

ADVENTIST REVIEW

JULY 10, 2025

- 2 NEWS OF THE GC SESSION
- 10 WEDNESDAY MORNING DEVOTIONAL
- 16 INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL
RESOURCES AND SERVICES
- 18 ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO
- 20 ANDREWS UNIVERSITY
- 25 RALPH S. WATTS, JR.
- 26 UNIQUE IN IDENTITY; UNIFIED IN MISSION
- 30 THE REAL CENTER OF POWER
- 34 ADHILAKSHMI IS HOPE
- 36 TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION
- 41 EURO-ASIA DIVISION
- 46 WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION
- 52 SESSION ACTIONS



NEWS



DELEGATES VOTED TO ACCEPT NOMINATION OF 14 GC DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

THREE NEW DIRECTORS ARE ADDED TO AN EXPERIENCED TEAM OF INCUMBENTS.

MARCOS PASEGGI, ADVENTIST REVIEW

On the afternoon business session of July 8, delegates to the sixty-second General Conference Session in St. Louis, Missouri, United States, voted to approve the nominations of 14 departments of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Most of the directors are incumbents, with only three newly elected to their positions, as detailed below.

Nelu Burcea, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL)

Burcea started working at the General Conference in October 2015 as an associate director of the department that he now leads. He has developed relationships with various international institutions on behalf of the Adventist Church and the International Religious Liberty Association. He brought to the PARL Department a strong educational background, administrative skills, and a long-term commitment to ministry

and mission, church leaders said.

The new director's previous appointments have been as director for Communication and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Romania and director of the Romanian Adventist Media Center, which includes the Speranta television network and Voice of Hope radio network. He has also served as a local church ordained pastor and has led numerous evangelistic campaigns in Europe and the United States.

Burcea has many educational credentials, including a Ph.D. in economics, specializing in business ethics and human dignity; a master's degree in management of business development; and a bachelor's degree in theology. He has also completed postgraduate studies in mass media, marketing, and diplomatic protocol and postdoctoral research at Oxford Center for Mission Studies on religious freedom.

Mario Martinelli, Publishing Ministries

Martinelli brings more than four decades of experience in Adventist publishing and marketing. He was Publishing Ministries director across several church regions in Brazil and then marketing manager at the Brazil Publishing House.

Martinelli also led the Book Division of the Review and Herald Publishing Association in the United States, and since 2010 has been the CEO of Safeliz, the Adventist publishing house in Spain. In that position he has been a strong supporter of evangelism and revival efforts of the regional and world church.

He has been an ordained pastor since 1984 and has a Master of Divinity (1995) and Master of Business Administration (1996). In 1997 he graduated with a Doctor of Ministry degree. The title of his dissertation was "Marketing Strategies for Seventh-day Adventist Literature in Brazil."

According to ANN: "Under Martinelli's leadership, Adventist publications have reached more than 120 countries through expanded distribution channels. He has overseen the development of specialized Bibles for various Adventist audiences and organized global book launches through conferences and seminars.

His lifelong dedication to literature evangelism and mission-driven publishing has helped bring gospel-centered materials to readers across languages, cultures, and continents.”

Alyssa Truman, Communication

Alyssa Truman joined the General Conference Communication Department in 2022, first as digital evangelism manager and then as assistant Communication director. She managed the Adventist News Network (ANN) and led out in an overhaul of the website and an increase of its footprint.

She replaces Williams Costa, Jr., who is retiring after leading the department for 15 years. In her previous experience Truman was a marketing manager for Adventist World Radio (AWR).

Truman has a M.A. in pastoral ministries from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. She is married to Trent Truman, the creative projects manager for the North American Division, and they have three adult daughters.

**GC DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS
(INCUMBENTS)**

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries:
Ivan H. Omaña
Children’s Ministries: **Orathai Chureson**
Education: **Lisa Beardsley-Hardy**
Family Ministries: **Wilbert Oliver**
Health: **Zeno L. Charles-Marcel**
Ministerial Association Secretary:
Ramon J. Canals
Planned Giving and Trust Services:
Hector Reyes
Sabbath School and Personal Ministries:
James Howard
Stewardship Ministries:
Marcos Faiock Bomfim
Women’s Ministries: **Galina Stele**
Youth Ministries: **Sibusiso B. Khumalo**

DIVISION OFFICERS LIST

EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION	Blasious M. Ruguri , President Moses Maka , Secretary Yohannes Olana Beyene , Treasurer
EURO-ASIA DIVISION*	Mikhail F. Kaminskiy , President Ivan I. Velgosha , Secretary Oleg V. Voronyuk , Treasurer
INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION	Abner De Los Santos , President Pierre Caporal , Secretary Ivelisse Herrera , Treasurer
INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION	Barna Magyarosi , President Ruben de Abreu , Secretary Norbert G. Zens , Treasurer
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SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION	Roger O. Caderma , President Samuel Yotam Bindosano , Secretary Jacinto M. Adap , Treasurer
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WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION	Bassey E. O.Udoh , President Vincent Roger Same , Secretary Sarfo Marfo Dickson , Treasurer



