

# ADVENTIST REVIEW

JULY 4, 2025

- 3 PRESIDENT'S WELCOME
- 4 THREE CHURCH SKELETONS
- 6 IF WE DON'T LOSE HEART
- 10 WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO
- 14 DIGITAL TOOLS AT GC SESSION
- 16 WHAT'S EXPECTED OF A SESSION DELEGATE
- 18 AROUND THE WORLD REPRESENTATION
- 20 PRESIDENT'S REPORT
- 26 GLOBAL TOTAL MEMBER INVOLVEMENT
- 28 ADVENTIST POSSIBILITY MINISTRIES
- 29 COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH MINISTRIES
- 30 OFFICE OF ADVENTIST MISSION REPORT
- 36 HOPE CHANNEL
- 39 THE LIST OF GC SESSION DELEGATES





# ADVENTIST

# HERITAGE

# MINISTRIES

How much do you and your family know about the Adventist pioneers?

Ever wonder about their passions and personal lives?

Relive their adventures with God and people of their times.

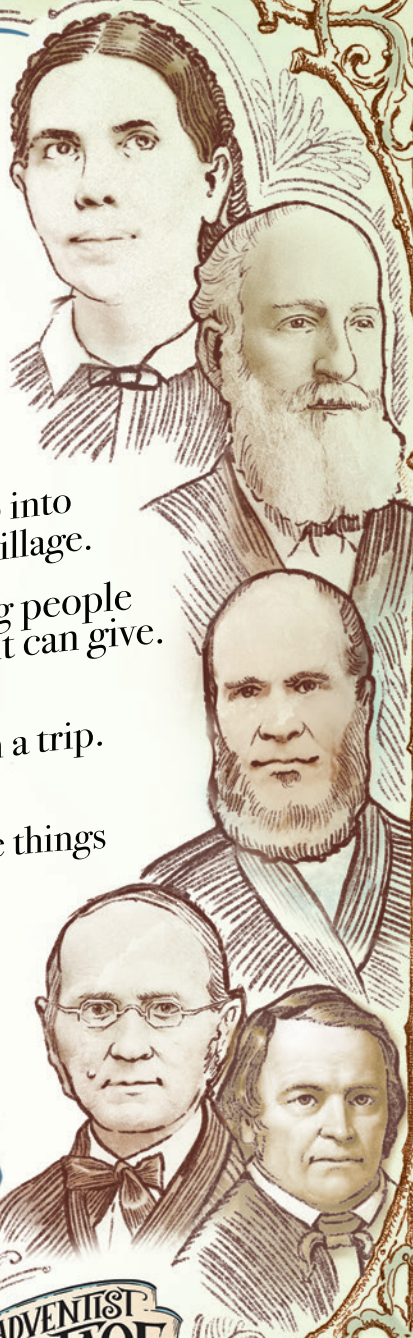
In several U.S. states you can step into their lives via their homes and a village.

Time is short. We and our young people need the inspiration such a visit can give.

HM invites you to first visit [adventistheritage.org](http://adventistheritage.org) and plan a trip. Then come!

God will speak to you through the things you see and hear and touch.

Experience our Seventh-day Adventist roots for yourself!



ADVENTIST  
HERITAGE  
MINISTRIES

# PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

**G**reetings and welcome to the sixty-second General Conference (GC) Session, in St. Louis, Missouri!

As a worldwide family we come together during the session not only to conduct business but to be blessed by the wonderful fellowship of our brothers and sisters from around the globe. In addition to the regular business meetings, numerous ancillary meetings will be held, allowing all to enjoy a type of “camp meeting” experience with inspiring worship services during the week and on the weekends, training sessions, emphasis on our mission, musical performances, and special programs hosted by numerous ministries. In addition, there will be a live exhibit hall where visitors will enjoy learning more about their favorite ministries and organizations while discovering new resources and information from around the world.

The theme for this session, “Jesus Is Coming. I Will Go!” reminds us of our wonderful hope in our soon-coming Savior and the importance of answering God’s call to go wherever He may lead to reach the world for Him. God has given Seventh-day Adventists a special message to share with the world, found in the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14:6-12 and the fourth angel of Revelation 18:1-4. These messages are surely more relevant now than ever before in the history of the earth, and God invites each one of us to be a part of His last-day proclamation.

While there are many aspects of a General Conference Session, it is primarily a spiritual and business meeting of the world church. During the meetings world leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are elected, and worldwide items are decided, such as the Fundamental Beliefs and constitutional and *Church Manual* items.

Let us pray together for God’s leading in a marvelous way as we plead for the outpouring of the latter rain of the Holy Spirit in anticipation of the soon second coming of Jesus Christ. Let us continue moving forward together, focusing on God’s Holy Word, on the Holy Spirit’s wonderful work of personal and corporate revival and reformation, and on Global Total Member Involvement, saying, “Yes, Lord, I Will Go,” helping to reach millions of people around the globe with the hope of Christ’s soon return! 🍀



Ted N. C. Wilson, president  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

**The theme for this session, “Jesus Is Coming. I Will Go!” reminds us of our wonderful hope in our soon-coming Savior and the importance of answering God’s call to go wherever He may lead to reach the world for Him.**





# THREE CHURCH SKELETONS

Revelation uncovers two global entities at the end of time: Chapter 13 points to a system of global *deception*, while chapter 14 describes a movement that *warns* the world by pointing to the Lamb of God. How is this global movement supposed to function, reflecting the organization of heaven, while also reaching the ends of the earth? Systems of organization do not just simply happen. Skeletal structures allow for the accomplishing of the mission that God has laid before us. Simply speaking, there are three types of skeletons for any form of ecclesial direction.

## THE HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE

Also known as the episcopal structure (not to be confused with the Episcopal denomination), this form of governance takes its name from the Greek *episcopos*, meaning overseer or superintendent, and builds on a particular (but controversial) understanding of how such overseers or superintendents are to function. This structure has leaders at the top with the most power and a decrease in authority down the hierarchy. Some denominations have bishops at the top, clergy next, then deacons, and last, laity. Other denominations may not be strict hierarchies, but their overall structures of authority are similar.

There are advantages to this kind of system. Financial resources are clearly marked and unilaterally decided. There are clear flows of vision, execution, and efficiency, with quick decision-making. However, some disadvantages lie in the potential for power and financial abuses. Doctrine and policies are easily determined by the few.

The role of the member in these hierarchical systems is to support the church through attendance and remittance of tithe and offerings. The role of the clergy is to provide doctrinal clarity and authority. Because of its efficiency and adeptness, there are Adventists who advocate for this system, whether in theory or by passive practice.

## THE CONGREGATIONAL STRUCTURE

Not to be confused with the Congregational denomination, this structure is the inverse of the previous. Local congregations have the authority to interview and choose their own pastors, decide on how their finances are utilized, and determine their own doctrines.

Congregational advantages lie in tithe and offerings being used for the setting of that local church. Vision and leadership are provided by the local church board, seemingly unhindered by other entities. Some disadvantages include the potential for politicking within the small group, financial myopia, and vacillating policies that waffle from meeting to meeting. Doctrinal and fiscal decisions are fickle and unstable. Financial gain can be motives for evangelism, mission, and ministry. Because the impact is only local, this system fails to meet the descriptions, found in Revelation, of the universal church.

Local congregational members decide on their own church doctrines, financial resources, and pastoral employment. The role of the clergy is to serve the congregation, to preach according to congregational limitations, and to be the sole recipient of tithe resources. Because of its autonomy and immediate return, there are Adventists who advocate for this system, whether in theory or by active practice.

## THE REPRESENTATIVE STRUCTURE

Seeded during the Reformation by John Calvin and John Knox, the representative structure places authority on church membership through assemblies. The local church is governed by one assembly, and this assembly by another. Though there are various forms of representative structure, the Seventh-day Adventist Church falls under this broad category but utilizes the term *conferences* instead of *assemblies* and has other differences from the presbyterian system rooted in the ideas of Calvin and Knox.





JUSTIN KIM

## The Seventh-day Adventist Church pays a premium on unity because it believes in the power of the Holy Spirit working through the global movement.

In Adventism there are three conferences: local, union, and general. The local conference is a sisterhood of local churches, the storehouse of tithe, and responsible for dispensing these finances primarily for the employment and deployment of gospel personnel, such as pastors and evangelists. The union conference is a sisterhood of local conferences responsible for institutions and services to benefit its constituent areas for the gospel. The General Conference is a sisterhood of union conferences responsible for overall mission of the church, directing and administering global resources to assist areas that need missional and ministerial support. (Divisions are indeed *divisions* of the General Conference to localize these mission efforts in their respective territories.)

The advantages to this system are accountability, integrity, and open dialogue. Everything is discussed in public in committees, boards, and constituency meetings. Tithe and offerings are discussed in financial reports. Policies are discussed in secretarial reports. Evangelistic activities are discussed in leadership reports. This system is stable and repels against conspiratorial takeovers and hijackings. On the other hand, some disadvantages are potential inefficiencies with the length of dialogue and long meetings.

The role of those in representative systems is to be active evangelistically at the local church, to remit tithe and offerings to help support evangelism on the conference level, and to choose representatives to lead the church on the union and global levels.

Unfortunately, there is no perfect system this side of heaven. But all systems should be tested by our

Lord's Great Commission of Matthew 28 and the global mission of the three angels of Revelation 14.

This brings us to the General Conference Session. The Seventh-day Adventist Church pays a premium on unity because it believes in the power of the Holy Spirit working through the global movement. Efforts, prayers, intentions, and meetings such as the General Conference Session must be continually initiated to renew, repair, and support its structure to accomplish the mission as a church together. Like skin on the body, these elements are to protect against external threats, keep the vital organs running smoothly and efficiently, and help differing parts of the system coordinate with each other.

The church is united in its theology through our Fundamental Beliefs. The church is united in its governance through our *Church Manual*. The church is united in its sustenance through the Lord's tithe. The church is united in study through the Sabbath School *Adult Bible Study Guide*. The church is united in movement through mission and evangelism. And last, the church is united in communication through the *Adventist Review*.

Yes, some expenses might be high to bring the world church together. Yes, some meetings might be longer than they need to be. But they foster a global movement that espouses diversity, integrity, faithfulness to the Word, the character of Jesus, and mission to the ends of the earth. May He revive our dry bones again to bless His global work. 🕊

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Justin Kim is editor of the *Adventist Review*.

# IF WE DON'T LOSE HEART

The estimate  
and honor of the  
world is worth  
about as much  
as real estate  
will be worth on  
the last day.

**I**t is all too easy, in the times we live, to lose heart. There are distractions and backbiting from various sides, inside and outside our beloved church. There are real, serious, horrendous evils and suffering taking place in the world, seemingly continually. Alongside these there are often relatively inconsequential disputes and gripes that are scintillating and controversial and tend to suck up all the oxygen in our public (and all too often in our private) discourse.

At times it seems like the clarion call to proclaim the message of God's truth, and the painstaking work required to do so, is a fool's errand unlikely to make a dent among the cacophony of voices and influencers and everything under the sun that distracts so many from what is most important.

In the midst of so many possible discouragements, I want to encourage you to remember the exhortation in Galatians 6:9: "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."



### THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

In a world driven by algorithms that favor controversy and spectacle (among many other unsavory things), many are tempted to seek attention and notoriety. And it is not too difficult to achieve that goal, particularly if one is willing to compromise biblical values and truth. Be controversial, snarky, condescending, self-righteous, and many other things—basically exhibit exactly the opposite of the fruit of the Spirit.

For “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Gal. 5:22, 23). Let us then be “wise as serpents and harmless as doves” (Matt. 10:16).

If we value our “work” by honor in the eyes of the world, we will sell ourselves and our message very short. I say this not to excuse us from doing what we can and must to meet people where they are and reach as many as possible. But we must at the same time resist doing so by shortcuts, half measures, and “sugar high” approaches that might spike in the short term but cost dearly in the long term when it comes to our message and mission.

Let us neither, however, fall into the trap of self-righteousness—we are all fallible sinners. And, of course, self-righteousness is not righteousness at all.

Let us do everything in love.

### DOING A GREAT WORK

Long ago Nehemiah found himself with a very difficult task, with impediments on all sides. The walls of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Babylonians. Those who returned from exile to rebuild were extremely vulnerable to attack. Nehemiah was called





LZF / ISTOCK / GETTY IMAGES PLUS / GETTY IMAGES

to lead the effort to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem against stark opposition from surrounding enemies who repeatedly sought to stop him by any means possible.

