

ADVENTIST REVIEW



2022 GENERAL
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SUPPLEMENT



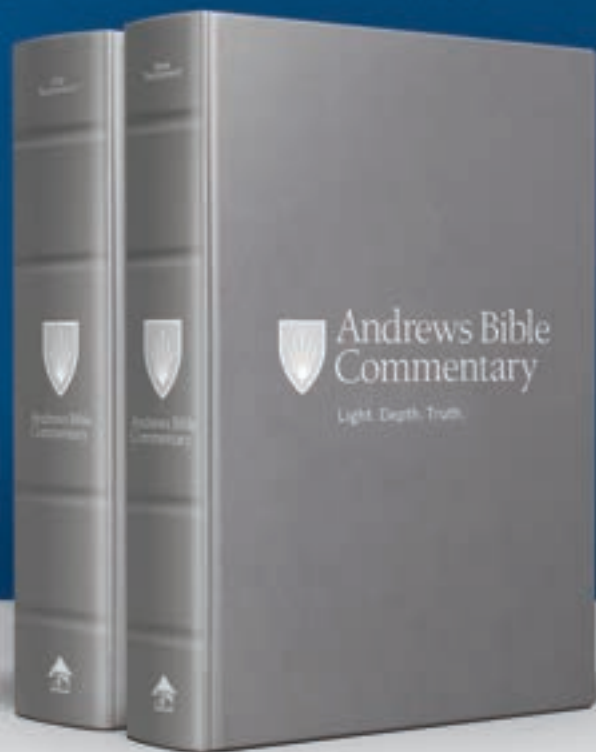
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CONTENTS



4 INTRODUCTION

GENERAL CONFERENCE DEPARTMENTS

8 ADVENTIST CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES

12 ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY

16 ADVENTIST MISSION MISSION TO THE CITIES

20 ADVENTIST REVIEW MINISTRIES

24 ADVENTIST RISK MANAGEMENT

28 ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO

32 BIBLICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

36 CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

40 COMMUNICATION

44 EDUCATION

48 ELLEN G. WHITE ESTATE ADVENTIST HERITAGE MINISTRIES

52 FAMILY MINISTRIES

56 GENERAL CONFERENCE AUDITING SERVICE

60 HEALTH MINISTRIES COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH MINISTRIES

64 HOPE CHANNEL

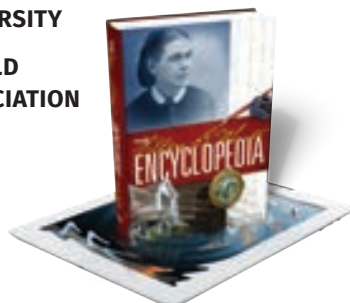
GENERAL CONFERENCE BULLETIN SUPPLEMENT



- 68 MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION**
REVIVAL AND REFORMATION
- 72 OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL**
- 76 PLANNED GIVING AND TRUST SERVICES**
- 80 PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**
- 84 PUBLISHING MINISTRIES**
- 88 SABBATH SCHOOL AND PERSONAL MINISTRIES**
TOTAL MEMBER INVOLVEMENT
ADULT BIBLE STUDY GUIDE
- 94 STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES**
- 98 WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**
- 102 YOUTH MINISTRIES**

GENERAL CONFERENCE INSTITUTIONS

- 106 ADVENTIST INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF ADVANCED STUDIES**
- 110 ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF AFRICA**
- 114 ANDREWS UNIVERSITY**
- 118 GEOSCIENCE RESEARCH INSTITUTE**
- 122 LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY**
- 126 REVIEW AND HERALD
PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION**



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LEARNING WHAT THE SPIRIT IS DOING

BY BILL KNOTT

On the final Sabbath of the 2000 Toronto General Conference Session, I stood in a high balcony with my parents, looking at the vast and vibrant crowd of more than 50,000 believers who filled the capacious Sky Dome. My parents, both long-time church employees, had driven more than 500 miles to visit us, and to witness for themselves one of the most remarkable gatherings of any Christian faith group in the world.

As my mother watched the mission presentation captivate the assembly with its vivid images and compelling stories, I heard her softly murmur something I now think of as I approach each General Conference Session.

“I wish my mother could have seen this,” my mother said. “She never knew how big her church was.”

And it was true. My Italian grandmother, like my mother a convert to this movement, had mostly known the congregation she attended—a mid-sized congregation in a mid-size U.S. city, where the fellowship creaked and groaned with decisions about renovating the church building, supporting the local church-run elementary school, and keeping the parking lot plowed in the winter. Her gaze rarely lifted above the challenges of retaining good pastors, assisting with the annual Ingathering program, and offering childcare to stressed church families. Yes, she was aware of the extensive mission program of the church: a mission story was shared each week as part of the Sabbath School program. But little in those crafted lines, usually read by the Sabbath School superintendent, could convey the color, the sound, the diversity that is this global movement.

“She never knew how big her church was.”

Those of us blessed to serve at the church’s world headquarters frequently forget the privilege we have of seeing this movement in all its scope and scale. Baptisms are reported in tens of thousands; budgets reach into the millions. Inspiring stories of commitment, faith and courage flood our offices with such regularity that they sometimes no longer seem remarkable. In pre-COVID years, many leaders spent more than 150 days each year—and often well more than 100,000 flight miles—visiting congregations, attending mission conferences, speaking at ministerial training sessions, and encouraging new initiatives.



But the vast majority of Seventh-day Adventists will never share those experiences nor attend a General Conference Session. So it falls to those of us given the privilege of serving to share the news we know—how the Spirit of God is working in so many places, reviving believers, reforming congregations, propelling individuals and groups to knock on doors, text their friends, and share gospel literature in their neighborhoods.

The document you hold in your hands has two primary purposes—to inform the 2,713 delegates who will participate in the upcoming General Conference Session in St. Louis, Missouri (USA) June 6-11; and to report to a global movement of 22 million believers some pieces of what the Spirit has been doing in the church since the last General Conference Session in 2015.

It would take far more than the 128 pages of this “Supplement” (as this introductory report to the daily General Conference *Bulletins* has been labeled) to tell the fuller story of the past seven years. “My Father is still working, and I also am working,” Jesus told those who challenged His healing ministry. The presence of Jesus—and the

work of the Holy Spirit—has been moving forward in more than 90,000 Adventist churches around the globe; in nearly 9,000 elementary, secondary, and tertiary schools; 560 hospitals and clinics; and 60 publishing houses.

It may be tempting as you survey this report of dozens of ministries, services, and institutions that serve the world Seventh-day Adventist Church to read it as you would read a corporate report—for data, assessment, or critique. So let me encourage to pause at the end of each report and pray—pray for those who dream and imagine; for those who implement and execute; for the many who labor and pray through these ministries to expand God’s kingdom.

My grandmother never knew how big her church was. But her grandson certainly knows. And his heart—my heart—is moved each day by the power of faith; the embrace of all colors, languages, and ethnicities; and the commitment to “press together” as a global family awaiting the return of Jesus.

Bill Kueh

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GENERAL CONFERENCE DEPARTMENTS



The CERO church plant in Madrid, Spain, is involved in many community activities including feeding the homeless.

[ADVENTIST MISSION]

ADVENTIST CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES

MINISTRY OUTSIDE CHURCH WALLS

Reflecting the gospel in both work and deed

The Department of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) celebrates its thirty-seventh anniversary at this General Conference Session. During the past 37 years, ACM’s mission to Adventist chaplains and members who serve while wearing their nation’s or community’s uniforms has expanded and matured. ACM’s oversight includes Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, Adventist Chaplaincy Institute, and the World Service Organization.

The role of ACM is to create competent, caring, committed Adventist chaplains to serve wherever

their presence is needed. Chaplaincy enjoys rapid growth worldwide, and Adventist chaplains are often recognized as among the best professionally equipped practitioners in the field.

Seventh-day Adventist chaplains are pastors who have chosen a specialized ministry. They are the face of the world church on private and public educational campuses; in community settings when they minister to law enforcement, first responders, and others; in prisons, hospitals, and hospice settings; in the military; as counselors; and in such diverse environments as the Olympic Games and airports. Chaplains often touch the lives of those who have no formal connection with church or religion.

Education for chaplains is an integral part of their ministry. A master’s in chaplaincy is now offered at the Adventist University of Africa, and a Doctor of Ministry is available at Andrews University. In addition to education comes the formal



Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries

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Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries also oversees the World Service Organization, Adventist Chaplaincy Institute, the Medical Cadet Corps, and the National Service Corps.

MARIO CEBALLOS
DIRECTOR
IVAN OMAÑA
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



recognition of a calling to pastoral ministry. This is recognized in the same way as a parish pastor through the ordination and commissioning of chaplains.

During the past seven years, ACM established worldwide standards of professional chaplaincy certification. The use of onsite training and online courses has contributed to immersing chaplains in this specialized ministry.

Ecclesiastical endorsement is the church's affirmation that a person's calling and training for chaplaincy are evident. ACM provides endorsement to chaplains who are employed by General Conference (GC) institutions and to chaplains whose home division does not offer an endorsement policy.

Learn more at AdventistChaplains.org or on Facebook at [@GCAdventistChaplains](https://www.facebook.com/GCAdventistChaplains).

ADVENTIST CHAPLAINCY INSTITUTE (ACI)

Adventist Chaplaincy Institute fosters professional training, board certification, and continuing education. It:

- Grants board certification to endorsed chaplains who fulfill requirements for the designation board-certified Adventist chaplain.
- Certifies Adventist Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) supervisors.
- Evaluates and grants accreditation to CPE training centers and other chaplaincy training programs. These training programs are reviewed every five years to recertify compliance with accreditation standards, relevance, and quality.
- Establishes quality controls, ensuring standards of excellence at the same level or higher than accepted and required by secular, government, or professional organizations.

A vital part of chaplaincy training is CPE. CPE is clinical education in a supervised setting. CPE trainees develop both interpersonal and interprofessional skills that are essential for chaplains and pastors alike.

CPE training centers in Adventist hospital settings assist chaplains in the continued development of their theological understanding of suffering, compassion, and interacting with individuals of varying faiths and those of no faith. Chaplains, conference presidents, church leaders, and pastors are availing themselves of this specialized training. They report that it has changed their lives and their ministry.

During the past seven years, ACM established CPE centers in Puerto Rico (Inter-American Division), Argentina (South American Division), Australia (South Pacific Division), and Nigeria (West-Central Africa Division). These are in addition to the CPE center in the Philippines (Southern Asia-Pacific Division). Ongoing plans include centers in Korea (Northern Asia-Pacific Division) and Malawi (Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division).

In North America, Adventist CPE centers are in Bakersfield, California; Kettering, Ohio; Loma Linda, California; Littleton, Colorado; Orlando, Florida; Hinsdale, Illinois; Rockville, Maryland; and Burleson, Texas.

Learn more at AdventistChaplaincyInstitute.org.

WORLD SERVICE ORGANIZATION

Operating under the auspices of ACM, the World Service Organization (WSO) "is an integral element of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries and is the official military relations office of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Its primary mission is to provide pastoral care and religious resources to support the spiritual well-being of Seventh-day Adventists who serve their nations in all aspects of government service, in and out of uniform, including military forces and law-enforcement agencies around the world."

The WSO/NSO administers the Seventh-day Adventist Medical Cadet Corps (MCC) and the Seventh-day Adventist National Service Corps (NSC).

Initially launched in the 1930s at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, the MCC played an essential



Seventh-day Adventist chaplains are located in and minister to every world division.

role in the preparation of young Adventist men for noncombatant military service. MCC Corps were organized in the United States, the Philippines, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Indonesia, Japan, Taiwan, and Singapore.

Today MCC units train to serve their local communities in times of disaster, provide support as requested at large events, and encourage self-discipline and leadership. The NSC provides a non-uniformed service alternative to military service. Divisions and union conferences can design the program to meet the exigencies of their country for an alternative to military service. Each country establishes and enforces its own regulations.

In April 2019, world church leaders attended the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Military Service Conference, which addressed several aspects concerning the church, military service, and its members.

During the conference, attendees reviewed official church positions regarding military service.

They also explored viable options to support individual members and the way they follow their conscience. Other topics included Sabbathkeeping challenges and ideas for Adventists who serve in uniform to maintain their faith tradition.

Learn more at WorldServiceOrganization.org or on Facebook at [@WSOGC](https://www.facebook.com/WSOGC) and [@AdventistMCC](https://www.facebook.com/AdventistMCC).

GUIDING OTHERS TO HOPE

At ACM, we are dedicated to the training and support of compassionate, committed, and competent chaplains. Though the WSO our desire is to empower our members in uniform to live out their faith as they serve their country. We also seek to inform our church members of the challenges they face when they choose to serve in the uniformed services of their nations.

We believe Jesus is coming soon. People in today's world are hurting, frightened, and seeking hope. Our mission at ACM and the WSO is to guide others to the great hope—Jesus Christ. ▀

HIS Impact On Me

Building Faith



"I had been praying and asking God to strengthen my faith." These were the words that led to the start of a two-and-a-half-year building project headed by a semi-retired surgeon, with nothing but a desire to help Native American children and grow in his own faith. Since then, God has led Randal Schafer to the near completion of two triplex apartments on behalf of a little school in the desert in northern Arizona. It's a project that has grown his faith while also "building" the ministry at Holbrook Indian School (HIS).

Back in 2019, Schafer had a desire to grow his faith but was not sure how. As Schafer's focus turned towards the Native American people, he found himself in contact with HIS principal, Pedro Ojeda, who told him about a need for staff housing at the school. HIS needed funds and labor for the construction of two apartment buildings. It was one of the school's most pressing needs at the time, but it was also a need that it could least afford in terms of time, labor, and cost.

Heading this project would mean a volunteer role. It would involve responsibilities like recruiting labor, budgeting, and fundraising. More than two years later, Schafer can now attest to the provisions made through God's hands--the faithful support from God's children in helping to meet a need.

"At one time I had two young people send a letter with an anonymous donation of close to \$400. They said that they had been saving for the summer and wanted it to go towards the triplex. They mentioned they wanted to do the same thing for next summer. When I read this it brought tears to my eyes."

"For me, this whole project has been a walk of faith. God has, again and again, supplied funding and volunteers, just when we need them. It's a beautiful thing. I have just been amazed many times."

You too can help Native American youth while witnessing God's hand in faithful provision by making a gift to Holbrook Indian School today at HolbrookIndianSchool.org



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ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has nearly 300 urban and rural health facilities across the three divisions in Sub-Saharan Africa. ADRA partnered with the church to supply these facilities with medical supplies and personal protective equipment to mitigate the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. —ADRA



MEETING NEEDS IN A CHANGING WORLD

Development means water, food, shelter, education, and more.

The work of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is modeled after the mission of Christ: to offer love, compassion, and hope to the most vulnerable people. That same mission is embraced by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, whose principles shape and direct the work of ADRA in communities all around the world. Indeed, serving as the global humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is ADRA's greatest strength.

ADRA seeks to meet needs wherever they exist: single mothers in India; child-headed households in Kenya; those sick and disabled in Mauritania and Lebanon; out-of-school children in Peru; vulnerable girls in Thailand; drought-prone villages in Madagascar. The list goes on.

The need is great, but so is our love and compassion. Thanks to the vision, stewardship, and faithfulness of our church pioneers and leaders, that same love and compassion has the power to change millions of lives. It is not limited by distance, adversity, or borders. It reaches vulnerable people when they need it most, in greater numbers each year.

WORKING IN A POST-COVID-19 WORLD

Since the spring of 2020, however, when a novel coronavirus brought the world to its knees, the



function of that love and compassion has been put to the test. Because of the COVID-19 virus, economies teetered on collapse, health systems failed, and millions died. Two years later we live in a world marked forever by global catastrophe. The virus rages still.

Doubts about the future provoked concerns for the sustainability of ADRA's mission. How could ADRA—and everyone else in the world, for that matter—possibly survive the COVID-19 pandemic?

Fear cannot flourish in the presence of God. With faith, doubt dissipates. It is written in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you . . . plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (NIV).

The global reach of ADRA in 2020 proves that this verse is more than just a phrase. It is a promise. Last year ADRA changed the lives of nearly 35 million people around the world. During a time of grave uncertainty ADRA pushed on. From home offices in living rooms, kitchens, and back decks, the work continued. When all signs suggested that the world was falling apart, ADRA sought to rebuild it.

Despite the collapse of systems and infrastructures during the worst of the pandemic, the life-saving humanitarian projects of ADRA did not collapse. If anything, they grew stronger.

In 2019, for example, ADRA spent US\$324 million on 1,181 projects that reached 14 million women, children, and men. In 2020, despite unprecedented complications and insecurities, ADRA spent US\$332 million on 1,506 projects, impacting the lives of nearly 35 million people. Such miraculous advancements can be attributed not only to the selfless commitment of our dedicated staff and partners, but especially to the grace of God and the support of the Adventist World Church.

ADRA AND THE CHURCH WORKING TOGETHER

ADRA's continued growth and success worldwide is not possible without the foundation of

the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The network of churches, pastors, lay members, and institutions are ADRA's greatest and most consistent asset. When there are needs in new corners of the world, the church often helps pave the way.

This partnership remained strong during the darkest months of the global pandemic. During 2020 ADRA and the Adventist Church worked together on nearly 300 projects tailored to fight the fallout of the pandemic. Because of that partnership, nearly 20 million people in 96 countries experienced hope in a time of hopelessness.

Other partners provided critical shipments of personal protective equipment (PPEs) and oxygen when none could be found and cash meant little. Those shipments saved lives in hard-hit countries on six continents such as India, Madagascar, Russia, Brazil, the United States, and many more—none of which would have been possible without the structure and support of the Adventist Church.

The testimonies of those ADRA and the church served are innumerable.

"ADRA is transforming lives," said Aklima, a mother in Bangladesh who partnered with ADRA and the church to sew face masks for those in need.

"I am very thankful for the great help that comes right to our home," said Joseva, a disabled father in Fiji, who received cash vouchers, food, and water to survive the pandemic during hurricane season.

"Thank you to the staff who put their lives aside and come to serve us," said Naom, a Syrian refugee in Nova Scotia, Canada, who feeds her family with the help of a food bank supported by ADRA and the church. The list goes on . . .

During 2020, when ADRA needed it most, the world church provided a strong network of support.

LOOKING AHEAD

Despite the challenges of the ongoing pandemic, we continue to see God's guiding hand in everything we do. During the past few years we have either developed or strengthened our work in the



Church- and ADRA-sponsored food banks around Europe fed thousands of families in need during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. —ADRA FINLAND

following ways to emerge as a global leader in community development and humanitarian relief:

- We were one of the main responders to humanitarian crises in Yemen, Venezuela, and Syria.
- We established a global campaign uniting the Adventist Church and all ADRA offices to speak up for every school-aged child everywhere to have access to quality education.
- We established social business ventures in partnership with our beneficiary communities to provide ADRA with an additional source of income while improving the incomes and well-being of the communities we serve.
- We deepened our relationship and partnership with the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
- We pivoted our projects and resources in

nearly 100 countries to fight the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These accomplishments serve as a foundation for our ongoing progress as we continue to invest in systems, tools, people, and capacity-building to ensure that ADRA continues to have an impact.

The fight against COVID-19 is not over, but neither are the fights against poverty, starvation, displacement, climate change, gender inequality, and more. The world is forever altered. The rates of out-of-school children continue to climb. Access to resources continues to plummet. Poverty is trapping more in its pit every day, pushing those at the bottom to nearly unthinkable depths.

We pray for Christ to return and restore this suffering planet, but until that day, ADRA will continue to serve the most vulnerable among us. It is not only right but Christlike. 🍀

“The best gifts
for the Lord’s work
come from the

heart.”

—Tony Cash

Director of Planned Giving and Trust Services
Arkansas Louisiana Conference



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OFFICE OF ADVENTIST MISSION

CHURCH PLANTING. CHRIST'S METHOD. UNREACHED PEOPLE.

Taking the gospel to those who don't know it

Only one in three people around the world claims to follow Jesus, and millions have not even heard of the abundant life Jesus has promised now and for eternity. That's where Adventist Mission fits in. It cares for:

Global Mission—the church's official initiative to engage all church entities in starting new groups of believers in unentered geographical areas and among unreached people groups.

Mission Awareness—showing how mission offerings support mission around the world.

GLOBAL MISSION: REACHING THE UNREACHED

"[God] is calling us to something bigger and more difficult and more exciting than anything we have ever dreamed or attempted," said former General Conference president Neal C. Wilson at the 1990 General Conference Session in Indianapolis.

"As our world has become a global village, He is calling us to a Global Mission." Thirty-two years later we praise God for the millions of new believers who have come to faith—many from unreached territories and people groups.

MAPPING MISSION

Global Mission has nearly finished mapping the world's more than 7,000 language groups (see sample map of East Indonesia Union Conference). When completed, these maps will allow leaders to strategically plan establishing work among groups with little or no Adventist presence.

Global Mission funding will be closely tied to these priorities, helping to keep projects focused on its central purpose: to reach people groups with no Adventist presence. We are determined to keep pushing to the frontiers of mission, where the gospel of Jesus Christ has yet to be heard.

GLOBAL MISSION CENTERS

On average, one out of two people on Planet Earth comes from a Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, or secular background. In response, Global Mission has established six centers to help world divisions by identifying and developing effective methods and models to reach these people and to produce resources in support.



CERO church plant is involved in many community activities, including feeding the homeless.

For example, Kleber Gonçalves, director of the Center for Secular and Post-Christian Mission (CSPM), has been helping the CERO church plant in Madrid, Spain. Specifically designed to reach post-Christian people, CERO has more than 100 people attending each Sabbath.

GARY KRAUSE
DIRECTOR

E. DOUG VENN
DIRECTOR, MISSION TO THE CITIES AND
GLOBAL MISSION URBAN CENTER



The other five centers are: Global Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations (GCAMR); World Jewish-Adventist Friendship Center (WJ AFC); Center for East Asian Religions (CEAR); Center for South Asian Religions (CSAR); and the Global Mission Urban Center (GMUC). To learn more about Global Mission Centers, visit GlobalMissionCenters.org.

TENTMAKING

Total Employment is the Global Mission tentmaker program. Named after the apostle Paul, a tentmaker by trade but a missionary at heart, tentmakers strategically find jobs in parts of the world where Christian witness is restricted. They work at their regular jobs, but their larger purpose is to share God's love in some of the most difficult places on earth, where church employees often can't go. To learn more, visit TotalEmployment.org.



PIONEERING THE GOSPEL

Global Mission pioneers Salai (above) and Kukupaw have been growing a new group of believers

among the Kayan tribe in Myanmar. Thousands of Global Mission pioneers are starting new groups of believers among unentered people groups. Receiving just a basic living stipend, they live and minister among their own people. They follow Jesus' example of mingling, showing sympathy, ministering to needs, and bidding people to follow Him.

MISSION AWARENESS

Mission offerings are like rivers that bring life and nourishment wherever they flow. The mission offering river supports church planting, schools, hospitals, publishing houses, media outreach, publishing, missionaries, and much more. It provides assistance to parts of the world that might be outside our knowledge or notice, and where the church needs a helping hand.

The Office of Adventist Mission keeps church members informed of mission and what happens with their mission offerings through:



Mission Spotlight: shown in Sabbath schools around the world.



Mission 360 magazine: stories of mission offerings at work.



Mission 360 TV: broadcast on Hope Channel, 3ABN, and online.



Mission magazine: shared every Sabbath around the world.



Social media

To learn more about Adventist Mission, visit AdventistMission.org.



Larissa (pictured right) focuses on health ministry in her work as a Global Mission pioneer at a UCI in Chişinău, Moldova.

Missi On tO tHe cities

Following the Adventist Church's Reach the World strategic plan,¹ the Global Mission Urban Center and the General Conference Mission to the Cities initiative (missiontothecities.org) have focused on increasing Adventist presence in the cities by:

1. **Inspiring Adventists to answer Christ's call**

to bring the endtime hope to the cities.²

2. **Starting new groups of believers among the urban unreached people groups through Global Mission** (visit gm.adventistmission.org).

3. **Establishing Life Hope Centers/Urban Centers of Influence (UCIs)**. UCIs identify and meet the needs of urban unreached people groups. They aim to make disciples by starting new groups of believers using Christ's method of ministry³ (visit urbancenters.org).