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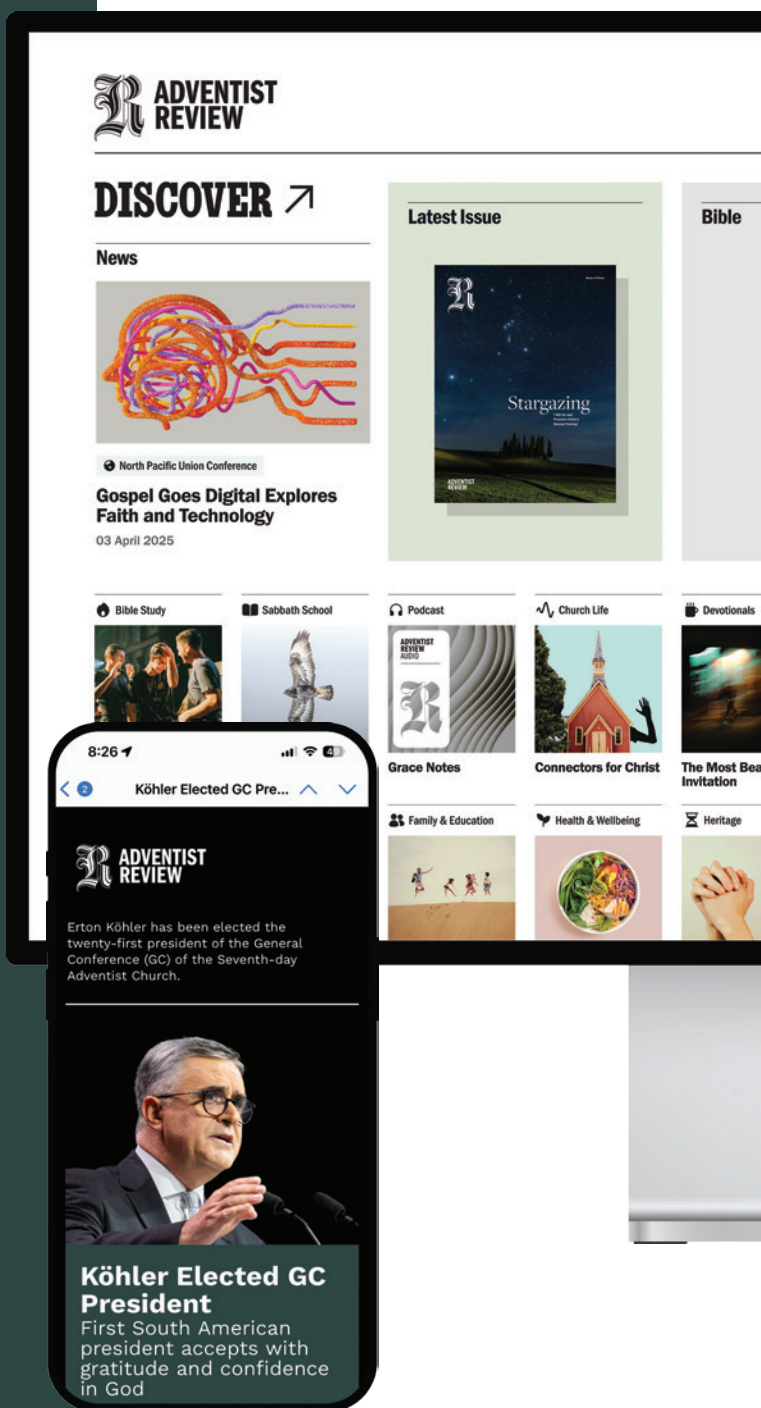


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“Having someone who extends a hand and says, ‘This is hard, but I’m here with you,’ is the first step toward healing.”

FINDING THE PATH FORWARD

CHAPLAINS PROVIDE COUNSELING FOR TRANSITIONING LEADERS AT GC SESSION

BECKY ST. CLAIR

For many leaders their identity and their professional role are one and the same. While this means that they usually pour themselves fully into that role, it also means that when they no longer fill that role, they also find themselves struggling with a sense of identity. This is true even for leaders within the Adventist Church. And during the General Conference (GC) Session, when elected positions come up for consideration in Nominating Committee, the struggle can become all too real.

“When you serve this church, you serve it with everything,” states Ivan Omaña, director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries for the General Conference. “I’m the son of a pastor who served this church fully, and when he was not reelected, it was very painful and difficult for him.”

This experience gave Omaña motivation to try to alleviate that pain for others. This year, for the first time at session, a team of 20 chaplains from every division around the globe have coordinated to make counseling services available for any church employees who find themselves in a time of transition.

A room was made available for private counseling within the convention center, and every day of the

session there is a chaplain on duty in the room throughout the day.

