)
- North German Union (10%)
- Spanish Union (10%)
- Franco-Belgian Union (11%)
- Romanian Union (35%)

INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION (EUD)

An interministries congress on discipleship brought together more than 400 children’s, family, and women’s ministries leaders in Lignano, Italy, to cast the vision of becoming more efficient disciple-makers inside our own homes and churches.

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION (NAD)

Your Best Pathway to Health held a free mega clinic in Indianapolis at the Lucas Oil Stadium. Volunteer health care professionals provided medical, dental, vision, and surgical services to more than 4,255 patients during the four-day event. Pictured with a patient is Dr. Miriam Morgan-Skinner.

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION (NSD)

The 1,000 Missionary Movement trains hundreds of Adventist youth from across the world for mission service. These young people are sent in pairs to mission fields, where they devote one year to the Lord. Since 1993 nearly 11,335 young people from 64 countries have gone through the program. The fruit of their labor includes 74,392 baptisms, 800 churches built, and 1,491 churches and companies established in 47 countries.



SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION (SAD)

Literature evangelists are committed to sharing the gospel. Books and magazines are taken from house to house, company to company, spreading the message of hope. The Impact Hope literature project alone distributed more than 163 million free books and other material to homes in South America.



SAMUEL GIRVEN



AROUND THE WORLD IN ADVENTISM



SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION (SPD)

The SPD operates 387 Adventist schools, enrolling about 71,000 students. During the 2015-2020 quinquennium, 8,938 students chose to follow Jesus through baptism.

SPD

SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION (SID)

As part of a community SID Pathfinder launch, the first-ever Pathfinder drill for youth with special needs was held in Gauteng, South Africa. Hard-of-hearing Pathfinder club members expressed their joy in participating in this drill.



SID



SID

SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION (SUD)

In the Southern Asia Division, Sarad Kumar Banjare, a Pentecostal pastor, attended Adventist Zoom meetings regularly. He was baptized in 2021, and changed the day of worship from Sunday to Saturday in his church. Many of his members stopped coming. Though discouraged, he did not give up. He conducted three evangelistic meetings and many of his members were baptized in 2022.



SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC (SSD)

The Adventist Church in SSD is known for its health and education services. Considered strong assets in the community, our 19 Adventist health-care institutions and 984 schools ably support the Lord's work by disarming prejudices and making inroads for the gospel.



TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION (TED)

“We have voted more than £1 million [US\$1.4 million] on 301 mission projects and 133 church plants.”— Daniel Duda, education and Adventist Mission director for the Trans-European Division, on funding evangelistic endeavors across the region.

WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION (WAD)

Total Number of Schools:



University Students:



Total Number of Students:



Total Number of Teachers:



Number of Universities:



Total Number of Graduates:



Number of Students Baptized:

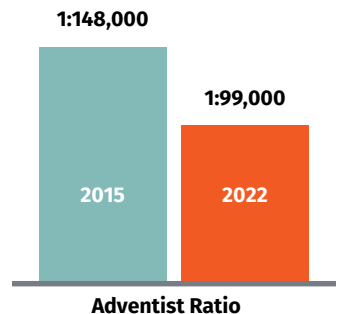


ISRAEL FIELD

In Israel the Ashdod church organized an Adventurers' Club for community families. Today there are more non-Adventists in the club than church members. When they organized a family weekend, most of the families attended. By God's grace they are seeing an increase in attendance and the impact of God's Word.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA UNION MISSION (MENAUM)

In 2015 the Adventist Church in the Middle East and North Africa Union Mission had only one member for every 148,000 nonmembers. In 2022 we have one Adventist member for every 99,000 people.





General Conference Ministerial Association

Serving the global church through its ministry to **pastors, pastoral families, elders, deacons, and deaconesses.**

Magazines



Media



Handbooks



Ministries

- Evangelism
- Continuing Education
- Theological Education & Ministerial Preparation
- Ministerial Spouses
- Pastors' Kids
- ... and more!

TED N. C. WILSON REELECTED AS GENERAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

*Delegates to the 61st
General Conference
Session vote to accept the
Nominating Committee
recommendation.*



JOSEF KISSINGER © AR

Delegates to the 61st General Conference (GC) Session in St. Louis, Missouri, United States, voted to accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee to reelect Ted N. C. Wilson as president of the General Conference on June 6. With their vote, delegates confirmed Wilson, who has been president of the denomination since 2010, for the 2022-2025 period. It will be his third term as president.

“Our goal is to maintain focus on what God has called the remnant church to do,” Wilson said. “But a single person cannot do it. We are a team of almost 22 million members.”

ABOUT THE PROCESS

The Nominating Committee includes more than 260 members from among the delegates of every major church region and the General Conference. Members nominated to the committee by their respective regional caucuses on or before June 5 met on the afternoon of June 6 to discuss the first item, which has been historically the nomination of the president.

At the end of the June 6 evening business session, retired GC vice president Lowell Cooper, who earlier in the day had been elected as chair of the Nominating Committee, went to the

podium to present the body's first report. "We've been hard at work during several hours," Cooper said. "We had the opportunity to discuss several names as potential candidates for the position of General Conference president."