4. **General Conference Departments working with divisions.**

5. **Youth Alive.** This program aims "to build resilience among teens and young adults by equipping them to make health choices." It is led by the General Conference Health Ministries department in collaboration with Global Mission, Youth Ministries, Chaplaincy Ministries, Education, Family Ministries, and Public Campus Ministries (visit youthaliveportal.com).

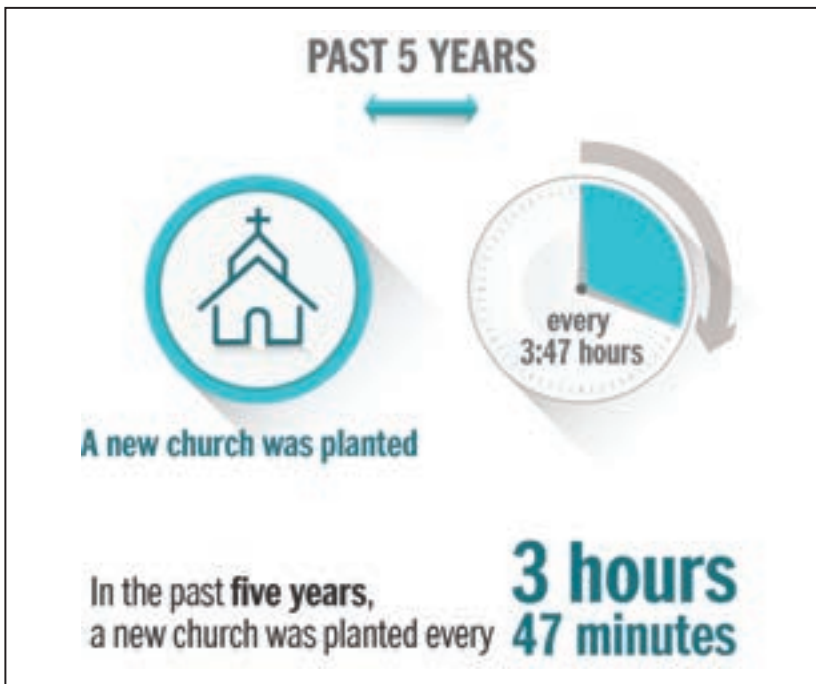
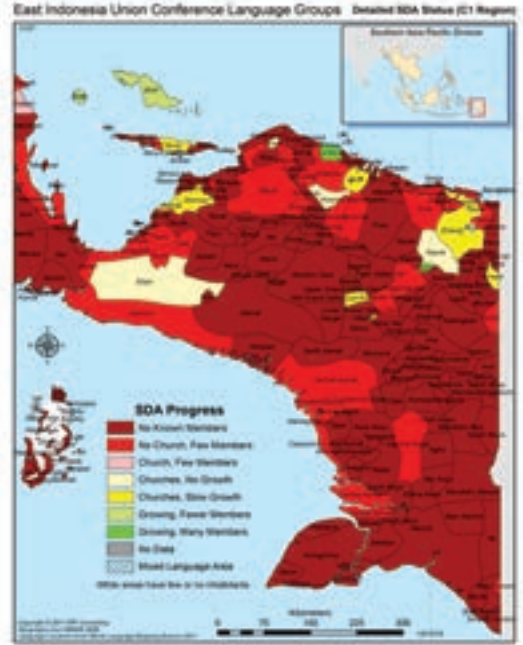


6. **One Year in Mission.** This initiative, led by General Conference Youth Ministries, supports teams of young professionals to engage in urban mission, sharing the Three Angels' Messages using Christ's Method (visit youth.adventist.org/OYIM).

7. **Assessment and Accountability.** Divisions shared Mission to the Cities reports during each General Conference Annual Council.

8. **Collecting data for Strategic Geospatial Maps of Urban Areas.** Divisions worked with their local conferences to use the physical address data of urban congregations, health, and educational institutions, and UCIs.

General Conference Secretariat created maps of selected cities showing the Adventist presence, or "footprint." Underserved and unreached parts of the cities were identified through geospatial analysis of these maps. This data allowed local fields to make informed decisions to start new groups of believers, schools, clinics, or UCIs.¹



¹ Reach Out With God was one of the three key objectives of the 2015-2020 Reach the World strategic plan. One of its key initiatives was Mission to the Cities.

² Read inspiring urban mission stories from around the world in the new ebook series entitled, "It's Time!" available for download at missiontothecities.org.

³ Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143.

ADVENTIST REVIEW MINISTRIES



© RH/PA

THE SPEED OF STREAMING LIGHT

Committed to proclaiming the gospel in new and effective ways

A long-ago college professor used to occasionally threaten us with an essay question she said she might include on the next exam: “Discuss the universe in 25 words, and be specific.”

Writing even a few hundred words about the sweep of all that is encompassed by Adventist Review Ministries is only slightly less daunting.

Each of us who labors in some aspect of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s oldest and most prolific ministry is keenly aware that, as Paul says, “we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us” (2 Cor. 4:7, RSV).¹ This ministry is the direct result of a divinely inspired vision:

Ellen White’s counsel to her husband that “you must begin to print a little paper and send it out to the people”² still rings in the ears of those who now communicate in print, online, through video, podcast, social media, and even virtual reality.

PROCLAIMING THE MESSAGE

Adventist Review Ministries (ARMies) is profoundly committed to proclaiming the everlasting gospel, and not, as some mistakenly imagine it, building a repository of 173 years of bound volumes on a library shelf. Our work, consistent with the determination of the founding editor, James White, is to “gather the scattered flock”—now scattered in nearly 200 nations of the world and in languages that godly leader never heard of. The flock may now number more than 22 million, but its needs are remarkably the same as when White trudged from a printing office in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, carrying those first 1,000 copies that he and family members would bind and then put in the mail.

Seventh-day Adventism emerged because of a driving conviction that the Word of God is central to believers’ life with Christ—that it must be openly and candidly discussed, learned, relearned, and applied in the living of the faith. The central pillars of Adventist theology have been the foundation of this ministry since James White and his earliest teams of colleagues wrote passionate articles about the Sabbath, the Second Coming, the heavenly sanctuary, righteousness by faith, the perpetuity of God’s law, the Three Angels’ Messages of Revelation 14, the state of the dead, and the biblical gift of prophecy.

NEW METHODS, SAME MESSAGE

Today those verities reach millions of Adventists on media platforms that Ellen White may have glimpsed in vision but that her husband certainly never imagined. Those “streams of light that went clear round the world”³ now move at something approaching the speed of light: believers in Sri Lanka receive the Word from the



websites of the ministry just milliseconds after articles are posted. Powerful, visual inspiration spreads across the world’s massive social media platforms, offering hope and courage to Adventists and others struggling with everything from marital troubles to government persecution.

Our business is communication, and not only printing and distributing award-winning journals such as *Adventist Review*, *Adventist World*, and *KidsView*. The same spirit of innovation and the full embrace of new technology seen in the 40-year career of our founding editor now propels us to reinvent and reimagine the products ARMies produces. Following the data gleaned from reader research, print articles are trending shorter; graphics are more vital to communicating the story; video may reach audiences too busy or distracted to read a full-length devotional. Websites, including the newly redesigned *Adventist Review* website (www.adventistreview.org), allow us to respond in real time to international crises, natural disasters, and breaking news from regions many readers might not be able to locate on a world map. Animated Bible stories, kid-friendly articles and Bible games, and a brand-new website for our rapidly growing *KidsView* audience underline our endur-

ing commitment to raising a new generation of Adventist who love Jesus and are glad to “tell the world” about Him.

ARMies also produces innovative podcasts that inform and inspire people while they drive to work, eat their meals, clean a house, or follow the latest fitness advice we’ve posted. [For a sample, go to www.moregracenotes.com]. And when you



see the beasts of Daniel and Revelation “come to life”—when your virtual reality (VR) goggles push your head into the mouth of that fourth beast of Daniel 7, “terrible and dreadful and exceedingly strong; and it had great iron teeth” (Dan. 7:7, RSV)—the drama of the great controversy becomes unmistakably real and personal.

Feature-length films, such as the 2019 biopic




Radim'd and multipart series such as *Animal Encounters*, move believers from their living rooms into a wide world where God is honoring those who faithfully serve Him in their careers, and also honoring those who care for the beautiful world He created. Hundreds of family-friendly videos on the church's first and most diverse on-demand platform (Adventist Review TV) bring high-quality inspiration for Sabbath viewing and throughout the week. Documentaries on Adventist history, prophecy, vegetarian cooking, healthy lifestyles, mission stories, and personal testimonies provide the same nurture and encouragement James White sought to provide with that first eight-page journal he called *Present Truth*, now the *Adventist Review*.

A ONE-STOP SHOP FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION

In June 2022 Adventist Review Ministries will pick up a familiar role as the primary communicator of the church's General Conference Session. News articles, photos, devotional messages, videos, inspiring musical concerts, mission reports, interviews, full daily transcripts of meetings podcasts, web-only

stories, and immediate access to the live-streamed video of all the business sessions will make members around the globe better aware of the unique breadth and diversity of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Readers and viewers will meet newly elected leaders, learn about new mission initiatives launched in St. Louis, and discover how they can do their part in taking the gospel to "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" (Rev. 14:6, KJV). For the first time, daily reports in French, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Russian and Korean will be prepared by well-known Adventist authors and leaders who live and work in those languages. Follow it all at www.adventistreview.org.

Ellen White's vision of "streams of light that went clear round the world" has become a powerful and enduring pillar of this movement of destiny—continually reinventing itself, and graciously being renewed by the power of the Spirit. 

¹ Bible texts credited to RSV are from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1946, 1952, 1971, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission.

² Ellen G. White, *Life Sketches of Ellen G. White* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1915). p. 125.

³ *Ibid.*



Short, Shareable, and Unexpected.

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AdventistReview.tv

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ADVENTIST RISK MANAGEMENT

COVERING THE CHURCH AND ITS INSTITUTIONS

Prepared for the unthinkable

In our culture, insurance for property loss and liability exposure is essential. Visionary Seventh-day Adventists saw this long ago and created an insurance program to protect church organizational entities from insurable loss.

Since 1936 Adventist Risk Management, Inc. (ARM), has been an integral part of the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We serve Adventist organizations by protecting the assets—financial, physical, and human—at the heart of the ministry of the church.

ARM'S IMPACT

ARM is owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We partner with more than 97,000 churches, schools, hospitals, and camps. We ensure the safety and financial security of a church organization that has now reached 22 million church members.

ARM responds when catastrophic events occur, such as the devastating wildfires in 2018 that destroyed most of Paradise, California. The Adventist Church lost a school and a church in the fire. In less than a week ARM started sending what would amount to millions of dollars to rebuild vital ministry assets in that community.

As ARM responds to many less-visible losses around the world, this story is frequently repeated. Since 2015 ARM has paid out more than US\$175 million in property claims to Adventist institutions. Nearly US\$193 million has been paid out over the same time for casualty claims. This represents more than a third of a billion dollars that would be lost to ministry but for ARM's risk financing.

ARM provides our church financial security through insurance products. Risk management and education initiatives make a significant impact

for controlling loss. With better education and implementation of risk management techniques and initiatives, accidents are prevented. As a result, our church maintains its positive impact in communities we serve, with fewer insurance claims.

To this end, ARM has developed resources and training opportunities to promote risk management. Many are available through AdventistRisk.org. We encourage every client to have a risk management committee at the highest levels of administration for their organization, as well as a dedicated risk management position on staff. We are pleased that this practice has spread outside of North America. The Southern Asia-Pacific Division is one of the latest divisions to implement risk management positions at its organization.

ARM conducts more than 80 trainings for clients annually, with topics that include child protection, safety inspection, liability avoidance, and more. These presentations provide training and important risk management awareness to thousands of pastors, teachers, safety officers, youth leaders, and other volunteers. Educating these leaders in risk management is where ARM's ministry can do the most to protect the church from incurring losses.

FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR THE CHURCH

Even with excellent risk management plans, accidents happen. Whether it is a property or casualty claim, ARM is there to help bear the financial burden through the church's captive insurance company, Gencon Insurance Company of Vermont (GICV), its European subsidiary, Gencon Insurance Company International (GICI), and various excess and reinsurance partners.

ARM manages US\$250 million of General Conference equity. These funds, generated through premiums, are the church's money, and their purpose is to further the ministry of the church by being available at the time of loss. ARM is uniquely positioned to offer insurance products to our church family, meeting the specific needs of Adventist institutions and ministries.

A world map graphic with a green-to-blue gradient and a grid pattern. Three office locations are marked with orange squares and labeled: SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND; ST. ALBANS, ENGLAND; and BRASILIA, BRAZIL. In the top left corner, there is a blue square containing a white flame-like logo.

Adventist Risk Management is a global ministry, with teams in North America, South America, and Europe to serve world church needs.

There are no policies that better fit our churches, schools, and ministries. As a Seventh-day Adventist ministry, ARM can anticipate the needs of our church and provide custom solutions that other insurance companies may not offer.

HOW WE SERVE

Since its inception, ARM has sought to operate with the highest industry standards in insurance. We invest in staff training and continuing education. As a result, our team of 130 employees collectively hold 100 professional designations and licenses.

ARM is a global ministry, with teams on the

continents of North America, South America, and Europe to serve the needs of the world church. At our headquarters in the General Conference, our diverse staff hails from nearly 20 countries and works together to serve the needs of an increasingly globalized world.

Our team ranges from new professionals who have just joined the workforce to veterans with more than 40 years of service. This gives us the ability to better understand the needs of our global clientele from a variety of perspectives.

We take service seriously. As a company, ARM has adopted five focus points that we continually use as a way to measure our work.

Adventist Risk Management CONTINUED



8,773



SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITIES

21

million



CHURCH MEMBERS

88+

thousand



CHURCHES

313

thousand



CHURCH EMPLOYEES

560



HOSPITALS & CLINICS

60



PUBLISHING HOUSES

In everything we do, we strive to provide:

- An **EXCEPTIONAL** client experience
- A **PROFESSIONAL** and competent employee team
- **EFFECTIVE** processes and systems for clients and employees
- **INNOVATIVE** insurance and risk management education
- A **STRONG** financial base

By continually reevaluating everything we do in the context of these five focus points, we can grow more effectively and serve church organizations more efficiently.

AT GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION

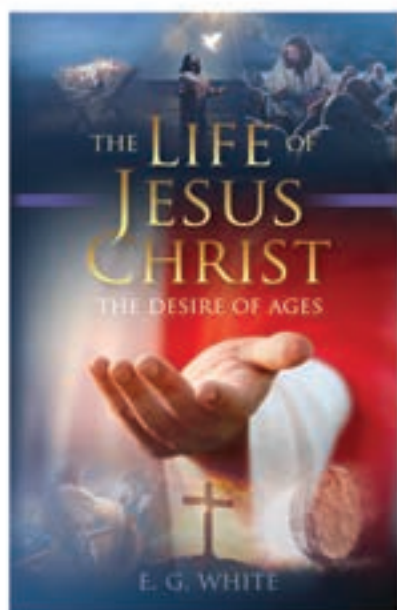
As delegates and attendees, ARM is working

right now to protect you at this General Conference Session. Every delegate and spouse who traveled to St. Louis was covered under a special travel policy designed especially for the session. Those of you who brought your families purchased this same insurance to cover them. Our representatives are here in St. Louis to assist with your claims.

We hope that you take time to understand how ARM is invested in the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. **“Our ministry is to protect your ministry”** goes well beyond being just a motto or tagline. Serving our church family and supporting ministry is the lifeblood of everything we do. We stand beside you as you share the gospel of a soon-coming Savior with the entire world. 🍀

Exciting New Resources from Amazing Facts

Perfect for Personal Devotions and Sharing!



The Life of Jesus Christ: The Desire of Ages

Explore the teachings, majesty, and grace of the world's Redeemer in this deep and stunning narrative classic on the life of Christ. Examine His works and incredible compassion for the human race—and experience His transforming power in your life!

BK-AFDA ... \$11.95 \$3.95

BULK PRICING:

10+ \$3.90 ea. | 50+ \$2.65 ea. | 100+ \$1.70 ea.

500+ \$1.45 ea. | 1,000+ \$1.30 ea.



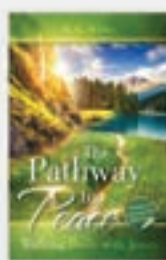
Footsteps: A Closer Walk with Jesus (Steps to Christ)

Discover a forever friendship with Jesus—or revive your love for Him—with this freshly designed, full-color version of the life-transforming classic!

**BK-FCW ... \$4.95
\$2.95**

Bulk pricing:

10+ \$1.49 ea. | 50+ \$0.89 ea. | 100+ \$0.75 ea.
500+ \$0.60 ea. | 1,000+ \$0.55 ea.



The Pathway to Peace: Walking Daily with Jesus (Steps to Christ)

This unique edition also includes 14 *Amazing Facts Study Guides*—easy-to-follow lessons covering vital Bible teachings!

**BK-PTP ... \$9.95
\$4.95**

Bulk pricing:

10+ \$3.95 ea. | 50+ \$2.45 ea. | 100+ \$1.45 ea.
500+ \$1.25 ea. | 1,000+ \$1.15 ea.



The Fall & Rise of Jerusalem: The Great Controversy Between Good and Evil

This captivating version of the beloved classic uncovers ancient history and mysterious biblical symbols to reveal what God's Word really says about Jerusalem!

**BK-AFGC ... \$9.95
\$3.80**

Bulk pricing:

10+ \$3.75 ea. | 50+ \$2.50 ea. | 100+ \$1.55 ea.
500+ \$1.30 ea. | 1,000+ \$1.15 ea.



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ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO



FROM BROADCAST TO BAPTISM:

Celebrating 50 years of sharing the gospel with the world

What's the most dangerous place on earth you can imagine? How challenging do you think it would be to share the gospel in that environment?

Most likely Adventist World Radio (AWR) is already there. As the radio ministry arm of the General Conference (GC), AWR seeks to penetrate into places no missionary can reach, in addition to covering the rest of the “reachable” world. Broadcasts also have a personal touch, as broadcasters and pastors create content in local dialects and address issues facing their communities.



During the past seven years AWR has refined and expanded its focus with the name *AWR360°—From Broadcast to Baptism*.

It all begins with the broadcast. The ministry has always sought to reach the world and go “wherever air goes” with its more than 1,000 stations and 100+ languages broadcasting via AM/FM and shortwave radio. But the broadcasting doesn't end there! AWR also shares messages via cell phone evangelism, Godpods, social media, and global podcasts. Through it all, the ministry con-

nects listeners with local pastors and churches.

In addition, AWR's outreach extends beyond broadcast outlets, including humanitarian efforts through *AWR360° Health*, and evangelistic meetings in partnership with Total Member Involvement (TMI).

The following updates are just a taste of how the ministry has boldly taken the gospel around the world since the last GC Session.



FORMER COMMUNIST REBELS JOIN THE ADVENTIST CHURCH

AWR was warned that radio evangelism wouldn't work in Mindoro, the seventh-largest island in the Philippines. The team went forward in faith anyway, and the results were far beyond what anyone expected. In fact, AWR learned that rebels from the Communist New People's Army—which has been fighting the government for more than 50 years—were listening to AWR broadcasts.

One day the rebels got in touch with AWR's local broadcaster (who is also a pastor) and requested that he visit them to share more about what they were hearing. Since the rebels are based in the mountains, they couldn't regularly come down to the station for fear that the government would attack them. The pastor started visiting them, and more and more people joined the studies.

An AWR evangelistic series followed, and as news about AWR's broadcasts spread across Mindoro, more and more generals, assassins, and soldiers decided to lay down their guns and follow Jesus.



It all culminated in a massive country-wide event in November 2021, hosted by AWR and TMI. Evangelistic meetings were held across the country, with more than 60,000 people baptized. During this time Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte personally expressed his gratitude to Ted N. C. Wilson, Duane McKey, AWR, and the Adventist Church for helping end the Communist rebel resistance on the island of Mindoro.



AWR supports Total Member Involvement by conducting evangelistic series worldwide, as thousands of laypeople and pastors from around the world preach the messages.

By the end of the final Sabbath of the meetings, more than 2,000 “former rebels” had been baptized and started their new lives, granted amnesty by the government. In fact, many embraced soldiers they’d once hunted!

ENTERING “CLOSED” COUNTRIES

In the still of the night Hannah quietly slips into her bedroom closet and closes the door. Only her husband knows her secret, since she will be arrested if the police learn of her activities.

Hannah is an AWR radio producer in an undisclosed country, where she has kept up this nightly routine every day for the past 15 years. She used to work as a high-level television reporter, but after hearing the truth of Jesus and the Bible, she surrendered her life to Him and began these broadcasts.

She regularly receives correspondence from students, sailors, housewives, engineers, office workers, and many others. All want to learn more about God

and the Bible. Hannah said recently, “This is not me reaching people—it is God’s power. As long as AWR exists, as long as I live, as long as I am free, and as long as I am not imprisoned, I will continue to do it.”



AWR seeks to reach into every home with the gospel—including such difficult-to-reach countries as North Korea.

This kind of experience is repeated around the world as bold AWR producers risk their lives to spread the “good news” in places closed to the gospel. AWR is even broadcasting into North Korea, which can be reached only by AM and shortwave radio. In recent years AWR’s daily broadcast time in North Korea has gone from one hour to four!

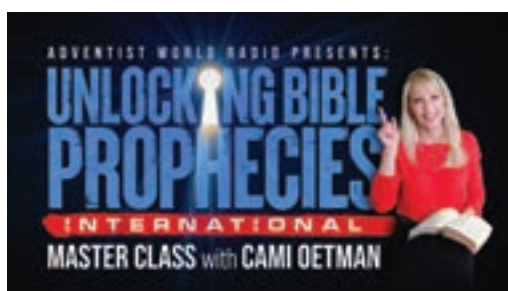


Adventist World Radio’s Center for Digital Evangelism in the Philippines answers Bible questions and responds to prayer requests from people around the world.

CENTERS FOR DIGITAL EVANGELISM (CDE)

In the business world, when people call technical support, the person they end up speaking with is often based in Philippines or India. AWR decided to use this support model in a different

way—to help people learn about Jesus through an organization called the Center for Digital Evangelism (CDE). Now, in both India and the Philippines (where the CDE headquarters is located), young missionaries answer people’s spiritual questions through a Bible-based call center.



The *Unlocking Bible Prophecies* and *Earth’s Final Countdown* series have already received more than 10 million views and continue to rank highly in key Bible-based categories on YouTube.

When the pandemic hit the world in 2020, AWR sprang into action with two worldwide (and now award-winning) online evangelistic series: *Unlocking Bible Prophecies*, with Cami Oetman, and *Earth’s Final Countdown*, with Duane McKey. Between the two series AWR received more than 10 million views in dozens of languages. And as people started to respond to these programs with Bible questions and requests for baptism, the CDE was there—replying to every comment with care and connecting people with local churches.

CELL PHONE EVANGELISM AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Anyone can be an evangelist just by using their cell phone! AWR has created a way for pastors and church members to share Bible-based messages with friends and others interested in receiving weekly sermons on their cell phones. One pastor is sending cell phone sermons to more than 250 drug cartel members in an undisclosed country, and the messages are dramatically changing the lives of these hardened men.



Anyone can be a cell phone evangelist by using AWR’s new sharing platform.

And now *you* can now be a missionary from the comfort of your own home through the AWR360° Digital Missionary App. Learn more at awr.org/apps.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

AWR’s future plans can’t be contained in this small space, but they include such projects as:

- Broadcasting in 500 languages worldwide so more people can hear messages in their mother tongue.
- Reaching the 100 largest metro areas worldwide through targeted evangelistic outreach in conjunction with TMI—including meetings last year across Texas and 2022 meetings in Mexico City and Nairobi.
- Replacing decades-old radio towers that reach most of the 10/40 window from Guam.

AWR celebrated 50 years of ministry last year. This committed team praises God for His leading over the years, and for His future plans to use AWR as it pushes forward to leave no stone unturned in an effort to reach every corner of the earth.