In one example of those attempts, a number of enemies invited Nehemiah to leave what he was doing, go to them, and gather with them, secretly seeking to do him harm. He replied by messengers, “I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?” (Neh. 6:3).

He said, “I cannot come down.” Why? “I am doing a *great* work.” What about us? Should we “come down” when antagonists or others call us away? Or should we follow Nehemiah’s example?

If you are called by God to do a work, then that work is great by virtue of the divine calling on your life. Of course, we must not take or apply this in an elitist, self-aggrandizing sense. The head needs the hand and the foot (see 1 Cor. 12:15-26)—all parts of the body are essential.

The work God has called you to do may or may not be viewed as “great” in the eyes of the world, but the estimate and honor of the world is worth about as much as real estate will be worth on the last day. The truly valuable “real estate” is in the new earth; hence why Jesus advises—no, commands—us to store up our treasures, not on earth, but in heaven (Matt. 6:19-21).

Again, whatever work God has called you to do—that is indeed a *great* work. And if you do “not lose heart” and do “not grow weary while doing good,” “in due season [you] shall reap” a *great* harvest (Gal. 6:9).

## KEEP ABOUT YOUR WORK

Even as distractions and discouragements might surround us, do not “come down” from the work, but continue doing the work to which God has called you.

“Keep about your work. Do not flinch because the lion roars; do not stop to stone the devil’s dogs; do not fool away your time chasing the devil’s rabbits. Do your work. Let liars lie, let sectarians quarrel, let corporations resolve, let editors publish, let the devil do his worst; but see to it that nothing hinders you from fulfilling the work that God has given you.”<sup>1</sup>

If you turn to the right or to the left, you will be in danger of turning away from God’s calling. You might find yourself, even if unwittingly or unintentionally, having “come down” from the great work to which God has called you. You might then be in danger of these words applying to you, “What doest thou here, Elijah?” (1 Kings 19:9, 13, KJV). Of course, those are the words of God to Elijah shortly after the great triumph at Mount Carmel, after which he had run away scared, wallowing in fear, fatigue, and self-pity.

In 1856 Ellen White also spoke these words to J. N. Loughborough, who had become discouraged and abandoned his call to ministry. Finding him working as a carpenter, she successfully called him back to the work with these words, repeating three times to him, “What doest thou here, Elijah?”<sup>2</sup>

Whatever God has called you to do, do not turn to the right or to the left. Stay on the path with your eyes on Christ. Keep doing what He has called you to do. Be careful, of course, that you are not fooling yourself and calling yourself, but follow God’s call and continually seek to discern it in and on your life.



Again, the work you and I are called to do by God may or may not be viewed as “great” in the eyes of the world. But if you are doing the work God has called you to do, what you are doing is a great work regardless of how the world views it. So be encouraged. If you are following God’s calling in your life and walking in His will, your work may not be appreciated or valued in this life and in this world, but is valued in the courts of heaven, where all true treasure is.

But if you are not doing what God has called you to do, “what doest thou here, Elijah?”

### STAY ON THE PATH

If we don’t lose heart . . . if we don’t lose heart, in due season we will reap a great harvest (Gal. 6:9).

Friends, let us not lose heart. In the dark days, in the sunny days, let us remember this world is not our home (see Heb. 13:14). We are on a path—a narrow path—that leads to the heavenly Zion.

And our mission as Seventh-day Adventists is to be servants of God to call and help others along that path. And there is one, and only one, ultimate way for us to stay on that path: to keep our eyes on Christ.

May this not be a burden to you, but an encouragement. You cannot stay on the path in your own power—you cannot even keep your eyes on Christ by yourself. He is the vine; we are merely the branches. Apart from Christ we can do nothing (John 15:5). You cannot do the impossible. No one is asking you to, least of all Christ. His “yoke is easy” and His “burden is light” (Matt. 11:30). You cannot walk on water. Neither could Peter. But, by God’s power, Peter did walk on water. As long as he did what? As long as he kept his eyes on Christ. But when he looked around in fear, he sunk (see Matt. 14:28-30).

Keep your eyes on Christ and stay on the path to which He has called you. Press on toward the goal and keep your eyes forward, on Christ (see Phil. 3:12-14). Do not lose heart. In due season you will reap a great harvest (Gal. 6:9).

### ONLY WHAT’S DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST

Consider these stirring words from a poem by Charles Thomas Studd (1860-1931):

“Two little lines I heard one day,  
Traveling along life’s busy way;

Bringing conviction to my heart,  
And from my mind would not depart;  
Only one life, ’twill soon be past,  
Only what’s done for Christ will last.

“Only one life, yes, only one,  
Soon will its fleeting hours be done;  
Then, in ‘that day’ my Lord to meet,  
And stand before His Judgement seat;  
Only one life, ’twill soon be past,  
Only what’s done for Christ will last. . . .

“Only one life, a few brief years,  
Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears;  
Each with its days I must fulfill,  
Living for self or in His will;  
Only one life, ’twill soon be past,  
Only what’s done for Christ will last.

“When this bright world would tempt me sore,  
When Satan would a victory score;  
When self would seek to have its way,  
Then help me, Lord, with joy to say:  
Only one life, ’twill soon be past,  
Only what’s done for Christ will last. . . .

“Only one life, yes, only one,  
Now let me say, ‘Thy will be done’;  
And when at last I’ll hear the call,  
I know I’ll say, ‘Twas worth it all’;  
Only one life, ’twill soon be past,  
Only what’s done for Christ will last.”<sup>3</sup>

If we don’t lose heart. If we don’t lose heart.

Keep your eyes on Christ. From whatever great work God has called and equipped you, do not turn aside. Whatever this world throws at you, do not become weary of well-doing. Do not lose heart.

For if we do “not grow weary while doing good” and “if we do not lose heart,” then “in due season we shall reap” a great harvest (Gal. 6:9). 🍂

<sup>1</sup> Author unknown, “Keep at Your Work,” *Review and Herald*, Apr. 2, 1925, p. 15.

<sup>2</sup> Loughborough himself describes this in John Norton Loughborough, *Miracles in My Life* (Payson, Ariz.: Leaves-of-Autumn Books, 1987), p. 47.

<sup>3</sup> Quoted in Henry M. Morris III, “Eternal Perspective,” *Acts & Facts*, September 2017, p. 7.

**John Peckham** is associate editor of *Adventist Review* and research professor of theology and Christian philosophy at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan.



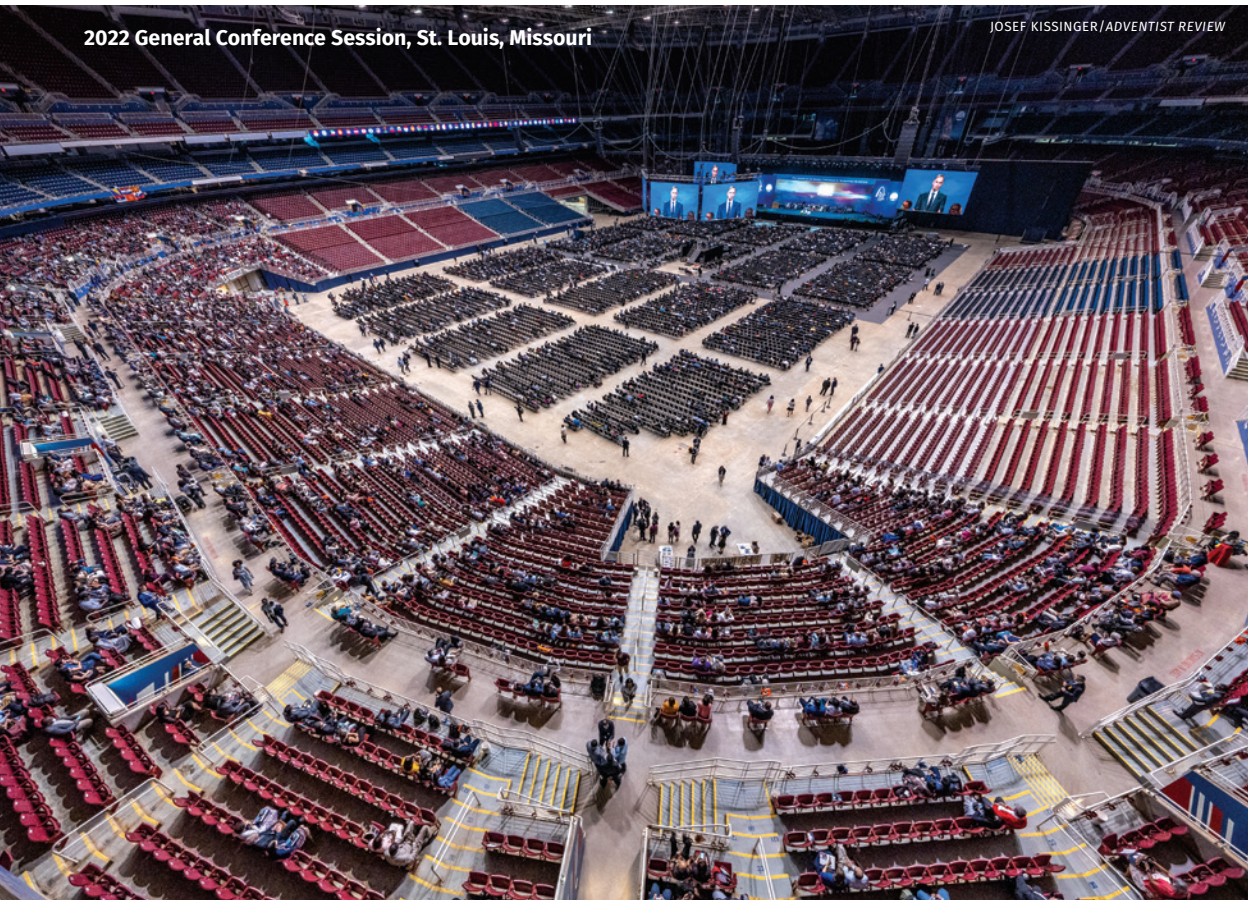


2010 General Conference Session, Atlanta, Georgia

JOEL D. SPRINGER/ADVENTIST REVIEW

# WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

*Two perspectives about General Conference Sessions*



2022 General Conference Session, St. Louis, Missouri

JOSEF KISSINGER/ADVENTIST REVIEW



James White was not happy. The 1868 General Conference (GC) Session in Battle Creek, Michigan, had just wrapped up. According to delegate J. H. Waggoner, things had gone swimmingly. “The business sessions throughout were largely attended, and characterized by a spirit of union and an earnest desire to advance the cause,” he reported. “Perhaps we have never held a conference where more perfect harmony prevailed.”<sup>1</sup>

But it’s all about perspective, because James White wrote two months later about the same meeting with a very different viewpoint. “This is not a good time for a general gathering of our brethren and sisters to enjoy a spiritual feast. Not understanding this, many have come to our annual conferences, spent a week’s time, and gone home disappointed. They had no special interest in the business sessions, thought they occupied too much time, and concluded that their brethren were becoming formal and backslidden. In this they were mistaken. Meetings for transaction of business are necessary and right. Let those attend our annual meeting who have a part to act in them; and let those who have no special part to act in our general assemblies for the transaction of business remain at home, instead of bringing their wives and children to such assemblies to burden the church that entertains them, for nearly or quite a week, they, meanwhile looking on, and getting tempted because there are no more religious exercises.”<sup>2</sup>

Strong language from one of the denomination’s founders and a *Review* editor! But these two very different perspectives from more than 150 years ago still exist today. The question of just how large the GC Session should be and just how much money should be spent is raised every time the next session rolls around. There are those who say with James White, “Business only!” And there are an equal number of voices (maybe even more) who say enthusiastically, “Bring it on!” So who’s right?

Let me go out on a limb and say both, not to be neutral, but to be honest. There’s a bit of “right” in both sides. Let’s examine some of the arguments.

