

# 160 YEARS OF GOD'S LEADING

COMPILED BY MERLE POIRIER

## 1830s

- 1831 • William Miller begins to preach
- 1833 • Falling of the stars
- 1839 • Joshua Himes begins to proclaim the Second Advent imminent



William Miller

## 1840s

- 1842 • First vision given to William Foy
- James White begins to preach
- 1844 • The Great Disappointment
- Rachel Oakes Preston introduces the Sabbath truth
- Hiram Edson introduces the sanctuary truth
- Ellen Harmon has her first vision at age 17
- 1845 • Ellen Harmon has sanctuary and new earth visions
- Joseph Bates begins to keep the Sabbath
- 1846 • James White and Ellen Harmon marry
- 1847 • Sabbath vision given to Ellen White
- 1848 • First general meeting of Sabbathkeepers is held at Rocky Hill, Connecticut
- 1849 • *The Present Truth* first published
- Death of William Miller
- Issue of first Advent hymnbook



First Review building

Washington handpress



Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, 1850

## 1850s

- 1850 • First issue of *Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, James White, first editor
- 1852 • Washington handpress is purchased in Rochester, New York
- First issue of *The Youth's Instructor*
- 1853 • First regular Sabbath Schools organized
- Martha Byington starts first Adventist church school, Buck's Bridge, New York
- Having liberated himself from slavery in the southern United States and becoming a Sabbathkeeping Adventist in the northern United States, John W. West begins a ministry in Peterboro, New York
- 1854 • J. N. Loughborough and M. E. Cornell conduct first tent meeting in Battle Creek
- First sale of denominational literature
- 1855 • James and Ellen White move to Battle Creek, Michigan, taking the publishing work with them
- Uriah Smith becomes second editor of the *Review*
- First building built for the Review and Herald Publishing Association
- 1858 • Ellen White has great controversy vision
- 1859 • "Systematic Benevolence" plan of funding adopted



James White



Ellen White

**O**n May 21, 2023, we celebrate the 160th anniversary of the organized Seventh-day Adventist Church. It seemed appropriate to lay out a time line that demonstrates the fragile beginnings that, like a seed responding to rain, expanded and exploded to become what we know today as a worldwide movement.

This time line attempts to be comprehensive, but we will readily admit that many events and milestones are not here. It's not because they are unimportant, but rather because there is not enough space.

We are told this is the first attempt to create a church time line that isn't simply topical. This meant placing layer upon layer of information that touched on multiple aspects of Adventism: evangelism, world growth, people of note, theology, education, and more.

We must tip our hats to those who have cared for Adventist history in the past, because it's a result of their diligence that we could even make such an attempt. Special thanks to David Trim, director of Adven-

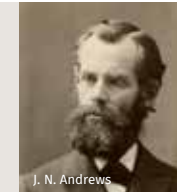
tist Archives; Ashlee Chism, research center manager for Adventist Archives for carefully reading and fact-checking; James Nix and the Ellen G. White Estate, who years ago compiled important Adventist dates; the Youth Department, which at some point created a time line called "The Great Advent Movement"; Benjamin Baker, who has an extensive and comprehensive listing of all things related to Black Adventists (blacksdahistory.org); the Women's Ministries Depart-

ment, which compiled a list of notable Adventist women; the Education Department, which created a time line of Adventist colleges and schools and events meaningful to educators; as well as a number of Adventist websites that took the time to outline their history.

We hope you enjoy this "walk" through Adventism. By its end one should find themselves praising God, for only He could sustain a movement like this despite the circumstances.

## 1860s

- 1860 • The name "Seventh-day Adventist" adopted
- 1861 • Churches first formally organized; Michigan Conference is the first conference organized
- James White serves as editor of the *Review*
- The Civil War begins
- 1863 • The Seventh-day Adventist Church is officially established with the organization of a General Conference with 20 delegates from six conferences
- John Byington is elected as first president of the General Conference
- Ellen White has vision on health reform
- 1864 • Second General Conference Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- Seventh-day Adventists are recognized as holding noncombattant views
- Uriah Smith is again editor of the *Review*
- First Adventist church in Canada organized, Westbury, Quebec
- Hannah More becomes first Adventist woman to plant churches on West African coast
- 1865 • Third General Conference Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- James White is voted as second General Conference president
- General Conference approves the first outreach among African Americans
- First health publication, a series of pamphlets entitled *Health: or How to Live*
- The Civil War ends
- 1866 • Publication of journal *Health Reformer*
- First health institution, the Western Health Reform Institute, opens in Battle Creek, Michigan (forerunner of Battle Creek Sanitarium)
- Fourth General Conference Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- 1867 • Fifth General Conference (GC) Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- J. N. Andrews is voted as third GC president
- Michal Czechowski organizes a group of converts in Tramelan, Switzerland
- 1868 • First general camp meeting held at Wright, Michigan
- Sixth GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- Delegates vote to open the mission work in California
- 1869 • Seventh GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- James White is voted as fourth GC president
- J. N. Andrews serves as third editor of the *Review*
- The Vigilant Missionary Society (forerunner of the tract and missionary societies) is organized by a group of four women in South Lancaster, Massachusetts
- Sarah Lindsey becomes first Adventist woman licensed as a minister by a local conference