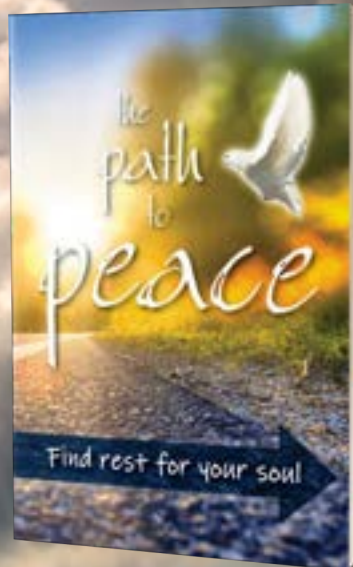
To learn more about AWR, visit awr.org, where you can watch thrilling mission stories (which are also great for sharing at church), download the AWR360° and Digital Missionary apps, and more! 🗡️

49

years of literature ministry
and still going strong



SCAN ME



“More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day,
most of whom will trace their first convictions
to the reading of our publication”

Review & Herald, May 24, 1906

1973

Direct Mail Evangelism
*35,300,000+

2006

Web Evangelism
*540,000+

2018

Facebook Evangelism
*36,400,000+

*historic reach

In the spirit of the pioneers,
sowing the gospel seed *through*
the power of the printed page



PROJECT:
Steps to Christ, Inc.

www.projectstc.org

BIBLICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

RESEARCH, APOLOGETICS, AND SERVICE

Supporting sound biblical interpretation

The Biblical Research Institute (BRI) exists to explore biblical truth; to advance the study and practice of Adventist theology and lifestyle; to provide theological expertise and resources for the administration and departments of the General Conference (GC) and the world church; to identify areas of doctrinal and theological concern; to encourage and facilitate dialogue within the Seventh-day Adventist theological community; and to foster doctrinal and theological unity within the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Currently the BRI consists of three Seventh-day Adventist scholars with expertise in various fields: director Elias Brasil de Souza (Old Testament) and associate directors Frank Hasel (systematic theology) and Clinton Wahlen (New Testament).

The BRI includes three full-time assistants: Yuriem Rodriguez (office manager), Marly Timm (senior editorial assistant), and Nicol Belvedere (social media, webmaster). The BRI also coordinates the work of the Biblical Research Institute Committee (BRICOM), which consists of approximately 40 theologians and administrators from around the world and is assisted by division Biblical Research Committees (BRCs) worldwide.

The responsibilities of BRI members can be grouped under three main headings: biblical research, apologetics, and service. As areas are identified in which biblical research is needed for the church, BRI organizes and conducts the research, together with other Adventist theologians and scholars, to enhance and deepen the

understanding and expression of biblical truth. As challenges to Adventist doctrine and practice arise, the BRI fosters theological unity and a deeper understanding of biblical teachings/truths. It addresses biblical, theological, and ethical questions through oral presentations and in writing.

The BRI also serves in an advisory capacity to church leaders on matters related to biblical interpretation, doctrine, and theological trends within the church. The BRI's quarterly newsletter, *Reflections*, contains articles on a variety of theological and practical issues to inform pastors and church leaders worldwide.

The major areas of focus for the past seven years have included hermeneutics, ethics, the biblical-theological dictionary, the Fourth International Bible Conference in Rome, and other book projects and activities.

HERMENEUTICS

In 2015, BRI was asked to lead in the study of hermeneutics for the world church. In consultation with BRICOM, the Geoscience Research Institute, and other theologians, two books were produced.

The first book, *Biblical Hermeneutics: An Adventist Approach* (2020), edited by Frank M. Hasel, is the third volume in the BRI series on hermeneutics. It consists of 14 chapters written by an international team of authors, dealing with crucial areas in the interpretation of Scripture. These include the nature of Scripture and presuppositions, versions and variants, history and science, conditional prophecy, issues of culture, postmodern approaches to biblical interpretation, hermeneutical issues in connection with Ellen G. White, and early Adventist methods of biblical interpretation.

BRI has produced 14 videos with the authors of each chapter, which can be a resource for church pastors, elders, and teachers. The videos are available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Arabic, and Mandarin and can be down-



Left to right: Frank M. Hasel, Clinton Wahlen, Elias Brasil de Souza, Marly Timm, Yuriem Rodriguez, Nicol Belvedere. —COURTESY OF BIBLICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

loaded for free from the BRI website and YouTube channel.

In addition to these publications, BRI scholars have presented on the topic of hermeneutics in various venues and Bible conferences on several continents. This emphasis is likely to be continued over the next three years.

ETHICS

Another important emphasis over the past seven years has been the area of ethics. The BRI, through its resident scholars and members of the BRI Ethics Committee (BRIEC), has assisted in the preparation of biblically based statements on abortion and transgenderism.

BRIEC, chaired by Ekkehardt Mueller—who recently retired after many years of service to the BRI—has also provided opinions on topics ranging from the death penalty to surrogate motherhood, child dedication, bribery, and the humanitarian crisis of refugees, migrants, and displaced people.

BRI's second volume in its series on marriage,

Sexuality: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Aspects (2022), is available now; the third and final volume of the series, on the family, will be available later this year.

BIBLICAL-THEOLOGICAL DICTIONARY

The BRI, with the help of BRCs, has embarked on the preparation of a new biblical-theological dictionary to be published in four volumes, and perhaps also digitally. Consisting of more than sixty thousand entries, its scope is broader than the existing *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary* and will include theological, ethical, and historical topics that relate to the life and teachings of the church.

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE CONFERENCE

Each quinquennium the BRI organizes one major international Bible conference for Adventist scholars, pastors, educators, and church leaders worldwide. June 11-20, 2018, nearly 400 attendees from dozens of countries attended the Fourth International Bible Conference in Rome.

Approximately 115 presentations were given

on the topic of biblical eschatology. A highlight of the conference was the consensus statement voted by conference attendees, affirming that “the Seventh-day Adventist Church, raised up in fulfillment of Bible prophecy near the end of earth’s history, has an eschatological perspective as an integral part of its theology, message, and mission,” and detailing various components of that perspective and its missiological implications.

OTHER PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Since 2015 eight books, edited by various BRI members and other scholars, were published on a variety of topics ranging from the Sabbath in the Old and New Testaments and its implications for Christianity, to the sanctuary and Daniel.

Several of these books can serve as textbooks for colleges and universities around the world. In addition, several booklets (BRI Releases) on a variety of topics related to Adventist beliefs have been released. BRI scholars have also published about 100 articles, three *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guides* (1/2017; 1/2020; 2/2020), two teacher’s editions, and 19 newsletters, and participated in 72 international Bible and mission conferences and about 70 television programs.

In partnership with Hope Channel, BRI scholars answer questions on a new live weekly broadcast, *Bible HelpDesk*, for those who call in or leave questions via text, video, or voicemail. BRI members have also written commentaries for the *Andrews Bible Commentary* and the *Seventh-day Adventist International Bible Commentary*.

The BRI continues its participation in international Bible and mission conferences for the world church, covering such topics as ecclesiology, the Trinity, the gift of prophecy, hermeneutics, and a variety of practical topics. Symposia for pastors and teachers have focused on some of these same topics, as well as discipleship and the doctrine of the sanctuary.

The BRI leads the theological subcommittee of the Faith and Science Council in collaboration

the BRI continues its participation in international Bible and mission conferences for the world church, covering such topics as ecclesiology, the trinity, the gift of prophecy, hermeneutics, and a variety of practical topics.

with the Geoscience Research Institute, which, among other activities, has published its second volume on the Bible and creation, *The Genesis Creation Account and Its Reverberations in the New Testament* (2022). As with the first volume, this one will also be adapted into a more popular edition to reach a wider audience. The subcommittee also published a booklet entitled *Creation and the Three Angels’ Messages* (2021).

In addition, the BRI reviews materials for other entities of the General Conference, including the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* published by the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department, *Ministry* magazine, and other publications. BRI also collaborates with the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*, with Frank Hasel serving as assistant editor of the Theology and Ethics section.

BRI personnel make presentations at theological seminaries and universities around the world. They serve as speakers at camp meetings and workers’ meetings and have shared their expertise in dozens of television broadcasts. ♣

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



AIM LOWER, THINK SMALLER

It's never too early to train children to serve Christ.

Is Children's Ministries just a flurry of activities and programs that volunteers and leaders put together for the good of the children and parents they serve?

Children's ministry is not day care; it's an environment in which children can grow and develop spiritually. According to Steve Adams, author of *Children's Ministries on Purpose*, children's leaders and teachers need to remember that their primary goal is to lead children toward spiritual health.

It is the mission of the General Conference Children's Ministries Department to nurture children into a loving, serving relationship with Jesus. To fulfill this purpose, it provides multiple ministries that are grace-oriented, inclusive, leader-

ship-empowering, service-centered, safe, and evangelistic in nature.

Children's Ministries involves children around the world not only on Sabbath but also on other days of the week. Each year churches celebrate Global Children's Day, World Day of Prayer for Children at Risk, Children's Sabbath, World Orphans and Vulnerable Children's Day, and 10 Days of Prayer.

Over the past five years children have participated actively in Total Children Involvement (TCI). They were involved in preaching, health talks, small groups, witnessing, community service, and raising funds for missions. Indeed, these are little missionaries in action!

In Colombia 9-year-old Elina Palino conducted a small group using the "Talking Backpack" and brought many friends to Jesus. In Australia, 11-year-old Finn Tolhurst raised bees and sold honey to support mission work in Malawi. Others distributed food to the homeless and visited elderly individuals.

In the summer of 2020 the department celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary of ministry to



children. It represents a great milestone in training children's leaders, nurturing and discipling children's faith, and developing resources for them.

In line with the church's several initiatives of Tell the World; Revival and Reformation; Total Member Involvement; Mission to the Cities; and Comprehensive Health Ministry, the department has developed resources as well as regular leadership training to help move forward these initiatives.

LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATION

Children's Ministries continues to train children's teachers and leaders on effective methods of teaching in Sabbath Schools. It has also provided financial assistance to divisions to translate the curriculum into many languages.

The Leadership Certification program serves as the main tool for training children's leaders and teachers to bring children to Jesus, impact their faith development, and empower them to witness.

As of 2022, 11 levels, totaling 85 courses, have been developed. All the courses come with PowerPoint presentations, presenter's notes, and handouts with questions that division directors can use to train their counterparts. All the notes and handouts are also available on the Children's Ministries website at children.adventist.org.



Children are learning how to preach the Gospel and are making a difference around the world as represented by this child in the South American Division. —LINDA KOH



Children in the Euro-Asia Division enjoy special children's programming.—COURTESY OF LINDA KOH

RESOURCES

During the past seven years the department has developed the following resources:

Steps to Christ Activity Book and Music CD, by Saustin Mfunne. Based on the classic volume by Ellen White, it consists of many fun activities for primary-age children.

Say No to Drugs Music CD, by Saustin Mfunne. A musical drama teaches children how to turn away from drug use.

Say No to Drugs Animated DVD, by Saustin Mfunne. This animated musical drama teaches children how to live healthfully without drugs.

Tucker Barnes Sharing Books, by Randy Fishell. These 10 booklets are designed for children to share Jesus with their friends.

Altogether Wonderful: Exploring Intergenerational Worship, by Karen Holford. It explores the "why" and the "how" of intergenerational worship with great sample worship programs.

Unlocking Children's Hearts for Intimacy With God: A Guide for Organizing Children's Prayer Conferences, by Linda Mei Lin Koh. This guidebook helps children's leaders to plan and organize prayer conferences for children.

Children's Health EXPO, by Valeria Sitta. A fun package filled with activities to teach children the 12 health principles from the health program CELEBRATIONS.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CONTINUED



Uganda Union children bringing food to inmates in prison—LINDA KOH

My First Memory Verse Book and My First Memory Verse Coloring Book, by the General Conference Department of Children's Ministries. It consists of memory verses for beginners and pictures for them to color.

Week of Prayer Readings. The annual children's Week of Prayer readings are produced following the topics of the adult readings for the world church.

CHILDREN'S WEBSITE AND APPS

We recently launched a new website, www.faithfinder.com, and two new apps for children.

Bible Story Stickers app. This is a helpful app for children, parents, and teachers to use in telling Bible stories by creating their own scenes using various Bible characters.

The Armor of God app. A fun app for children to learn about dealing with Satan's temptations using the belt of truth, shield of faith, breastplate of righteousness, helmet of salvation, gospel of peace, and the sword of the spirit through stories, animations, songs, puzzles, memory verse games, and other activities.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PROGRAMS

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic with lockdowns, social distancing, and other restrictions, children's leaders found creative ways to continue ministering to children. Videos were produced to

help children understand COVID-19 and ease their anxiety and fear. Virtual Sabbath schools, Vacation Bible School, Week of Prayer, and digital evangelism soon became the norm for many children's activities in 2020 and 2021.

KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP (KID)

Launched in 2006, Kids in Discipleship (KID) continues to train families in discipling their children. Many families have testified they have grown in their faith journey together with their children.

CHALLENGES

While significant advancement has been made in the Children's Ministries Department in the past five years, we still face the following challenges.

- Sufficient finances to assist with running children's programs and translation of materials.
- Electing Children's Ministries directors on all levels of the church and a CHM coordinator in every local church.
- Encouraging churches to involve children in worship, ministry, and service within the church and in the community.
- Inspiring and motivating churches to prioritize the importance of children.

It is time that church leaders commit themselves to *aim lower, think smaller!* 

* Steven Adams, *Children's Ministry on Purpose* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2017).

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COMMUNICATION



COMMUNICATION WITH A PURPOSE

Mission and communication go together.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church exists to proclaim the eternal gospel “to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people” (Rev. 14:6). We obey the command of Jesus to make disciples of all nations. We baptize and teach them to do everything He commanded. Jesus did not give this directive without promising assistance. He assures us that He will be with us to the very end of the age.

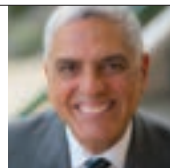
How does the General Conference Communication Department (GC COM) help the church fulfill its mission? The Communication Department shares corporate communication with the rest of the world field, but supports the church in several other ways, too.



First, we inform and inspire. This is why Adventist News Network (ANN) exists. No family survives without communication. God’s family on earth needs to know the blessings and stories of God’s intervention. These stories unite the family and keep alive the flame of hope in the hearts of our brothers and sisters worldwide. This is how we use communication for mission.

Second, we challenge and update. This is why the Global Adventist Internet Network (GAiN) exists. In a world that continuously changes, we need to be aware of new technology and how we can use it to preach the gospel.

Every year we research how email, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, cell phones, augmented real-



ity, movies, websites, and other tools can be used for evangelism, then discuss our findings at a GAiN conference.

More and more people have been baptized because they found the truth on the Internet and social media. WhatsApp Church and WhatsApp Bible studies are becoming a reality throughout the world. This is how we use communication for mission.

This day, we serve and support others. We support

initiatives and events such as Global Youth Day, Revival and Reformation, Total Member Involvement, Facts With Hope, the Creation movie *Eden to Eden*, and many others. We partner with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and General Conference departments such as Presidential, Secretariat, Treasury, Adventist World Radio (AWR), Hope Channel, Stewardship, Public Campus Ministries, Chaplaincy, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL), and the Ellen



COMMUNICATION CONTINUED

G. White Estate. It is important for us to continue serving other departments in their efforts. This is how we use communication for mission.

Fourth, we communicate and integrate by presenting who we are to the world. GC COM has led the development of the new visual identity of the Adventist Church. The creation grid and the Seventh-day Adventist Church logo are already used all over the world. They are helping to end fragmentation so we can be heard as a church. This is how we use communication for mission.

Fifth, we help build relationships. Our media relations team works with reporters and journalists to share our stories and beliefs. We have also worked with church leaders through many crises to protect the church. This is how we use communication for mission.

Sixth, we train and motivate. There are more than 160,000 local church communication leaders. Adventist Communication Training (ACT) is a program that uses conference, union conference, and division communication directors as teachers. This is how we use communication for mission.

Seventh, we participate in evangelism and care. Adventist.org is becoming a fully evangelistic website. Adventist.org and our official social



(TOP ROW, L TO R):
Williams Costa, Jr., director;
Sam Neves, associate director;
Jennifer Stymiest, assistant director

(MIDDLE ROW, L TO R):
Tanya Holland, graphic designer;
Carol Little, administrative assistant;
Karel Holness, sound engineering tech

(BOTTOM ROW, L TO R):
Alyssa Truman, digital evangelism manager;
Hellen Gorde, media relations assistant;
Daniil Bogdanov, web manager

media channels have become the digital home of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

During the next 24 hours millions of people will search the Internet for trustworthy answers to their deepest needs. Adventist.org will help them understand the Bible to find freedom, healing, and hope in Jesus. This is how we use communication for mission. ▀





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EDUCATION



The White Coat Ceremony and dedication of the first medical students on August 9, 2015, in the Adventist University of the Philippines College of Medicine.

EDUCATING FOR ETERNITY

Educating for Eternity,” the marching theme for the General Conference Department of Education, has undergirded every initiative launched during the past seven years. As soon as the new team was in place, we mobilized a coordinated, global focus on what this means for Adventist education, starting with a two-day Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) conference to launch Annual Council 2016.¹

Together with division leadership, our team conducted a series of four regional follow-up LEAD summits for union officers, union and conference education directors, and university

presidents in Rwanda (February 2017), Slovenia (May/June 2017), the Dominican Republic (August 2017), and Thailand (January/February 2018).

United and empowered, this network of 1,234 participating church officers and educators made regional and global educational plans. The group also voted a statement describing the biblical basis for Seventh-day Adventist education.

The theme cascaded to the front lines to involve teachers, administrators, and treasurers of unions, conferences, and universities. The Euro-Asia Division, in particular, saw explosive growth, with 46 new schools in former Soviet countries all the way to the easternmost extremities of Siberia.

ADVENTIST HIGHER EDUCATION

The General Conference Education Department focuses on accreditation of colleges and universities to ensure that they operate at a high inter-



national level of competence and are aligned with Adventist mission and identity.

This involves the voluntary services of many academic colleagues and peer reviewers. More than 1,000 reviewers participated in Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA) site visits during the past seven years, with an average of five experts for each of the 228 visits conducted. Our heartfelt thanks go to each one who contributed time and expertise.

We are also indebted to the colleagues who contributed to updating our operating handbooks: the Adventist Accrediting Association handbook for accreditation standards; the International Board of Education (IBE) handbook for new programs or new schools; the Health Professions Education Committee handbook for the establishment of new schools of medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy; and the *Handbook of Seventh-day Adventist Ministerial and Theological Education*.²

The international task force that revised the ministerial and theological handbook worked in the United States, Philippines, Australia, and Kenya to gain deeper insight into the contexts for ministry and pastoral competencies needed around the world today.

The endorsement process for professors of religion, theology, and ministerial formation was also revitalized. So far, in 10 world divisions plus three General Conference institutions, 425 professors have been endorsed, affirming their commitment to professional ethics, Adventist beliefs, and the unique ministry of preparing pastors.

EDUCATING HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FOR COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH MINISTRIES

During the past seven years the church's fourth, fifth, and sixth medical schools held their inaugural graduations of newly minted physicians at Babcock University, Nigeria (2017); Peruvian Union University (2019); and the Adventist University of the Philippines (2019).

The church's seventh medical school, the

Adventist School of Medicine of East-Central Africa, is located at the Adventist University of Central Africa in Rwanda. It was inaugurated in 2019, but classes were delayed by the pandemic until March 2021.

Two new dental schools were opened, as well. Sixty dental students started at Bahia Adventist College in Brazil (2016), and 16 at River Plate Adventist University in Argentina (2017). New pharmacy programs were opened in the Philippines (Manila Adventist College, 2018) and Brazil (Brazil Adventist University, 2019).

AN ADVENTIST FOUNDATION AND GROWTH

Unfortunately, 65 percent of church members worldwide have not had the benefit of even one year of Adventist education. In order to deepen appreciation for the ministry of Ellen White and strengthen leaders' capacity to provide spiritual



Dr. Richard Hart, chancellor of Loma Linda University and Dr. Peter Landless, GC Health Ministries Director, congratulate Paul Rothwel De Jesus, founder of "Medical Evangelists Dedicated for Service (MEDS), on June 23, 2019, as part of the inaugural graduation of physicians from the Adventist University of the Philippines College of Medicine.

guidance, the Department of Education organized an Adventist history study tour for university presidents and education directors (September 27 to October 6, 2019). Seventy-six participants traveled more than 3,000 miles by bus to sites of special interest to Seventh-day Adventists in New England, New York, and Michigan.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were 21,051 fewer students in Adventist schools in 2020 compared to 2019. Schools that could do so operated online, but this was not feasible in countries in which there was little digital infrastructure and Internet access was slow or expensive. Those in rural areas, the poor, and those with special needs, were impacted most.

In a global context, close to half the world's students are still affected by partial or full school closures, and more than 100 million children will fall below the minimum proficiency level in reading as a result. Children lost an average of one third (74 days) of education because of school closures and a lack of access to remote learning.³

We praise God that despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an overall 5 percent increase in student enrollment between 2015 and



Historical and theological presentations were shown on the television monitors between sites on the Adventist History Tour.

2022, topping 2 million at 2,023,844 students. During the quinquennium there was a 15 percent increase in the number of schools (to 9,419), with an 11 percent rise in the number of teachers (to 113,638).

The number of primary schools rose by 16 percent (to 6,623), and secondary schools by 14 percent (to 2,640). The number of Adventist universities only rose by 4 percent (to 118), but their enrollment grew by 13 percent (to 160,997). Tertiary education expanded into many subject areas, including the already-mentioned highly specialized disciplines of medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy that support comprehensive health ministries.

Adventist education is one of the largest, longest, and most effective evangelistic endeavors of the church. It brings long-term gains, including the retention of our children and youth as church members.⁴ But long-term is not long enough. Our goal is to prepare them for service in this life and for eternity. 📌



Left to right: Lisa Beardsley-Hardy, GC Director of Education, Francisco Gayoba, President, Adventist University of the Philippines, Doris Mendoza, Founding Dean, Adventist University of the Philippines College of Medicine, Peter N. Landless, GC Director of Health Ministries cut the ribbon for the Adventist University of the Philippines College of Medicine, 2015.

¹ Keynote presentations were compiled in a special issue of *The Journal of Adventist Education*: <https://jae.adventist.org/en/2017.79.3>. This issue also earned an Award of Merit from the Associated Church Press.

² All handbooks mentioned are available at <https://www.adventistaccreditingassociation.org/commissions/aaa-higher-education/>

³ Children have lost more than a third of their school year to the pandemic. Save the Children, March 2021: <https://www.savethechildren.net/news/children-have-lost-more-third-their-school-year-pandemic>

⁴ See John Wesley Taylor V, "Joining and Remaining: A Look at the Data on the Role of Adventist Education," *The Journal of Adventist Education* 79, no. 3 (April-May 2017): 39-46. Available online at jae.adventist.org/en/2017.3.8.



PASTORS TO ISRAEL ... FULLY COVERED

Dear Pastor/Leader,

For many years Cindy and I have loved taking church groups to Israel to walk in Jesus' steps and study His Word on-site in Galilee and Jerusalem. Would you like to do the same? Through a special program, leaders and spouses are fully covered

for a 9-day tour when you bring a group of at least 20 people with you. A local Christian guide leads the tour and handles all the logistics. Your job on the tour is to teach devotionally and shepherd your group. We help you with everything you need.



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ELLEN G. WHITE ESTATE



SHARING THE VISION

Inspired writings now made more available

Ellen White wrote: “Abundant light has been given to our people in these last days. Whether or not my life is spared, my writings will constantly speak, and their work will go forward as long as time shall last. My writings are kept on file in the office, and even though I should not live, these words that have been given to me by the Lord will still have life and will speak to the people.”¹

The Ellen G. White Estate was established by Ellen White to own and administer her literary estate after her death, which occurred in 1915. Though the years millions of Adventists and others worldwide have found her prediction to be true as they have experienced the spiritual blessings that result from reading and following her

inspired counsels. “Outreach,” “Nurture,” “Sharing the Vision”—these concepts define the worldwide mission of this unique organization.

Regarding Ellen White’s literary materials, she left three specific instructions to her trustees:

1. Protect the original materials in her vault, including the copyrights to her books.
2. Prepare new compilations, as needed, from her manuscripts.
3. Translate and publish her books in non-English languages.

In the years since Ellen White’s death, additional responsibilities have been accepted by her office staff:

4. Promoting a balanced understanding of Ellen White’s life and ministry, including her teaching that her writings are the lesser light to lead persons to the greater light, the Bible. This involves using modern technology in its various formats, publication of articles and books, and speaking appointments.