Cooper explained to delegates why they spent several hours to come to a decision. "It took us a while to get organized, to understand protocol," he said. It included making sure the electronic voting app was working properly and that those members participating through Zoom videoconferencing could interact with the in-person members.

"It took some time to get acquainted with parliamentary procedures," Cooper added, "in a group that has several different languages and cultures, and the necessities of translators. We've had some time in working ourselves into a team."

RECOMMENDATION TO THE FLOOR

Cooper shared that the Nominating Committee felt that God has blessed the church with leaders. So, "after discussion, we voted, and the Nominating Committee has a recommendation to bring for your consideration tonight on a vote on one name that we took," he said, before calling Nominating Committee secretary Magdiel Pérez Schulz to present that report and recommendation with the delegates.

After Pérez Schulz presented the name of Wilson for the position, delegates voted electronically to approve the recommendation. 📌



DAVID B. SHERWIN © AR

HEARING THE HEART OF A LEADER

For decades, the first interview given by a newly-elected General Conference president is with the editor of the Adventist Review. This interview was conducted in the former St. Louis Rams locker room by Bill Knott, executive editor of Adventist Review Ministries, and Marcos Paseggi, news contributor to Adventist Review Ministries, minutes after Elder Wilson's reelection as president.

AR: It's been almost 50 years since the Adventist Church has invited a leader to a third term. What does that feel like for you in terms of the opportunity to help make an impact over time?

TW: It's certainly a humbling experience. It does not embolden me in any way. I do recognize that we need to maintain focus on what God has assigned His remnant church to do, and that is the proclamation of the Three Angels Messages. I hope to focus even more on helping church members realize their responsibility and also to help local church leaders, as well as through the ranks of church administration, to recognize that we are coming to the end, and things need to be focused on what God intends for this church to do.

Are there any initiatives that are on your mind, perhaps some that you have not tackled?

We're going to be redoubling our efforts on Revival and Reformation. It's what we need every day. Also, we now are focusing on Comprehensive Health Ministry 2.0, which is going to involve a reemphasis on the right arm of the gospel, the kind of work Jesus did. These things are a natural outgrowth of our relationship with the Lord. It's actually doing the gospel in a practical manner. So we're going to emphasize in a greater way the connection to the Three Angels Messages, because we're told in the Spirit of Prophecy that the third angel's message is vitally connected to medical missionary work. The medical missionary work is not the message, but it is the right arm. So we're also going to emphasize that in Mission to the Cities. And we haven't run out of cities to work in. We still have a lot of work to do, but I don't think we have much time because the Lord is coming very soon. And, of course, Total Member Involvement, our strategic plan; *I Will Go* will continue through the rest of this

quinquennium. The *I Will Go* campaign has just caught on all over the world because it's so personal and it's so focused on mission. The one thing that I'm also going to be focusing on in a stronger way is inviting all of us to plead for the latter rain of the Holy Spirit.

We are talking in a locker room where coaches used to talk to sport teams. Picking up that metaphor for a moment, what do you think that means for the role you've just accepted again?

Well, it certainly means that we have to do this in a team effort. Let's tie that in. You cannot just pull a few strings and expect everything to happen. And especially within the church structure, which is basically a voluntary organization, people are part of it because they love the Lord. That's what we call Total Member Involvement, that everybody is doing something for Jesus. It's not something I can sit in an office and pull a few strings and send a few emails. No, it has to be caught in the hearts of leaders and members alike that we are part of something much grander than simply an earthly endeavor. This is a movement led by God. So, talking to the team—a large team of almost 22 million members—it's very important to get the message out. In some ways, it's more challenging because there are a lot of other messages out there. We're called to a very special purpose. I would encourage our team, our wonderful church members, to focus on where we are in Earth's history and realize every person has a job and place that God has given to them.

“So I would encourage every leader to truly know they are part of something much bigger than themselves.” Ted N. C. Wilson

Many people say that one of the key roles you fill is helping to develop people to be leaders in other units, tens of thousands of Adventist pastors, hundreds of conference presidents, about 160 union presidents. Thinking about that group of people in leadership, what do you want to say to them?

Each leader has to find his or her own way of relating to this magnificent call that God has given to us as a church, but they can't shy away from that call. They can't change the dynamic of what it is to be a Seventh-day Adventist. Some people I think would like to turn that into some other definition, but the church is built on a biblical foundation. [This] has to be internalized by administrators and leaders who recognize that this mighty movement, born of God, is something that they have to invest in with everything they have in order to help move it along through God's power.

It's interesting that you should mention “leadership” because we have in the works; something that we're calling the General Conference Leadership Development Program. We have taken steps to put it into an arena where leaders have looked at it and they're excited. We will be voting it in, in a more dynamic way where we will develop leaders who have a focus on organization, structure, and mission. It's just part of who we are.

So I would encourage every leader to truly know they are part of something much bigger than themselves. They need to understand that that big picture can only happen when they're taking time with the Word, spending time reading the Spirit of Prophecy, taking time in prayer. God will open the way for them because it's not just pulling strings and a few votes we take and everybody gets into lockstep. No, it doesn't happen that way in the church. We know that. Instead, it's inspiring people to tell them we're part of something so fantastic.