J. N. Andrews



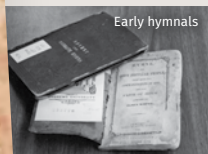
Sarah Lindsey



Western Reform Health Institute



The Present Truth, 1849



Early hymnals

## 1870s

- 1870 • Eighth GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- Jakob Erzberger is the first delegate to attend a GC Session from outside the United States
- Uriah Smith is back as editor of the *Review*
- First local tract and missionary society organized in South Lancaster, Massachusetts

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 5,000

- 1871 • Ninth GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- George I. Butler is voted as fifth GC president
- Adelia Patten Van Horn is the first woman elected to serve as a General Conference treasurer
- James White is again editor of the *Review*
- 1872 • First foreign periodical is issued, *Advent Tidende*
- Tenth GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- Editorship of the *Review* reverts back to Uriah Smith
- First denominational school opens under Goodloe Harper Bell
- Death of Joseph Bates
- Eleventh GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- 1873 • Twelfth GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- James White takes editorship of *Review* back again
- Thirteenth GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- 1874 • James White is voted as sixth GC president
- Battle Creek College is established
- General Tract and Missionary Society organizes to coordinate state and local societies
- J. N. Andrews, the church's first official missionary, along with children, Charles and Mary, sent to Switzerland
- First issue of *Signs of the Times*, Oakland, California
- Pacific Press Publishing Association incorporated
- 1875 • Fourteenth GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- First special GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- 1876 • Lottie Blake graduates as the first African American Seventh-day Adventist woman physician
- Fifteenth GC Session, Lansing, Michigan
- Second special GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- Germany organizes its first church
- Work begins in France
- Sixteenth GC Session, Lansing, Michigan

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 10,000

- 1877 • Uriah Smith is back in the editor's chair at the *Review*
- Battle Creek "Dime Tabernacle" built
- 1878 • Third special GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- Seventeenth GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- First local Young People's Society formed, Hazelton, Michigan
- Rural Health Retreat opens (forerunner of St. Helena Hospital, the first health-care institution outside Battle Creek and the oldest in operation by the church)
- 1879 • Fourth special GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- Eighteenth GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- Delegates at the session establish the first mission board
- American Health and Temperance Association is organized
- Fifth special GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan



Jakob Erzberger Adelia Patten Van Horn Lottie Blake Mary Andrews

## 1880s

- 1880 • Nineteenth GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- George I. Butler is voted as seventh GC president
- Last time James White serves as editor of the *Review*
- First baptisms in England
- First subscription book sold by George A. King; beginning of colporteur work

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 15,000



- 1881 • Death of James White
- Uriah Smith resumes editorship of the *Review*.
- First canvassing work begins
- Twentieth GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- 1882 • First copies of *Thoughts on Daniel and Revelation* sold
- Twenty-first GC Session, Rome, New York
- South Lancaster Academy (forerunner of Atlantic Union College) opens in Lancaster, Massachusetts
- 1883 • Death of J. N. Andrews, Switzerland
- First denominational *Yearbook* issued
- Twenty-second GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- First denominational training school for nurses at Battle Creek
- 1884 • Twenty-third GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- 1885 • Ellen White goes to Europe
- S. N. Haskell and John Corliss and others sail to Australia.
- Twenty-fourth GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- First churchwide Week of Prayer is called by GC president G. I. Butler