5. Serving on church committees as requested.
6. Providing guides for tour groups who wish to visit historic Adventist sites.
7. Serving as the constituency for Adventist Heritage Ministries (see separate report).
8. Officially promoting church heritage on behalf of the General Conference.

In addition to the main office of the Ellen G. White Estate, located at the General Conference in Silver Spring, Maryland, the White Estate also operates a branch office at each of the four academic institutions owned by the General Conference: Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (Philippines); Adventist University of Africa (Kenya); Andrews University (Michigan); and Loma Linda University (California). Ellen G. White Seventh-day Adventist Research Centers are also operated in each of the church's world divisions. A total of 23 White Estate facilities now serve the world church.

LIFE-CHANGING PROJECTS

During the past seven years the White Estate staff have participated in well-attended symposia held in all but one of the church's 13 world divisions. The focus of these meetings was the "Gift of Prophecy in Scripture and History." Local and international Adventist scholars, plus White Estate staff from our main office and regional facilities, have spoken at these various meetings.

Papers presented at the symposia have been published in book form in 10 languages (English, French, German, Korean, Mandarin/Chinese, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, and Spanish) under the title *The Gift of Prophecy in Scripture and History*. In addition to this groundbreaking volume, White Estate staff also authored or edited several other books.

The White Estate is exploring ways to introduce Ellen White's writings to adherents of the major non-Christian world religions. This requires much careful, prayerful study, as the White Estate seeks to contextualize the presentation of Ellen White's writings for people of other cultures and faith traditions, while at the same time preserving the integrity of her teachings. The potential this holds for expanding the outreach ministry of Ellen White to billions of people around the world is well worth the effort.

The last vision God gave to Ellen White shortly before her death emphasized the importance of proper reading material for young people.² That God-ordained priority is why the primary assignment for one of the White Estate's associate directors is to focus on the creation of materials specifically oriented to children and youth.

In 2015 the Ellen G. White Visitor Center opened in the main office of the White Estate. Several additional exhibits have been added to the visitor center over the past seven years.





Major enhancements have been made to EGWwritings.org since 2015, including expanding our servers worldwide. Throughout the past quinquennium the White Estate worked with the General Conference’s Spirit of Prophecy Committee on the Growing Together project. The goal of that program was to translate 12 Ellen White books into 55 languages in print and digital formats.

In 2020 that translation program expanded into the Gift of Light project. Currently at least one Ellen White book is available for free downloading in 131 languages. They are available in multiple formats, with more books continually added.

Throughout 2021 Ellen G. White Writings websites and apps averaged 7.5 million visitors each month, representing all but three countries officially recognized by the United Nations. In addition, the White Estate averaged 225 million search requests and 24 million download requests for books, ebooks, or audio books *per month*. That represents more than 2.48 billion search requests and 273 million download requests during the year.

PARTNER SUPPORT WELCOME

Providing Ellen G. White Writings services for free requires considerable funding. Although the church, lay organizations, and individuals all contribute financially toward this ministry, growth is expanding so rapidly that additional partners are urgently needed to keep pace with the demands.

Donations may be made online at partner.egw-writings.org, or checks marked “EGW Website Project” may be sent to the Ellen G. White Estate, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States 20904-6600.

In December 1914 Ellen White “testified to hearing voices in the night season, crying out: ‘Advance! Advance! Advance! Press the battle to the gate!’”³ The White Estate is attempting, by the power of God’s grace, to keep sharing the vision between now and when Christ returns. 📌

¹Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1958, 1980), book 1, p. 55.

²In *Review and Herald*, Apr. 15, 1915.

³Ellen G. White, *Life Sketches* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1915), p. 441.



ADVENTIST HERITAGE MINISTRIES

THE PAST WITH A FUTURE

Telling stories of faithfulness and promise

“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.”¹

Adventist Heritage Ministries (AHM) was established in 1981 to preserve for future generations some of the most important early Adventist historic sites, and to showcase stories from the beginning of God’s end-time movement.

During the past seven years more than 76,000 Adventists and their friends have visited the sites and experienced through stories how love for Jesus and the spirit of sacrifice and commitment impacted our pioneers. Inspired by their examples, visitors often leave having resurrendered their lives to Jesus, or being challenged by hearing for the first time God’s last-day message.

AHM operates four historic sites: the Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Michigan; the William Miller farm near Whitehall, New York; the Joseph Bates boyhood home in Fairhaven, Massachusetts; and the Hiram Edson farm in Clifton Springs, New York. These sites not only represent the pioneers’ stories, but also introduce important end-time messages such as the Sabbath, the heavenly sanctuary, the Second Coming, the Spirit of Prophecy, and more.

Since 2015 various restoration projects have been ongoing at all four of our historic sites. Even more exciting were the nearly 5,500 Pathfinders who toured the Historic Adventist Village on their way to the Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh in August 2019.

That’s the reason AHM exists—to provide a way for young people and others to better relate to our Adventist pioneers. Helping a new generation to catch the excitement and fervor of being an Adventist is what it’s all about. Without that, there would be no need for AHM.



COURTESY OF THE ELLEN G. WHITE ESTATE

Other significant events also occurred during the quinquennium. The 2018 Annual Council was held in Battle Creek, allowing the Historic Adventist Village to host hundreds of church leaders from around the world.

In October 2019 a special weekend at the Miller farm reminded more than 1,000 local and international visitors about the Great Disappointment of 1844. Such events at our historic sites result in life-changing experiences.

AHM’s team is passionate about enriching visitors’ experience and having a spiritual impact. We would love to welcome you, your family, or church to one of our historic sites.

AHM is a charitable organization and depends on donations and dedicated volunteers to accomplish its unique mission: sharing the three angels’ messages through telling our story.

Ellen White wrote: “The past history of the cause of God needs to be often brought before the people, young and old, that they may be familiar with it. How frequently were the waymarks set up by the Lord in His dealing with ancient Israel, lest they should forget the history of the past.”²

Learn more about AHM at AdventistHeritage.org. Thank you for your interest and support. 📌

¹Ellen G. White, *Life Sketches* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1915), p. 196.

²Ellen G. White letter 33, 1890.

FAMILY MINISTRIES



LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Faithfulness and compassion begin in our families.

During a conversation with Arthur W. Spalding at her home in Saint Helena, California, in 1913, Ellen White mentioned something that weighed heavily on her heart: “I want to talk with you about the importance of the work to be done for the parents of the church. . . . The work of parents underlies every other. . . . It is the very most important work before us as a people, and we have not begun to touch it with the tips of our fingers.”¹

Six years later, on October 8, 1919, the General Conference (GC) Committee voted to create the Home Commission—the beginnings of Family Ministries—with Spalding as its leader.

The centennial celebration of Family Ministries during this administrative period made the 2015-2020 quinquennium a truly historic period. The commemoration came to its zenith on October 14, 2019, at Annual Council.

During that meeting the *Couple’s Bible*—produced in collaboration with Safeliz—was unveiled and distributed; a Family Ministries centennial issue of the October 2019 *Ministry* magazine was supplied; the Spalding Medallion for Lifetime Service was awarded to Karen and Ron Flowers

for their exceptional 30 years of leadership in the Department of Family Ministries at the GC; and a dessert reception was hosted at the world headquarters.

One of the reasons Family Ministries exists is based on the poignant declaration by Ellen White: “The restoration and uplifting of humanity begins in the home. The work of parents underlies every other. Society is composed of families, and is what the heads of families make it. Out of the heart are ‘the issues of life’ (Proverbs 4:23); and the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation is the household. The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences.”²

Family Ministries joined the world church in launching *Reaching Families for Jesus: Total Family Involvement* at the Family Ministries World Advisory in March 2016, its brand of the strategic focus *Reach the World: Total Member Involvement*. We developed special resources and hosted events and conferences to advance these initiatives.

In its worldwide coordination and strategic focus Family Ministries seeks to strengthen, inspire hope, and bring healing to marriages, families, and individuals through the abundant love and saving grace of Jesus Christ. Our vision is to prepare families for the kingdom of God and hasten the coming of Jesus Christ.



THE OBJECTIVES OF FAMILY MINISTRIES ARE:

- To proclaim the reviving and restorative message of the everlasting gospel within the context of family living.
- To affirm and strengthen every Seventh-day Adventist family as a primary discipling unit.
- To enable parents and families to increase the likelihood of successful transference of Seventh-day Adventist Christian values to the next generation.
- To create a family-of-God experience in every Seventh-day Adventist church to empower families for winsome witness.

AS SUCH, DURING THE 2015-2020 QUINQUENNium WE:

- Certified all division directors of Family Ministries (FM) in Prepare-Enrich (P-E), a leading modality of premarital education and marriage enrichment during the FM World Advisory. Subsequently, many leaders were certified in P-E at union conferences and local conferences in several world divisions.
- Spoke for seven Total Family Involvement (TFI) family evangelism meetings in several divisions. Several division directors were also actively involved in Total Member Involvement (TMI) evangelistic meetings in their respective divisions, leading many to baptism and church membership.
- Conducted marriage conferences, parenting conferences, family conferences, or leadership certification conferences in all divisions and attached field.
- Published a Family Ministries Resource Book (curricula) each year with leadership resources for the two marriage and family strengthening

weeks on the world church's calendar. This annual resource is available in several languages (English, French, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Swahili) and can be downloaded free from our website at Family.Adventist.org.

- Wrote the RelationshipRx column in *Message* magazine, the African American missionary magazine for NAD; and the Real Family Talk column for *Adventist World Online*. We were also privileged to write several articles and editorials for a number of church publications.
- Wrote the 2019 missionary book of the year, *Hope for Today's Families*, in partnership with GC Publishing Ministries. This book was translated into about 40 languages, with about 50 million copies distributed around the world.
- Produced the tenth season of *Real Family Talk With Willie and Elaine Oliver*, an award-winning 30-minute marriage and family spiritually focused television program on Hope Channel.
- Partnered with our GC colleagues in Children's and Women's Ministries to host an International Leadership Conference in May 2017 in Budapest, Hungary, under the theme "Reach the World: Issues Impacting Children, Women, and Families." Participants from the three ministries attended the event from most of the world divisions and attached field.
- Partnered with the directors of Family Ministries for the three African divisions to organize and host a family strengthening conference on the campus of Adventist University of Africa (AUA), near Nairobi, Kenya, under the theme "Adventist Pan-African Conference on Dynamic Family Relations." We subsequently published a book with the content of the conference's



Family ministries CONTINUED



presentations using the title *Adventist Families: A Pan-African Perspective*.

- Developed a dynamic social media presence and sourced content on healthy family relationships, COVID-19 best practices, optimum mental health, family worship, and digital family evangelism.
- Launched the *I Will Go With My Family* Strategic Focus with all divisions, as well as promoted involvement in the three angels' messages worldwide initiative.
- Facilitated workshops by Zoom with divisions around the world on helping marriages and families survive and thrive during the COVID-19 pandemic despite the stress and anxiety caused by the lockdowns and other difficult circumstances.



Leadership Legacy: Willie and Elaine Oliver (left), current codirectors of Family Ministries with Ron and Karen Flowers, former codirectors.

It's been our honor to serve during this seven-year period with a worldwide team of leaders who understand that Family Ministries is about discipling people and preparing them for the soon coming of Jesus Christ. This is best accomplished when people learn and put into practice relational skills that enhance family atmosphere and witness.

The Bible dramatizes this reality by instructing: "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19, NIV). On this very point Ellen White proposed: "One well-ordered, well-disciplined family tells more in behalf of Christianity than all the sermons that can be preached."³

Ultimately Family Ministries is about helping families embrace the New Testament ethic of love, so that Jesus' message can become a reality in their lives: "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). ♣

¹ Arthur W. Spalding, *Origin and History of Seventh-day Adventists* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1962), vol. 3, pp. 201, 202.

² Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1905), p. 349.

³ Ellen G. White, *The Adventist Home* (Nashville: Southern Pub. Assn., 1952), p. 32.

Want to Have a Seating Problem at Sabbath School?

Could you imagine the biggest complaint at your church being, "I can't get a seat at our Bible study?" What would it be like if you had to take seat reservations at your Sabbath School so that your large group of visitors could even get in? Roy Ice has discovered how to do just that and more, and he and his team would love to share how God can do the same thing with your community by starting a Bible Lab.

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GENERAL CONFERENCE AUDITING SERVICES



GCAS group photo at CONNECT2018. —D.M. MOOMEY

DEFINING EXCELLENCE: *The product of value and relationship*

Delivering Excellence” is the mission that inspires how the General Conference Auditing Services (GCAS) serves the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its family of organizations. GCAS recognizes excellence is delivered only when service recipients perceive it to be so. By defining excellence as the product of value and relationship, we have a framework to pursue strategic initiatives that promote excellence in the services we perform.

GCAS VALUE INITIATIVES

The financial audits performed by GCAS are designed to give reasonable assurance regarding financial information presented by the management of church organizations. However, the twenty-first century has seen expectations grow beyond what a financial audit can provide. Now church organizations and their stakeholders want to receive insights regarding their financial information and the emerging signals for the future. The following four value initiatives are in response to current



demands for information beyond mere audit results:

GCAS unveiled a new reporting format titled “Report to Governance.” This new reporting format is designed to be user-friendly and informative, and encourage responsiveness of report users to the findings and recommendations being presented.

GCAS is in the final stages of publishing a research report titled *A Global Study of Financial Reporting in the Seventh-day Adventist Church*, based on an in-depth scientific study of audited financial reports from church organizations around the world for a five-year period. The research report will present a set of insights for management and governing boards of church organizations to consider as it relates to their respective organization.

GCAS will be transforming its audit process to include a robust use of data analytics and artificial intelligence to obtain and interpret data that will provide useful information to management and governing boards.

GCAS joined BDO Alliance USA as an independent member in August 2020. The BDO Alliance USA is



Joseph Grenny at CONNECT2018. —D.M. MOOMEY

a nationwide association of independently owned local and regional accounting, consulting and service firms with similar client service goals. Joining this alliance of accounting firms grants us access to a wide range of expertise that will enhance the value of services we provide to church organizations.

GCAS RELATIONSHIP INITIATIVES

Relationships can make or break any service delivery. We realize the services we provide to church organizations are at risk of not being perceived as valuable if the relationship surrounding the service delivery is not optimal. To ensure our personnel have the competences to develop and maintain healthy relationships with clients and colleagues, we utilized the complementary training programs from VitalSmarts: Crucial Conversations and Crucial Accountability.

Provides tools for talking when the stakes are high



Provides tools for bridging the gap between expectations and results

GCAS IS INTENTIONAL

GCAS holds itself to meeting the highest professional standards and voluntarily submits to a peer review of the system of quality control for our North American operations by a well-recognized accounting firm. The latest peer review provided GCAS with high marks, along with

comments on areas where we can improve. It is our intent to expand this peer review to our global operations within the next quinquennium, and we are diligently preparing for such an exercise.

We are intentional about staying current with the relevant professional standards by first hiring the right people and second investing in their professional development. GCAS University is the learning arm of our organization that creates and coordinates professional development activities from our newest hires to those in leadership roles.

The highlight of our learning experiences is our global conference held every five years. CONNECT2018 convened in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, and was attended by approximately 600 individuals, including our entire professional team from around the world, their families, and invited guests. The event featured keynote presentations from Gary Hamel, an influential and revolutionary business speaker; and Joseph Grenny, a business social scientist and four-time *New York Times* best-selling author. Pastor Ted Wilson, General Conference president, provided the Sabbath sermon to capstone the spiritual component of our experience.

GCAS IS INVOLVED

GCAS encourages its personnel to be involved in ministry at the local church and provides opportunities for involvement in public evangelism. In the summer of 2019 the former GCAS director led a team of five and joined George Egwakhe, a



Gary Hamel at CONNECT2018. —D.M. MOOMEY

General Conference Auditing & Services CONTINUED



A portion of baptismal candidates. —GEORGE EGWAKHE

General Conference associate treasurer, in conducting a two-week evangelistic campaign in Nigeria.

Meetings were conducted from five locations, with a total average attendance of 360 persons per night. The majority of those attending had never heard about the Seventh-day Adventist Church and appreciated our interest in their whole being for life now and when Jesus comes again. In preparation for the meetings, local pastors and laypersons

from neighboring states and one from Ghana came for several weeks and prepared community members to receive the message of Jesus Christ. The campaign preparation was not without challenges; however, in every instance, God intervened beyond what we could imagine, and we give Him the glory.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit 77 individuals were baptized into life with Jesus Christ. From this campaign two churches were planted, a church building almost completed, and land secured to build another church. It was a privilege to lead souls to accept Jesus Christ and the eternal life He offers.

2022 AND BEYOND

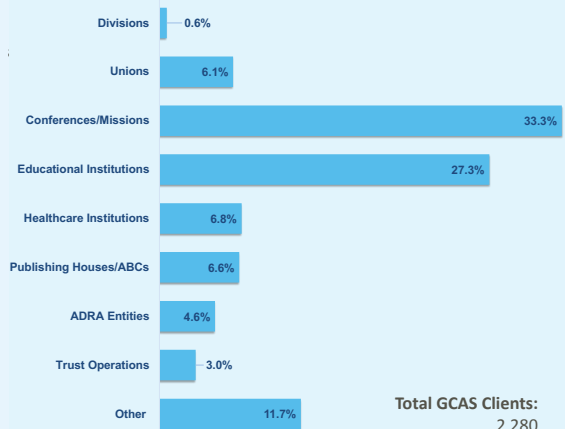
“Delivering Excellence” motivates how we serve in our ministry of auditing for God and His church. We are committed to exploring new horizons of what excellence means to those we serve so we can match their expectations. 🍀

GCAS BY THE NUMBERS



Client Base | The General Conference Auditing Service serves as the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s preferred provider of assurance and related services. The client base includes all denominational organizations, such as General Conference institutions, world divisions and their institutions, unions/union of churches and their institutions, local conferences/missions/regions/field stations and their educational institutions at the secondary level or higher, and Adventist Development and Relief Agency country offices and projects not audited by external auditors.

(General Conference Working Policy SA 05 25)



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Jesus in John 10:10

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GC ADVENTIST HEALTH MINISTRIES



Attendees register for the third Global Conference on Health and Lifestyle, held in Loma Linda, California, United States, in July 2019. —SYNESTHEZIA

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH MINISTRY—NOT JUST FOR HEALTH WORKERS

March 11, 2020, marked the proclamation of the catastrophic global COVID-19 pandemic. All aspects of life as we knew it changed drastically—the relentlessly and rapidly spreading novel coronavirus spawned disease, death, isolation, and economic chaos. The Adventist Church and its Health Ministries leaders pivoted with distinctive responses, including teaching, training, preaching, nurturing, and communicating on virtual and electronic platforms, ministering daily in various divisions and territories—without jet lag!

In response to the accelerated rise in suicide among young people, General Conference Health Ministries (GCHM) initiated the COVID-19 Mental Health Initiative using the Youth Alive platform with focused materials, including 18 videos, bringing hope and help.¹

The Adventist Church has been blessed with a

powerful health message that promotes health and wholeness of body, mind, and spirit for a time such as this. We should not only teach it, we should also live it—sharing wholeness and serving all! Comprehensive health ministry (CHM) reflect and embraces the term “medical missionary work,” as used by Ellen White, urging the Seventh-day Adventist Church to engage in wholistic caring and healing. CHM is not just for health workers but for everyone. “The health reform, I was shown, is a part of the third angel’s message and is just as closely connected with it as are the arm and hand with the human body.”²

As a world team comprising numerous church departments and administrators, we follow Christ’s method, ministry, and mission. CHM strives to model the self-sacrificial ministry of Christ in a broken world, meeting people’s needs in a practical way by demonstrating God’s love and compassion. Just as Jesus did, we may then extend the invitation to follow Him.

WHAT DOES CHM LOOK LIKE?

CHM is ministry and mission inextricably linked, extending the healing and saving ministry



of Jesus. It focuses on wellness and preventive lifestyle interventions and treatment of disease. This ministry and mission for every church worker and member transforms our churches into community health centers, sharing instruction in balanced healthful living, cooking and nutrition, smoking cessation (BreatheFree 2),³ and recovery ministry. This is Total Member Involvement at its best! Mental health diseases are destigmatized through education, and people with depression and anxiety are supported and included. Treatment of disease, provision of dental and ophthalmic care, and lifestyle instruction and education have impacted communities worldwide, preparing hearts and minds for the transforming message of salvation.

We report on some highlights of GC Health Ministries, laser-focused on CHM during the past seven years, including the health and mission of our church members, leaders and pastors, and the communities we serve.

THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH AND LIFESTYLE

Each quinquennium CHM is shared during the Global Conference on Health and Lifestyle. The third Global Conference was held at Loma Linda University (LLU), July 9-14, 2019, and was attended by 900 health workers from 106 countries throughout the six days. GC Possibilities Ministries⁴ partnered in this endeavor. The conference theme, “Your Brain, Your Body,” reflected the interdependence of the mental, physical, spiritual, emotional, and relational dimensions of our lives.

MENTAL HEALTH AND RE-MINDED

Mental health affects how we think, feel, and act, as well as how we relate to God, others, and ourselves. Ellen White said, “To deal with minds is the greatest work ever committed to men.”⁵ GCHM strongly emphasizes mental health and emotional well-being. A comprehensive mental health program called ReMinded is scheduled for

release this year and will comprise an interactive online program and training, including animation videos and short films; books; a community program and expo; a small-group program for use in homes, Sabbath Schools, lifestyle centers; etc.

We pray that ReMinded will help both people who suffer from mental illness and those who support them.⁶

YOUTH ALIVE

Youth Alive (YA)⁷ is a youth discipleship program that focuses on building resilience against at-risk behaviors such as addictions, violence, and premarital sex. Through YA, GCHM works closely with GC Youth Ministries, Family Ministries, Adventist Education, Global Mission, Public Campus Ministries, and ADRA. YA helps youth build meaningful relationships with adult mentors and peers, engage in service and recreational activities, find purpose, and deepen their relationship with God.

The updated version was launched at the Global Youth Leadership Conference in August 2018.

ARMIN GLOBAL

Adventist Recovery Ministries Global (ARMin-G)⁸ focuses on bringing recovery and restoration to people struggling with addictive behaviors using a 12-step Christ-centered approach in line with Adventist doctrine and based on the book *Steps to Christ*. ARMin-G offers Journey to Wholeness (JTW) materials and training for leaders to facilitate support groups for church members and community friends. The *Steps to Christ: Recovery Edition* was produced in collaboration with the White Estate and Safeliz Publishing House. Translated and contextualized, the ARMin-G program has expanded into six divisions.

LIFESTYLE COACHING

The challenges of everyday life and the power of long-term habits make lifestyle changes and

health-habit modification difficult to implement. GCHM developed a training program using biblical principles to provide personalized support with lifestyle changes. Twenty trainings (seven in the Middle East and North Africa Union [MENA]) have been completed, with 850 people trained.⁹

MISSIONARY CARE

GCHM nurtures and promotes the wholistic health of our missionaries from health clearance to completion of service, giving guidance and caring for health emergencies/challenges throughout service. GCHM actively participates in Mission Institutes, collaborating closely with GC Secretariat and International Personnel Resources and Services (IPRS).

GC NUTRITION COUNCIL

The GC Nutrition Council (GCNC)¹⁰—nutrition professionals and health ministry leaders worldwide—works on topical nutrition issues, sets priorities, and reviews and updates fact sheets.