If I were to ask you where you wanted to be tonight, you would say right here; I know that. So I'm going to ask you if you could be anywhere you wanted to be in two weeks from now, where would you and your family be?

In a couple of weeks part of our family will be in a beautiful valley in the mountains, in one of our favorite places to hike. We have been able to take each one of our daughters and their families there. The last time was about four years ago and COVID has kind of thrown stuff in. But we've made plans. So, barring some COVID mishap, we hope to be hiking in the mountains. 📌

This is an edited version of an interview with Ted N. C. Wilson shortly after he was reelected as president. For the full video interview please see our website at www.adventistreview.org.



DELEGATES RETURN ERTON KÖHLER AS GC SECRETARY, PAUL DOUGLAS AS GC TREASURER

Both had been first tapped for those positions in April 2021.

Delegates to the 61st General Conference (GC) Session in St. Louis, Missouri, United States, voted to accept the Nominating Committee recommendation of Erton Köhler (above left) as GC executive secretary on June 7. They also voted to accept the recommendation of Paul Douglas as GC treasurer. Köhler and Douglas were first elected to these positions in April 2021 and will serve for the 2022-2025 term.

Köhler was born in southern Brazil and grew up with a desire to follow in the footsteps of his father, who served as an Adventist pastor. Köhler completed a bachelor's degree in theology at the Adventist Teaching Institute (now Brazilian Adventist University) in 1989 and graduated from the same school in 2008 with a master's degree in pastoral theology. Currently, he is pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree from

Andrews University.

From 1990 to 1994, Köhler served as a local church pastor in São Paulo. He was then elected Youth Ministries director of the Rio Grande do Sul Conference in 1995, and in 1998 became the Youth Ministries director of the Northeast Brazil Union. In July 2002, Köhler returned to the Rio Grande do Sul Conference to serve as executive secretary. The following year he was elected Youth Ministries director for the eight countries comprising the South American Division. After serving for four years as Youth director, he became the South American Division president in 2007.

Köhler is married to Adriene Marques, a nurse, and the couple has two children.

Douglas (above right) was born in Jamaica and has served in various capacities at General Conference Auditing Services

(GCAS) since 1986, when he was appointed audit manager. He holds a bachelor's degree and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree in accounting, as well as a professional certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership.

In 1993, Douglas became a GCAS regional manager. In 1997, he was elected GCAS assistant director, becoming GCAS associate director in 2000. For the past 14 years, he has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church as GCAS director.

In 2020, he developed the "Roadmap to Resilience" initiative for church leaders and their governing committees. This initiative seeks to prepare leaders "to sustain mission in times of crisis and provide an agile response to rapidly emerging realities"

In both cases, delegates voted overwhelmingly to accept the committee recommendations. 🗳️

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Taking a Bold Stand

awr.org/wisam

Wisam's own family tried to stone and stab him for his belief in God, but today he is an Adventist pastor in the Middle East!

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ANDERSSON AND VALENTINE JOIN NEW GENERAL VICE-PRESIDENTIAL TEAM

Tuesday morning's general business session featured the election of seven vice presidents to the General Conference executive team, an addition of one position since the 2015 Session. Returning leaders include Guillermo E. Biaggi, Abner De los Santos, Thomas L. Lemon, Geoffrey Mbwana, and Artur Stele. Ella Simmons, the first female general vice president in the church's history, is retiring.

Audrey Andersson of the Trans-European Division (TED) and Maurice R. Valentine II from the North American Division (NAD) are this Session's newly elected vice presidents.

Audrey Andersson most recently served as executive secretary of the TED—the only woman who has ever held that position in any division. Born in Ireland, Andersson graduated from Newbold College with a degree in theology. Her career was initially spent in the secular world—she ran a daily news service operation from the High Court in London and had her own communication company. She moved to Sweden when she

married her late husband, Lars. Andersson was then called to the Swedish Union to serve as executive secretary, and from there she transitioned to executive secretary of the TED. She will be the second female to serve as a general vice president and the first European woman.

According to Lori Yingling, director of General Conference Human Resources, "Audrey Andersson has proven herself to be a valuable asset to the work of the church. Audrey promotes collaboration and teamwork with everyone with whom she works. She has never met a stranger, and her optimistic outlook is contagious. I am so happy for her election to the office of vice president; she will be a positive addition to the presidential team and to the world field."

Maurice R. Valentine II comes to the General Conference from the NAD, where he has served as vice president for media ministries since April 2021. Before joining the NAD, Valentine led the Lake Union for six years, first as executive secretary and then as president. He served in the

Mid-America Union as president of the Central States Conference and served as vice president for administration (executive secretary). He also held the position of union ministerial director from 2006 to 2012. Prior to serving in the Mid-America Union, Valentine was assistant to the president in the Central States Conference, where he had begun his pastoral ministry in 1985.

Over the course of 28 years, he pastored a dozen churches in Colorado, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska. Valentine is married to Sharon (Livingston) Valentine, and they have three adult children. "I'm encouraged by the election of Maurice Valentine to vice president of the General Conference," Ron Smith, president of the Southern Union, said. "His gifts of cordiality, commitment to integrity, and deep-seated missional consciousness will assist in fostering responsible ministry for our world church."