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 20,000

- 1886 • Twenty-fifth GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- First all-Black Adventist church organized at Edgefield Junction, Tennessee
- First church is organized in Russia
- 1887 • First missionaries sent to Africa (Cape Town)
- First camp meeting in Europe (Norway)
- Twenty-sixth GC Session, Oakland, California
- 1888 • Twenty-seventh GC Session, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- A. T. Jones and E. J. Waggoner present "righteousness by faith" at General Conference Session
- O. A. Olsen voted as eighth GC president; first president born outside the United States
- A. J. Cudney, sent to Pitcairn Island, disappears en route, spurring fundraising for a mission ship
- Abram La Rue goes as self-supporting missionary to China
- 1889 • C. M. Kinny becomes the first ordained African American Adventist minister
- National Religious Liberty Association is formed
- Foreign Mission Board is formed
- Twenty-eighth GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- First time there were more than 100 delegates to a GC Session
- First missionaries sent to Turkey, Barbados

## 1890s

- 1890 • The sailing of the *Pitcairn* in the South Pacific
- 1891 • Ellen White and company visit Australia
- Twenty-ninth GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- Work established in Mexico, Central America

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 30,000

- 1892 • Work begins in Finland, Brazil, Jamaica
- *Steps to Christ* is published
- James Patterson sails for Jamaica, becoming the first Black Adventist to be sent from the U.S. to do missionary work
- 1893 • Thirtieth GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- Work enters Malawi, India, Trinidad, Falklands
- Claremont Union College, first college outside of North America, opens in South Africa (forerunner of Helderberg College)
- 1894 • Avondale School established, Australia
- First union conference organized, Australia
- *Morning Star* mission boat travels down the Mississippi River to establish schools and churches for African Americans along the Mississippi Delta
- Work opens in Chile
- Solusi Mission established in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) (the first Adventist foreign mission to be established among the native peoples of Africa)
- 1895 • Thirty-first GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
- First Adventist church organized in Brazil, in Gaspar Alto, Santa Catarina
- American Medical Missionary College established
- 1896 • Oakwood Industrial School opens
- First missionary to Japan

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 50,000



Battle Creek College

Uriah Smith



## 1890s

- 1897 • Thirty-second GC Session, College View, Nebraska
  - G. A. Irwin voted ninth GC president
  - Alonzo T. Jones becomes fourth editor of the *Review*
  - Work opens in Belgium, Iceland
- 1898 • Works enters Peru, Hungary
  - *The Desire of Ages* is published
  - First worker training school in South America is founded at Las Tunas, Entre Ríos, Argentina (forerunner of River Plate Adventist University)
  - First issue of the *Gospel Herald* (forerunner of *Message* magazine)
- 1899 • Christian Record Braille Foundation opens
  - Friedensau Adventist University opens in Germany
  - Thirty-third GC Session, South Lancaster, Massachusetts
  - First all-Hispanic church organizes in Tucson, Arizona

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 60,000**

## 1900s

- 1900 • Work enters Indonesia, Virgin Islands

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 75,000**

- 1901 • Thirty-fourth GC Session, Battle Creek, Michigan
  - A. G. Daniells elected as GC Committee chair, not president (tenth GC leader)
  - GC Session votes to adopt a world network of union conferences (reorganization of General Conference)
  - GC Session votes to establish departments at the General Conference level
  - Uriah Smith is back for the last time as editor of the *Review* (he dies in 1903)
  - Budget financing instituted
  - Southern Publishing Association established
  - Battle Creek College moves to Berrien Springs, Michigan, renamed Emmanuel Missionary College
  - Anna Knight leaves for India, the first African American woman from any denomination to serve as a missionary to that country.



- First church organized in Scotland; work enters Puerto Rico
- First church organized in Bermuda
- 1902 • Battle Creek Sanitarium and Review and Herald Publishing House buildings burn in Battle Creek
- Duncombe Hall Missionary College (Newbold College) opens in England
- First official workers sent to China
- 1903 • World headquarters (General Conference) and Review and Herald Publishing House move to Washington, D.C.
  - A. G. Daniells' title changes back to president
  - W. W. Prescott serves as fifth editor of the *Review*
  - Jasper Wayne begins Ingathering work
  - Thirty-fifth GC Session, Oakland, California
  - Work enters Tanzania, Spain; Panama mission is organized
  - The book *Education* is published
  - Kellogg crisis escalates concerning his book *The Living Temple*, as well as issues with his leadership of the Battle Creek Sanitarium
- 1904 • Work begins in Romania, Portugal, Ecuador; first Korean converts
  - Washington Training College (Washington Adventist University) opens in Takoma Park, Maryland
- 1905 • Loma Linda Sanitarium is established
  - Thirty-sixth GC Session, Washington, D.C.
  - Work begins in Haiti, Cuba, Philippines
- 1906 • Pacific Press building burns
  - Work enters Kenya
- 1907 • Missionary Volunteer Society (MVS) established
- 1908 • Yearly Morning Watch Calendar first issued
  - Work begins in Papua New Guinea, Guatemala
- 1909 • Fernando and Ana Stahl pay their own way to Bolivia, where they establish many schools and clinics for the indigenous people around Lake Titicaca
  - Thirty-seventh GC Session, Washington, D.C.; first to have delegates from each major continent
  - W. A. Spicer serves as sixth editor of the *Review*
  - Junior Missionary Volunteer (JMV) Society established
  - North American Negro Department created
  - The Fireside Correspondence School is started by Frederick Griggs