RESOURCES DEVELOPED

During the past seven years the following resources were completed:

- the *Hope Bible*, produced especially for health professionals (already available in English and Spanish), in collaboration with Safeliz Publishing House in Spain;
- the concise *CELEBRATIONS®* sharing book, in collaboration with Adventist Review Ministries;
- the *Steps to Christ: Recovery Edition* (English, Spanish, and French), in collaboration with the White Estate and Safeliz;
- Global Camp Meeting Health presentations, collated and curated in partnership for this Global Church event in May 2021,¹¹ and included in the Adventist Collective Health;¹²
- a special health-themed edition of *Ministry* magazine;¹³
- special health editions of *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World* to coincide with the

Global Conference on Health and Lifestyle in July 2019;

- regular monthly columns on health and wellness in *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World*;
- *Adventist Wellness*—a resource describing the witness, role, planning, and implementation of lifestyle centers;¹⁴
- in collaboration with LLUSN and GC Education, a special nursing issue of the *Journal of Adventist Education*.¹⁵

SEMINARY HEALTH COURSES AND THE HEALTH OF THE LEADER

The GCHM team conducted 20 health intensives with the seminaries on the campuses of Andrews University, Chile Adventist University, and Adventist University of Africa. In collaboration with the twelfth and thirteenth Global Leadership Summits (GC presidential initiatives for our world church leadership), the GCHM team coordinated and led a lifestyle conference in Jamaica (2019) for leaders (a follow-up in Cape Town, 2020), addressing the health and well-being of the executive officers of the GC, divisions and attached unions, and some institutions. It included health lectures, daily exercise, recreation, a total vegetarian diet, time for rest and sleep, opportunity to participate in evangelism, and before-and-after testing. Testing showed lowered resting blood pressure, fasting blood sugar, body weight, and cholesterol readings after just seven days of focused lifestyle interventions. Follow-up one year later revealed leadership's continued commitment to a



In a GCHM and ADRA partnership, two water kiosks and wells powered by solar energy were installed as pilot projects in Mozambique.—ADRA INTERNATIONAL



healthful lifestyle. The potential and value of lifestyle centers was also presented.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships have strengthened during the COVID-19 pandemic. GCHM coordinated COVID relief for our hospitals and health workers, partnering with GC, ADRA, Chinese Union Mission (CHUM), and Adventist Health International (AHI). Personal protective equipment, medical equipment, and funds were shared during the most difficult time of the pandemic.

GCHM has partnered with Adventist Education in the establishment and nurture of four medical schools (Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, and Rwanda), two dental schools (Argentina and Brazil), and the oversight of the introduction of new health degrees and courses. In partnership with ADRA, two water kiosks and wells powered by solar energy have been installed as pilot projects in Mozambique. GCHM and the LLU School of Nursing coordinated a World Health Organization-sponsored project to upscale midwifery in Lesotho, Botswana, Malawi, and Cameroon. Adventist global nursing, led by Dr. Pat Jones and more recently Dr. Anne Berit Petersen, has globally benefited our hospitals and nursing schools. A textbook on Adventist nursing is being prepared for publication later this year.

In a historic venture, GCHM partnered with Adventist University of Africa, along with others, on the African Seventh-day Adventist Health Studies (ASDAHS), led by Professor Daniel Ganu, using the GCHM resource *CELEBRATIONS*[®]. The first phase has been completed and published.¹⁶

Since 2015, in partnership with the LLU School


of Dentistry, GCHM team members personally visited 55 of the 125 Adventist dental clinics. These visits were led and coordinated by Dr. Doyle Nick. Numerous consignments of equipment and materials were delivered.

Through appreciative inquiries (in-depth hospital evaluations) of hospitals were conducted in three divisions, in collaboration with GC Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, Adventist Risk Management, GC Treasury, and LLU.

Adventist donors and foundations have generously contributed toward projects and resource development during the past seven years.

THE TEAM

GCHM has four full-time elected workers: Torben Bergland, Zeno L. Charles-Marcel, Katia Reinert, and Peter Landless; two administrative assistants: Beth Pettit and Laura Sanchez; and a specialized travel nurse, Pam Ingram-Clay. We also have a cohort of health ministries honorary associates and assistants who voluntarily donate their invaluable talents, time, and service.

We give thanks and all the glory to God for His unfailing goodness and grace. Maranatha! 

¹ www.youtube.com/c/YouthAliveChannel/videos; www.youthaliveportal.org/mentalhealth

² Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1948), vol. 1, 2 Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1948), vol. 1, p. 486; see also vol. 6, p. 327.

³ www.breathefree2.com

⁴ www.possibilityministries.org

⁵ Ellen G. White, *Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the Seventh-day Adventists* (Basle, Switz.: Imprimerie Polyglotte, 1886), p. 209.

⁶ www.healthministries.com/gchealthresources/

⁷ www.youthaliveportal.org

⁸ www.adventistrecoveryglobal.org

⁹ www.healthministries.com/lifestylecoaching/

¹⁰ www.healthministries.com/?s=GC+Nutrition+Council

¹¹ www.campmeeting.com/seminars/health-ministries/

¹² www.campmeeting.com/

¹³ www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2018/11/

¹⁴ www.healthministries.com/publications/

¹⁵ [15 adventisteducators.org/2018/02/jae-october-december-2017-nursing/](http://15.adventisteducators.org/2018/02/jae-october-december-2017-nursing/)

¹⁶ www.aua.ac.ke/index.php/news-and-events/302-health-grant.html

HOPE CHANNEL INTERNATIONAL



SPREADING HOPE AROUND THE WORLD

The message of Christ in the language of the people

Tens of thousands of Hope Channel viewers around the world are making the life-changing journey from broadcast to baptism and beyond. During the past several years the global evangelistic media network has continued to expand exponentially. As of today, 69 Hope Channels are broadcasting life-changing messages on more than 30 satellites, terrestrial free-to-air television channels, Internet streaming, and Internet-based video on demand (VOD) in more than 80 languages. In the coming months those numbers will have increased.

The largest Hope Channel affiliate Novo Tempo,

is located in Jacaré, Brazil. With a potential viewing audience of 180 million nationwide, Novo Tempo also has Portuguese-speaking viewers in 130 countries around the world. Since 2015 it celebrated the enrollment of its one-millionth Bible student, and adds approximately 12,000 new Bible students every month. Antonio Tostes, president of Novo Tempo, says, “We are not a television channel with a Bible school; we are a Bible school with a television channel.”

With exponential viewership growth, Novo Tempo now broadcasts at no charge on all paid television systems in Brazil. It plans to invest the savings in a bold new social media and digital evangelism initiative. “We need to be on all platforms,” Tostes emphasizes. “We need to use all methods of communication, reaching everyone and sharing hope that Jesus will return soon.”

In Eastern Europe, Hope Media Group Ukraine also experienced remarkable growth during the past several years, and is the most popular Chris-



tian media entity in the country. It broadcasts Bible-based programming on various media platforms, including 120 cable channels with an estimated viewership of 6 million. As of December 2019 its YouTube channel holds 213,000 subscribers and more than 46 million views.

Maksym Krupskyi, director of Hope Media Group Ukraine, shares that they strongly emphasize Bible study enrollment and aim to expand from 3,000 new Bible studies per year to 36,000 new Bible studies per year by 2024. Its largest offline event involved 450,000 participants in downtown Kiev, celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. It is planning additional offline events to encourage more viewers on the life-changing journey from broadcast to baptism and beyond.

Speranta TV (Hope Channel Romania) has emerged as one of the leaders in the global evangelistic media network. Since 2015 Speranta TV has become one of the top 30 “must-carry” television channels in Romania. This has allowed truth-filled programming to be broadcast at no cost nationwide on almost 300 cable channels. Cătălin Bărbulescu, Speranta TV general director, announced that in 2019 Speranta TV viewership increased from twenty-seventh to fifteen on the “must-carry” list in Romania. With an estimated viewership of 1 million, and thousands of lives being transformed, it is witnessing a great miracle of God.

Hope Channel Tanzania is leading the way with NET evangelism, helping Hope Channel viewers find a spiritual community. In 2019, when Baraka Muganda, former Youth director for the General Conference (GC), returned to his home country of Tanzania, he preached in the new capital city of Dodoma. More than 900 individuals in Dodoma responded to the invitation to be baptized, increasing to more than 12,000 baptisms when these meetings were broadcast nationwide by Hope Channel Tanzania. “When the church works together, we are blessed,” shared Muganda.

But the miracle doesn’t stop there. In June 2021

the channel broadcast a NET series presented by Mark Malekana, president of the Southern Tanzania Union, which reached many more people for Jesus. Broadcast live from Dodoma to 3,978 satellite locations across the country and followed by more than 900 across social media page livestreaming, the three-week satellite evangelism resulted in the baptisms of more than 30,000. Later, in October 2021, Godwin Lekundayo, president of the Northern Tanzania Union, held NET meetings resulting in more than 40,000 baptisms!

Hope Channel New Zealand is a growing force as well. Reaching an average 160,000 viewers each month, it focuses on those who don’t attend an Adventist church. “We have been given an opportunity to reach people in their homes in a way we never have before,” said Ole Pederson, affiliate president. “Our job is to reach out and connect with them, befriend them, and help them with their needs. The way we need to let God’s Spirit work on their hearts to convict them to trust Him.”



Baptisms take place following the NET series broadcast by Hope Channel Tanzania in June 2021.



Lives are being transformed in Costa Rica as a result of Hope Channel Costa Rica and other Spanish-speaking affiliates. Roger is just one example.* After a long workday Roger turned on the TV to watch his favorite program. His local cable service wasn't working, so he switched to the national on-air broadcast system, looking for something interesting to watch. He came across a program that captivated his attention—a man speaking about the Word of God.

Roger was intrigued. He knew some things about the Bible, but this message was different. He noticed the presenter read verses from the Bible that supported every point he made. It was the first time Roger heard such compelling presentations from the Bible. He stayed awake until midnight, watching program after program. The following evening, after watching Hope Channel Costa Rica again, Roger recommitted his life to Jesus.

HOPE ON THE GO

One of the exciting distribution advancements during the past several years has been the launch of a new suite of Hope Channel apps, available for all Hope Channels in the global network. Whether viewers watch on a smartphone, or using

such devices as Apple TV or Roku, Hope Channel programs are available on the app in a variety of languages, both as a linear broadcast and also as video on demand. The new suite of Hope Channel apps is delivering transforming programs to nearly 200 countries around the world.

HOPE FOR TOMORROW

From Hope Channel Fiji to Hope Channel Southeast Asia, this global evangelistic media network is sharing God's good news for a better life today and for eternity. Through the Seventh-day Adventist Church's wholistic understanding of the Word of God, including the three angels' messages and end-time prophecies, Hope Channel is helping viewers understand the Bible in order to find freedom, healing, and hope in Jesus, supporting and encouraging them on their life-changing journey from broadcast to baptism and beyond.

Hope Channel is excited about the future. As we stay laser-focused on mission, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will witness a great harvest. We thank you for your prayers and ongoing support. 🙌

* This story was first shared on Hope Channel's *Transformed* program, October 2018. For more transformation stories, visit HopeTV.org/Transformed.



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HopeChannel

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MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION



THE MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION:

Equipping leaders through personal revival, training, and relevant resources.

The 1922 General Conference session did not begin well for A. G. Daniells. Daniells, who had served as General Conference president for 21 years, was replaced during the first business session. Later that week he preached a powerful sermon on prayer and commitment. Daniells confessed how he had neglected to make prayer a priority and, appealing to others to join him, he repented. He was asked to establish and lead the Ministerial Association, with a signature emphasis on prayer and spiritual revival.

While studying the topic of righteousness by

faith, Daniells realized the church's desperate need for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He called it "the most important issue of all."¹ This need has not changed. We recognize that every church leader must have a deep personal conversion and an ongoing, Spirit-filled walk with the Lord so they can disciple those they lead.

At the General Conference Ministerial Association we serve the global church through our ministry to pastors, pastoral families, elders, deacons, and deaconesses. Our purpose is to deepen the spiritual lives of those we serve, develop intellectual strength through careful study of the Bible and topics related to ministry, and provide practical instruction and resources for effective service and soul winning.

A PASSION FOR PASTORS

One of our major publications is the award-winning *Ministry* magazine. Under the leadership of Pavel Goia and Jeffrey Brown, this monthly journal



has taken giant steps to meet the demands of the twenty-first-century pastor. Published in multiple languages, *Ministry* has a redesigned magazine and web experience (ministrymagazine.org), digital magazine delivery, and the option to listen to articles through audio integration and the *Ministry Magazine* podcast.

Goia has also been active globally, conducting Total Member Involvement (TMI) seminars and leadership training for pastors, and promoting prayer and a vital relationship with God as the foundation for all church growth and nurture.

Jesus has sheep not of this fold. This is why our **Project Reaching Every Active Clergy Home (PREACH)** project, managed by Brown, prayerfully sends a complimentary subscription of *Ministry* to 55,000 pastors of other denominations bimonthly. Thanks to this outreach, our message is communicated to Christian clergy worldwide. Many of them, including denominational and major ministry leaders, have told us how much they appreciate the biblical faithfulness and practical pastoring helps of *Ministry*, and how they share the magazine with other pastors!

Ministry in Motion, hosted by Anthony Kent and Ivan Williams (NAD Ministerial), has produced 272 inspirational and instructional interview episodes to support ministry at the local level (www.ministryinmotion.tv). Many divisions are using these programs for pastors' continuing education. One pastor stated, "*Ministry in Motion* saved me and my ministry!"

EDUCATING OUR PASTORS

We invest in the next generation of pastors by collaborating with the Education Department, ensuring a sound Adventist curriculum for those preparing for ministry, as well as quality education through the International Board of Ministerial and Theological Education (IBMTE). Ministerial secretary Jerry Page, Anthony Kent, and Willie E. Hucks II were deeply involved in revising the IBMTE handbook, which includes an endorsement

process for religion and theology teachers at all levels. Kent has also worked with divisions in developing supervision and support for pastoral interns. Brown has participated in Adventist Accreditation Association visits to our colleges, universities, and seminaries, paying special attention to their curriculum, library resources, and the campus' spiritual life.

WHOLISTIC EVANGELISM TRAINING

From sharing the gospel with the Guatemalan president and his supreme court magistrates to witnessing the power of lay members preaching meetings in Europe, one thing is clear: the Holy Spirit works through evangelism! God sets up divine appointments, sends dreams, and speaks through people in order to reach every soul with a message of hope.

Robert Costa, our associate serving as the world church evangelism leader, trains leaders on how to prepare wholistic, effective evangelistic meetings a year in advance. During the past seven years Costa has held 78 major evangelistic meetings in person, on TV, and online, resulting in 31,200+ baptisms; held 61 field schools of evangelism; and produced 2,235 TV programs. Annually he has published fully editable evangelistic sermons with graphics, and other free resources available on geevangelism.net.

BLESSING THE PASTOR'S FAMILY AND PRAYER MINISTRIES

The Ministerial Spouses Association (formerly Shepherdess International), led by Janet Page, who also serves as the associate for the World Church Prayer Ministries, is dedicated to blessing pastoral families with resources, nurture, and training.

Page, along with her husband, Jerry, prioritized ministerial spouses these past seven years. Thanks to a generous donation, spouses were included at life-changing pastoral retreats in which the spiritual life of the family was strength-

Ministerial association CONTINUED

ened, and practical helps were given for facing challenges and turning them into opportunities for good, by God's power!

The Journal, a quarterly magazine published in multiple languages, provides encouragement and inspiration for pastoral spouses and families. Th ough a Facebook group, social media, and website, ministerial spouses from around the world are able to connect, share, and grow together.

EQUIPPING AN ARMY OF LEADERS

Under the leadership of Jonas Arrais (until 2020), and now Kent, more than 1 million local church leaders are being empowered to partner with pastors through training events and various resources such as the *Elder's Handbook*, the *Deacon's and Deaconess's Handbook*, the *Elder's Digest* magazine (printed and translated into 14 languages and distributed to more than 220,000 leaders worldwide), and the *Elder's Digest* app. The elder's certification training program and other resources are available at eldersdigest.org.

Kent also oversees the *Ministerial Association Book Club*, with its more than 10,000 subscribers, which develops, publishes, and releases multiple books for church leaders' spiritual and professional growth. One of these—*Joys and Challenges of the Pastoral Family*—was written by Arrais and his wife, Raquel, based on their

experience of more than 35 years as a pastoral family. Another resource is the new edition of *Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, which has been widely translated.

These are just some of the major things the Ministerial Association is focusing on. We also take on leadership roles in various General Conference (GC) initiatives, such as Revival and Reformation and the Three Angels' Messages awareness work, as well as collaboration with every department and other initiatives such as TMI, Mission to the Cities, I Will Go, etc.

We have seen God work powerfully through ministry leaders around the world, and we give Him glory for all He has accomplished and all He will do in the future!

REVIVAL AND REFORMATION

In 2010 the Revival and Reformation (RR) initiative was born out of the Spirit of Prophecy's counsel that "a revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our fi st work. . . . A revival need to be expected only in answer to prayer."²

A committee was established, involving each GC department and entity, to collaborate and oversee this initiative. Facilitated by the Ministerial Association, RR has grown to a worldwide movement of prayer, Bible study and witnessing,



accompanied by countless miracles!

The past seven years have seen a large increase in participation in Prayer Ministries' programs, spearheaded by Janet Page. Salvation, healings, miracles, and revivals have been reported from tens of thousands attending the prayer rooms at GC Session, Annual Councils, prayer conferences, and from global initiatives such as Ten Days of Prayer, the quarterly Days of Prayer, 100 Days of Prayer, 24/7 United Prayer, and the WePray.org online prayer room.

Melody Mason, a volunteer with Prayer Ministries, was hired part-time to work with resource development for RR and as United in Prayer coordinator. She is also an author, speaker, and prayer leader.

Every day thousands access revivalandreformation.org as their gateway for a deeper walk with Christ. Since its launch, millions have been blessed by the Believe His Prophets Bible reading plan, the weekly United in Prayer inspiration, and hundreds of articles, sermons, videos, resources, and book recommendations.

RR has also focused on publishing and promoting books. Nina Atcheson's *As Light Lingers* includes strategies to help believers find joy in spending quality time in their Bibles. Richard Duerksen's *Story Catcher* inspires leaders to focus on a storytelling approach to preaching the gospel in the twenty-first century. Mason, author of *Daring to Ask For More*, recently published *Daring to Live by Every Word*, teaching readers how to treasure and apply God's Word.

RR also heavily promotes Helmut Haubeil's book *Steps to Personal Revival*, which guides the reader to experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and *One Miracle After Another: The Pavel Goia Story*, highlighting the power of God in one person's life. Goia also has a new book coming out on the topic of Holy Spirit-filled leadership. In addition, a variety of booklets, such as *Sharing Your Faith* by Don Macintosh, have been published, translated, and widely distributed.

Every day thousands access revivalandreformation.org as their gateway for a deeper walk with Christ.

PRAYER WORKS!

A group of local church leaders in Kenya started meeting weekly during the 777 prayer initiative. Members invited community friends, who in turn invited their pastors from other denominations. They all participated in the 10 Days of Prayer and the 100 Days of Prayer, held before the 2015 GC Session. That small group grew to a group of hundreds! To date, more than 120 non-Adventist pastors and spouses have been baptized into the Adventist Church. Praying together *is* evangelism!

A 100 Days of Prayer initiative was originally organized for March 27-July 4, 2020, focusing on the 2020 GC Session. Because of its postponement, however, and the outbreak of COVID-19, the focus was put on seeking revival and interceding during this crisis. Many miracles and powerful testimonies have been reported. Finally, a 40 Days of Prayer focus took place in the spring of 2022, leading up to the 2022 GC Session.

During the past seven years we have been given endless reasons to praise God for His faithfulness. While recognizing the challenges we still face in taking the gospel to the world, we are confident that Jesus will lead His people into a Spirit-filled and Spirit-empowered experience to finish the work! 🍷

¹ Letter to L. E. Froom, 1927.

² Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1958, 1980), book 1, p. 121.

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL



MATTERS OF LAW

Providing legal services in an increasingly complex society

For more than 80 years the Office of General Counsel (OGC) has been providing quality legal services to the General Conference (GC) and its institutions, the North American Division (NAD) and its institutions, and other denominational organizations around the world. Since the office was established in 1936, six individuals have served as general counsel.

As the legal needs of the church have increased, so has the role the office plays in providing legal services. At present the in-house staff of six lawyers, an immigration specialist, a contracts and procurement specialist and two assistants provide that service to the GC, its divisions, and institutions.

In addition, many more lawyers working in division, union conference, conference, and institutional offices provide legal services to their local entities. The work of the church in many parts of the world is complicated by laws, regulations, and issues that make our ability to carry out mission and spread the gospel difficult. Lawyers employed



Meet the Team: (l to r, front row): Yoko Fujioka-Mathew, Sheryl Brodie, Gabbie Colon, Karnik Doukmetzian, Tia Brantley, and Maria McCoy; (l to r, back row): Praveen Pedapudi, Justin Baham, Thomas Wetmore, Todd McFarland, and Josue Pierre.—COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

by the church provide the necessary means and expertise to assist the church in caring for legal issues, allowing and assisting the mission of the church to go forward.

Each of the lawyers in the OGC is committed to the mission of the church, forgoing salaries and benefits that lawyers in the commercial marketplace or private legal practice typically garner in order to support the mission of the church with their unique talents. Having a trained legal team that not only knows the law but also intimately knows the church, its structure, and beliefs is a valuable asset.

The OGC takes a proactive stance in protecting the church by advising leadership on the legal implications of a range of policy and administrative decisions. The work of OGC covers many of the legal issues that large multinational organizations contend with, such as human resources and employment issues, contracts, corporate matters, immigration issues, intellectual property, data privacy, and litigation.

In addition, the OGC covers issues specifically related to religious organizations, such as the charitable status and the GC group tax exemption in the United States, or employment discrimination of church members because of Sabbath observance.

Also, the church at times needs to express its voice and viewpoint on cases of impact before the United States Supreme Court. In those instances OGC coordinates and prepares the filing of briefs for consideration by the U.S. Supreme Court.

THE OGC TEAM

The following are the lawyers and specialists who comprise the legal team of the OGC and their areas of expertise:

Thomas E. Wetmore oversees employment, retirement, employee benefits tax law, organizational structure, and governance issues. An associate since 1984, he also represents the GC and NAD at professional conferences and work groups, and before government agencies on issues involving his practice areas. These include pension, employee benefit, tax law, and the law of nonprofit, charitable, and religious organizations.

Todd McFarland covers the areas of litigation, parliamentary procedure, church-state and religious liberty litigation, and represents the GC and the NAD in litigation matters. An associate since 2006, he has represented many church members who suffer employment discrimination because of Sabbath observance.

Justin Baham joined OGC in November 2021, and oversees intellectual property issues, includ-

The Office of General Counsel exists to serve the church and to provide quality, timely, and competent legal counsel to the church and its institutions, and to church leadership in this increasingly complex and litigious age.

ing trademarks and copyrights. He advises departments, entities, and institutions on compliance with protecting and enforcing intellectual property rights and managing licenses associated with those rights. He replaces Jennifer Gray Woods, who served in that position since 2015 and was elected last year as an associate in the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department of the GC.

Annagabriella Colon also joined OGC in November of 2021 and will be assisting Tom Wetmore dealing with employee benefit, tax law, and the law of nonprofit, charitable, and religious organizations. In addition, she will be assisting in immigration matters for the GC.

Josue Pierre joined OGC in February 2016, and oversees contract reviews, commercial transactions, real estate, purchasing, and procurement matters for the GC, NAD, and their associated entities and institutions, as well as Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

Karnik Doukmetzian has been general counsel

since 2009. In addition to directing the overall work of OGC, he works closely with GC and division administrators on a wide variety of issues, including general church governance and corporate matters, commercial transactions, and legal reviews.

Sheryl Brodie has worked with OGC for the past 21 years and is our immigration specialist. She works closely with GC Human Resources, the NAD, ADRA, and other organizations in coordinating and managing temporary work authorizations and visas for employees from other countries.

Tia Brantley is our contracts and procurement specialist. She assists GC Treasury and other departments with their contracts and tracking systems.

The Office of General Counsel exists to serve the church and to provide quality, timely, and competent legal counsel to the church and its institutions, and to church leadership in this increasingly complex and litigious age. ♣



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!

PLANNED GIVING AND TRUST SERVICES



The girl's dormitory at Myanmar Union Adventist Seminary was completed in 2020.

—CONNELLY HLA

A LIVING LEGACY

Good stewardship doesn't end at death.

The Planned Giving and Trust Services Department encourages Seventh-day Adventist members and friends worldwide to support the church's mission to reach the world for Jesus Christ. God uses these funds to conduct evangelism, provide education, translate Scripture, care for orphans, and look after people in distress. The following story illustrates how planned giving helps accomplish those goals.

LAY MEMBER EVANGELISM

Our story begins more than 100 years ago. Most planned gifts are distributed after a donor has passed away, but one American lay member chose to use his gift while he was still alive.

In 1910 he flew to Ukraine to hold evangelistic meetings, a perfect example of I Will Go! and Total Member Involvement (TMI). As a result of his efforts, 60 families became Seventh-day Adven-

tists. Th ee years later 50 of them moved to the north central United States.