Guillermo Biaggi, a native of Argentina and former president of the Euro-Asia Division, was elected in 2015. Abner De los Santos hails from Mexico and previously served as vice president for member retention for the Inter-American Division. He joined the vice-presidential team in 2015, alongside Thomas Lemon, former president of the Mid-America Union in the NAD. Artur Stele, born in Kazakhstan, has been a pastor, academic dean, and division president, and Geoffrey Mbwana was previously president of the East-Central Africa Division. Both became general vice presidents in 2010. ✍️



HOW ELECTIONS WORK AT A GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION

The election process at the General Conference (GC) Session can be shrouded in mystery for a lot of people watching from afar. During the course of the Session, more than one hundred positions are filled. As the new officers are presented each day, many people wonder: How in the world were they chosen? Does a shadowy cabal make decisions in the background? Is the election a foregone conclusion?

Not at all. If you've participated in filling positions at your local church, you likely already know how the process works. Usually, once a year, a local church congregation selects a nominating committee that meets to discuss and vet names for the various offices of the church, ranging from elders and deacons to Sabbath school teachers and the various department heads. Once the nominating committee has prayed over the names and discussed the best choice for each position, they bring the results of their deliberations back to the congregation, which then votes on their candidates.

Once all the names are approved by popular vote, the candidates assume their new offices.

It works the same way at all levels of the church, Claude Richli of the General Conference Secretariat explains.

"It's basically the same process throughout the whole system. . . . When the conference constituency takes place, every church is apportioned a certain number of delegates, based on the size of the church, to be sent as constituent members. When they get to the constituency meeting, they are recognized as delegates, and some of them will be selected to be on the nominating committee by the organizing committee—meaning there are two committees that do their work, so that it reduces the risk of political interference. This process takes place in the same way at the union level and at the division level.

"So let's say, for instance, at the division level you will have unions recommending to the division the delegates that they would like to send to

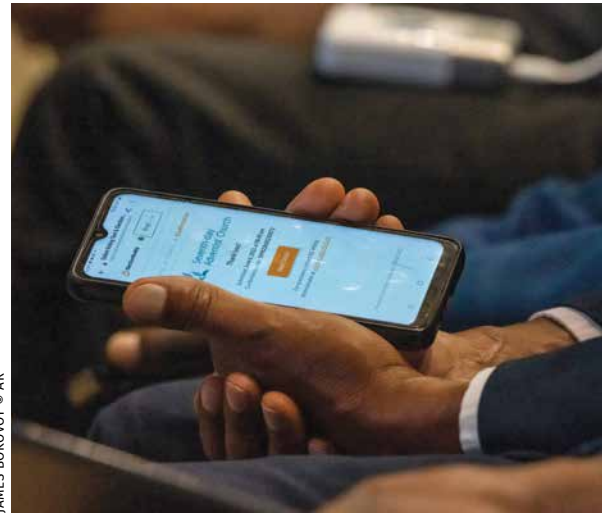


JOSEF KISSINGER © AR

the General Conference Session. And then through the division comes a recommendation to the General Conference Administrative Committee and then Executive Committee. So it goes through many levels. The people who are here have been vetted throughout the whole system.”

The nominating committee faces a considerable task during the long days of the Session. Their first discussion lasted nearly five hours before the committee brought back the name of incumbent Ted Wilson for General Conference president. That is just one of many positions to nominate, which means that the committee will be *very* busy throughout the course of the week.

The process is expedited considerably by using online technology. In the past, paper ballots were cast and manually counted, which could slow down the voting process considerably. In St. Louis, delegates are using ElectionBuddy, a digital voting system that enables delegates to vote by using their personal devices. The system—known to be



JAMES BOKOVY © AR

In St. Louis, delegates are using ElectionBuddy, a digital voting system that enables delegates to vote by using their personal devices.

secure—has been working smoothly, in spite of the hiccups faced by delegates on the first day of the Session, when WiFi connectivity in the auditorium became a little spotty as delegate usage suddenly swamped it during some of the earliest votes. North American delegates were encouraged by the chair to switch to their cell-phone data connections, and the problem was quickly resolved as demands on the routers dropped. After the bugs were ironed out, the voting ran smoothly, and voting participation on most agenda items has been high.

How are General Conference officers chosen? Essentially, *you* choose them. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has always been a grassroots, bottom-up organization, and the highest authority of the church is the assembly of delegates at the General Conference Session. When the newly elected officers appear on the platform each day, they are there because of a process that started with you. ♣



GALLERY

A regular feature of a General Conference Session are frequent prayer sessions.

JOSEF KISSINGER © AR

Many people work behind the scenes to bring the General Conference Session not only to delegates, but members around the world.



Vit Vurst and Tamara Hajduskova, delegates for the Inter-European Division, enjoy one of the daily *Bulletins*.

JOSEF WISSINGER © AR



Known to regularly carry a pocket Bible, Ted N. C. Wilson and his wife, Nancy, wait to be introduced to the delegates.

JAMES BOKOVY © AR



CYCLISTS TAKE 1,200-MILE MISSIONARY RIDE

Team celebrates the opportunity to connect, pray with people.

Under a summery early afternoon sun, a group of church leaders, relatives, colleagues, and friends met at Kiener Plaza Park in downtown St. Louis to welcome the I Will Go bicycle ride team on June 5.