**CHURCH SURPASSES 100,000 MEMBERS**

## 1910s

- 1910 • College of Medical Evangelists (CME, now Loma Linda University) opens
  - General Conference establishes sustentation fund
- 1911 • Sabbath School offerings reach \$1 million
  - F. M. Wilcox serves as seventh editor of the *Review* (longest consecutive editorship)
- 1913 • General Conference adopts world division system
  - Thirty-eighth GC Session, Washington, D.C.

- 1915 • Ellen White dies, age 87
- 1916 • The Fireside Correspondence School is renamed Home Study Institute (later, Home Study International, then Griggs University).

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 150,000**

- 1918 • Thirty-ninth GC Session, San Francisco, California
- 1919 • Birthday offering system is established for opening new work
  - Bible conference is held in Washington, D.C.



## 1920s

- 1922 • Fortieth GC Session, San Francisco, California
  - W. A. Spicer is voted eleventh GC president
  - The "Dime Tabernacle" burns in Battle Creek, Michigan
  - Home Commission created, led by Arthur and Maud Spalding

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 200,000**

- 1924 • J. N. Loughborough, last of the early pioneers, dies
- 1926 • Forty-first GC Session, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
  - First JMV campout at Townline Lake, Michigan
- 1928 • First time the term "Pathfinder" is used (could be late 1927)

## 1930s

- 1930 • Forty-second GC Session, San Francisco, California
  - Charles H. Watson, an Australian, voted twelfth GC president, first non-North American president
  - The General Conference drafts a position statement on creationism and authorizes a program of research and publication to refute evolution
- 1931 • Leo Halliwell, missionary to Brazil, launches the *Luzero I*, a boat built to serve as a clinic to those living along the Amazon River
  - General Conference sends first Black missionaries to Africa
- 1932 • First *Church Manual* published that includes a statement on the Fundamental Beliefs

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 350,000**

## 1930s

- 1934 • The Advanced Bible Training School (forerunner of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary) is organized at Pacific Union College, in Angwin, California
- 1935 • Loma Linda Foods established
- 1936 • Forty-third GC Session, San Francisco, California
  - J. L. McElhany voted thirteenth GC president
  - Adventist Church appropriates \$25,000 to establish the International Insurance Company of Takoma Park, Maryland (later Adventist Risk Management)

## 1940s

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES A HALF MILLION WORLDWIDE

- 1941 • Forty-fourth GC Session, San Francisco, California
  - The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary moves to Washington, D.C.
- 1942 • First Voice of Prophecy nationwide broadcast
  - La Voz de la Esperanza (The Voice of Hope) created in Argentina
  - Spicer Memorial College (now Spicer Adventist University) moves to Pune, India
- 1945 • First Black regional conferences formed in the United States
  - W. A. Spicer serves a short stint as editor of the *Review*
  - F. D. Nichol is appointed as eighth editor of the *Review*
  - Desmond T. Doss, serving as a medic in the U.S. Army, earns the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Truman because of his refusal to kill, rescuing at least half of his company in a single day under heavy fire on Okinawa
- 1946 • Forty-fifth GC Session, Washington, D.C.



International delegates to the 1930 GC Session

## 1950s

- 1950 • Forty-sixth GC Session, San Francisco, California
  - W. H. Branson is voted fourteenth GC president
  - Faith for Today telecast begins
  - General Conference authorizes Pathfinder clubs for the world field

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 750,000

- 1951 • First Pathfinder fair, California
- 1952 • Pathfinder song is published
- 1953 • First issue of *Guide* published
- 1954 • Forty-seventh GC Session, San Francisco, California
  - R. R. Figuhr is voted fifteenth GC president
  - First time more than 1,000 delegates to a GC Session
  - Solusi Training School in Zimbabwe becomes Solusi Missionary College, the first four-year, postsecondary program for Africans
  - First Pathfinder camporee in California