A daughter joined one of those families in 1914. She grew up, attended Adventist schools, and, after her graduation in 1936, became a schoolteacher. She never married, and taught school until she retired in 1976.

ESTATE PLAN

The woman created an estate plan with her conference office in 1968. She asked God for guidance as she chose how to allocate the possessions He had given her to manage. God impressed her to include education, evangelism, orphans, and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Africa in her final distribution.

When this faithful member passed away 47 years later, her estate plan was still intact. She believed that God had guided her, and saw no reason to change it. What impact did her distribution have almost 50 years later?

This single Adventist schoolteacher had been very careful with her personal finances, and God



blessed her faithfulness. Her estate was worth US\$2 million—all of which was earmarked to support various parts of the world church mission as highlighted below.

EDUCATION

Christian education provides an important service to different communities all around the world. A portion of this woman's planned distribution was placed into an endowment for Seventh-day Adventist education, and the balance was used immediately to fund tuition for more children to attend school.

The planned distribution built a new elementary school, a girls dormitory, and a chapel in which students all meet and worship together.



EVANGELISM

The schoolteacher's planned giving funded evangelism in a Communist area where, over the past five years, 50,000 people have been baptized.



BIBLE TRANSLATION

The last translation of the Bible into Russian was completed in A.D. 995. As a result of the schoolteacher's gift, a project already in progress was completed, and a modern Russian translation Bible was printed in 2016.



ORPHANED CHILDREN

The schoolteacher designated that a certain portion of her gift go to International Children's Care (ICC). ICC provides food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and education for orphan children in group homes located in Africa, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, and Mexico. In the six years since the organization received their gift, many of these children have graduated and are now leaders in their communities.



Planned Giving and Trust Services CONTINUED

ADRA IN AFRICA

Because of the schoolteacher's generosity, ADRA has been able to offer emergency relief in Africa. That same gift provided clean water to villages, primary health care for women and children, education for people starting small businesses, and agricultural instruction. ADRA also makes education available for children.

EVANGELISM TO EVANGELISM

The term "TMI Evangelism" wasn't coined 100 years ago, but the personal involvement and planned gift of one mission-minded church member who said I Will Go! in 1910 resulted in more evangelism in the 2010s and enhanced the global mission of the church.

One family's choice to follow the teachings of Scripture, pass on their faith in God, and instill the teachings of the Adventist Church and their

all our possessions belong to God, and He holds us each responsible for our stewardship of these possessions.

own family values within their daughter resulted in even more people being prepared to meet Jesus when He returns.

PURPOSE OF PLANNED GIVING AND TRUST SERVICES

Planned Giving encourages all Adventists to have a plan that will provide for their family's needs and support the mission of the church to reach the world for Christ. The purpose of Trust Services is to properly receive and process cash or noncash gifts from members and other friends of the church.

All our possessions belong to God, and He holds us each responsible for our stewardship of these possessions. The best way to be faithful as God's stewards is to seek His help as we create a plan that will work best in our area of the world.

The planned gift that God impressed a schoolteacher to make in 1968 resulted in some incredible achievements. This story illustrates the importance of every member having a God-guided plan in place to ensure that His possessions continue working to accomplish the Great Commission given by Jesus Christ.

PLANNED GIVING INFORMATION

For more information, visit WillPlan.org. You may also find Ellen White's book *Counsels on Stewardship* helpful, especially "Wills and Legacies" (chapters 62, 63, 64), and "The Wealth of the Gentiles" (chapters 36, 37, 38). If you have any questions about how to create a plan for your family, email WillPlan@gc.adventist.org.



Front row: Gwendolyn Bravo, Meridith Webster;
back row: Dennis Carlson, Scot Coppock.

—COURTESY OF PLANNED GIVING AND TRUST SERVICES

“Your estate plan
is a gift allowing your
family to focus on

memories

not challenges.”

—Eve Rusk

Director of Planned Giving and Trust Services
Idaho Conference



Planned Giving
& Trust Services



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PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

PROTECTING AND PRESERVING

To engage thought leaders at the highest levels

The Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) represents the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the public domain through building relationships with government officials, religious leaders, nongovernmental institutions, and secular people of influence.

The Adventist Church has about 22 million members worldwide with significant assets and institutions, which means it is vital to maintain good relations with governments, Christian denominations, and other religions. These relationships help secure our presence and activities in every country in which our church operates. A good reputation helps the church fulfill its mission and flourish unhindered by restrictions or hostility.

A PLATFORM OF TRUTH

There's no doubt that mission becomes a significant challenge when our reputation as a church is damaged, or our identity is misconstrued or based on hostile misinformation. Government restrictions and general opposition in some countries can also make our work difficult, if not impossible. To dispel prejudice and build constructive relations, PARL engages decision-makers and people of influence to tell our story on our own terms.

Having a clearly articulated voice in the public space is paramount in this post-truth age, so often defined by suspicion and conspiracy theories. Because of this, we work to engage public officials and people of influence to dispel prejudice and build cordial relations without compromise and without sacrificing any aspect of the Adventist message and identity.

PARL has built a network of relations with people of influence—social, political, religious, and academic—including decision-makers, legislators, community leaders, and human rights advocates. We have particularly upheld religious



IRLA Annual Meeting of Experts at Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, August 18, 2016



The 8th World Congress for Religious Freedom of IRLA, Florida, USA, August 22-24, 2017



liberty as a fundamental value and as a bridge to those who also share this commitment to human dignity and its associated rights.

Our representatives both at the United Nations, Nelu Burcea, and in Washington, D.C., Jennifer Woods, have woven various threads and relationships with people from different organizations and countries to facilitate freedom of worship for Seventh-day Adventists and others, and uphold the broader framework of human rights.

The mission of the church would be greatly hindered in many places without these concerted efforts to engage others, not only government officials from whom we need approval to build worship places and centers of influence, but also religious leaders who should know us on our own terms as we mingle with them.

Previous PARL department leaders intentionally attended high-level Christian leaders' gatherings to cement the fact that Seventh-day Adventists are genuine Trinitarian Christians, not from the unitarian or anti-Trinitarian traditions. They attended these gatherings, not to develop syncretistic alliances or compromise, thus diluting bib-

lical truth, but to promote appreciation of our common humanity and Christian heritage. Mingling helps to dispel prejudice and provides opportunities to share our Adventist identity, our mission, and message.

AN ADVOCATE FOR FAITHFULNESS

Our department has been privileged to develop a portfolio of activities to provide the church with visibility in the public space. Credibility, as people witness the quality of our contributions; trust, as they get to know us and our moral values; and relevance, as they see our commitment to make a difference in people's lives.

Mediation on behalf of imprisoned brothers and sisters around the world has been an important emphasis for our department during the past seven years. We engage government officials to find solutions, solve problems, and protect members' rights. In many cases these endeavors result in good outcomes. In other cases, the predicaments faced by some of our church leaders and members can be daunting. This is why PARL, at times, calls upon the global

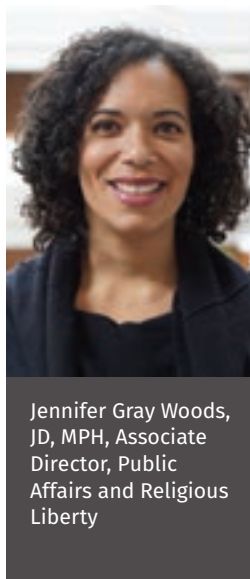


The annual International Religious Liberty Dinner, Washington, D.C, USA, May 22, 2018



Celebrating Religious Freedom Day, Brazil, May 25, 2018

Public Affairs And religious liberty CONTINUED



Jennifer Gray Woods, JD, MPH, Associate Director, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty



Nelu Burcea, PhD, Associate Director, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty

church to pray for our imprisoned members and their families.

This department, established in 1901, has functioned through the years like a ministry of foreign affairs representing the Adventist Church, making a case that we are assets to society. We highlight the portfolio of services the Church has developed in the areas of health, education, humanitarian assistance, human rights, and various ministries to women, children, youth, and special-needs ministries—each committed to upholding the dignity of all people without distinction.

We have developed training programs to prepare our PARL regional leaders to engage people of influence, whether political or religious, to help build and maintain a good reputation for the church and facilitate the flourishing of our institutions.

An equally important goal of our regional PARL leaders is to protect constitutional freedoms, such as the freedom of worship and the ability to share our faith according to the dictates of both our individual and corporate conscience. Our website has provided a window to reach out to and equip

PARL directors and all other members with interest in public affairs.

An important aspect of our work is also the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA), an organization chartered in 1893, which continues to function as the right hand of PARL and the church. IRLA has organized a major international congress each quinquennium, with our most recent event—the eighth World Congress on Religious Freedom—held in 2017 in Hollywood, Florida. The next congress is scheduled to take place in 2023.

The IRLA Meeting of Experts is an annual academic think tank that addresses issues of religious freedom as they intersect with various societal challenges. Topics include restrictions to religious freedom in many countries, blasphemy laws that create climates of discrimination against minority religious groups, and issues of separation of church and state, including the preferential treatment of state religions that so often compromise the freedom of minority faith traditions.

Public Affairs is therefore inseparable from the mission of the church. God has providentially placed in every church, every mission, every conference, union conference, and division people He has gifted as ambassadors, liaisons, and witnesses to represent the church in the public eye. God has granted these men and women the ability to mingle as salt and light without losing their flavor and distinct Adventist identity, mission, and message.

I personally thank the whole PARL team at the GC for their untiring work: Nelu Burcea, Jennifer Woods, and Serena Thumalalalli. I also thank the many division, union conference, conference, mission and local church PARL directors for the commitment and gifts they bring to the global PARL endeavor to serve the church. May we all continue to work together to position the Seventh-day Adventist Church to a standing of visibility, credibility, trust, and relevance until Jesus returns. 🍀

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PUBLISHING MINISTRIES



NAD Student LEs of Pacific Union in 2016.
(representing 20,000 Student LEs worldwide)

WHY BOOKS?

These silent witnesses have a powerful message.

It was a hot day. Before leaving her car, Margareth noticed that her water bottle was empty. She looked around, trying to find someone to ask for water. She saw a woman on her porch reading a book. The woman, Lydia, smiled at Margareth.

Friendships can begin with a simple request for water. That's how Jesus started a conversation with a Samaritan woman. The same thing happened when the women met that afternoon.

After Lydia filled her bottle, Margareth expressed her appreciation by handing her a copy of *The Great Hope*. "Since you were kind to me," she said, "I want you to have this book." Lydia told Margareth she had seen the book promoted on Hope Channel and wanted a copy of her own.

They talked for a while before Lydia asked Margareth what she had in her briefcase. Margareth, a literature evangelist, opened her case, presented some publications, and sold Lydia a book about

vegetarian cooking. Before saying goodbye, Margareth left her phone number and told Lydia that she would love to come back and study the Bible with her.

In time, Lydia called Margareth. After several months of studying the Bible, Lydia chose to be baptized. Margareth gave her the attention and care that new disciples need. They spent time talking every Sabbath, and often had lunch together.

A year later Lydia passed away. Margareth thanks God that she had the opportunity to meet her and become her friend and sister in Christ. Had it not been for a seemingly casual encounter on a hot summer day, Lydia might not have received the message that changed her future.

The divinely appointed meeting between Margareth and Lydia is one of many stories worldwide that happen as a result of literature work.

AN UNDETERRED WORK

From 2015 to 2019 official reports from the world church divisions showed that an average of 30 million people received visits from literature evangelists every year.



In 2019 there were 45,000 full-time, part-time, and student literature evangelists worldwide, faithfully selling literature regularly.

They sold approximately 36 million books and magazines, distributed 50 million pieces of free literature, and gave 5 million Bible studies. In addition, more than 320,000 people accepted the message, thanks to the work of our literature evangelists.

In 2020 and 2021, like all other church ministries, the literature evangelism program was impacted by the COVID-19 world pandemic. Unfortunately, lives were lost among the Publishing Department leadership and literature evangelists.

Lockdowns in many regions impeded literature evangelists from regularly visiting people, thus impacting book sales. As a result, the worldwide literature evangelist army was reduced to 28,000 based on a September 2021 report.

Despite the losses, the pandemic crisis gave birth to new canvassing methods through electronic communication tools such as social media channels. The distribution of literature has been catching up with the new reality. During the summer of 2021 the results from the student literature evangelism program were even more significant than prepandemic time.

MISSIONARY BOOK OF THE YEAR

In 2007 the General Conference launched the Missionary Book of the Year Project, which produces low-cost books for massive distribution through church members.

For the past 15 years the church's engagement has grown, and the number of books multiplied. In many countries a special distribution day has become a dynamic Adventist missionary activity.

Since the production and distribution of the book *Ten Commandments* in 2007, more than 500 million books have been distributed, which means an average of one book for every 15.7 people.

In 2021 more than 40 million printed copies of Mark Finley's book *Hope for Troubled Times* were

distributed. This book addresses timely biblical messages to a world shattered by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022 the world church will distribute *The Final Hope*, by Cliff Goldstein, addressing the three angels' messages of Revelation 14.

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY PROJECT 2.0

In 2023 and 2024 the church will focus on a wide distribution of the printed and digital full version of Ellen White's best seller *The Great Controversy*. The author affirmed: "I am more anxious to see a wide circulation for this book than for any others I have written; for in *The Great Controversy*, the last message of warning to the world is given more distinctly than in any of my other books."*

Each division shall develop a distribution strategy, involving all departments, institutions, and members of the church. Members are encouraged to share *The Great Controversy* directly with family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors. Personal contact in connection with literature distribution is an effective way to encourage reading.

You may ask: Is all this effort and investment worth it? To answer it, consider the following facts:

In about 70 percent of the countries in which the Adventist Church is present today, canvassers and/or books arrived before pastors.

With the advent of radio, television, and the Internet, the distribution of the printed page



GC Missionary Book dedication at 2018
Missionary Book of the year (over 50 million
missionary books were distributed every year)

Publishing Ministries CONTINUED



SID Literature Evangelists Congress in December 2019 (800 Regular LEs of SID representing an army of 45,000 LEs worldwide)

continues to fulfill its role as a partner in preaching. One complements the other.

While evangelism through radio and television involves a small number of preachers, book distribution requires participation of each Adventist member.

The potential for community impact multiplies when church members distribute books.

Books, once distributed, cannot be subjected to online censorship.

Books motivate readers to seek more information about the Adventist Church, which usually leads readers to an Adventist radio station, TV channel or website. On the other hand, television and radio lead viewers and listeners to open their doors and hearts when church volunteers deliver Adventist publications to their homes.

Books explain our message in a simple, direct way. They can be reread, studied, underlined, and consulted any time.

One book can reach many people and “preach” for generations to come.

The effect of reading can be immediate. As soon as a paragraph is read, the Holy Spirit begins the work of persuasion and conversion.

THE WORLD CHURCH AND MISSIONARY BOOKS

Adventist leaders see the distribution of literature as an important outreach and involvement strategy. There are geographical, cultural, and religious challenges in reaching unreached territories. In addition, efforts need to be made to deliver relevant and

compelling messages to millions who live in post-modern and secular culture environments.

To reach these challenging areas, the General Conference Department of Publishing Ministries has developed the sharinghope.com website, which offers free books and brochures in various languages. People who live where printed books are inaccessible will now have electronic access to them. Through sharinghope.com, you can send a paragraph, a chapter, even an entire book, to anyone who has an email address or joins a social media network.

Book distribution is a missionary activity in which each Adventist member can participate. It was not without reason that the God instructed the church to promote and spread our publications. This activity is related to revival. The greater our involvement in mission, the deeper our religious experience.

The unity of the messenger (each Adventist member) with the message as a conduit (literature) is a powerful combination. God chose these two agents because they complement each other.

Although we hear countless conversion stories such as Lydia’s, we understand that the purpose of books is sowing. Scripture says: “Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days” (Eccl. 11:1).

The Adventist Church’s task is to continue sowing, believing in the principle of investment. The more seeds planted, the more fruit harvested. 🍌

* Ellen G. White, *Colporteur Ministry* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1953), p. 127.

The Great Controversy

Project 2.0



Jesus is coming!
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distributing millions
of *The Great Controversy*
in 2023 and 2024.

"Here is missionary work for all to engage in."

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



SABBATH SCHOOL AND PERSONAL MINISTRIES



In 2019, SSPM leaders from Euro-Asia, Inter-European, and Trans-European Divisions met in Prague where the instruction and networking strengthened mission synergy.

VITAL COMPONENTS FOR CHURCH GROWTH

Sabbath School and Personal Ministries are vital components for the spiritual and numerical growth of every local church. The aim of the department is to provide resources, training, and clear strategies for churches and their members to fulfill the mission of making disciples (Matt. 28:18-20). Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the department launched several new projects since the last General Conference (GC) Session.

SABBATH SCHOOL

Sabbath School is the primary religious education program of the church. Every Sabbath throughout the world, millions of members come together to study God's Word and to join in prayer, fellowship, and mission. Sabbath School Bible study guides, including publications for every age group, encourage daily study of God's Word.

Sabbath School Alive!

A primary goal of the GC Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department (SSPM) is the worldwide revitalization of Sabbath School. In 2018 the pillars of an effective Sabbath School were rebranded in the *Sabbath School Alive!* initiative.

This initiative emphasizes three components of thriving Sabbath Schools: (1) Bible study and prayer, (2) fellowship, and (3) mission—both global and local. The department produced resources to aid in each component and to encourage Total Member Involvement in Sabbath School. The website alive.adventist.org was created as a resource for Sabbath School leaders.



Alive in Jesus Curriculum

In 2016 the World Sabbath School Advisory voted to create a new Sabbath School curriculum. Under the supervision of Jim Howard and leadership of Nina Atcheson, the "Alive in Jesus" Sabbath School Curriculum covers all age levels from babies to youth.



The curriculum foundation is the Bible and it consists of three pillars: (1) grace, (2) character, and (3) mission. Its Christ-centered, distinctly Adventist content will be beautifully packaged in all new designs and illustrations.

The department aims to launch this new curriculum in January 2025. See samples and learn more about “Alive in Jesus” at sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/aliveinjesus.

inVerse

Since 1979 the department has published *CQ* (*Collegiate Quarterly*) for young adults. In 2019, under the leadership of Justin Kim, the young adult Bible study guide transitioned to an updated new curriculum called *inVerse*, which emphasizes a deeper Bible study experience, using both online and print formats. *inVerse* is a Bible study guide for university students, young adults, working professionals, and young parents (ages 18 to 35). See content and discover more at inversebible.org, and check out the *inVerse* program on Hope Channel: HopeTV.org/shows/inverse.

Redeem

The department has undertaken an exciting new project to “redeem” some of the church’s best adult Sabbath School Bible study guides through the years. Curated from our archives, the Redeem project repurposes and presents these study guides in a contemporary context and for additional uses in personal ministry, discipleship, evangelism, and the devotional life.

PERSONAL MINISTRIES

Personal Ministries provides resources and trains church members for soul-winning service. Ellen White observed that large evangelistic efforts should always be combined with personal ministry. She wrote: “If we can have but one part done, let it be the individual labor.” The department aims to enlist every member of the church in some form of personal ministry.



GROW Your Church

In 2018 the GC SSPM Department outlined a local church growth strategy called *GROW Your Church*. It highlights five essential ministries: (1) churchwide community ministries to *prepare* the soil of the heart, (2) active literature and media ministries to *plant* the seed of God’s Word, (3) vibrant Bible study ministry to *cultivate* spiritual interest, (4) regular evangelistic meetings to *harvest* decisions for Christ, and (5) systematic discipleship ministry to *preserve* and train newly baptized members.

Under the direction of Jim Howard, the GROW series of personal ministries resources has been produced to aid in each phase of the disciple-making process. *Spread the Word* serves as a guide to personal witnessing through seed-sowing activities; *Fundamentals of Faith* is a baptismal preparation guide; and the *Discipleship Handbook* helps churches disciple newly baptized members. Other resources are under development. More information can be found at grow.adventist.org.

Community Services and Bible Correspondence Schools

Part of the department’s mission is to promote community service and provide training, resources, and organizational support. A community service certification curriculum continues to be used around the world. Every location that hosts a



GC-sponsored Total Member Involvement (TMI) project receives training in community service as part of the overall disciple-making strategy.

Led by Kurt Johnson, the International Association of Bible Correspondence Schools (IABCS) facilitates communication, the sharing of Bible lessons, and ministry coordination among world schools. The IABCS met in April 2018, with representation from Adventist World Radio, Adventist Mission, and Hope Channel. Later meetings established recommendations for world Bible schools and launched a visioning committee to ensure that new opportunities are explored and implemented.

GLOBAL REVITALIZATION

Tri-Division SSPM Convocations

To cast the worldwide vision for the revitalization of Sabbath School and Personal Ministries, the department held three tridivision convocations. Attendees included division and union conference SSPM directors, division Children's Ministries directors, and union conference Bible Correspondence School directors. Each convocation included training, the sharing of ideas, practical strategies, and spiritual fellowship.

Total Member Involvement (TMI) and I Will Go

The Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department provides leadership and support for the global TMI and I Will Go initiatives. The book

today the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries department continues its mission of equipping local churches around the world for TMI by developing resources, strategies, and training to help every member make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Total Member Involvement was published through the department in 2017, which explains how involvement in the mission of the church is a spiritual necessity. Another resource, *As We Go*, was printed in 2022 to instruct members in a closer walk with Jesus as they carry out His mission.

Over the past several years the department has coordinated and participated in several large-scale models of TMI in specific localities. Today it continues its mission of equipping local churches around the world for TMI by developing resources, strategies, and training to help every member make disciples of Jesus Christ. 📌

* Ellen G. White, *Christian Service* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1925), p. 121.

TOTAL MEMBER INVOLVEMENT:



Everyone doing something for Jesus

Seattle-based Sophia never imagined she'd be preaching a full evangelistic series at the age of 11—and in Africa, no less! And at 90, Kuro never thought he'd travel from his home in Japan to the Philippines to share the gospel with rebel soldiers. The there's stay-at-home mom Mirjana, who didn't think she could speak up front at church, much less hold her own Bible-based meetings in Romania—but she loved it.

These church members are on fire for God, and the thread that ties them together is Total Member Involvement (TMI)—a worldwide initiative of the General Conference (GC). Since its inception in 2015, TMI has extended an invitation to every church member and pastor to become involved in witnessing and evangelism according to their spiritual gifts. As a result, people of varying ages, countries, and backgrounds are coming together to “finish the work.”

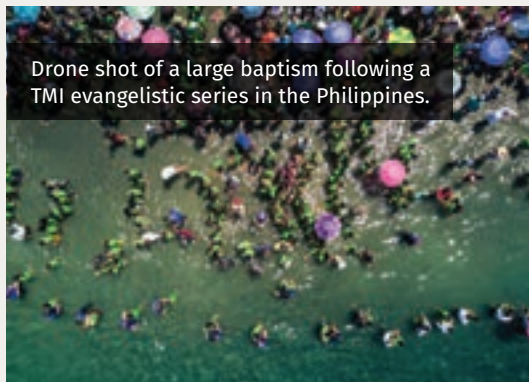
The TMI initiative is modeling what it looks like to prepare the soil of the heart with friendship and service, plant seeds of truth with literature and media,



Duane McKey, Ted Wilson, and local pastors baptized “former rebels” in the Philippines in November 2021.

cultivate spiritual interest with Bible studies, harvest decisions for Christ and baptism, and preserve the harvest with ongoing discipleship training (learn more about the full disciple-making process at grow.adventist.org). TMI connects the dots from initial contact, to leading people into a relationship with Jesus, to welcoming them into the church.

The full cycle of evangelism can be achieved in many ways, but here's one TMI example. In targeted areas, radio broadcasts share truth-filled messages and invite people to meetings, then their physical



Drone shot of a large baptism following a TMI evangelistic series in the Philippines.

and spiritual needs are further met through health and evangelistic events led by Adventist pastors and laypeople from around the world. As people make decisions for baptism, they are warmly welcomed into the church. Over time, they're disciplined and encouraged to reach others for Christ. They're usually so on fire upon entering the church that they can't wait to share their new faith with others.

Since 2015 major TMI events have spanned the countries of Rwanda, Romania, Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria, Georgia, Zambia, Japan, the Philippines, India, Papua New Guinea, and the United States.