The eight cyclists, who had left Washington, D.C., two weeks earlier, completed the last leg of their 1,200-mile (2,000-kilometer) journey west, just hours before the beginning of the 61st General Conference Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Along the way, the cycling group, composed of several church leaders and a church lay member, distributed Adventist literature as they talked to local residents and prayed for their needs.

"There were times when we arrived in a small town and everyone was out there, and we were able to spread out and talk to people," Australian Union Conference executive secretary Michael Worker said. "When they found out what we were

doing, they would ask, 'Why are you doing it?' and we were able to tell our story and distribute Adventist literature very easily."

THE GREATEST THRILL IN LIFE

General Conference Ministerial Association associate secretary Anthony Kent, who also participated in the ride, agreed. "As we were riding, I was praying, 'Lord, you brought us on this road for a purpose; show us the people You want us to meet.'"

Kent said God answered his prayer, as He led them to people in need of comfort, prayer, and spiritual encouragement. "For me, the greatest thrill in life is to lead people to Jesus Christ," he said. "When [people] discover the transforming power of Jesus Christ, their lives are never the same."

Another of the participants, General Conference Health Ministries associate director Torben Bergland, reflected on the health component of the



MARK FROELICH © AR

initiative. “It is amazing what the body can do. I had been a cyclist for more than 30 years, but I had never done something like this before,” Bergland said. “For me, it has been an eye-opener, how your mind can often be a limitation, not your body.”

But the witnessing component of their journey was what most impressed Bergland. “We met people who had never met an Adventist before,” he said. “For me, it increased my sense of urgency, that we need to reach all those people who are out there, because they are looking for something, they need something, and they are open, if we are just willing to go and connect with them.”

Bergland added that this is just one example of a way to reach others, but it could serve as a model. “I hope it can inspire other people to be creative, to think how they can use their interests, skills, talents — whatever they have — in a way that they can go out and connect with people out there.”

General Conference president Ted N. C. Wilson said that as impressive as the cyclists’ feat was, reaching out to others should not be exclusive of such major initiatives. “All of us can put ourselves in a place when we can honor God with our lives,” Wilson said. “Everyone can do something for Jesus, so we just don’t sit back but do what their jerseys said, ‘I Will Go.’”

DIVINE APPOINTMENTS

A day before, the team had stopped for a special Saturday (Sabbath) program at the Thompsonville Seventh-day Adventist Church in Thompsonville, Illinois, just a few hours shy of the ride finish. During the program, participants told stories about “divine appointments” they believed were set by God.

Participant Rob Hansford, an Adventist accountant in Australia, said that for him, the most frightening part of the journey was sharing his faith with people. “I was scared. But this experience really changed my life. I learned that I can go and tell the story of my family to anyone,” Hansford said.

During the program, Adventist Review Ministries executive editor Bill Knott reminded the in-person audience and those following the livestream that the call to do mission does not originate in us but in God. “We don’t move into serving the church because we think we have something to offer,” Knott said. “It’s Jesus’ call. Without the call, there could be no mission.”

Thompsonville church pastor John Lomacang agreed. In his closing thoughts, he emphasized that the trip did not match most of the participants’ comfort zones. “But I learned that God can do anything with the willing heart,” he said.

Lomacang added that these cyclists might never know the full impact of their ride until they reach heaven. But again, he emphasized, the key is accepting God’s call to reach out. “God can do anything through us if we just say the words, ‘I Will Go,’” he said. ♣

A full length documentary on this historic ride will be available this fall on Adventist Review TV.



DAVID B. SHERWIN © AR

Anthony Kent



WE SPEAK MANY LANGUAGES

*You don't need to speak
English to be heard.*

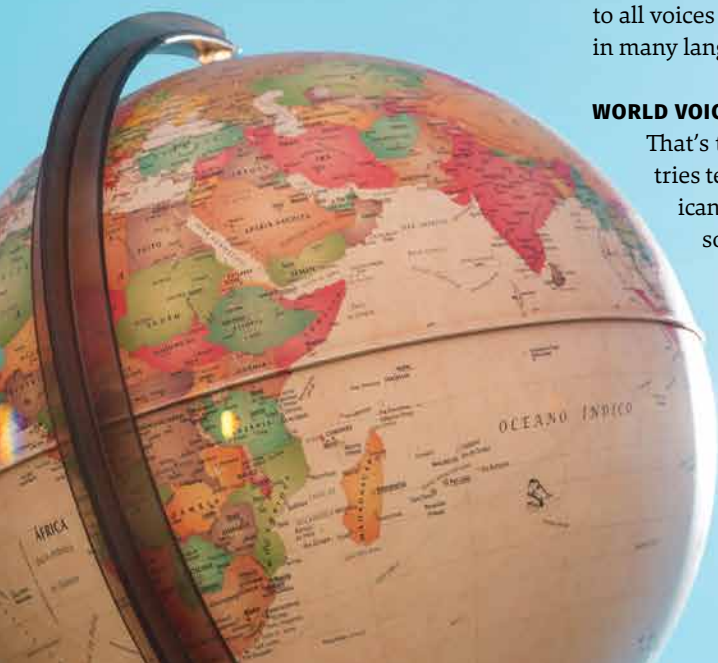
Sitting in the dining hall of the General Conference (GC) Session in the St. Louis convention center offers a great introduction to the many languages and dialects spoken by Adventists. You can hear Kiswahili floating by, or Akan spoken by people hailing from Ghana. Portuguese echoes through the hallways. Spanish, French, Korean, Chinese, Tagalog, Visayan, and dozens of other languages can be heard among the delegates, reminding us that this is a large global family. I speak German to some of my friends from Europe and enjoy great memories with former students from South America in Spanish.