## IT’S ALL ABOUT THE AGENDA

We’ll start first with James White. He was the consummate church worker. No one in the history of Adventism wore more hats at the same time. No one pushed themselves for the cause more than James. No one argued for it more passionately or preached the message more fervently. James loved a good church service just like the next member. But it is exactly this characteristic that caused him to be irritated with the observers. When one realizes that the GC actually took on the housing and feeding of those who attended, it becomes even more understandable. They had to have enough tents, feed for horses, food for people, wood for fires, straw for mattresses, and more. Every extra person who came required more supplies. Since the church had limited financial resources, it was difficult. But even more important to James, all of the gawkers, observers, and well-wishers were a distraction from business. He wanted to concentrate on the agenda and get things done. The church was growing, and there was much to decide. For him, running a new denomination was work from sunup to sundown, giving the Lord His due in hours of business.

Interestingly, James White would probably have liked the 2022 GC Session. Because of COVID, the session was completely streamlined. Only delegates and their families attended. It was reduced to six days. There were business sessions not only in the morning and afternoon, but evenings too. In fact, the days were so long and so full, the delegates in the evening meetings were challenged to remain awake and focused on business. The old adage “All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy” could apply to session delegates struggling with jet lag sitting for hours and hours in meetings. No concerts. No premieres. No crowds. No exhibit hall. Few costumes and colors.

My past several sessions have been spent in the *Adventist Review* office, where we work long days producing a magazine in about 12 hours. Now that I think about it, James White would like our office too. We arrive early in the morn-

ing and leave late at night, only to repeat it the next day. My view of GC Session is the four walls of our workroom and the occasional walk down a hallway to retrieve information. So, to be honest, the 2022 session wasn't all that different to me, but I have to admit the atmosphere was different—and not necessarily in a good way. The lets-get-down-to-business perspective got a bit wearing, and there were some important elements missing. Thus proving that those with the other perspective might be on to something.

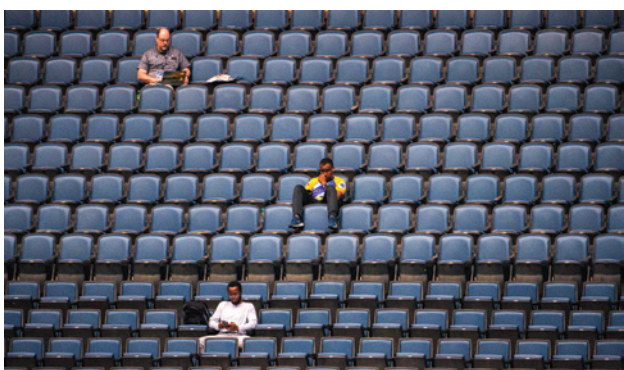
## AGENDA PLUS

So what does a full session offer? Some fairly important benefits, when one is honest. First and foremost is a true introduction to the worldwide family of Adventists. There is no comparison to standing in the midst of a large sports stadium and seeing every seat on the floor as well as from the bottom of the stadium seats to the very top row filled with like-minded believers. Want to take it up a notch? Listen to those same 50,000 to 70,000 Adventists sing “We Have This Hope.” It's enough to give your heart a surge and bring a tear to your eye.

In that same crowd is amazing diversity. On Sabbath the colorful costumes speak of faraway lands demonstrating the reach of Adventism—truly a worldwide denomination. The abundance of mission stories from around the world about conversions, sharing the gospel, baptisms, and more helps one to confirm that the Lord is leading even if one personally might be discouraged in their part of the vineyard.

The fellowship is real, as people everywhere greet those they have not seen for years. Hallways are full of reunions. The 10-seat tables in the dining hall almost guarantee you will eat with someone not yet known, but you leave the meal as new friends. One never really grasps the idea of 70,000 friends and family until they all gather together in one place with one mission and one focus.

Truth be told, these two perspectives belong together. James White was right—to do business



JAMES BOKOVOY

is necessary and right. Each session the church grows bigger. It expands into more and more nations, cultures, and languages. Imagine if no one organized anything or had policies to unite and keep us together. But equally important is that a policy, plan, or crisis requires a vote—not just a vote from people who work in the world headquarters, but delegates from Africa, Inter-America, South America, North America, Europe, Asia, and the South Pacific. And each delegate has a voice. If something doesn't work in Australia, they have the right to say so. And their brothers and sisters from around the world need to look for compromise, sometimes hard to do when almost 3,000 people are trying to figure it out.

## WHERE WE CAN ALL AGREE

But each session also allows for God to shine through. Not that He can't be seen in a business session—just ask those in the prayer room about that. But diversity, growth, languages, flags, colors, fellowship, friends, singing, and more all demonstrate that we're serious about who we are, who we represent, and where we're going. We're heaven-bound, mission-minded, enthusiastic Adventists as we meet, debate, sing, rejoice, and disagree. Business and fellowship—we shouldn't have a session without both. ♣

<sup>1</sup> J. H. Waggoner, in *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, May 26, 1868.

<sup>2</sup> James White, in *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, July 14, 1868.

**Merle Poirier** is the operations manager for *Adventist Review*.



# *This is what* **WORSHIP** *looks like*

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of worship?

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every smile given,  
and every need met  
**glorifies God.**



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# DIGITAL TOOLS AT GC SESSION

*Making the work of delegates more effective and inclusive*

At this sixty-second General Conference Session, the fifth session of the twenty-first century, the complete integration of digital technology into the session experience is an undeniable reality and necessity. Thanks to the excellent work and collaboration of various entities, not only are sessions digitally enhanced for general broadcasting purposes, but digital tools also serve as an integral part of business meetings, voting, and the overall in-person experience.

As in previous years, delegates and general attendees can access [gcsession.org](https://gcsession.org), the official session website, and the official General Conference Session app (search for “GC Session 2025” in your app store). These two portals provide all the information needed to navigate the business meetings, programs, booth area, and more. Through [gcsession.org](https://gcsession.org), delegates also gain access to any documents and information pertinent to their business session responsibilities.

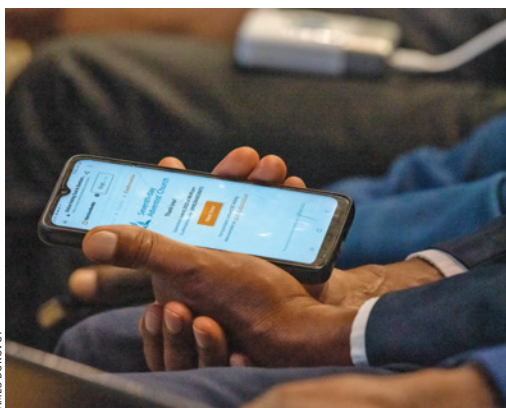


[gcsession.org](https://gcsession.org)

During the pandemic the 2022 General Conference Session was held through a complex yet excellent hybrid setup. This setup enabled delegates who couldn’t attend in person because of COVID-related travel restrictions to participate with both voice and vote. This experience has provided a valuable foundation for the current and future sessions.

## ELECTRONIC VOTING—ELECTIONBUDDY

For electronic voting, delegates will use a third-party system called ElectionBuddy, a service that has facilitated more than 265,000 elections for 39 million voters worldwide. It was effectively employed during the 2022 session, with 99 percent of the delegates indicating they understood how to use ElectionBuddy and 92 percent stating that they felt it was secure and confidential. Furthermore, General Conference Executive Committee members have been utilizing ElectionBuddy at



**It is a blessing to utilize cutting-edge technology to advance the church’s mission and business.**

their Spring Meeting and Annual Council since 2021. Prior to the session all delegates will have received an orientation on how to use this system. During the session they will receive a voting credential containing a unique QR code, allowing them to cast their votes through ElectionBuddy. This system enables the representative from the General Conference Auditing Service to oversee the process in the background, ensuring the most secure, confidential, and reliable voting option. It allows for the conduct of safe, certifiable, and fully auditable elections with integrity and anonymity.

In the unlikely event that the electronic system fails, printed voting cards will be distributed to delegates upon registration as a backup to ensure the meetings and votes proceed smoothly.

Whether in St. Louis, Missouri, or anywhere else in the world, it is a blessing to use cutting-edge technology to further the church’s mission, operations, and business, making the work more efficient and inclusive. 🍀

Jonathan Walter is an assistant editor of the *Adventist Review*.



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A photograph of a man with glasses, wearing a dark jacket and a patterned tie, speaking at a podium. He is holding a microphone and a sign with the number '5'. The background shows a large arena with red seats and a sign that says 'South American'.

# WHAT'S EXPECTED OF A GC SESSION DELEGATE

MARK FROELICH

If you are among those chosen to be a delegate to the sixty-second General Conference (GC) Session, congratulations. Only one out of every 8,126 Adventist members share this privilege.<sup>1</sup>

## REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNANCE

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is unique among Christian denominations in how we conduct the business of the church. Most of the more traditional churches, such as the Roman Catholic Church and Orthodox churches, have a hierarchical or top-down governance structure. Many of the Protestant and Evangelical churches make decisions at the local congregation level or may operate under a more loosely structured denominational organization.

Adventists follow a representative form of governance at each level of the organization. Local churches unite in a geographical region and choose representatives to conduct business and elect leaders at a conference or mission constituency session. Likewise, representatives from the conferences form the constituency for a union, and union representatives comprise the delegates at the General Conference Session.<sup>2</sup>

Through this representative structure, God has preserved our church from being led astray by individuals or small groups, and blessed us through the collective wisdom of representatives from many

cultures and backgrounds. Ellen White stated early in the development of our church: "I have often been instructed by the Lord that no man's judgment should be surrendered to the judgment of any other one man. Never should the mind of one man or the minds of a few men be regarded as sufficient in wisdom and power to control the work and to say what plans shall be followed."<sup>3</sup>

If you look at the delegates chosen, you will see a very diverse group. That's because the General Conference Constitution states that at least half of the delegates chosen "shall be laypersons, pastors, teachers, and nonadministrative employees, of both genders, and representing a range of age groups and nationalities."<sup>4</sup>

## SERVING FAITHFULLY

So delegates have been specially chosen! Considering the unique responsibility, delegates should prayerfully prepare for each day's session. And delegates should spend time becoming familiar with the agenda and reading the background materials given to them prior to the sessions.

It is also crucial that delegates arrive on time for each meeting so they can make a meaningful contribution and cast informed votes. By ensuring they attend all the meetings, delegates won't run the risk of being embarrassed by repeating a point



already made by another delegate at a prior meeting or asking a question that was previously explained by the chair or stated in the background material.

Delegates also should understand and follow the Rules of Order (included in the delegate packet), which will help keep the discussion and voting process flowing smoothly. Delegates are to exhibit appropriate behavior and make respectful comments when given an opportunity to speak to a particular item. I recommend that delegates write out the key points of their comment prior to speaking so they can be brief and to the point. We do not want to distract with side discussions on the session floor but focus on the presentation of the agenda items and comments made by others.

When it's time to vote on an item, votes are to be cast according to one's Holy Spirit-guided conviction. There should be no campaigning or pressure for people to vote in a certain way. Although each delegate was chosen as a representative of a particular country, gender, age group, or background, each delegate is first and foremost part of the body of Christ. Each one's vote should be based on what they have learned from the background information, discussion, and prayerful guidance from the Holy Spirit according to what is best for the mission of the church. If the majority of the delegates vote differently, participants are to accept the decision gracefully.

Ellen White instructs, "When the judgment of the General Conference, which is the highest authority that God has upon the earth, is exercised, private independence and private judgment must not be maintained, but be surrendered."<sup>5</sup>

## ENJOYING FELLOWSHIP

Finally, I want to encourage delegates and others to be sure not to miss the inspiring division and attached union and field reports each evening. Attendees should not miss the blessing of mingling with brothers and sisters from around the world at mealtimes and in the exhibit hall during the breaks. Those present may enjoy a taste of heaven by singing and worshipping with 60,000 fellow

believers from more than 200 countries during the morning devotionals and Sabbath programs.

General Conference sessions are a unique blend of business, worship, and fellowship. All are encouraged to make the most of the time with fellow believers from around the world as they faithfully fulfill the privilege and responsibility given them as a GC Session delegate to advance the mission to make disciples of all people in preparation for Christ's soon return. ▀



JOSEF KISSINGER

<sup>1</sup> The total number of delegates, according to the GC Session website <https://www.gcsession.org/delegates/>, is 2,804 (when article was submitted). World membership, as of December 31, 2023, was 22,785,195 in the 2024 *Annual Statistical Report*.