Incredibly, some of these events have included more than 2,000 individual evangelistic series led by laypeople and pastors! In Rwanda alone more than 100,000 people came to Christ and made decisions for baptism.

These meetings have impacted the lay preachers as well. Upon returning from one of these events, most say it has lit a fire in them to share the gospel in their own communities—continuing the TMI process.

One of the most beautiful things about TMI is that it brings together so many parts of the Adventist Church—from GC president to church members, pastors, evangelists, local churches, conferences, unions, divisions, supporting ministries, personal ministries, Sabbath Schools, educational and health-care institutions, and many more. When we all do our part, amazing things happen!

Learn more about TMI—including how you can get involved—at tmi.adventist.org. 📌



ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

STUDYING TOGETHER

The right message for the right time

The Office of the *Adult Bible Study Guide* (ABSG) prepares adult Sabbath School lessons for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. On any given Sabbath the same lesson is taught around the globe. The lessons are translated into more than 110 languages and go to every country in which there is an Adventist presence. Because of its broad reach, it has been suggested that the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* has a greater impact on the world church than any other Adventist publication.

Besides the standard edition, which is used worldwide, the study guide appears in a Teachers Edition for class instructors, an Easy Reading Edition for the deaf community and those for whom English is a second language, and an Abridgment Edition for areas that can afford only the reproduction of a shortened version of the study guide for their constituents. These editions have blessed the Adventist Church for many years.

Time and again our office has seen the hand of God at work in the choice and timing of the topics presented in the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*. During the past seven years our office produced quarterlies on Galatians and Romans in time to honor the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Because of the insertion of those quarterlies into our schedule, a quarterly on oneness in Christ was moved from its originally scheduled spot and, without any preplanning on our part, resulted in blessing the church during Annual Council. Our quarterly on stewardship came out just when financial concerns were being raised in the church.

One recent quarterly dealt with the book of Revelation. Thirty years had passed since the church last studied this great book in Sabbath School. Reports of revival in several churches came

The Word of God has always been front and center in the hearts of the members of this denomination, and the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* is dedicated to lifting up His Word as we continue to look forward to His soon return.

as a result of the renewed study of prophecy.

With last-day events in mind, we have also produced quarterlies on Daniel and on preparation for the end-times. Other well-received quarterlies included “The Holy Spirit,” “The Role of the Church in the Community,” and “The East of These”

Study topics are decided nearly 10 years ahead of time, and the Lord repeatedly demonstrates His desire to lead His church in study. There is no other explanation as to how quarterlies result in being scheduled just when they are needed most. At this General Conference Session we are again amazed at His providence. It has led us to the timely titles “How to Interpret Scripture” and “Make Friends for God,” emphasizing the importance of Total Member Involvement as we joyfully work for Him.

As we contemplate what the Lord has done since 2020, despite the challenges, we are excited to see what He will do next. The Word of God has always been front and center in the hearts of the members of this denomination, and the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* is dedicated to lifting up His Word as we continue to look forward to His soon return. 🍀



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STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES



GOD FIRST

Trusting and partnering

Revival and Reformation” has been one of the key themes for the world church since 2011. In alignment with this emphasis, General Conference (GC) Stewardship Ministries launched its God First initiative at its March 2016 advisory. Thus, our productions and actions have aimed to lead everyone to put God first in all aspects of life.

Faithful to its original purpose at its creation in 1967, the department has chosen to focus primarily on financial stewardship, which involves equipping leaders to create conditions for members to embrace full partnership in the final mission of the church.

This was done without dismissing the broad stewardship belief we share with other church ministries. Indeed, it has promoted an enlarged

concept of Total Member Involvement, which includes—as equally important—participation in doing and supporting God’s mission.

Furthermore, following the prompting of Scripture, the Spirit of Prophecy, and various studies, the Stewardship Ministries Department has deployed a significant amount of energy to remind, educate, and prioritize the practice of systematic percentage-based offerings, called Promise. Closely associated to Promise, and in support of God’s worldwide mission, the Combined Offering Plan, recommended by the world church, has received extended attention.

Recently, in consultation with division and attached field stewardship directors, the department has developed its “I Will Go” strategic orientation document for the years 2020-2025. This road map articulates three lead measures: spiritual empowerment, stewardship education for all, and accountability and transparency.



Two actions, for which we can receive no credit, have boosted stewardship education during the past term. First, a GC special appropriation has helped several divisions fund positions for stand-alone stewardship directors. Second, the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* for first quarter 2018 provided a refreshing emphasis on the subject of stewardship for members worldwide. We are thankful for these initiatives.

MAJOR PRODUCTIONS

In support of the God First initiative, the Stewardship Ministries Department considers the production and accessibility of educational materials a priority. The *Dynamic Steward* magazine, the flagship publication of Stewardship Ministries for 20 years, is now available online in four languages: English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish. Since January 2020 the Tithe and Offerings Reading, a longtime production of the department, is

accompanied by a weekly video in English, which is also translated into several other languages.

Some new productions have enriched our online library since 2015. Contributing to the Believe His Prophets initiative, the department has created a daily video on each chapter of the Bible. True reform begins in God's Word!

The monthly *God First* newsletter is a ministry toolkit in the hands of church leaders and stewardship educators. Responding to a general need to encourage church members to recommit to a God-first life, the material for the annual stewardship revival week is now available for local churches in four languages.

Three books, in line with the strategic orientation, were produced and shared by the department:

- *Where Do We Bring Our Tithe?* by G. Edward Reid, provides answers about the destination and use of tithe.

The Stewardship convention in Salvador, Brazil



Steward Ship Mini Storie S CONTINUED

■ *The Financial Equation of Trust, Confidence, and Faithfulness*, by Russell Raelly, helps grow confidence at the local church level.

■ *Lerato and Her Money Que\$tions*, by Michael Ngwaru, and the accompanying activity book by Johnetta Flomo makes stewardship clear and fun for the little ones.

INTERVENTIONS IN DIVISION TERRITORIES

Along with materials sent to the world church, the GC Stewardship team was privileged to partner with stewardship leaders and other ministries to service the church in all divisions and attached territories.

One action gaining momentum is the Holy Convocation, already hosted by four divisions: South American, Southern Asia-Pacific, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean, and Inter-American. Participants of the Holy Convocation are exposed to spiritual exercises enhancing intimacy with God, stewardship training, home visitation, and preaching stewardship messages.

Faithfulness does not happen in a vacuum, and the department endeavors to empower members and leadership during visits to their territories. The department has facilitated Family Finances seminars in various settings with the conviction that wise financial management is conducive to both quality living and improved partnership in God's mission.

"Building a Culture of Liberality in the Local Church" workshops held for pastors and other church leaders were opportunities to discuss the relationship between members' financial partnership and how we do church.

Since Stewardship Ministries is not a crowd-pulling department of the church, in many instances we have partnered with other ministries, giving us the opportunity to reach different segments of the church. We are thankful for these collaborations.

A few examples are: (1) teaching the Pathfinder Stewardship Honor at the North American Path-



The Holy Convocation in Mexico City, Mexico

finder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin; (2) facilitating at the unionwide Ministerial Association congress in Madagascar; and (3) contributing at the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) Sabbath School and Personal Ministries camp meeting. Our exhibit booths at the annual ASI and GYC conventions have allowed us to interact with many different groups of people.

Despite the travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Stewardship Department has remained on the front line of mission by offering our services to the world church via multiple digital platforms.

THE WAY FORWARD

It's essential for a larger portion of members to put God first and partner faithfully in God's financial mission. This is necessary for the church at all levels: to move faster and be stronger.

Special efforts are required to adequately instruct prospective members in stewardship; to promote consistent, systematic, percentage-based returning of tithe and the giving of offerings (or Promise); and to create the spiritual and administrative conditions throughout the church conducive to financial partnership.

The way forward is full of unknowns, but we have an inspired assurance: "[God] has placed in the hands of His servants the means wherewith to carry forward His work in home and foreign mission."^{*}

^{*} Ellen G. White, in *Review and Herald*, Dec. 23, 1890.

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WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



NURTURED AND EMPOWERED FOR OUTREACH

When women serve Christ and His church

In the late 1890s Ellen White noted the importance of engaging the women of the church in gospel ministry. She wrote in a letter to Sarepta Henry: “With your experiences, under the supervision of God, you could exert your influence to set in operation lines of work where women could unite together to work for the Lord.”¹

Henry accepted, and in 1898 began Women’s Ministries with a nine-member committee of women to assist her. Sadly, after Mrs. Henry’s death in 1900, Women’s Ministries ended, but resurfaced again in 1990. It became a full church department in 1995.

God has a special purpose and plan for our

department, and specific expectations for His daughters in sharing the gospel. Ellen White wrote: “The Lord has a work for women as well as for men. They may take their places in His work at this crisis, and He will work through them. . . . The Saviour will reflect upon these self-sacrificing women the light of His countenance, and will give them a power that exceeds that of men. They can do in families a work that men cannot do, a work that reaches the inner life. They can come close to the hearts of those whom men cannot reach. Their labor is needed.”²

MISSION STATEMENT

The Women’s Ministries Department exists to uphold, encourage, and challenge Adventist women in their pilgrimage as disciples of Jesus Christ and members of His world church. We carry out this mission through nurturing, empowering, and training believers in outreach.

Our theme for 2020-2025 is “I Will Go Reaching My World.” Through God’s guidance we continue to use the directive in Isaiah 61:1-3, using the method found in Ellen White’s words: “Christ’s method *alone* will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with [people] as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”³

These have been our marching orders in since 2005.

RESOURCES

Through the years we have created, and continue to create, an abundance of resources to uplift and empower our sisters under our three main areas of emphasis: nurture, empower, and outreach.

Nurture (Reach Up)

Encouraging our sisters to study the Bible and to grow in their relationship with Jesus on a daily basis is the underlying strength of all we do.

Women’s Devotional Book: This book is written



by women from around the world church and encourages our sisters to maintain a daily worship time with God.

Women Discovering Jesus: These lessons present Jesus as friend, comforter, mentor, and more.

The Best You Can Be: We've written Bible studies for sharing with non-Adventist friends and women in the church.

Women of Virtue: Sharon Platt McDonald, Women's Ministries director for the British Union Conference, created this resource to encourage women young and old to grow like the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31.

My Bible Journal: We have three different journal designs to encourage our sisters to write their thoughts while studying.

Empower (Reach In)

Educating our sisters through training is an important part of what we do. Ellen White wrote: "Woman, if she wisely improves her time and her

faculties" "may elevate her own character, and just as she does this she is elevating and ennobling the characters of her family . . . exerting a powerful though unconscious influence upon others around her."⁴

My Sister, My Friend: This resource created by Dolores Allen is a complete curriculum for training girls, ages 13 to 17.

Leadership Certification Levels 1-4: This resource empowers women to be leaders.

Thinking Well, Living Well: We provide a mental health resource to inform and help.

Loving and Leading Your Spouse to Christ: This seminar assists wives with reaching their unbelieving spouses for Jesus.

Am I My Sister's Keeper? This resource helps women reclaim former and inactive members through small group fellowship.

PALS (Prayer and Love Saves): This resource was designed to help mothers reach their children who have left the church or have never been baptized.

Women's ministries CONTINUED



Enditnow continues to be a necessary initiative to encourage and assist our sisters to speak out against abuse in all its forms. New brochures are created each year.

Outreach (Reach Across)

We believe in equipping our sisters to reach out with the gospel through action and words.

Homes of Hope and Healing encourage our sisters to open their homes to their neighbors for teaching and assisting with their needs.

Is Life Good? We designed brochures to reach our friends who do not yet know Christ.

Building Bridges—Woman to Woman: This series of seminars was written by Abner and Maila Dizon to train Adventist women to reach our Muslim sisters.

Heartbeat is a series of compact brochures designed to reach Muslim women.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

In addition to donations, a percentage of the proceeds from the sales of the women's devotional book are used for women's scholarships.

WORLD STATISTICAL REPORT

We continually thank God for His guidance and blessings, and for our Women's Ministries leaders around the world who carry out the mission of sharing the three angels' messages with a world in need. ♣

¹ Ellen G. White letter 133, 1898.

² Ellen G. White, *Evangelism* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1946), pp. 464, 465.

³ Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1905), p. 143.

⁴ Ellen G. White, *Daughters of God* (Hagerstown, Md.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1998), p. 152.

GCWM 2018 GLOBAL STATISTIC REPORT									
GLOBAL	Sections	Re-claimed Members	Series of Evangelistic Meetings	Training Seminars	Other Meetings	Retreats/Congresses	SDA Women Attending	Non-SDA Women Attending	Scholarships Awarded
Totals 2018	150,731	58,747	116,341	154,572	1,200,550	31,980	1,548,271	169,252	389



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1. Mark the enclosed envelope **“Un-sponsored Child Fund”**
2. Call the Child Impact office at **(423) 910-0667**
3. Visit the Child Impact website at: **www.childimpact.org** select the “Un-sponsored Child Fund.”



YOUTH MINISTRIES

FLYING IN V FORMATION

Creating a climate of cooperation

Did you know that geese fly 71 percent farther as a group than they do as individuals? Each goose in the flock’s V-shaped formation creates an uplift that reduces wind resistance for the goose flying directly behind it. Since creation, geese have been teaching us this simple truth: we go farther and faster together.

This lesson is particularly relevant to Adventist Youth Ministry (AYM), since the focal message found in the three angels’ messages (see Rev. 14:6-12) describes angels as “flying in midair.” Seven years ago the General Conference Youth Ministries Department (GCYD) adopted a simple “V formation.” It’s our motto: “Pass It On.”

Since then, youth leaders around the world have been working together to pass on three essential principles to the next generation: identity in Christ, our mission as Seventh-day Adventists, and leadership in the local church. We believe that these are vital to reaching and retaining the younger generation because they answer the most pressing questions about life: Who am I? Why am I here? Where do I fit?

Interestingly, there are more great parallels between geese and AYM. Geese appoint leaders to fly at the very point of the V formation (as we do at General Conference sessions). These leaders are not above the other birds, but are equal to them. The lead goose, however, is the one that takes the brunt of the wind resistance while providing support for those who fly behind.

Our GCYD, which includes the 13 world divisions, two attached field , and one union, has been given a sacred trust, and we are thankful for the privilege to serve youth and youth leaders around the world, and, like geese, do whatever we can to encourage them.

Here are six ways in which we have done this:



Pako Mokgwane speaks during the LEAD Conference in 2019.

We have traveled extensively around the world to encourage and equip our youth and youth leaders. Our GCYD team has been to every division, equipping and encouraging our youth and youth leaders. We have regular division directors’ meetings via Zoom. We listen to each other, share ideas, updates, and insights. These meetings have allowed us to grow together and develop a global perspective regarding youth ministry.

We have worked to create a positive and influential social media influence on platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube. We started a monthly prayer movement, “Give Him 20,” which challenges young people to gather in small ministry groups and pray, and we added a Facebook Week of Prayer called e-Week of Prayer. We have also





produced several resources: a quarterly magazine, *Adventist Youth Leader*; monthly video reports; a new Adventurer curriculum; a Senior Youth Leadership curriculum; the book *Pass It On* and an online One Year in Mission (OYiM) university.

In 2018 we held our Global Youth Congress in Kassel, Germany. Our hosts, the Inter-European Division, worked with us to facilitate more than 1,500 youth leaders. We gathered to worship, learn effective tools for youth ministry, and build life-long relationships with each other.

In 2019 we coordinated the LEAD Conference during Annual Council at the General Conference in Silver Spring, Maryland. It was an honor to speak to our church leaders, challenging them to be the “Joshua Generation.” Since 51 percent of the world’s population is under the age of 25, we must all see ourselves as youth leaders.

In 2020 we planned to host IMPACT, a program for young adults at GC Session. But, like the rest of the world, we were halted by a global pandemic. Though we had many friends around the world

pass away because of this disease, we have also seen many young people adapt and overcome these tragic circumstances.

ZOOM, YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram services became the norm and allowed many to continue to reach out to others in creative ways. During this time we too had to adapt. Public Campus Ministries rejoined the Youth Department. We are excited about this new venture in broadening our scope here at the department.

By God’s grace we have worked hard to promote and cast a vision for global initiatives created in collaboration with our division Youth Departments: Global Youth Day, Youth Alive, Pathfinders, Adventurers, Master Guides, Ambassadors, Total Youth Involvement, Adventist Youth, Senior Youth Leadership, Pathfinder Sabbath, Silver and Gold Awards, Caleb, One Year in Mission (OYiM), and now Public Campus Ministries. As you can see by the graphs, thousands of our precious young people are involved in one or more of these ministries.

2020 YOUTH MINISTRIES ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

Division	Number of Youth Leaders	# of Volunteers	Number of Youth Leaders in Training	Number of Youth Leaders in Ministry	Number of Youth Leaders in Ministry	Number of Youth Leaders in Ministry	Number of Youth Leaders in Ministry	Number of Youth Leaders in Ministry	Number of Youth Leaders in Ministry	Number of Youth Leaders in Ministry
USA	27,569	786,223	9,383	242,118	19,378	473,322	19,342	338,534	1,202	28,978
Canada	725	12,497	525	5,363	777	7,110	794	8,368	27	2,247
Latin America	473	1,526	29	165	323	2,948	145	1,146	17	389
Europe	20,702	828,717	764	8,620	5,965	156,252	4,950	104,503	120	1,800
Asia	1,027	Not Recorded	N/A	N/A	2,000	57,030	2,000	25,450	200	Not Recorded
Africa	471	8,297	354	6,296	182	3,164	172	2,867	48	447
Oceania	23,430	745,519	N/A	N/A	12,590	313,012	8,053	147,225	215	745,519
Global	8,975	285,745	8,012	258,488	11,314	385,372	13,218	469,382	1,149	22,082
USA	1,898	44,190	692	18,474	1,724	45,915	1,591	35,342	74	2,014
Canada	7,905	398,533	2,813	59,164	3,813	78,290	3,714	71,665	238	9,820
Latin America	785	9,906	100	7,535	265	19,840	283	13,344	39	591
Europe	366	7,960	11	127	275	5,417	218	4,028	14	140
Asia	4,842	102,811	1,218	25,318	3,958	81,754	4,103	54,227	534	23,310
ATTACHED FIELD										
USA	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
Canada	70	20	4	350	4	90	2	80	N/A	N/A
Latin America	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	190	11	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
TOTALS	99,169	3,316,668	23,647	633,028	63,376	1,629,891	71,712	1,378,211	3,877	827,337



VISION AND STRATEGY

We believe wholeheartedly that every young person is called by God to be a missionary, either across the sea or across the street. We envision a global youth missionary movement in the next five years—a movement that focuses on taking the three angels' messages to secular universities, the 10/40 window (North Africa to Asia), and the unreached cities of the world.

We believe this can happen through revival (the baptism of the Holy Spirit), training (short-term evangelism schools), and redemptive mission initiatives. Imagine if every union conference or local conference around the world had an OYiM! Imagine if every church had a Pathfinder club and every Pathfinder as a soul winner.

CONCLUSION

We will conclude with another geese analogy. Perhaps you have noticed that geese don't have great singing voices (unless you like loud, honking

sounds). For geese flying in V formation however, especially to their leaders, it's music to their ears. Geese are natural encouragers; their honking helps their comrades ahead stay the course.

Serving as world youth directors has been an amazing adventure for Pako Mokgwane, Andrés Peralta, and me. We are grateful for the support we have received from youth leaders around the world. They have challenged, encouraged, mentored, and collaborated with us. If our leadership has been effective, it's only because of the grace of the Lord Jesus and the support we have received from our youth and youth leaders around the world.

Thank you, church, and especially our youth leaders for all your encouragement. We have sincerely enjoyed flying in V formation with you.



To learn more about all these initiatives, please scan the QR code. All items are free and available online at gcyouthministries.org.



Youth Ministries Leadership team
(from l to r): Pako Mokgwane,
Gary Blanchard, and Andrés Peralta.



GENERAL CONFERENCE INSTITUTIONS

The global diversity of Andrews University is reflected at every graduation on the Berrien Springs campus.—CHRISTA MCCONNELL



ADVENTIST INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES



SERVING THE WORLD FIELD

An international faculty and student body enhances global mission

The Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS) is a seminary and graduate institution operated by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, pursuing the mission “to develop leaders through distinctively Seventh-day Adventist graduate education, excelling in spirituality, scholarship, and service.”

Many Adventist leaders worldwide are graduates of this unique 35-year-old institution that offers degrees in theology, education, business, and public health. AIIAS is located in the Philippines, where students from around the world enjoy the tropical climate on a well-maintained, beautiful campus. It is situated outside Silang, Cavite, just 30 miles south of the international airport that serves Manila.

AIIAS’s student body is comprised of international students from every continent except Antarctica. Often students come from careers as already-established educators, businesspeople, and church leaders to study at AIIAS. While valuing rigor in its academic programs, the campus community encourages family nurture and spiritual growth.

AIIAS values high academic standards while keeping tuition affordable. The institution offers a master’s degree in public health, and master’s and doctoral degrees in theology, education, and business, including the first PhD in Business to be accredited by the Adventist Accrediting Association.

AIIAS’s vision is to be a Christ-centered community of leaders with a heart for mission. AIIAS alumni serve as university presidents, world church leaders, education directors, college faculty, business executives, and health professionals. AIIAS graduates are valued for their high moral and intellectual standards and their global perspectives.

Staffed by highly qualified faculty who hold degrees from respected universities worldwide, AIIAS is grateful for professors committed to excel-



lence, mission, and selfless service. AIIAS faculty represent 20 different countries and currently 12 of the 13 world divisions of the Adventist Church.

AIIAS ENGLISH CENTER

The English Center provides additional support for students who wish to study in graduate academic programs. Professionals have developed its program to give students intensive and personalized preparation for learning and interacting successfully in an English-speaking academic environment.

AIIAS ONLINE

AIIAS was among the Adventist institutions that pioneered online education around the world. With the master's degree options available online, AIIAS Online provides excellent graduate education at an affordable price. The newest offering is a PhD in Education program offered completely online, begun in 2022.

DISTANCE LEARNING CENTERS

Prior to the outbreak of the current pandemic, AIIAS operated Distance Learning Centers (DLCs) in eight countries. Currently the DLCs are either in

hiatus or have moved online until such a time as travel restrictions are eased. In addition, the first cohort-style program of learning—a specialized approach called the “Big 4”—was established in 2010 to bring pastors from around Asia to study strategies for reaching four main groups in the 10/40 window: Buddhists, Muslims, Chinese, and urban dwellers.

ASIA STUDIES CENTER

As an expanding specialized collection in the Leslie Hardinge Library, the Asian Studies Center is fast becoming a premier resource center of Asian Studies. It provides research and reading materials related to the religious, educational, financial, health, cultural, political, and national aspects of the countries and peoples of Asia.

CENTER FOR ADVENTIST RESEARCH ASIA

The Center for Adventist Research Asia promotes documentary research on the Seventh-day Adventist Church's history, theology, and mission. As an Ellen G. White Estate branch office, the collection includes all the writings of Ellen White and holds materials on a broad range of topics of interest to researchers on Adventist studies, with an emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

AIIAS students and faculty are involved in a variety of outreach projects. The Student Association (SA) officers allocate substantial funding to support mission outreach. In 2019-2020 its outreach endeavors included an education mission trip to Cebu, ministry to the indigenous Mangyan people of Mindoro Island, assistance with church construction projects, and collaboration with medical and dental mission trips.

In addition, the Russian and Chinese communities carry out ongoing prison ministries near AIIAS, and the Indonesian community is nurturing a community of believers in the nearby Bulihan suburb through training, evangelism, and church building.





ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

Four yearly academic conferences take place at AIIAS: the Annual Theological Forum, the Graduate School International Conference, the African Theological Association Forum, and the Asian Theological Society Forum. AIIAS also supports the Asian Qualitative Research Association (AQRA), organized by faculty from the Graduate School, which attracts members from private and public universities across Asia.

INFRASTRUCTURE

AIIAS completed its eighteenth student residence tower in 2018. This new tower consists of 16 three-bedroom units, providing accommodation for students who come to AIIAS with their families. Additionally, the new two-story AIIAS Academy building provides spacious laboratories, a high school library, and a STEM maker-space, in addition to regular classrooms. It is opening in 2022 to support the academy's STEM curriculum emphasis.