The tapestry of distinct sounds and syllables reminds us that we are blessed with a large spiritual family of brothers and sisters whose languages we often don't speak but who are as eager as we are to walk toward the kingdom. We may not always understand all they say—but we surely see them and embrace them, for they are family. We can hear their hearts.

Language can unite us—or it can divide us. In the past we have mostly gathered around the English language. This has historical reasons—this faith community began its journey in North America—but we are *not* a North American church. We are a global family and thrive on the blessings of diversity. We huddle around English because it's the language of a global world, but we have consciously begun to listen to all voices expressing their ideas and their worries in many languages.

WORLD VOICES

That's the reason the Adventist Review Ministries team included in this GC Session a significant number of international authors whose sole responsibility is to write daily commentaries and reflections in their native language. We called them *World Voices*. We invited these authors because they are trusted and respected voices in their communities and understand the power of words. They also understand the culture of their countries of origin so much better than we do. That's why we wanted them to share their view of this GC Session with



you—unfiltered and as real and significant as the dozens of articles in English you can find in our printed daily *Bulletins* or the extensive online-only written material and the audio and video reports.

If you can read Russian, Korean, German, Spanish, French, or Portuguese, we invite you to go to our website and relive this past week through their eyes. Meet Diogo Cavalcanti from Brazil, writing in Portuguese, or Ivan Riapolov from the Euro-Asia Division communicating in Russian. Become a friend of Daniel Bosqued from Spain or Marcos Blanco hailing from Argentina as they share their experiences in Spanish. If you feel at home in Korean, you will enjoy the writing of Jae Man Park and Hyo Jun Han. If you prefer German, let me introduce you to Matthias Müller. If French is the best way to reach your heart, you will enjoy the column by Pedro Torres from the Franco-Belgian Union.

We would have loved to add more languages, but budgets are limited. Whatever language you feel at home in, please know that we seek to speak many languages at Adventist Review Ministries. Whether it is *Adventist World* or digital content on Adventist Review TV or a GC Session, we see you and want to make every effort to communicate with you. You don't need to speak English to be heard. 📣

Gerald A. Klingbeil is an associate editor of Adventist Review Ministries.





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NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS



Scan this QR code to read more about the newly elected officials.



Elder Ted Wilson offers a prayer of dedication over eight incumbent and five in-coming presidents of the 13 divisions or regions of the world church. Division presidents also serve as General Conference (GC) vice-presidents.



Newly elected and incumbent GC departmental directors greet delegates.

DELEGATES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Delegate **Fidelia Belta Queen Uche** is director of the Entrepreneurship Development Center at Captain Elechi Amadi Polytechnic in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Although the transcontinental travel was difficult, Uche, who represents the West-Central Africa Division, said, “I had to... come. I have been in this church all my life, and I will die a Seventh-day Adventist.”



Uma Edward Pilli, principal of the Seventh-day Adventist School in Hyderabad, India, journeyed thousands of miles to participate in person. “I came to [have a hand in] choosing our leaders,” she says. “Here we can voice those choices because this is a bigger platform to verbalize our thoughts...and learn from different cultures.”

Neji Ouni (left), a pastor from Tunisia, and **Bassam Abdulla**, an instructor at Middle East University, share a heart for the gospel. The delegates represent the Middle East North Africa Union. For Ouni and Abdalla, truth and faith lie at the core of who they are as Adventists. “We need to keep preaching the whole truth. Because if it’s not the whole truth, it’s not the truth,” Ouni says.



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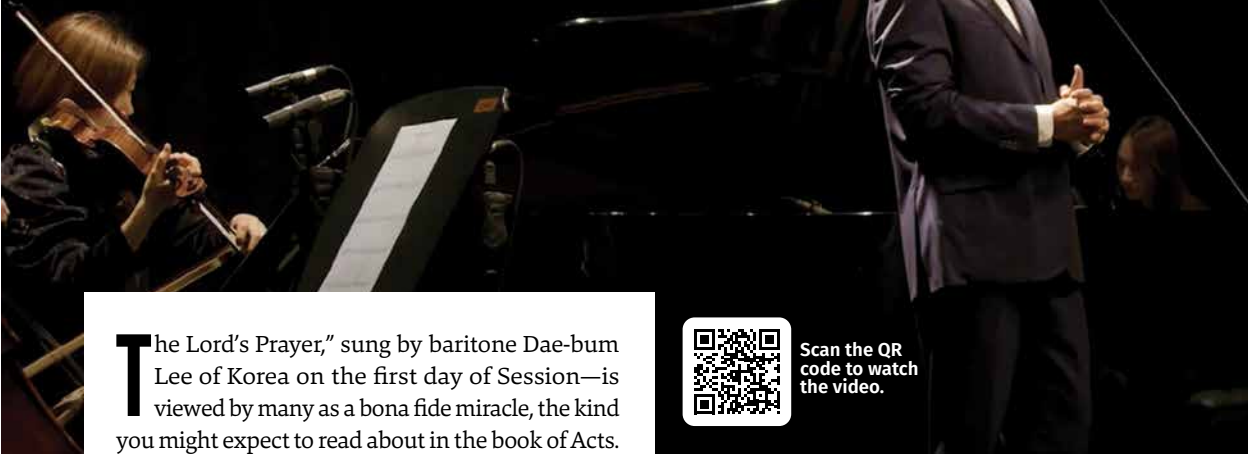
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MUSICAL MIRACLE INSPIRES SESSION ATTENDEES