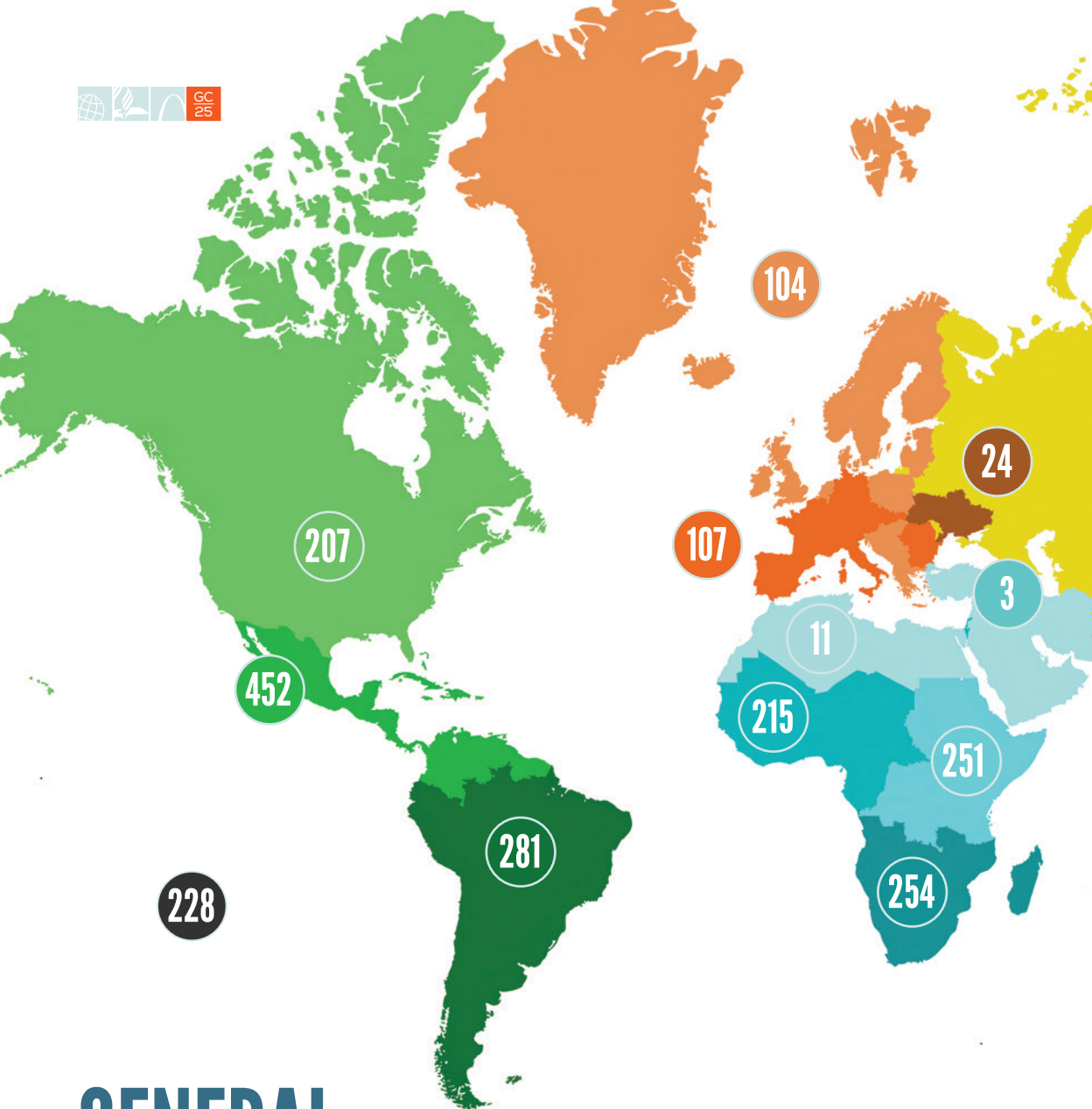
<sup>2</sup> See the 2023-2024 General Conference *Working Policy*, B 05 no. 2. "The primary building blocks of global Seventh-day Adventist Church organization are the local church, the local conference or local mission/field/section, the union conference or union mission/section, and the General Conference. (Further definition of these units is found in B 10, Outline and Definitions of Denominational Organizations.) . . . Additional units of denominational structure, known as divisions, have been established as regional offices of the General Conference serving a defined geographical area. Therefore, divisions are not considered as constituency-based organizations. Various institutions, authorized and established in harmony with General Conference and/or division policies, also have defined constituencies. Institutions fulfill vital and specialized functions but are not considered as primary building blocks of denominational structure."

<sup>3</sup> Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1948), vol. 9, p. 260.

<sup>4</sup> *Working Policy of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists* (Nampa, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 2024-2025), pp. 17, 18.

<sup>5</sup> E. G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 492.

**Myron Iseminger** is executive secretary of the Middle East and North Africa Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists.



# GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION DELEGATES

- GENERAL CONFERENCE—228
- EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA—251
- EURO-ASIA—78
- INTER-AMERICAN—452
- INTER-EUROPEAN—107
- NORTH AMERICAN—207
- NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC—81
- SOUTH AMERICAN—281
- SOUTH PACIFIC—100





- SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN—254
- SOUTHERN ASIA—131
- SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC—161
- TRANS-EUROPEAN—104
- WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA—215
- CHINESE UNION MISSION—47
- ISRAEL FIELD—3
- MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA UNION—11
- UKRAINIAN UNION CONFERENCE—24

## GENERAL CONFERENCE

World

### EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA

Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania

### EURO-ASIA

Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, a portion of Ukraine, and Uzbekistan

### INTER-AMERICAN

Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

### INTER-EUROPEAN

Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Holy See, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, and Switzerland

### NORTH AMERICAN

Bermuda, Canada, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Johnston Island, Marshall Islands, Midway Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, United States of America, Wake Island, and the French possession of Saint Pierre and Miquelon

### NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC

Bangladesh, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, and Taiwan

### SOUTH AMERICAN

Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay, with adjacent islands in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans

### SOUTH PACIFIC

American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna Islands

## SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN

Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini (new name for Swaziland-2018), Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mayotte, Mozambique, Namibia, Reunion, Saint Helena (including Ascension and Tristan da Cunha), Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe

## SOUTHERN ASIA

Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Bhutan, India, and Maldives

## SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC

Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam

## TRANS-EUROPEAN

Aland Islands, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greece, Greenland, Guernsey, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Jersey, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the southern portion of Cyprus

## WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo

## CHINESE UNION MISSION

China (including Hong Kong, and Macao Special Administrative Regions)

## ISRAEL FIELD

Israel

## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA UNION

Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkiye (formerly Turkey), United Arab Emirates, Western Sahara,\* Yemen, and the northern half of Cyprus (\*Western Sahara is a contested Non-Self-Governing territory not universally recognized as a separate country or region, governed by the laws of Morocco).

## UKRAINIAN UNION CONFERENCE

Ukraine (except the Donetsk and Luhansk regions)

These numbers are supplied and maintained by General Conference Secretariat, and are current as of April 10, 2025, at the time this issue went to press. The numbers may have subsequently changed because of visa or travel complications.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Ted and Nancy Wilson at the baptism in Minj, Jiwaka Province, Papua New Guinea, on May 6, 2024.

TICO BANASI/AME

In a world filled with chaos and confusion, disasters, disease, and death, God has called His people to be His voice of hope in a world quickly spinning out of control. The clarion call of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14 given to God's last-day remnant movement to reach "every nation, tribe, tongue, and people" with the "everlasting gospel" is more relevant today than ever, and God's people are answering the call in marvelous ways through Global Total Member Involvement (TMI).

Nowhere was this more apparent than in the South Pacific Division, where the Global TMI strategy of combining personal and public evangelism was on full display in the island nation of Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Although originally scheduled for 2020, "PNG for Christ" was delayed until 2024, because of the COVID pandemic. Undeterred, Seventh-day Adventists invited friends and neighbors into their homes for fellowship, Bible study, and prayer. More than 10,000 of these small groups met regularly across the country. After COVID restrictions were lifted, more than 2,300 evangelistic sites attracted approximately one quarter of the country's population, concluding with more than 300,000 commitments for baptisms.

This represents just one of the many Global TMI efforts taking place around the world. Here

we will mention them only briefly. For a full report, see page 26.

In the Inter-American Division, church members have distributed 6.5 million paperback and 10 million digital copies of *The Great Controversy*. Because of this and other outreach efforts, more than 115,000 souls have been baptized.

In the North American Division, Pentecost 2025 is currently taking place, with more than 5,300 proclamation events across the division.

Church members in the South American Division are embracing Global TMI through more than 100,000 evangelistic Sabbath School classes, followed by more than 120,000 public evangelistic reaping events.

In the Trans-European Division, several unions are using the *Global TMI Church Planner*, developed by the GC Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department, to train members in reaching those within their circle of influence. The Middle East and North Africa Union Mission is also training members to use the Global TMI planner in a field where personal labor is vital.

In the Inter-European Division, members are finding unique ways to reach communities, such as the Bible Expo—a traveling exhibit displaying precious historical specimens related to the Bible, scale models, and more.





Sidewalk evangelism is a very effective Global TMI activity as thousands of members reach people on the streets with literature inviting them to study the Bible, attend evangelistic meetings, and more. More than 5,437 churches from 10 divisions and an attached field have embraced this simple yet powerful approach, leading to the distribution of more than 19,658,078 invitations by 41,572 members worldwide. As a result, 2,378 small group meetings were held, 14,136 men and women joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church through baptism, and 32 new churches planted.

In the Israel Field, members are involved in Global TMI through health and compassion ministries, media, education, and centers of influence where they can interact with interests one-on-one.

Lay members and pastors in each union within the Southern Asia Division received training in Global TMI and disciple-making evangelism in preparation for SID's Impact '25, a division-wide outreach with 3,000 evangelistic sites.

In the Chinese Union Mission, TMI personal outreach followed by evangelistic meetings resulted in 1,800 baptisms just in one year.

Personal ministry is a strong Global TMI focus in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, with 98,000 Sabbath School care groups, followed by evangelistic meetings in more than 12,000 sites. In the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, members in every church and company are encouraged to participate in Loud Voice 2025, with a harvest goal of 2,025 Global TMI evangelistic meetings and 20,250 baptisms.

Global TMI continues amid war as Adventists in Ukraine distributed 250,000 copies of *The Great Controversy* and 350,000 *Steps to Christ* and are moving ahead with plans to hold 500 harvest meetings in 500 churches. In addition, the Angelia Clinic in Kyiv continues offering medical and mental health care, and in other parts of Ukraine through their mobile van service.

On the continent of Africa, the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division poured resources into different regions each year for a special Global

TMI emphasis. Most recently, Impact Zambia has resulted in more than 80,000 baptisms.

The West-Central Africa Division is growing through lay member involvement and in 2024 surpassed the 1-million-member milestone. In addition, WAD Impact 2025 features meetings at 13,000 evangelistic sites, with a goal of 200,000 baptisms.

In the East-Central Africa Division, Impact 2025 began in 2024, with more than 50,000 evangelistic sites and 900,000 baptisms. In fact, Global TMI has been so successful there that one couple from Burundi named their little girl "TMI," as they desired her life to be an inspiration and witness for Jesus!

#### **A HEALING MINISTRY**

Seventh-day Adventists are committed to whole person ministry, and the GC Health Ministries Department is engaged in training medical missionary workers, most recently in Malawi, the South Pacific, Romania, the Netherlands, and the Philippines. In addition, they are advancing exciting twenty-first-century sanitarium initiatives in Europe, Asia, and Africa, and are developing, in association with GC Personal Ministries, a social media platform for health evangelism.

Established to "make man whole," Loma Linda University continues to follow this mandate through training medical and allied health professionals to serve the world with a wholistic approach. Mission is emphasized through its partnership with organizations such as the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons, a rural-based surgery training program in African Christian hospitals, including Malamulo Adventist Hospital, where Loma Linda-affiliated physicians provide valuable service and training.

Caring for people's needs is a priority for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). The agency continues to dynamically serve, as evidenced by assistance provided in the aftermath of the Los Angeles fires and the earthquake that recently devastated Myanmar and Thailand.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

### EDUCATING FOR ETERNITY

Andrews University continues its tradition of mission service and focus on mission-driven Adventist education in partnership with the Inter-European Division, as Jonathan Contero (a doctoral student at Andrews), along with his family, moved to Switzerland in 2023 to establish a center of influence and plant a church, honoring the 150th anniversary of sending the first official Seventh-day Adventist missionary, J. N. Andrews, to Switzerland.