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 1,000,000

- 1955 • Leona Running becomes first woman faculty member of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary
- 1956 • Seventh-day Adventist World Service (SAWS) begins (forerunner of Adventist Development and Relief Agency)
- 1957 • Potomac University is organized for ministerial training
  - The General Conference establishes the Geoscience Research Institute
- 1958 • Forty-eighth GC Session, Cleveland, Ohio
- 1959 • The Columbia Union and Sligo Adventist Church send the church's first student missionary



Desmond Doss receives medal of honor



Faith for Today team

## 1960s

- 1960 • Potomac University and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary move to Berrien Springs, Michigan, and merge with Emmanuel Missionary College, becoming Andrews University
  - Development of the Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking (later Breathe Free)
- 1961 • Loma Linda University formed (previously CME and La Sierra College)
- 1962 • Forty-ninth GC Session, San Francisco, California
  - Frank L. Peterson is elected general vice president of the General Conference, the first Black person to hold this position
- 1963 • The *Fernando Stahl*, the first denominationally owned mission airplane, is put into service in Peru

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 1.5 MILLION

- 1966 • Fiftieth GC Session, Detroit, Michigan
  - Robert H. Pierson is voted sixteenth GC president
  - Kenneth H. Wood is the ninth individual to become editor of the *Review*
  - Institute of World Mission is established

## 1970s

- 1970 • Fifty-first GC Session, Atlantic City, New Jersey
  - *Insight* replaces *The Youth's Instructor*

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 2 MILLION

- 1971 • Adventist World Radio is launched
- 1973 • Second Seventh-day Adventist medical school established at Montemorelos, Mexico
  - General Conference Archives officially established
- 1974 • Breath of Life, an African American media ministry, is founded by Walter Arties with Charles D. Brooks
- 1975 • Fifty-second GC Session: First GC Session to be held outside North America, in Vienna, Austria
  - Home and Family Service organized, led by Delmer and Betty Holbrook
- 1976 • East Asia Committee formed
- 1977 • Frances Osborne is the first certified Adventist woman chaplain.
  - Jocelyn Fay is the first woman assistant editor of the *Adventist Review*

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 3 MILLION

- 1979 • Neal C. Wilson is voted seventeenth GC president
  - Charles E. Bradford is elected as the first African American president of the North American Division
  - Inter-American Division becomes largest world division

Left to right: Kenneth Wood, Frank Peterson, Robert Pierson



1962 GC Session



Left to right: Neal Wilson, Breath of Life quartet

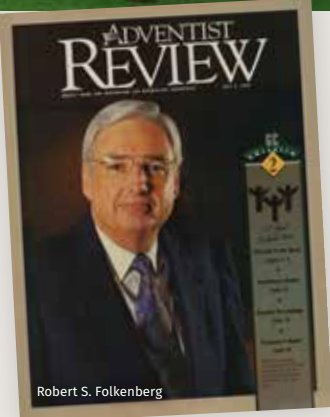


Charles Bradford



## 1980s

- 1980** • Fifty-third GC Session, Dallas, Texas
  - G. Ralph Thompson is elected General Conference secretary, first person of color to hold the position
  - Twenty-seven Fundamental Beliefs adopted
  - Voted first African, Bekele Heye, as Afro-Mideast Division president
  - Margit Suring, of Finland, first Adventist woman to earn a Th.D. from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary
  - Glacier View Sanctuary Review Conference held at Glacier View Ranch, Colorado, to evaluate nontraditional interpretations of the church's sanctuary doctrine expressed by Australian theologian Desmond Ford
- 1982** • William G. Johnsson becomes the tenth editor of the *Review*
- 1983** • Review and Herald Publishing Association opens in Hagerstown, Maryland
- 1984** • Pacific Press relocates to Nampa, Idaho



Left to right: G. Ralph Thompson, William G. Johnsson, Rosa Banks



- 1985** • Fifty-fourth GC Session, New Orleans, Louisiana
  - Delegates vote to merge five departments into one Church Ministries Department
  - Program is launched to establish AWR station on Guam
  - Church launches Harvest 90, a worldwide mission initiative to "reach the unreached"
  - First North American Division camporee in Colorado, with 16,129 Pathfinders

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 5 MILLION**

- 1987** • Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies opens in Philippines
- Inter-American Division becomes first world division to reach 1 million members
- 1989** • General Conference headquarters moves to new building, Silver Spring, Maryland
- Second Pathfinder camporee held in Mount Union, Pennsylvania, with 12,032 Pathfinders
- Rosa Taylor Banks is the first female general field secretary for the General Conference
- Zaosky Theological Seminary opens as the first educational center for Adventists in the Soviet Union