The Lord’s Prayer,” sung by baritone Dae-bum Lee of Korea on the first day of Session—is viewed by many as a bona fide miracle, the kind you might expect to read about in the book of Acts. Dae-bum and his wife, So-yeon Lee, are not in St. Louis enjoying Session; instead, the performance was prerecorded and shared on the big screen.

And *what* a performance it was.

Dae-bum, an opera singer, had been working in Europe, where his promising career was taking off. “But as success was right in front of us,” So-yeon explains, “COVID-19 became a pandemic.” Dae-bum was working in Milan, and Italy was one of the hardest-hit nations when the pandemic began to spread across the globe. So-yeon and their 3-year-old son had little choice but to return to Korea, leaving Dae-bum behind.

After five months of separation from his family, Dae-bum unexpectedly had a stroke. His wife tried to return to Italy immediately, but the pandemic—and the fact that she was seven months pregnant—made this very difficult. Prayer opened the right doors, however, and she was soon at her husband’s side in an intensive care unit.

“My husband barely recognized me due to right hemiplegia, aphasia, a swallowing disorder, and cognitive loss,” she relates. She waited for signs of improvement—for *50 days*. Her persistent prayers were answered; Dae-bum gradually improved, and the family was able to return to Korea, where their daughter was safely born.



Scan the QR code to watch the video.

Dae-bum was somewhat mobile, but it seemed his musical aspirations were shattered. He could not speak, let alone sing.

That’s then it happened: “One day,” So-yeon recounts, “his lips moved, and a melody began to flow. Even though he could not speak, God made him to praise. We prayed, dreaming of praising [Him] at the GC Session again. He could participate virtually.”

Dae-bum recorded his stunning rendition of “The Lord’s Prayer” in a studio, accompanied by piano, violin, and cello. To watch it, you’d never know what he’d been through; his tragic impairment was barely discernible. The warmth of his baritone voice, fueled by a love for Christ, washed over the assembly. Where spoken language failed, music, God’s miracle language, suddenly took over—a potent reminder that God does not abandon us when the world throws its worst our way.

Music is *always* a miracle, a profound gift from God that cannot really be explained apart from Him. Sometimes it’s the tears in your eyes (the “feels,” as some people describe them) that remind you that God is very real and present.

Shawn Boonstra is the speaker/director of the Voice of Prophecy media ministry.

A BOUNTIFUL TABLE

Saving a place for you

ADVENTIST REVIEW STAFF



ADVENTIST REVIEW

After more than 170 years the “little paper” started by James White does much the same as it first did. We share news, theology, or fellowship with members through the printed page. We continue to share news of interest to the global church wherever it happens. We engage in relevant social, spiritual, and theological questions. And we facilitate discussion on difficult topics. As then, we still welcome readers to submit articles for publication. It’s a must-have monthly magazine. To subscribe, visit adventistreview.com. You’ll get both a vibrant magazine and an engaging website.

You came to General Conference Session. You read this souvenir edition. You’ve learned; you’ve been blessed; you’ve been filled. Now it’s time to go home. The spiritual feast has ended. Or has it?

Perhaps by now you’ve figured out that Adventist Review Ministries is perpetually working for you. Every day, every week, every month, twice a year, and every quinquennium we’re providing a perpetual feast. And most of it is only a click away. So take a look at the menu. Sign up. Tune in. Click. Or scan. We’ll guarantee you will return again and again, because, like a good buffet, you just can’t get enough.

KIDSVIEW

In four months *Kidsview* will celebrate its twentieth birthday. It’s hard to believe that the “baby” in the *Adventist Review* family is so grown-up. While it may be a young adult in years, it serves as a general-interest Adventist magazine for children, ages 8-12, featuring activities, material focused on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), devotionals, student writing, quizzes, stories, and, a perennial favorite, an interactive and highly creative calendar. Currently *KidsView* is sent to all students in grades 3 to 6 in Adventist schools in the North American Division, as well as all *Adventist Review* subscribers.





ADVENTIST WORLD

Adventist World is the real newcomer to Adventist Review Ministries. This global magazine, now in its eighteenth year, is delivered free to Adventist members worldwide. Each month more than 1.5 million copies in eight languages are distributed. Additionally, four more languages are offered digitally. Add to that another 170,000 copies of *Adventist World Digest* printed every quarter in 25 languages that serve smaller language groups. Readers in North America find *Adventist World* packaged with *Adventist Journey*, the magazine of the North American Division. In other parts of the world, it appears together with other division or union papers. Articles in *Adventist World* seek to inform, inspire, engage, and connect readers to God's world and one another.