At the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) in the Philippines, students provide 100 hours of volunteer service as part of their academic programs, and at the Adventist University of Africa, students and faculty minister to surrounding churches by providing spiritual nurture, and to the community through their annual Reach Out programs.

These higher education institutions are part of the worldwide network of Seventh-day Adventist educational institutions under the umbrella of the GC Education Department. More than 120,000 teachers and professors contribute to the ministry of Adventist education worldwide and have reported 40,204 baptisms in 2022 and 46,003 baptisms in 2023.

Another vital avenue for education within the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the more than 140,000 Sabbath schools worldwide.<sup>1</sup> Bringing a fresh approach to children's Sabbath school, the GC Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department developed a new curriculum, *Alive in Jesus*. The beautifully illustrated lessons incorporate a clear Seventh-day Adventist worldview and support the 28 Fundamental Beliefs. The new curriculum includes Baby Steps lessons for birth to 12 months, which include a spiritual parenting small group resource to nurture parents. The Baby Steps and Beginners curriculum was released in January 2025, with Kindergarten and Primary set for 2026 and Junior and Earliteen lessons for 2027.

### SCHOLARLY RESEARCH

The church's Biblical Research Institute (BRI), founded to pursue rigorous biblical scholarship, promote theological unity, and provide theological resources for the world church, has conducted biblical theological retreats in most of the world divisions and GC institutions, reaching approximately 500 theology and religion professors during this quinquennium. They have also completed several book projects promoting Adventist identity and mission, including two volumes on the Trinity, one volume on the ethics of technology, a volume on the theology of the human body, and a volume on the authority of Scripture, written for a lay audience.

The Geoscience Research Institute (GRI) serves the world church by studying the relationships between current science and the biblical record of creation, and provides various resources and educational field opportunities. In 2023 GRI launched a new Certificate in Faith and Science in collaboration with AIAS, the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, and the GC Department of Education. Also in 2023 GRI led field conferences in Arizona for Adventist academy science teachers of the North American Division, and in Tanzania for educators of the East-Central Africa Division. The GRI website saw the launch of a digital museum, and in 2025 two new GRI branch offices were opened in the Euro-Asia and West-Central Africa divisions.

### DEDICATED TO SERVICE

Dedicated to strengthening relationships and empowering ministry leaders and churches in their work with families, the GC Family Ministries Department, led by Willie and Elaine Oliver, participated in Hope for Today's Families, a Global TMI event. The series, held in Paris, France, in June 2024, resulted in many baptisms and strengthened marriage and family relationships. The department also developed the Leadership Certification Program 2.0—an updated 10-module leadership development curriculum implemented in divisions worldwide. The department produces



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**As we review how God has led His Church during these past three years, we praise Him for all He has done! And yet, as Earth's prophetic closing scenes draw near, we know there is more to be done.**

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the annual Adventist Family Ministries resource book and its supplement, available online.

GC Women's Ministries helps Adventist women grow in their relationship with Jesus as His disciples and witnesses. During the past quinquennium hundreds of thousands of training seminars and other meetings were held worldwide, including retreats and congresses attended by 4,771,198 Adventist women and 982,743 of their non-Adventist friends. In 2022-2023, as a direct result of Adventist women's outreach activities, friendship and public evangelism, Bible studies, and social work, 309,565 people were baptized, and 156,589 former members were reclaimed.

The GC Children's Ministries (CM) Department has created numerous resources to assist children in growing in their spiritual walk, including *Bible Adventures for Young Learners* and a related video, "Kids' Faith Trek." Other Bible study resources include *God Sent Jesus to Be My Friend*, *The 3AM Message and Me*, *The Great I Am Loves Me*, and *The Armor of God Bible Study Lessons*, which comes with an interactive app. The *Bible Sticker App* helps children learn Bible stories and encourages them to become active witnesses. The department also produced books and Bible study guides teaching biblical sexuality to children, ranging from ages 3 to 12. *Nick's Gift* is a translated video resource created by the South American Division, teaching the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its pioneers. The department also offers the video *200 Songs*, commissioned by the 3AM Committee and created by Safeliz. In partnership with Adventist Possibility Ministries and with permission from the South American Division, translated inclusion-model training materials to support children with special needs is also available through Children's Ministries.

The GC Youth Ministries Department focuses on Total Youth Involvement (TYI) through promoting the Adventurer and Pathfinder ministries as evangelism initiatives, encouraging Global Youth Day as a lifestyle, highlighting it as a mission-focused ini-

tiative, and declaring public campuses as unreached territories to spur Adventist youth on public campuses to engage in mission. The department equips and educates young people through media, especially webinars on Adventist identity, biblical interpretation and theology, and making right choices.

### **COMMUNICATION IS KEY**

The GC Communication Department provides tools for church institutions and members to share the hope we have in Jesus. Phone apps, websites, social media channels, and video programming and gaming fuse with news reporting and press releases to reach audiences inside and outside the Adventist Church. Recently ANN (Adventist News Network) expanded, offering content in English, French, Hindi, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swahili. In addition, the department continues offering GAI (Global Adventist internet Network) conferences, seeking to foster the use of communication, technology, media, and the internet to help the Adventist Church carry out its mission.

The church's oldest media channel, the *Adventist Review*, celebrated its 175th anniversary in 2024 and continues its role in unifying and strengthening faith among believers. In August 2025 *Adventist World* and *Adventist Review* merge into one, opening the way from print to expanded digital distribution around the world.

The Publishing Ministries Department spearheaded several mission-focused programs, including *The Great Controversy* Project 2.0, leading to the distribution of 55 million printed copies of the book worldwide and 1.35 million digital copies downloaded. The department also produced the SCORE (supplying contextualized, open-access resources for evangelism) project—featuring literature specifically created for non-Christians.

The Review and Herald Publishing Association continues to serve the world church through publishing various books produced by GC entities and republishing volumes that have blessed readers in the past.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

With its theme “From Broadcast to Baptism,” Adventist World Radio (AWR) is actively involved in numerous evangelistic programs and has expanded its broadcasting stations worldwide. Since 2022, 187 new radio and internet stations have been established in numerous countries. In addition, more than 73,000 “Godpods” were distributed, resulting in thousands of baptisms, including a Buddhist monk and his family. In 2025 AWR opened a station in Bogotá, Colombia. So far, the station has received more than 80,000 Bible study requests.

Hope Channel International (HCI) is rapidly expanding the effectiveness of media evangelism through cutting-edge technology across 84 channels. HCI launched the first Adventist-owned Content Delivery Network (CDN) and developed AI dubbing technology that translates videos into more than 30 languages while preserving the original video. In 2023 HCI’s Hope for Africa evangelistic campaign resulted in 194,000 baptisms. In addition, Hope.Study is empowering hundreds of thousands of students worldwide with 40-plus interactive Bible courses in multiple languages.

### PUTTING GOD FIRST

The GC Stewardship Department trains Adventist leaders and members around the world in biblical stewardship principles. Two recent highlights include the weekly God First offertory devotionals, provided in reading and video formats in multiple languages. The department also presented Mobilizing Partners for Mission workshops across several division territories. These workshops are now available online.

The Planned Giving and Trust Services (PGTS) Department actively promotes legacies of generosity that represent the enduring impact of an individual’s financial and spiritual gifts that continue to support God’s mission beyond their lifetime. During 2020-2023 realized bequests totaled US\$487.5 million. Since 1968 PGTS has facilitated an extraordinary US\$2.64 billion in gifts from our generous members worldwide. PGTS is committed

to training leaders in every region of the world as they offer workshops, seminars, and more.

Helping to preserve, protect, and restore the assets of God’s church is the ministry of Adventist Risk Management (ARM). Considering ARM’s ongoing commitment to assist the ministries of the church in providing a safe environment, ARM has made significant improvements in employment screening processes and training aimed at preventing the rehiring of individuals who may pose a risk of abuse or molestation. Additionally, ARM offers a free online training program (Risk Training Center) designed to enhance risk management practices within Adventist churches.

### MINISTRY AT THE HEART

Ministry is at the heart of what we do as Seventh-day Adventists. Since the last GC Session, more than \$25 million in Global Mission funding from all levels of the church has supported more than 2,000 frontline church-planting projects. Furthermore, 2023 was a record year for church planting, with a new church being organized every 2.97 hours.

Helping to equip and support pastors, their families, and local church leaders, the GC Ministerial Association provides hands-on training and practical resources in addition to spearheading global initiatives that support the world church, such as the Ten Days of Prayer and United in Prayer. Believe His Prophets includes thousands of participants and provides continued engagement through a website. The association also supports Back to the Altar, an initiative launched in 2022, aiming to spark spiritual revival by reducing digital distractions and promoting personal and family worship. GC Ministerial organizes and participates in global ministerial training and evangelistic meetings, leading to thousands of new church members.

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) is dedicated to equipping the church with competent, committed, and compassionate professional chaplains through education and training, endorsements and board certification, world congresses,



and more. Since 2022 ACM has expanded training efforts and established Clinical Pastoral Education centers in 11 of the 13 world divisions.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a staunch defender of religious liberty, not just for its own members around the world but for people of every faith. The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) Department advocates for this freedom around the world. It also does diplomatic work to promote religious liberty and build strong relationships.

The GC Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research (ASTR) provides a wealth of information for all. A few highlights include: 1. The *ESDA* (*Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*) website has expanded, with more than 1,000 new articles and 4,000 additional photographs. The number of *ESDA* visitors has grown from an average of 19,000 unique visitors per month in 2022 to nearly 40,000 visitors per month in 2024. 2. Three major surveys were completed and used in the GC strategic planning process. 3. The world church's strategic planning process was undertaken, facilitated by ASTR, and the new world church 2025-2030 strategic plan, "I Will Go," was voted by the 2024 Annual Council.

### SHARING THE GIFT

The Ellen G. White (EGW) Estate supports the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in uplifting Jesus Christ and His Word by sharing Ellen White's prophetic ministry and writings. Sharing the Gift of Light was the "I Will Go" strategic Spirit of Prophecy translation initiative of the White Estate for the current quinquennium. This was a continuation and expansion of the previous Growing Together project of translating 16 EGW books into 63 languages. This initiative added four new priority books for translation and prioritized three core books to be translated into mission languages: *Steps to Christ*, *The Great Controversy*, and *The Desire of Ages*. At the 2024 Annual Council the White Estate announced Sharing the Gift of Light 2.0, providing access to Ellen White's writings in many more major and mission languages.



Looking to the past with a future, Adventist Heritage Ministries seeks to point people to the "monumental pillars . . . of what God has done for us in our experience."<sup>2</sup> It continues to do this through its historical properties and educational programs. Looking forward, the ministry hopes to add a special visitors' center on the grounds of the William Miller farm, providing interactive experiences to enhance commitment to the Adventist message and encourage positive responses of young and old to the call of "I Will Go."

### THE ULTIMATE CALL

As we review how God has led His church during these past three years, we praise Him for all He has done! And yet, as earth's prophetic closing scenes draw near, we know there is more to be done. God is calling each of us to surrender fully to Him as He invites us to carry His final message of love to a dying world, lifting up Christ, His Word, His righteousness, His sanctuary service, His saving power in the great controversy, His three angels' messages, His health message, and His last-day mission to the world of sharing the good news of salvation, including the need to plead for the latter rain of the Holy Spirit and Christ's soon second coming. May we respond positively to His call. "Jesus Is Coming Soon—I Will Go!"

<sup>1</sup> 2024 Annual Statistical Report, New Series, vol. 6. Figure is from 2010, the last year this statistic was collected. Page 10, table 14, <https://documents.adventistarchives.org/Statistics/ASR/ASR2024.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Ellen G. White manuscript 22, 1889.



**JIM HOWARD  
RAMON CANALS  
DUANE MCKEY**



## GLOBAL TOTAL MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

**T**otal Member Involvement is a worldwide initiative that has mobilized church members for mission since its inception in 2015.

Major events have been conducted in Rwanda, Zambia, Japan, the Philippines, India, the United States, and many European countries, showcasing the powerful combination of personal and public evangelism. Rather than hosting a single large meeting, these events feature thousands of individual evangelistic sites led by laypeople and pastors. With gratitude we celebrate all that God has accomplished through His people.