## 1990s

- 1990** • Fifty-fifth GC Session, Indianapolis, Indiana
  - Robert S. Folkenberg is voted eighteenth GC president
  - Women's ordination is considered for vote
  - Global Mission established
  - Euro-Asia Division (former Soviet Union) is formed
  - North American Division severs direct administrative ties with the General Conference

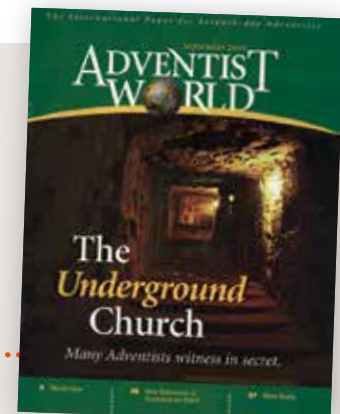


- 1991** • Black and White unions merge in South Africa
- 1994** • Third Pathfinder and first international camporee, Morrison, Colorado, with 12,232 Pathfinders from 23 countries
- 1995** • Satellite evangelism launched
- Fifty-sixth GC Session, Utrecht, Netherlands
- Second time women's ordination is considered for vote
- Church Ministries is disbanded, creating several separate departments
- Adventist Family Ministries is created, led by Ron and Karen Flowers
- Children's Ministries Department is created, led by Virginia Smith
- 1996** • Seventh-day Adventist Church trademarks its logo, designed by Bryan Gray

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 10 MILLION**

- 1999** • First European, Jan Paulsen, elected nineteenth president of the General Conference
- International Pathfinder camporee first held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, with 21,00 Pathfinders from 53 countries
- Worldwide enrollment in Adventist schools surpasses 1 million

Ella Simmons



## 2000s

- 2000** • Fifty-seventh GC Session, Toronto, Canada
  - Extensive revisions are made to the *Church Manual* on issues of marriage, divorce, and remarriage.
- 2003** • The church debuts a 24-hour television network, Hope Channel
- 2004** • Pathfinder camporee, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, with 31,000 Pathfinders from 83 countries
- 2005** • Fifty-eighth GC Session, St. Louis, Missouri
  - Ella Simmons is elected as the first female general vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church
  - GC Session delegates add a twenty-eighth Fundamental Belief.
  - Adventist University of Africa opens, Nairobi, Kenya
  - First issue of *Adventist World* released, printing 1.1 million copies worldwide

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 15 MILLION**

- 2006** • Bill Knott is appointed eleventh editor of the *Adventist Review*
- 2009** • Pathfinder camporee, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, with more than 36,000 Pathfinders attending





## 2010s

- 2010** • Fifty-ninth GC Session, Atlanta, Georgia
  - Ted N. C. Wilson is voted twentieth GC president
  - GC Session delegates affirm and clarify the 28 Fundamental Beliefs, particularly regarding Creation.
- 2013** • First of four meetings of the Theology of Ordination Study Committee (TOSC); the committee's work is completed in 2014
- 2014** • Pathfinder camporee, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, with more than 50,000 Pathfinders from more than 65 countries
  - Review and Herald Publishing Association ceases publishing at its Hagerstown, Maryland, location
- 2015** • Sixtieth GC Session, San Antonio, Texas
  - GC Session delegates vote not to allow regional adaptations to its ordination policy

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 20 MILLION

- 2019** • Pathfinder camporee, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, with 55,000 Pathfinders from 105 countries



## 2020s

- 2020** • The sixty-first GC Session is postponed twice because of the COVID-19 pandemic (it finally convened in St. Louis, Missouri, in 2022)

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 21 MILLION

- 2022** • Sixth special GC Session, Silver Spring, Maryland
- 2022** • Sixty-first GC Session, St. Louis, Missouri
  - GC Session delegates take an action to add Adventist Possibility Ministries to the *Church Manual*
- 2023** • Justin Kim begins serving as twelfth editor of the *Adventist Review*
  - Sikhululekile Daco, first female associate editor to join *Adventist Review*



**PHOTO CREDITS** The photographs in this time line come from a variety of sources. Special thanks to: Adventist Review Ministries, Ellen G. White Estate (ellenwhite.org), Loma Linda University Archives (cdm.llu.edu), Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists (encyclopedia.adventist.org), General Conference Archives (adventistarchives.org), Center for Adventist Research (centerforadventistresearch.org), and DeWitt Williams (James Patterson).

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