NEWS

Sharing news for Adventist Review Ministries means telling stories of God in action. From North India to South Africa, from Chile to the Canadian Arctic, God is at work in the world. News stories are a daily online presence on our websites (adventistreview.org and adventistworld.org) and a major element of both magazines. They serve to provide information and build faith. Online and in print, news works to keep the family of God healthy. Church members read the stories and realize that those who love God are all interconnected. Being connected boosts our sense of belonging, our desire to stick around, and our motivation to do our part for God's cause.



BOOKS

We also create books using articles from the vast repertoire of *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World*. Drawn together, these articles can be shared in a new format, and the blessing is multiplied many times over. An example of this is the recent book *28 Ways to Spell Your Faith*, which started out as a series of articles in *Adventist World* on the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



WEBSITES

The Adventist Review Ministries' digital platforms introduce audiences to new ways to integrate deep spirituality into their daily routines. January 2022 saw the launch of the new *Adventist Review* website. It's young, flexible, adaptive and growing as it understands the user, and delivers material relevant to the user's journey with Christ. All three websites have something new to offer daily: adventistreview.org; adventistworld.org, and kidsview.com.

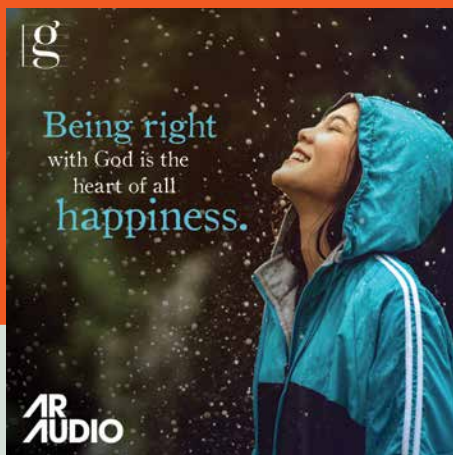


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GRACENOTES

What began as text messages from editor Bill Knott to 60 friends now reaches hundreds of thousands—by email, podcast, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, on major Christian radio networks, and yes, still by text. Like the grace of Christ that inspired them, GraceNotes are “open source.” Use them, share them, or forward them to friends. You can subscribe to GraceNotes at www.moregracenotes.com, or listen to the audiogram version on the Facebook “GraceNotes” page: www.facebook.com/moregracenotes.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Adventist Review Ministries posts daily on social media and provides a free weekly email newsletter. The newsletter highlights the biggest news stories and articles of the week, along with a GraceNotes podcast and suggested videos from ARTV. The posts appear on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, pointing users to church-related topics of interest to them. Sign up for the newsletter subscriptions at adventistreview.org.



PODCASTS

Audio on demand, or podcasting, is a collection or series of digital audio files made available for downloading or listening via the Internet. Adventist Review Audio’s earliest digital releases featured our Digging Deeper series, which dealt with important doctrines of the church. This series, along with the narration of *Adventist Review/Adventist World* magazine articles, is available each month, recorded by the authors and made available as podcasts and on both magazine websites. You can also access our podcast content by going to either adventistreview.podbean.com or adventistworld.podbean.com.

MORE THAN ENOUGH

As you can see, there’s an abundance of options. Without trying to push this metaphor too far, a meal is best enjoyed with others. It is often the community and the conversation that make the gathering memorable. So why not consider pulling up a chair? Join the banquet prepared for you. Adventist Review Ministries has chairs enough for all your family. 🪑



PAUL RYSZ

It's been a privilege to be at General Conference Session this week—but there's nothing quite like going home. If you're like me, you just sleep better in your own bed, look forward to familiar food, miss your family, and can't wait to get back to your normal routine.

Not all travelers have gone home to the security of four walls, however. Father Abraham, for instance, “went out, not knowing where he was going . . . [.] dwelling in tents . . . [.] for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Hebrews 11:8-10, NKJV). He was not content to settle down and rest easy—his eyes were fixed on something better. Something better than home? Is there such a thing?

The Faith I Live By recalls a story Ellen White shared after her travels in Europe. “I was favored with the sight of the most glorious sunset it was ever my privilege to behold. . . . The last beams of the setting sun, silver and gold, purple, amber, and crimson, shed their glories athwart the sky, growing brighter and brighter, rising higher and higher in the heavens, until it seemed that the gates of the city of God had been left ajar, and gleams of the inner glory were flashing through. . . .

“Angels of mercy seemed whispering: ‘Look up! This glory is but a gleam of the light which flows from the throne of God. Live not for earth alone. Look up, and behold by faith the mansions of the heavenly home.’”^{*} The splendor of that scene and the knowledge of the glory above made Ellen White's earthly home pale in comparison. Like Abraham, she caught a glimpse of something better.

Home, I've learned, is more than just a place. As good as it is to be in a familiar area with comfortable surroundings, it isn't really home without family, friends, or a supportive community. As we prepare for Christ's soon return, let's point others to Him, inviting them to be part of a long-awaited reunion. We're going home! 🏡

^{*} Ellen G. White, *The Faith I Live By* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1958), p. 248.

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Ellen G. White, *Counsels on Health*, p. 466