### PNG FOR CHRIST

In 2024, under the leadership of the South Pacific Division and the Papua New Guinea Union Mission (PNGUM), in partnership with Adventist World Radio (AWR) and the General Conference (GC), something remarkable happened. Plans to hold evangelistic meetings in Papua New Guinea (PNG) in 2020 were canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. For four years the pastors and members of the PNGUM continued to work, forming 30,000 small groups before the 2024 event.

PNG for Christ began with a large medical clinic coordinated by AWR in partnership with the South Pacific Division, PNGUM, government agencies, and 500-plus volunteers. More than 26,000 services were provided, including more than 3,000 cataract surgeries. Evangelistic meetings were then conducted at more than 2,300 sites simultaneously. Attendance was high everywhere, whether the speaker was the GC president or a local pastor or member. Meanwhile, AWR broadcast the meetings in many locations across the island.

The results were astounding. More than 300,000 people were baptized, with another 300,000-plus currently attending baptismal classes. By the time the meetings ended, at least 16 Evangelical churches had chosen to become Seventh-day Adventist. Through much prayer, planning, and personal labor, combined with public evangelism, the country of PNG experienced a transformation in 2024.



### GLOBAL TMI IN 2024-2025

In 2023 a new emphasis was introduced. “Global” Total Member Involvement is TMI 2.0, a call for *every church* and *every member* around the globe to become actively involved in making disciples using Christ’s method.

There are two key emphases of Global TMI. One emphasis, expressed by the word “Global,” is on every division *working together* to get every church involved in a coordinated disciple-making evangelism strategy. In 2024 and 2025 most divisions conducted a coordinated evangelistic effort under their own themes. At Annual Council 2024 the GC Executive Committee voted to repeat this united approach in 2027 and 2029.

Another key emphasis of Global TMI is getting church members involved in *personal labor*, which was Christ’s method. This includes such disciple-making activities as mingling with people, making friends, sharing literature and spiritual invitations, giving Bible studies, and mentoring new members.

A *Global TMI Church Planner*, newly updated in 2025, outlines the Global TMI strategy and assists local church pastors and leaders in creating disciple-making evangelism plans with their churches. *My Disciple-Making Journal: A Global TMI Personal Planner* is a companion resource for all church members. Access these and more resources at [globaltmi.org](http://globaltmi.org) or on the GC Sabbath School and Personal Ministries app. 📱

**Jim Howard** is an assistant to the president and GC Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director. **Duane McKey** is an assistant to the president and AWR president. **Ramon J. Canals** is an assistant to the president and GC Ministerial secretary.



# COME FOR A *Visit*

## There is more than one way to check out Southern Adventist University:

- **Virtual visits** allow you to see our campus and gather information from the comfort of home.
- **In-person visits** give you the immersive experience of walking around on our tree-lined sidewalks, enjoying blooming flowers and shrubs, meeting people face-to-face, and soaking up the culture of campus.

Either way, you'll get a guided tour, faculty visit, and admissions consultation while having the chance to ask any questions you want. We can't wait to meet you!

## southern.edu/visit

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# ADVENTIST POSSIBILITY MINISTRIES

*Christ's call to care*

In Matthew 25:40 Jesus says, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these . . . you did for me” (NIV). With these words He calls us to care for those who are often overlooked or forgotten. As Seventh-day Adventists, we answer this call by reaching out with compassion and hope—especially to the Deaf community and people with disabilities.

One way our church does this is through the Adventist Possibility Ministries Initiative (APM) and Adventist Deaf Ministries International (ADMI). These ministries are led by the Holy Spirit to help the church see people from God’s perspective—not by their limitations, but by their possibilities.

APM focuses on seven special groups of people:

1. The global Deaf community, those who are hard of hearing, or who have hearing loss.
2. People who are blind or have low vision.
3. Individuals with mobility challenges.
4. The neurodiverse, and those who face mental health challenges and stigma.
5. Orphans and vulnerable children—including refugees, immigrants, and street children.
6. Widows and widowers.
7. Caregivers who support these groups day after day.

Here are three ways Adventists around the world are answering Christ’s call to care:

## **JESUS AND THE INCLUSION MODEL: MINISTRY TO THE NEURODIVERSE**

The South American Division created a four-part training course to help Children’s Ministries leaders include all children and teens in church life. With support from the General Conference Children’s Ministries Department and APM, this course gives simple, helpful ideas for working with neurodiverse children. It’s available in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese. Learn more: [children.adventist.org/inclusion-model](https://children.adventist.org/inclusion-model).



## **POSSIBILITY MINISTRIES SABBATH: A GLOBAL CELEBRATION OF INCLUSION**

Every year during the third week of April, churches around the world celebrate Possibility Ministries Sabbath! This special Sabbath reminds us that “all are gifted, needed, treasured, and chosen for mission!” Churches receive free resources in multiple languages to help them include people who are Deaf or disabled in their mission and church service. Learn more: [possibilityministries.org/apms](https://possibilityministries.org/apms).



## **MINISTRY TO ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

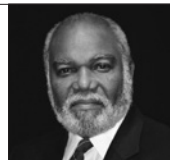
In February 2024, leaders from around the world gathered in Siem Reap, Cambodia, for the Orphans and Vulnerable Children’s Ministries Global Congress. With the theme “Learn, Seek, Defend, and Disciple,” they shared ideas and best practices from such ministries as ADRA, Children’s Ministries, and APM. This gathering showed the power of working together to care for God’s most precious children. Learn more: [possibilityministries.org/ovcmc24](https://possibilityministries.org/ovcmc24).



Christ invites us to care for “the least of these”! Through APM and ADMI we can make a difference—by including, loving, and serving with those who are marginalized and forgotten. This is how we truly follow Christ’s call to care. 🍌

**Ernesto Douglas Venn** is assistant to the president for Adventist Possibility Ministries Initiative (APM), and coordinator for Adventist Deaf Ministries International (ADMI).





# COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH MINISTRIES

*Sharing God's view of health*

Throughout history the people of God have been called to a ministry of healing and restoration. The mission of Christ, as seen in Matthew 9:35, was to teach, preach, and heal, embodying a wholistic approach to human well-being. The Seventh-day Adventist movement, rooted in the biblical health message, has long championed a vision of comprehensive health ministry (CHM)—one that integrates physical, mental, social, and spiritual care. As we have traversed the pandemic and post-pandemic eras, we have embraced in more tangible ways the need for hope, wholeness, health, and harmony in all aspects of life.

Medical missionaries and lay health enthusiasts have carried the health message to communities worldwide, offering both simple medical treatment and spiritual encouragement. Adventist sanitariums, pioneered in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, served as centers of total health, combining ever-advancing medical-surgical care based on true science, the Bible, and the inspired writings of Ellen White.

Secular health-care systems often pay lip service to whole-person care in practice. Societal shifts have led to growing rates of chronic diseases, mental health struggles, and social disconnection. While Adventist health-care institutions and health professionals continue to provide excellent medical-surgical and auxiliary health-care services, complete integration of shalomic principles into their care is needed.

The biblical concept of shalom calls us to a higher vision of health—one that moves beyond the absence of disease to the presence of wholeness. It emphasizes mental stability, physical well-being, and social harmony, without neglecting spiritual renewal and environmental care. Jesus' healing ministry was not just about curing illnesses; it was about restoring individuals to their families, communities, and God. The good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) exemplifies this wholistic approach, providing immediate medical care while also ensuring long-term support.



In the twenty-first century we are realigning our human thinking with God's view of health. First, we have started and will continue to foster **health-centered faith communities**, where churches serve as hubs for wellness education, preventive health care, environmental sustainability, and spiritual encouragement. We continue to call pastors, health professionals, and lay leaders to collaborate to integrate health principles into discipleship and outreach efforts.

Second, we continue to **expand lifestyle interventions** within hospitals and clinics. This includes integrating natural remedies, nutrition programs, and mental health services to address root causes as well as symptoms. More wellness retreats and lifestyle centers have been established and should be established, offering people a place to experience true healing through evidence-based health practices and faith-based restoration.

Third, **medical missionary training** is discipleship training and is a priority. Health-care professionals and lay church members alike are being and should be equipped to meet the physical and spiritual needs of their communities, following Christ's example of compassion.

Finally, **sustainability and environmental stewardship** should be integrated into our approach. Health is deeply connected to the environment, and careful, responsible use of resources ensures long-term well-being for individuals and communities.

As we move forward, the call for shalom through comprehensive health ministry is clear and part of the revelation of God's character.

Maranatha! 🕊

**Zeno L. Charles-Marcel**, a board-certified internist, is the director of Adventist Health Ministries at the General Conference.

# OFFICE OF ADVENTIST MISSION

*Church planting. Christ's method. All the world.*



**T**he Office of Adventist Mission's mandate is the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:18-20). Its methodology is Christ's method of ministry—mingling, showing sympathy, ministering to needs, winning confidence, and bidding people to follow Jesus.<sup>1</sup>

Adventist Mission cares for:

- Global Mission—the church's official initiative to start new groups of believers in unentered geographical areas and among unreached people groups.
- Mission Awareness—promoting mission offerings to empower mission around the world.

## GLOBAL MISSION AND MISSION REFOCUS

"I don't think we have ever sat down to discuss a subject of greater importance than Global Mission," said former General Conference president Neal C. Wilson at the 1990 General Conference Session in Indianapolis. Thirty-five years later Global Mission is more important than ever.

Any organization, even churches, face the danger of "mission drift"—focusing more on maintenance than mission. A new initiative called Mission Refocus is calling the world church back to its Global Mission priorities. Mission Refocus highlights three high-priority mission windows where we face the greatest mission challenges:

- The 10/40 window
- The secular and post-Christian window
- The urban window

Adventist Mission is committed to directing most Global Mission funds and resources into these three Mission Refocus windows.

## THE 10/40 WINDOW

The 10/40 window embraces more than 60 percent of the world's population and the fewest Christians. Most Adventist members, ministries, funding, and institutions are located outside this challenging window.





## THE 10/40 WINDOW<sup>2</sup>

	Inside	Outside
Church membership	2,806,930	19,975,373
Adventist-to-population ratio	1 to 1,905	1 to 133
Churches and companies	23,631	151,465
Hospitals	33	180
Schools	85	806
Ordained ministers	2,708	14,657

## URBAN WINDOW

The Seventh-day Adventist Church began as a church-planting movement in rural New England. During the past 162 years since its establishment, the church has continued to place most of its ministry efforts outside the large cities. More than 100 years ago Ellen

White wrote, “The Lord has been calling our attention to the neglected multitudes in the large cities, yet little regard has been given to the matter.”<sup>3</sup> Today cities loom even larger on our mission horizon.

## CITIES WITH 1 MILLION OR MORE PEOPLE

In these 543 cities there is a ratio of one Adventist to every 89,000 people. The global average is one Adventist for every 358 people.

Forty-nine of these cities have fewer than 10 Adventists, and 43 have no Adventist presence. No churches. No companies. No institutions.

Urban Centers of Influence, such as the Battambang Essential Life Center in Cambodia (pictured on p. 30 and below), serve as platforms to practice Christ’s method of ministry and establish new groups of believers. The Essential Life Center operates a vegetarian café and offers a wide range of activities and programs to connect with the community.

Global Mission has helped fund Urban Centers of Influence across the globe, such as the Urban



## OFFICE OF ADVENTIST MISSION CONTINUED



Life Center in Baltimore, United States (pictured above). This juice bar/café provides a launching pad for many classes, programs, and activities that connect with the community. A church is being planted in the center.

### SECULAR AND POST-CHRISTIAN WINDOW

The 2021 England and Wales Census revealed that for the first time in history less than half the population identified themselves as Christian. The 2021 Australian Census revealed the same thing for Australians.

These countries are a warning for what's coming to the rest of the world. In the United States, for example, it's expected that by 2050, if not before, the "nones"—people who profess no religious belief—will outnumber Christians. This is a challenge for a church that has traditionally reached out mainly to other Christians and animists.

Global Mission is committed to supporting more pioneers and urban centers of influence to connect with secular and post-Christian people with the goal of starting new groups of believers.

To learn more about Mission Refocus, visit [gm.adventistmission.org/refocus](https://gm.adventistmission.org/refocus) or scan the QR code.