SCHOLARSHIPS

AIIAS continues to provide scholarships for students in need who show strong academic potential. The first batch of the Master's Award Scholarship recipients graduated in March 2019. Recipients of the Chan Shun and AIIAS scholarships are also going forth to serve. Several other smaller scholarships by generous donors are also available. AIIAS is blessed by financial supporters who provide scholarships as their contribution to the preparation of leaders.

CHALLENGES

Financial burdens for self-sponsored students, and for those whose sponsoring fields have come upon hard times, have only grown during the pandemic. Natural disasters have provided additional challenges. But God is good, and leaders continue to graduate from AIIAS equipped to enter service.

Please pray for AIIAS as the faculty and staff work together to develop Seventh-day Adventist leaders with a heart for mission. 🍀



ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

WORLD CHANGERS MADE HERE.

Almost 150 years ago, in 1874, Andrews University opened its doors as Battle Creek College, the first higher education institution of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Since that time Andrews University has believed there is a distinct purpose to be found in the context of God’s calling and global mission for His children. This suggests we will best succeed when we strive to achieve meaningful and world-changing impact for Him.

NUMBERS AND MORE

As Andrews educates more than 8,000 students each year, we seek to understand and reflect the educational needs found throughout our world. We’ve chosen the phrase “World Changers Made Here” to describe that commitment and mission.

Almost 5,000 students from nearly 100 countries study on or through our main Berrien Springs, Michigan, campus in more than 150 different programs and degrees. In university rankings, Andrews is consistently recognized as one of the top 10 universities in the U.S. for its ethnic diversity and number of international students.

Additionally, 1,000 students are part of our Andrews family through a variety of global study options each year through more than 60 different international partner campuses, as well as distance education courses taken by individual students. There are also partnerships with Andrews University that include undergraduate exchange and transfer programs in locations ranging from South Korea to Lebanon and graduate-level courses and degree options in places ranging from Brazil to Vietnam.

There are also 2,500 primary and secondary students who study through Andrews University’s Griggs International Academy (GIA), with offer-

ings for home school students, and at GIA-operated elementary and secondary schools worldwide. Additionally, Andrews University owns and operates an elementary and secondary school on our Berrien Springs campus.

On our main university campus, the opportunities to understand the world and inspire world changers weave through everything we do, both inside the classroom and beyond.

WORLD CHANGERS SERVE

For example, our School of Social Work launched its International Center for Trauma Education and Care in 2019—offering Andrews University an opportunity to directly fulfill the biblical mandate to care for those in need.



The global diversity of Andrews University is reflected at every graduation on the Berrien Springs campus.—CHRISTA MCCONNELL



The activities of this new center have already taken students and teachers to places burdened with significant human need, including Navajo reservations in the U.S. and orphanages and permanent refugee camps in Cambodia and Ethiopia.

Ingrid Weiss Slikkers, associate professor of social work and director of this new center, talks about the challenging reality of responding to these heart-breaking needs: “The consequences of trauma on young children are so often devastating and long-lasting. Our center offers the opportunity to directly respond, connect with and care for these children and families around the world who live in broken circumstances, and help begin the healing process for these kids who are each a child of God.”

Additional opportunities to inspire world changers include outreach to our local communities, such as our annual Change Day, when hundreds of students and employees complete local service projects, including collaboration with Operation Christmas Child and Paris Purses.

Our university chaplain, José Bourget, and the Center for Faith Engagement programs he directs, seek to deepen the faith, activity, and purpose of our Andrews family. This includes gathering our community together for weekly chapels and coordinating opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to worship and serve in dozens of options on and off campus.

The newly established Office of University Culture and Inclusion, begun in 2017, seeks to help Andrews University learn from some of the challenging lessons, disappointments, and opportunities of the past and to develop and implement meaningful and inclusive strategies for the future for our globally diverse Andrews community.

A new Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, introduced in 2021 and led by Matias Soto, is designed to inspire students and faculty with additional opportunities to explore and implement world-changing ideas.

Throughout our campus and global community, our University Wellness theme, “Made to Thrive,”

Throughout our campus and global community, our University Wellness theme, “Made to Thrive,” seeks to inspire wellness in every dimension of our operations and lives as we seek to optimize “every aspect of our lives to harmoniously reflect the image of our Creator.”

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This commitment is reflected in our new Andraesen Center for Wellness, which inspires ways to achieve healthy lives, including a focus on healthy living gained through the spiritual, mental, and physical renewal that comes from God’s world, such as the simple and powerful benefits of sunlight, air, and water.

In the end, Andrews University’s goal has always been to inspire and create graduates who are world changers. That’s true throughout our history, as we’ve educated and trained pastors, teachers, and health-care workers who now serve as division and global church and education leaders for the Adventist Church. Our graduates are

world changers in other aspects of society, too, including leadership roles at Toyota/Lexus, ANA Airways/Vietnam and AdventHealth, and graduate studies at such places as Johns Hopkins, Harvard, and UC Berkeley.

One specific example of this kind of world-changing graduate is Wandile Mthiyane, who created his Ubuntu Design Group as an architecture student. Mthiyane and Ubuntu designed a sustainable housing solution for Durban, the shanty town that was his childhood home. Even while Mthiyane was a student, his concept received international recognition and awards and was formally presented at the United Nations.

At Andrews University we seek to fulfill our history, purpose, and future as a place where world changers are inspired to contribute to God's kingdom.

This passage from Ellen White introduces our 2017–2022 strategic plan:

"In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing,

At Andrews University we seek to fulfill our history, purpose, and future as a place where world changers are inspired to contribute to God's kingdom.

I can say, Praise God! As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history." ♣

* Ellen G. White, *Life Sketches* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1915), p. 196.



Niels-Erik and Demetra Andreasen visit with Paul Elder in the outdoor Central Park at the Andreasen Center for Wellness. This natural area complements the exercise and recreation opportunities in the new Center.



The mission of the International Center for Trauma Education and Care is to answer God's call to care for people in need.—JASMIN WILSON

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF AFRICA



Senate members of Adventist University of Africa

GROWING TOGETHER:

Developing Leaders for Service

The vision for establishing a university to serve the three divisions of Africa was born in the early 2000s, crafted by African and General Conference (GC) leadership. The goal was to establish an institution to provide postgraduate theological education for church workers in Sub-Saharan Africa at a centralized location.

The plan received broad support from the GC and the three African divisions—West-Central Africa, East-Central Africa, and Southern Africa-Indian Ocean. The university, with its main campus just outside of Nairobi, Kenya, could serve the entire continent via instructional teaching locations throughout Africa.

Led by Providence, the Adventist University of Africa (AUA) opened its doors as a postgraduate university in 2006. It is accredited by the Commission on University Education, the Ministry of Education of the government of Kenya, and by the Adventist Accreditation Association.

Fast-forward a little more than 10 years. The university is moving forward and achieving the purpose for which it was established as a GC institution. This report shows AUA's steady progress in developing leaders for service.

LEADERS IN ACTION

AUA has two schools—the Theological Seminary, which offers five master's programs and two doctoral-level programs; and the School of Postgraduate Studies, with four master's programs and one doctoral-level program. Currently both schools are



perfecting online programs through AUA Online, which will extend the ability of AUA to offer courses anywhere in the world. In addition to academic programs, AUA has established a Center for Continuing Education, which serves people in the community who desire nondegree training.

Vital to these programs are AUA's committed faculty and staff. Regular academic faculty are recognized as frontline personnel to deliver the instruction. The diverse faculty are called to serve from all parts of the continent and the world. Experts in their field, faculty hone their skills through continuous learning and sharing knowledge through scholarly publications, presentations, and research.

Both the Theological Seminary and the School of Postgraduate Studies (SPS) conduct institutional research. As an example, the African Seventh-day Adventist Health Study, conducted by SPS, has examined the health status and practices of Adventists throughout the continent. This study, along with ongoing research conducted by the Theological Seminary, will contribute to data, knowledge, and professionalism in the future.

Since 2006 more than 700 students have graduated from AUA, approximately 80 of which received the Doctor of Ministry degree. With AUA graduates serving throughout Africa and the world, the influence of the church is deepened and widened globally.

LEADING ON PURPOSE

AUA is regarded as a model learning institution. Its administration, faculty, and staff foster Adventist ethos on campus and keep abreast of educational technology, update the curriculum in response to the needs of church and society, and use progressive methods to deliver world-class Adventist education. There is a targeted enrollment program that anticipates future needs of the workforce in various unions of the three divisions so that programs are proactively planned to meet emerging requirements.

Since 2006 more than 700 students have graduated from AUA, approximately 80 of which received the Doctor of Ministry degree.

During the past quinquennium AUA was positively reaffirmed by the Kenyan Commission for University Education and the Adventist Accrediting Association to continue its full accreditation status.

The beautiful campus is prepared to meet the needs of the new quinquennium. Students are accommodated in four hostels, and the campus has leadership-themed features. These include the Leadership Legacy Monument, which depicts Elijah passing the mantle of leadership to Elisha, and the Leadership Park, which contains a health trail. Learning spaces are state-of-the-art, with smart classrooms centered in accessible buildings. Faculty families are housed in single-family homes and a newly constructed eight-unit residential apartment building.

Offices of the Theological Seminary and School of Postgraduate Studies are in the Judith Thross Library facility, as well as the institutional Archives and Meditation Gallery. In 2018, based on its collection and services, the library was named Best Academic Library in Kenya. The library also showcases the African Adventist Heritage Museum, which displays the history of the work and impact of the church in Sub-Saharan

AUA envisions a future within the circle of God’s providence, committed leadership, student scholars, dedicated faculty, and faithful alumni, friends, and supporters.

Africa. Additionally, the library contains the learning center and the only Ellen G. White Estate branch office on the continent. The branch office is active in its mission to advance knowledge of the ministry and impact of Ellen G. White.

The most recent construction at AUA (2019) is the Lindsay Thomas, Jr., Ph.D., Multipurpose Complex, an eco-friendly green building featuring cutting-edge technology. The complex provides more than 80,000 square feet for eight classrooms, a 1,200-seat auditorium, cafeteria, offices, banking services, a fitness center, and outdoor accommodation for graduations and large events.

Through God’s blessing, GC and division support, and generous donors, and under wise financial management, AUA has several established scholarship programs to assist students in funding their educational dreams. Audits affirm that AUA is solvent and debt-free.

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Several objectives for AUA’s future were articulated in the most recent quinquennial report. These goals have been met as displayed in the accompanying sidebar, showing their achievement status.

As AUA moves into the future, there are challenges to meet and new vistas to achieve. The mission remains strong: to develop leaders to

serve the church and society. To do this, AUA must be guided by the following missional objectives: (1) commit to the philosophy of wholistic Adventist education; (2) maintain a strong enrollment, retention and responsiveness to the needs of the GC/African divisions; (3) continue to operate with financial solvency; (4) serve as a center of excellence in postgraduate education, academic benchmarking, and research; and (5) sustain vibrant spiritual life and active community presence with a sense to the African heritage.

The future holds exciting plans, which include:

- Expanding online education to serve Africa and the global community.
- Widening program offerings by establishing doctorate programs in education and business.
- Being a learning resource center of excellence through research, knowledge generation, conferences, and meetings.
- Developing educational opportunities for women and underserved groups, such as Francophone and Lusophone countries.
- Discovering new revenue streams, income sources, and fund-raising philanthropy.

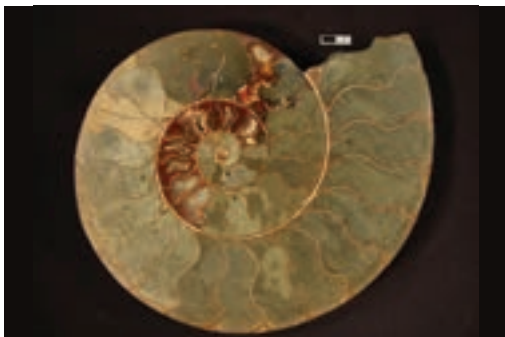
AUA envisions a future within the circle of God’s providence, committed leadership, student scholars, dedicated faculty, and faithful alumni, friends, and supporters. ♣



GEOSCIENCE RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Crystals of fluorite showing a cubic crystal structure. Inorganic components of our world, such as rocks and minerals, display beauty, variety, and laws that point to the wisdom of the Creator. Specimen from the GRI mineral collection, scale in cm.



Cross-sectional view of the shell of an ammonite, with internal chambers filled with sediment and cement. Fossils remind us of the design invested in the plants and animals at creation, but also represent a record of death and catastrophe. Specimen from the GRI fossil collection.

DESIGN AND CATASTROPHE

Interpreting earth history in the light of Creation

Have you ever wondered how the Bible relates to dinosaurs, plate tectonics, radiometric dating, or fossil humans? The Geoscience Research Institute (GRI) was established to study and provide information on such questions.

New scientific discoveries are reported daily, sometimes agreeing with previous reports and sometimes contradicting them. No one has all the answers, but the GRI contributes resources to help



in the complex intersection of faith and science.

In our process of discovery, two themes stand out: design in nature, and evidence of a catastrophic past. Much scientific inquiry is directed at these two themes. The Bible reveals why they are so conspicuous in nature, and helps us realize their significance in the life of faith.

DESIGN

God's sequence of actions during Creation week is perhaps one of the most important examples of purposeful implementation of intentional design. The Creation account in Genesis 1 begins with a world that is empty and unfit for life. Suppose you had the task of converting such a planet into a habitable environment. How would you proceed? There is something to learn by looking at how God did it.

The first necessity for life is a source of energy that warms the earth and can be used by living organisms. This was provided by the light given to the world on the first day of Creation week. The creation of an atmosphere, on the second day, introduced protection from damaging radiation, a system for climate regulation, a reservoir of oxygen to help maintain the life that would soon be created, and the establishment of important cycles and equilibria with the water on the earth's surface.

Next, a living space was needed. This was provided on the third day by formation of the sea and exposure of land. With these features present, plants were now able to survive, and they were added to the earth on the third day. On the fourth day the sun and moon were provided as signals to regulate the cycle of growth and reproduction of living organisms. When all was ready, the newly created habitats—the sea, the air, and the land—were filled with living creatures.

As the crowning act of Creation, God created a man and a woman. They were given to each other to care for the earth and fill it with their descendants. The final touch of Creation was the provision of special time for companionship and worship of the Creator. The Sabbath was God's

The logo consists of a large white 'C' shape on an orange background. Inside the 'C' is a smaller orange circle containing the text '22 Oct' in white. Below the 'C' is the website address 'creationsabbath.net' in white text. The entire graphic is set against a dark grey background.

The Creation Sabbath logo forms a “C” reminding us that Christ and Creation are inseparable. As a broken circle it also illustrates our understanding that the Creation, which is currently broken, awaits a full restoration. This year's date for Creation Sabbath is October 22.

gift of His friendship to the first pair, a gift we still enjoy and celebrate each week.

Every Sabbath is a memorial of the careful planning, intelligent design, and creative power of God, but we are often so busy we fail to stop and remember the lessons of Creation. Enter Creation Sabbath. This special day of celebration, chosen by the Seventh-day Adventist Church to be the fourth Sabbath of October, is an opportunity to pause and remember our origins, and the One who designed this world. He provided not only for our physical necessities but also for our social and spiritual needs.

It also points forward to the future restoration of creation. The GRI is privileged to assist the Seventh-day Adventist Church in equipping its pastors and members to share the beauty of creation with the world. We hope you will remember to join the special Creation Sabbath celebration each year, on the fourth Sabbath of October. You can find ideas and resources at www.CreationSabbath.net.

Members of the GRI team pose for a group picture by a proglacial lagoon during a field conference for teachers held in Iceland, in 2016.



CATASTROPHE

Catastrophe is a second prominent theme we see in the present state of our world. God's original creation was corrupted by the influence and power of an evil angel, who led humanity in rebellion against the created order.

As a result, the earth and its inhabitants became corrupted to the point that God saw it necessary to destroy the world in a global catastrophe—the Flood. The Flood disrupted the crust of the earth and buried untold numbers of organisms, many of which have been preserved as fossils.

When we look at the fossil record, we see remnants of the design invested in the plants and animals at Creation, but we also see evidence of the distortions of living organisms brought about by the effects of evil.

We see beauty in the spiral of the ammonite and the fivefold symmetry of the sea star. We see expert engineering in the eye of the trilobite and the wings of a pterodactyl. However, we also see evidence of violence and corruption in the vicious adaptations of predators and the effects of disease seen in many fossils.



The themes of Design and Catastrophe are further explored in a recent book, published by Andrews University Press in collaboration with the GRI.

These two themes, design and catastrophe, are clearly evident in the fossil record and point back to the design of creation through the lens of a fallen world and the catastrophe of the great Flood.

More than this, we see evidence of catastrophe in the preservation of enormous numbers of fossils—the remains of living organisms that under normal conditions leave little or no trace of their former existence. These two themes, design and catastrophe, are clearly evident in the fossil record and point back to the design of creation through the lens of a fallen world and the catastrophe of the great Flood.

EXPLORING AND SHARING

The GRI is engaged in several lines of original scientific research and is interested in connecting with scientists and graduate students who wish to pursue the understanding of earth history in the light of scriptural revelation. If you would like more information about potential educational opportunities or collaborations, contact us at info@grisa.org.

Our website, www.grisa.org, offers a number of educational resources on faith and science, including articles, books, videos, and photo galleries. On the website you can sign up for our quarterly electronic newsletter. We also organize and participate in creation seminars and field conferences for pastors, teachers, and university students. If you would like to involve us in the planning of a division-, union-, or conference-wide event, contact us at info@grisa.org.

Finally, for short notes and updates, follow us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/GeoscienceResearchInstitute](https://www.facebook.com/GeoscienceResearchInstitute) and on Instagram at [Instagram.com/GeoscienceResearchInstitute](https://www.instagram.com/GeoscienceResearchInstitute). 📌

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY HEALTH



Loma Linda University has some 4,500 students representing 80 countries.

BUILDING ON A DREAM

The gospel of good health has a global reach.

Loma Linda University Health (LLUH) is the Seventh-day Adventist Church's flagship academic health sciences center. Many medical missionaries have been sent out since its founding in 1905. These alumni have helped establish the denomination's clinics, hospitals, schools, and health systems in many parts of the world.

LLUH is one of California's most respected health-care organizations and a leading faith-based academic medical center in the United States. It operates a university with eight professional schools, a network of six hospitals, and a 1,000-member physician practice group. Close working relationships between

academic and clinical programs result in outstanding education and patient care.

LLUH researchers uncover groundbreaking approaches to nutrition, cancer, heart disease, neonatal development, stroke and brain trauma, among other areas. The medical center and children's hospital are the only major trauma centers in the region, covering one fourth of the state of California. During the past few years Loma Linda has been recognized with multiple awards for hospital safety, employee satisfaction, innovation, and the top hospital of choice in its region.

ACCENT ON HEALTH

LLUH has also been instrumental in sending the Seventh-day Adventist Church's health message to the world. While members were once viewed as peculiar for not smoking, eating meat,



or drinking alcohol, modern science has validated these benefits of healthful living.

The city of Loma Linda was recognized as one of the five original Blue Zones known for longevity, and the only one in North America. The ongoing study of 96,000 church members at the School of Public Health has received major funding from the U.S. National Institutes of Health and is regularly cited in journal articles and top-tier news outlets around the world.

Loma Linda University's School of Medicine has the largest global footprint of any medical school in the United States. It has also served as a key consultant to the development of the denomination's six other medical schools, as well as those now in development.

Loma Linda University's School of Medicine has the largest global footprint of any medical school in the United States.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church also operates more than 70 nursing schools worldwide, and Loma Linda University School of Nursing—the university's first school—has a legacy in many of those countries through nursing education and improved nursing practices.



Healthcare staff treat approximately 1.8 million patients each year.

Loma Linda University Health's new adult hospital and children's hospital towers are home to groundbreaking new approaches to healthcare, serving both California's Inland Empire region and patients from around the world.



Today graduates from many of Loma Linda University's eight schools serve as missionaries and consultants through Adventist Health International (AHI) and projects with other church entities. From 2015 to 2021 more than 3,000 faculty, students, and staff embarked on mission trips to serve those in need. Together with AHI, LLUH is directly involved with more than 40 Adventist mission hospitals and 80 clinics worldwide.

FRESH FACILITIES FOR SERVICE

In 2016 LLUH opened its San Bernardino campus, which includes a health clinic for the medically underserved, together with San Manuel Gateway College. The college offers certificate training programs for high school graduates, providing them career opportunities in health care and future opportunities for professional growth. The entire San Bernardino campus is a unique



Within our global church we will continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ, just as we have for more than a century.

Located on the Dennis and Carol Troesh Medical Campus, they are now a place where students and residents can learn and grow in their professions. Some will join the LLUH team, while others will practice in communities around the globe. Our Vision 2020 philanthropy campaign, which concluded in 2020, included funds for research, scholarships, and wholeness initiatives, building on our rich history of whole-person care.

A VISION FULFILLED

Loma Linda, Spanish for “beautiful hill,” was founded by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1905 after leaders purchased a hotel and turned it into a sanitarium. Early church leaders took a great risk, founded on faith, to make the purchase with private funds.

In her dedicatory address of the Loma Linda Sanitarium in 1906, Seventh-day Adventist Church cofounder Ellen White said the institution was to make a major contribution to the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church by becoming a training center “of the highest order.” More than a century later the organization’s legacy and involvement around the world validate her challenge in remarkable ways.

Within our global church we will continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ, just as we have for more than a century. Our 17,000 employees and 4,500 students share this commitment to physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual wellness. ▀

educational model, with physicians, medical residents, medical students, and San Manuel Gateway College students all serving patients together.

That same year, construction began on new adult and children’s hospital towers, which would provide acute-care areas to meet California’s new seismic standards. These facilities opened in August of 2021, completing one of the largest transformations in the organization’s history.

REVIEW AND HERALD PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION

SMALL BUT INFLUENTIAL

God's truth in a variety of formats

The Review and Herald Publishing Association (RHPA) continues to be the oldest institution of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, predating the organization of the church itself. Our pioneers were faced with the challenge of finding the best way to “herald” the wonderful Bible truths they were “reviewing” to more and more people.

God sent the answer to Ellen White: “After coming out of vision, I said to my husband: ‘I have a message for you. You must begin to print a little paper and send it out to the people. Let it be small at first; but as the people read, they will send you means with which to print, and it will be a success from the first. From this small beginning it was shown to me to be like streams of light that went clear round the world.’”*

It was a bold task to be accomplished by such a small group of people. But they were not alone; God was on their side, and His promise was quickly fulfilled. He blessed their efforts, and the publishing work grew into a ministry that now reaches more people every day.

It’s been more than 170 years since that first publication made its way to readers. Billions of pages filled with messages of God’s hope, love, health, and Bible truths continue to cover the globe. Most Adventists can trace their earliest understandings of God’s messages to something that was published by the Review and Herald.

We are a small staff with a great task before us. We lean on Christ as never before, participating in the great worldwide work of sharing the three angels’ messages and news of Christ’s soon coming.

The RHPA started this five-year period with a narrower focus and a much-reduced staff, many of whom hold their RHPA position in addition to their primary job. The publishing



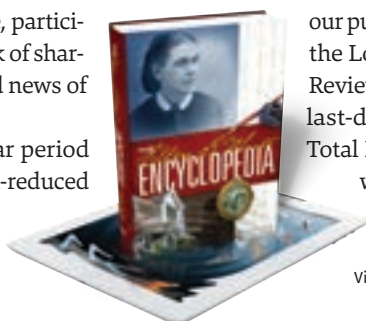
house has and will continue to be a General Conference (GC) institution, operating out of the GC headquarters, maintaining various publishing activities, but without a printing facility.

The RHPA will continue to provide new and revived materials that are the building blocks of our faith. With our Adventist publishing houses, advances in technology, the Ellen G. White Estate, and GC departments, the RHPA will continue to fulfill the mission and send out “streams of light” around the world.

The books, magazines, music, art, and audiovisual materials published by the Review and Herald hold a special place for many members. It is God’s publishing house, and we look forward to carrying on His publishing work, reaching and touching the lives of many more through printed and electronic formats.

We have a wonderful opportunity to use printed and electronic evangelistic materials from our publishing houses as we witness for the Lord. What a privilege it is for the Review and Herald to be part of God’s last-day movement, participating in Total Member Involvement, reviewing what God has done for us, and heralding Christ’s soon return. 🍀

* Ellen G. White, *Life Sketches* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1915), p. 125.





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