### GLOBAL MISSION IS FUNDED BY:

- The interest off an endowment set up from the sale of Loma Linda Foods
- The Annual Sacrifice Offering
- Church member donations

To donate to Global Mission, visit [adventistmission.org/](https://adventistmission.org/) donate or scan the QR code.



**If we're serious about finishing the work, we need to know the needs to make informed decisions for mission investment.**

### MAPPING MISSION

Just as a traveler needs a map, we need a way to see where the church hasn't yet reached and where church planting is most needed.

That's why the Office of Adventist Mission is developing an Adventist Mission Dashboard—a web-based tool designed for both leaders and church members to plan pioneer mission work strategically. As a mission map, it allows users to explore needs by country, major urban areas, and people groups. This dashboard will continue to expand and improve, offering an even clearer picture of where mission efforts are most needed.

If we're serious about finishing the work, we need to know the needs to make informed decisions for mission investment. The Adventist Mission Dashboard helps us do just that—so that in every corner of the world, an Adventist congregation is sharing Jesus' love and news of His soon return.

—Greg Whitsett, planning director, Adventist Mission.





**GLOBAL MISSION  
CENTERS—  
BUILDING  
BRIDGES  
OF MISSION**

The Global Mission Centers help the church reach out more effectively to people from the major world religions and other challenging people groups. Today six Global Mission Centers are helping us establish new groups of believers among these communities. Their goal is to identify and develop methods, models, and resources to help us reach these people more effectively.

**GLOBAL MISSION TOTAL EMPLOYMENT**

Total Employment is the Global Mission tentmaker program. Tentmakers are church members who strategically find jobs in parts of the world where missionaries can't go or where Christian witness is severely restricted. They find their own employment. Their larger goal, however, is to be a witness in some of the most challenging mission fields on earth, where church employees often can't go. To learn more, visit [TotalEmployment.org](http://TotalEmployment.org).

**SIX GLOBAL MISSION CENTERS**

- Global Mission Centers director, ChanMin Chung
- Global Mission Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations director, Petras Bahadur. Associate director, Samuel Lumwe.
- Global Mission Center for Adventist-Jewish Relations director, Reinaldo Siqueira
- Global Mission Center for Adventist-Buddhist Relations director, Khamsay Phetchareun
- Global Mission Center for Urban Mission director, Bledi Leno
- Global Mission Center for South Asian Religions director, Clifmond Shameerudeen. Associate director, Umesh Nag.
- Global Mission Center for Secular and Post-Christian Mission director, Brendan Pratt. Associate director, Jonathan Contero.

To learn more about Global Mission Centers, visit [GlobalMissionCenters.org](http://GlobalMissionCenters.org) or scan the QR code.



Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings have funded hundreds of mission projects worldwide, including the Come 'n See Café, an Urban Center of Influence in Taiwan.

## OFFICE OF ADVENTIST MISSION CONTINUED



### PIONEERING THE GOSPEL

Today 2,500 Global Mission pioneers, supported by a basic living stipend, are starting new groups of believers among unentered people groups. As Indigenous workers, they typically speak the language and understand the culture of the communities they're reaching. Global Mission pioneers Jamal (pictured above) and Iwan are serving in a community in western Indonesia. They successfully negotiated for electricity, built toilets, and are educating the children. "We aim for Jesus' mission to resonate within the hearts of every individual we serve in this place," Jamal says.

### MISSION AWARENESS

Today the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its supporting ministries operate dozens of wonderful mission initiatives. All these activities rely on mission offerings, which are like the roots of a tree, providing nourishment for a variety of mission fruit to grow. These mission offering roots support church planting, schools, hospitals, publishing houses, media outreach, publishing, missionaries, and so much more. They support mission work in parts of the world we may never have even heard of.

The Mission Awareness work of Adventist Mission inspires church members with stories of what their mission offerings are doing through:

Mission Spotlight:  
video stories shown  
in Sabbath schools  
and churches around  
the world.



## mission 360°

Produced by Adventist Mission



*Mission 360°* magazine: stories of mission offerings at work. To read, visit [adventistmission.org/mission360-home](http://adventistmission.org/mission360-home) or scan the QR code.

Mission 360° TV: broadcast on Hope Channel, 3ABN, and online. To view Mission 360° TV programs, visit [www.m360.tv](http://www.m360.tv) or scan the QR code.

*Mission* magazine: shared every Sabbath around the world.



### SOCIAL MEDIA

Inside Stories in the *Adult Bible Study Guide*

To learn more about Adventist Mission, visit [AdventistMission.org](http://AdventistMission.org) or scan the QR code.

—Rick Kajiura, communication director, Adventist Mission



<sup>1</sup> Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1905), p. 143.

<sup>2</sup> 2023 Annual Statistical Report, p. 111.

<sup>3</sup> *In Review* and *Herald*, Nov. 11, 1909.



# IGNITE EVANGELISM IN YOUR CHURCH IN 2025

## LET AMAZING FACTS HELP!

Is your church participating in the North American Division's Pentecost 2025 initiative? If so, Amazing Facts International has the solution to help you succeed in your evangelistic campaign this year!

### TURNKEY EVANGELISM

*Prophecy Odyssey* is a powerful, 15-part outreach series designed to engage and inspire today's audiences—it's a ready-to-go, complete evangelistic campaign that will help your congregation reach your community for Jesus!

### PROVEN EVANGELISM

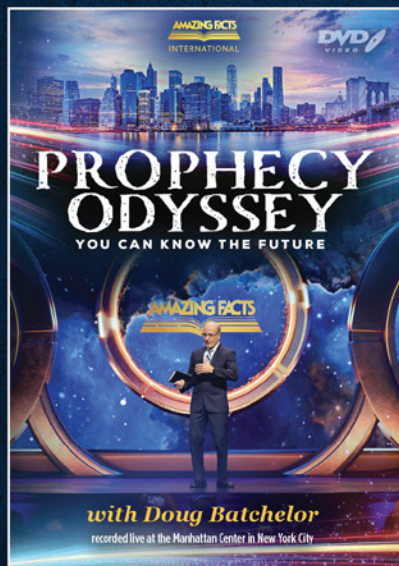
Featuring cutting-edge visuals and high-definition technology, *Prophecy Odyssey* is presented in Pastor Doug Batchelor's signature style, offering captivating insights into God's Word that will prepare seekers for baptism—making it a powerful tool to grow your church!

### TOTAL EVANGELISM

From DVDs to Bible lessons, outreach guides, and customizable marketing resources, Amazing Facts has everything you need to host your 2025 series and invite souls into God's eternal kingdom!

No need to worry! Whether you're just hearing the news or are already praying about what to do, Amazing Facts has you covered.

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15-Part  
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## HOPE CHANNEL

*Hope Channel is reaching more people in more languages.*



**W**ith more than 7,000 languages in the world, millions of people have never heard the message of eternal hope in their own tongue. Hope Channel is committed to changing that.

Since the last General Conference Session in 2022, Hope Channel has expanded into more languages than ever before. The rapid growth of our network, fueled by technological advancements and a deep commitment to fulfilling the three angels' messages, is laying the foundation for an even greater mission. As we move toward 2030, our vision is to reach 1 billion people by ensuring the message of eternal hope is available in more languages worldwide.

### EXPANDING THE NETWORK OF HOPE

From 69 media entities in 2022 to 84 media entities today, Hope Channel is sharing God's love in more than 100 languages worldwide. God has blessed this expansion, opening doors and creating opportunities for us to meet people where they are in their own language. Each new

language represents a community that can now experience biblical truth in their native tongue.

This expansion is a direct response to the prophetic call in Revelation 14:6 to proclaim the gospel to every nation, tribe, language, and people. With each new Hope Channel media entity, we are reaching new audiences and making the message of hope accessible to more people than ever before.

### ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY TO BREAK LANGUAGE BARRIERS

At Hope Channel we believe that no one should be excluded from hearing the gospel because of a language barrier. Our Hope.Cloud media platform now provides AI-powered dubbing in more than 30 languages, seamlessly matching new audio to the original video while preserving authenticity. Subtitles in more than 100 languages extend our reach even further, ensuring that more people have access to truth in their own tongue.



In addition, we launched the first Adventist-owned Content Delivery Network (CDN) to ensure that biblical content reaches audiences worldwide without disruption. Every innovation is another opportunity to bring the gospel to those who have never heard it in their own language.

#### **DEVELOPING BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES IN MORE LANGUAGES**

Hope.Study media entities now offers more than 40 interactive Bible study courses in 25 languages across 24 Hope Channel media entities. These studies guide seekers from their first spir-

itual questions to the waters of baptism. But there is still a vast need for translations into more languages, as people around the world long to understand the Bible in their own words.

The work is ongoing, and as demand continues to grow, so does our commitment to providing Bible study resources in even more languages.

#### **STRENGTHENING DIGITAL EVANGELISM TO REACH MORE PEOPLE**

Where traditional outreach is restricted, digital evangelism is breaking barriers. Hope Channel now operates 253 YouTube channels, reaching 21 million subscribers. We now have 45 channels that have surpassed 100,000 subscribers, and five have exceeded 1 million.

Most important, we now operate in 52 languages, allowing more people than ever to hear the message of eternal hope in their own language, some for the first time ever. Digital media is proving to be a powerful means of fulfilling God's mission.

#### **GROWING TO 300 HOPE CHANNELS BY 2030**

As we look back, it is clear that God has been preparing Hope Channel for something even greater. By 2030 we aim to grow to 300 media entities worldwide, ensuring that no language group is left behind. The mission set forth in the three angels' messages calls us to proclaim the gospel to every nation, tribe, language, and people.

The vision to reach 1 billion people by 2030 is bold, but with God's guidance it is possible. Each language added means that thousands and even millions more people can hear the message of eternal hope in their own tongue, drawing them closer to Christ. As we press forward, we invite you to actively participate in this mission through prayer, sharing the message, and supporting the work of Hope Channel. Together we can ensure that every person, in every language, has the opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. ✨

**Hannah Drewieck** is the communication coordinator for Hope Channel International.





Bringing  
**Hope**  
to **Every**  
Corner of the  
**World**

Help us reach one billion people with  
the message of eternal hope.

[Hopechannelinternational.org](http://Hopechannelinternational.org)



# DELEGATE LIST

This list is supplied and maintained by General Conference Secretariat, and is current as of April 10, 2025, at the time this issue went to press. The list may have subsequently changed because of visa or travel complications. The delegates will officially be seated and voted at the first business session. Only delegates speak to issues and vote.

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Alberto Timm  
Alfred Soare  
Alistair Huang  
Almir M Marroni  
Amirah Al-Haddad  
Andi Hunsaker  
Andrea Ashman  
Andres Saenz  
Andrew Moll  
Angela M Lalas  
Aniel Barbe  
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Anthony R Kent  
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Wagner Kuhn  
William M Knott  
Williams S Costa Jr  
Willie E Hucks

Willie Oliver  
Zeno L Charles-Marcel  
Zhara-Marie Henry  
Mohansingh

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Abraham Dalu  
Abraham Helena Lodamo  
Abraham Joseph Nyahucho  
Abraham Mugiraneza  
Agnes Elson Malima  
Alfred Gitonga Marundu  
Alice Mueni Nahashon  
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Alphonse Munyamfura Ngagi  
Amensissa Chufa Meta  
Amoni January Sikazwe  
Anderson Kandala Kusemvula  
Angros Jeston Ntahondi  
Aron Philimon Mwanandewe  
Arphaxad Kinuthia Kiurire  
Ayantu Degefe Mekonen  
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Beatrice Lawrence Kitiende  
Belay Taye Gobena  
Benin Kabula Kitemge  
Benjamin Kimutai Tanui  
Benjamin Muriungi Mutugi  
Benjamin Ngalama Biha  
Benon Luggya  
Blasious M Ruguri  
Brigitte Bongongo Bikela  
Candida Ndikumana  
Cate Nakigudde Wadega  
Celestin Kabeya Ngudie  
Celestin Ngarukiwenayo  
Charles Kipchumba Kosgei  
Christophe Gapira Nzayikorera  
Christopher Gilbert Ungani  
Clean Bakano Safi  
Clement Joseph Arkangelo Mawa  
Daka Geremew Biru  
Dalila Djuma  
Dalton Elijah Ssegawa  
Dan Ngamiye  
Daniel Birsassa Kitila  
Daniel Ogowok Deng  
Daniel Waktole Guyassa  
Dany Bakunda  
David David Mpwani  
David Irangarukiye  
Davis Elitwaza Fue  
Debbie Mbayo Maloba  
Dieudonne Kyusa Kahindo  
Dieudonne Nshimirimana  
Duncan Odhiambo Mumbo  
Edison Nsengiyumva  
Edson Sebigunda Niyonsaba  
Edward Karangwa  
Edward Miro  
Elias Semajeri Ladislav  
Eliezer Byafaki Kibura  
Elkana Kerosi Siika  
Elyse Nishimwe  
Emmans Abisa Otadoh  
Emmanuel Junior Mubiayi Mubiayi  
Emmanuel Rugambwa  
Enoch Marwa Sando  
Enock Ntunzwenimana  
Epaphras Rwarahoze Ntibanoga  
Ephrem Ayele Rundassa  
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Ernest Nyakina Motaroki  
Esther Nsubuga  
Etienne Niyomugaba  
Faustin Ntamugabumwe Shukuru  
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Gasisi Sylvia Nalubega  
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Genemo Geda Kebeto  
Geoffrey Serwada  
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George Opande Rachuonyo  
Gerard Nsengiyumva Karasira  
Gilbert Obare Omoke  
Gloria Sifa Muvunga  
Godwin Kilevo Lekundayo  
Gordon Otieno Ouma  
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Grace Atieno Ochieng  
Grace Chacha Nsiku  
Gregoire Mbaya Mbaya  
Greyson Passley Ndege

Hannah Nyakio Ndungu	Livingstone Byandaga Lois Nyambura Ngenye	Rose Mukahakizimana	Boris Adriel D'Agostino	Abdiel Trejos Bermudez	Carlos Alonso Penueles Nieblas
Herbert Ignas Nziku	Lucas Nzungu	Roselyne Atieno Ayayo	Boris Protasevich	Abel Marquez	Carlos Enrique UC Contreras
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Hesron Rukundo Byilingiro	Madeleine Mawazo Kasuta	Ruth Mtoi Simba	Daniil Balan	Abel Pacheco Lopez	Carlos Tomas Rilio Almonte
Hortense Pungu Nzugu	Magutilo John Mwakalonge	Samuel Makori	Daniil Lovska	Abilio Cima	Carlton Stobbs
Ilunga Mevis Kamwanya	Marcel Ndolimana	Samuel Mwebaza	Dmitrii Bulatov	Abraham Finol	Carmen Cecilia Berrio
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Jeremie Mukelenge Banza	Miriam Nseyi Mulamba	Sylvain Batata Mutombo Lenge	Gleb Kurianov	Alba Marino Garcia	Corinne Blocail
Joel Kipkemboi Sawe	Miriam Sylvester Kabengu	Sylvie Buma Bubusi	Halyna Holovach	Alberto Montero	Crener Jude Pierre
Joel Ndege Okindoh	Moses Maki Ndikumika	Tabitha Mumbi Muteru	Ilie Leahu	Aldo Joel Perez Reyes	Cristal Violeta Alfonzo González
John Kayembe Mputu	Msfafiri Mmamba Jackson	Tadesse Adugna Tegegn	Ivan I Velgosha	Alexander Samon Vielza	Cristobal Marcial Tzib
John Kipkoske Rutthoh	Mukuye Lillian Mugenwa	Tamene Kitila Bedassa	Kemil Ialyshev	Alexis Adrian Romero Melendez	Dalmarie Anderson
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Karen Adzere Kiboko	Patrice Baranzika	Wondimagegnhu Bekele	Oleg Kharlamov	Anthony Hall	Gonzalez Mayorga
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			Volodymyr Krupskiy		Edgar Brito
			Vsevolod Andrusheac		Edgar Fidel Lozano Salmoran
			Yuriy Ribalkin		
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 Santos  
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 Jose de Leon Galan  
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 Romero

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 Alegria Castillo  
 Jose Guillermo  
 Solis Mayorga  
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 Jose Luis Garcia Lopez  
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Juan Elias Colome  
 Reynoso  
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 Martinez  
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 Justin Alleyne  
 Kamila Soto  
 Karl Archer  
 Katharina Shellenberg  
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 Marriott  
 Kay White  
 Kendy Sigere  
 Kenneth Raymundo  
 Roque Lima  
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 Kerlyn Argenis  
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 Kevin Danvers  
 Krisann Gayle  
 Krista Moore  
 Lenin Aristeo  
 Sanchez Lopez  
 Leo Acosta  
 Leonard A Johnson  
 Levi Johnson  
 Libardo Vaca  
 Libna Stevens  
 Lili Rose Johnson  
 Lilia Soria Bautista  
 Lilibeth Briceno  
 Lorenzo de Jesus  
 Pena Rosa  
 Lowell Otley  
 Luciano Gonzalez  
 Luis A Rivera  
 Luis Alberto  
 Guerra Beitia  
 Luis Alfredo Pineda  
 Mendiola



The 1962 GC Session was held at the Cow Palace in San Francisco, California. On Sabbath, July 28, A. L. Tucker (left) and O. A. Blake, undertreasurer of the General Conference, added the offering totals on an adding machine. The cash offering that day totaled \$1,000,000 (equivalent to \$10.6 million today). An armored truck stood by waiting to carry the offering to a bank safe.



Luis Alonso	Pierre Maxim Augustin	Willy Oswald	Marius Munteanu	Carmelo Mercado	Jeff Fogelquist
Aguillon Lopez	Pierre Thony Sorel	Wilmoth James	Mariya Gancheva Kirilova	Carolyn R. Forrest	Jeff Potts
Luis Antonio Paredes	Raiza Mata de Ramirez	Wilver Adaia	Martin Turcan	Cedric Belcher	Jeff Scoggins
Martinez	Ramiro Sepulveda	Hernandez Cristales	Martina Emrich	Celeste Ryan-Blyden	Jeff Villagas
Luis Arturo King Garcia	Vargas	Winston Hiciano	Martine Geeroms	Celinda Bauer	Jesus Uriarte, Sr
Luis Daniel Polanco	Ranier Alexander	Yandis Lazaro	Melina Denda-Oehlert	Chad Grundy	Jim Jenkins
Luis Edward	Flota Cetzal	Pimienta Martinez	Milen Rosenov Georgiev	Charles Ed II Aguilar	John Cress
Trundle Nufio	Ray Leonard	Yeison Alberto	Nahikari Gutierrez	Charles Reel	John Freedman
Luis Ernesto Rodriguez	Frometa Bring	Andrade Asprilla	Malax-Echevarria	Charles Tapp	John Gry
Bermudez	Raymundo Roberto	Yisvanth Perez Ponce	Noemi Martinez Calleja	Charo Felix	John Murley
Luis Jesse	Saturia	Yocsan Antonio Martinez	Norbert G Zens	Chris Wright	John Page
Manuel David Rivero	Rene Flores Bello		Oldrich Svoboda	Christian Fernandez	Jonathan Park
Manuel Luna	Rene Lopez Barrios		Olivier Rigaud	Christien Hodet	Jorge A. Ramirez
Marcial Escobar	Ricardo Enrique		Oscar Lopez Teule	Cyril Millet III	Joseph Wesley Richards
Marco A Ortega Jara	Caballero		Paulin Giurgi	Dale Galusha	Judy R Glass
Maria del Mar Jaraba	Ricardo Garcia Francisco		Peter Cik	Daniel Kelly	Julihana Madison
Maria Eloisa Madero	Ricardo Marin		Petru Ciprian Andra	Danya Nicketa	Kara Johnsson
Maria Guadalupe	Roberto Anderson		Philippe Monnard	Dave Miller	Karl Newsome
Jimenez Diaz	Roberto Carlos Davila		Raphael Nagler	David Freedman	Ken Shaw
Maria Margarita	Roberto Carvajal Rojas		Reinhard Schwab	David Jamieson	Kennedy Luckett
Rojas Salandia	Roberto Cuelvo Garcia		Reto R. Mayer	David Prest	Kenneth Manders
Maria T. Contreras	Roberto Michel		Richard Justin Ehoussou	David VandeVere	Kenroy Malcolm
Maricela Rasgado Toledo	Magana Mendez		Rinaldo Chiriac	Deborah Maxine	Khandi Cooper
Marie Augustin	Rodolfo Cosme		Robert Mandache	Thomas-Gilkes	Krista McHale
Joseph Jasmin	Ronald Duenas		Roberto Buonaugurio	Deisy Ruiz	Kyoshin Ahn
Marie-Andree	Ronaldo Heraldo		Roberto Duo Ahedo	Dennis Plubell	Lee Rochholz
Pluvial Dady	Rivera Ferrer		Robinson Dan	Djo Mwamba	Leena Moses
Marinella Glasgow	Rony Zenarre		Ruben de Abreu	Donna Barrett	Lee-Roy Chacon
Mario Jose Castellanos	Rovena Harrinauth		Rut Viguer Andres	Doris Gothard	Leidamae Muse
Rosado	Ruben Camacho Torres		Sabine Scharf	Doug Bing	Leroy Abrahams
Marlon Pacheco	Ruben Emilio Carballo		Sarah Herter	Ed Keyes	Leslie Louis
Marvin Corrales Mora	Ruben Gustavo		Sarka Stasova	Edgar Alquinta	Leslie Pollard
Marvin David	Maltez Segura		Simon Krautschick	Edrol Sandy	Madonna Taeu
Guzman Alvarez	Ruben Padilla		Slavi Petrov Mitrev	Edson Jarvis	Mae-Lyna Beaubrun-
Mauriel Lindsay	Ruben Rodriguez		Stefan Albu	Eldeen King	Fleury
Bush Cooper	Salvatore Lo Nardo		Stefan Tomoiaga	Elden Ramirez	Marc Woodson
Melchor Ferrerya	Samuel Telemaque		Stephan Sigg	Elethia Dean	Marcellus Robinson
Meric Walker	Sandra Yanira Lazo		Steven Sep	Elias Zabala	Mari Escudero
Migdalia Muniz Saltares	de Garcia		Tiberiu Nica	Elisa Rahming	Maria Valente
Mirna Castro Insunza	Santa Luna Percel		Tobias Koch	Elisabet Kirkland	Marisol Berumen
Misael Duran	Saul Brito		Tomas Kaspar	Elizabeth Negrete	Martin Fancher
Misael Rivera	Saul Daniel Brito Diaz		Tsvetelina Zhivkova	Elmer Alferez	Marvin Brown
Moises Gomez Medina	Saul Hernandez		Ventsislav Nikolaev	Elton DeMoraes	Matthew Kirk
Moises Reyna	Saavedra		Bosev	Emmanuel Asiedu	Mervyn Ng
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Natasha Brown-Alleyne	Seneque Edmond		Werner Dullinger	Esther LaTour	Michael Owusu
Nelson Raul	Shurman Kook		Yves Pierre	Esther Quintanilla	Michel Aguinaga
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Ney Julian Devis Arias	Steven Tulp			Garth Gabriel	Minner Labrador
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Jordan Escobar	Balan Tamay			Gary Gibbs	Nancy Toussaint
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Ogle Jairo Lopez Galvez	Teofilo Silvestre			Gary Thurber	Ngoay Kyal
Olger Villalobos Jimenez	Terry Tanis			Gerald Dwight Lutz	Nichole Dorsey
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Orlando Gonzalez	Tomas Torres			Grace Ann Ashley	Paolo Esposito
Hernandez	Tony Gelie			Hannah Johnson	Patricia Marruffio
Orlando Ramirez	Uriel Castellanos Maza			Hazel Byeon	Paul Llewellyn
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Oscar Noe Martinez	Victor Gimenez			Hector Ramos	Phillip Neuharth
Jacobo	Victoria Aguilar Cisneros			Heroes Sical	Randy Feuilly
Osmar Gonzalez	Wagner Maxine			Hubert Morel	Randy Roberts
Osric James	Bodden de Valiente			Bill McLendon	Randy Terry
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Kata Rangoso was a delegate from the Solomon Islands to the 1936 GC Session. He reportedly was the first from his country to come to the United States. Overwhelmed by the San Francisco skyline and busy streets, as well as being continually mistaken for a woman because of his dress and hair, he walked the city streets and session halls barefoot because shoes were uncomfortable. His was a powerful testimony representing the power of the gospel in one man's life.

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