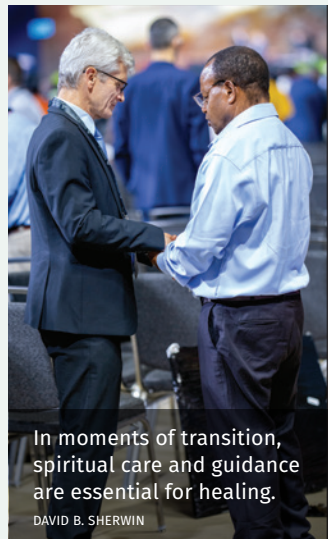
“Although a chaplain will not help you resolve all the questions that come to mind,” Omaña admits, “having someone who extends a hand and says, ‘This is hard, but I’m here with you,’ is the first step toward healing.”

The chaplains providing counseling at the GC Session are men and women trained in providing ministry of presence and professional care, bound by the chaplain’s code of ethics. Every conversation is completely confidential.

The suddenness of no longer filling a role can bring on feelings of grief, doubt, loss, and loneliness. Many leaders find themselves asking such questions as “What did I do wrong?” They may feel lost, unsure of what the future holds. Some may decide to retire; others may choose to redesign their ministry.

“This is our team’s opportunity to remind them that God calls, and God’s call never ends,” Omaña says. “When you go through such a change as this, you need guidance. The chaplain can’t help you find your identity in one meeting, but they can shine a light on a path forward.”

Anyone looking for a counselor can consult their division’s chap-



In moments of transition, spiritual care and guidance are essential for healing.

DAVID B. SHERWIN

laincy directory to find someone to talk with (the director of chaplaincy at the GC is also a resource), and they are happy to talk—even if it’s not Omaña. “Regardless of who fills this role, every chaplaincy director will have the same attitude. That’s why we’re here,” Omaña says.

When Omaña was studying to be a counselor, a trauma professor defined trauma as “being terrified and alone.” Suddenly losing one’s identity can certainly be isolating, and the need for spiritual care in those moments is high. “You’re in the middle of a sea of Adventists who just voted for someone else,” Omaña points out. “You need someone to say, ‘I don’t know how it feels for you, but I’m going to hold your hand and pray with you, and we’ll figure things out.’”



Groups lead in praise and worship.

CHRISTINA COLLARD

EQUIPPED TO SERVE, EMPOWERED TO LEAD

GATHERING OF ADVENTIST WOMEN FOCUSES ON SPIRITUAL GROWTH, FELLOWSHIP, AND MISSION READINESS

BETH THOMAS

Women from across the globe are gathering in St. Louis for a unique four-day event hosted by the General Conference (GC) Women's Ministries and Ministerial Spouses Association. This four-day program (July 7-10) held in the America's Ballroom at the convention center brings together female leaders and ministry spouses for inspiration, learning, and fellowship. Meetings include devotionals, division reports, practical seminars, exercise breakouts, and worship led by groups from various world divisions—many dressed in traditional attire representing their cultural backgrounds.

"It would be a missed opportunity not to gather when so many women from different divisions are here in one place," said Galina Stele, GC Women's Ministries director. "We want to give them the opportunity to learn from each other, support one another, and grow spiritually and missionally."

Each morning begins with a devotional by Nina Atcheson, Adventist educator and editor of the new *Alive in Jesus Sabbath School* curriculum. "She helps us connect more closely with Jesus in our personal devotional lives," Stele said.

Afternoon seminars address practical topics, including surrender to Christ, discovering spiritual gifts, family health, trauma recovery, and mission engagement. Presenters include Sikhululekile Daco (*Adventist Review* associate editor), Karen Holford (Family Ministries director, Trans-European Division), Margret Mulambo (Ministerial Spouses Association, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division), and Elaine Oliver (General Conference Family Ministries associate director), .

Division reports from both Women's Ministries and Ministerial Spouses directors allow leaders to hear how women are being nurtured and empowered across the globe. "Our church is incredibly diverse, and it's enriching to see what our sisters are doing in other corners of the world," said Stele.

Jasmin Stankovic, a volunteer from Australia, supports language translation efforts for Spanish and Portuguese speakers. When asked what she enjoyed most about the event, she said, "The best part is the sense of community. Even if we've never met, we feel like sisters. It's like a blended family."

All meetings are translated into multiple languages—Spanish, Portuguese, French, Russian—and, for the first time, include American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation. "We are recording everything with ASL included, so even if people can't attend live, they can still be blessed," Stele added.

The meetings will conclude with a consecration service led by Pastor Ramon Canals, director of the General Conference Ministerial Association. Organizers hope participants leave not only encouraged but also recommitted to their local ministries.

"We've been planning this for more than a year," said Stele. "It's our prayer that every woman who attends leaves feeling nurtured, empowered, and ready to serve." 📌



Nina Atcheson leads a morning devotional.

CHRISTINA COLLARD

International participants in the Women's Ministries meetings search for translation radios featuring their preferred languages—a potent reminder of the truly global nature of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Monumental effort goes into ensuring that as many as possible of the people who have traveled to St. Louis are able to participate meaningfully in meetings; translation is available for many of the events taking place at GC Session.

PHOTO BY CHRISTINA COLLARD



Bediako shows a delegate the new online Seventh-day Adventist Biblical-Theological Dictionary at the BRI booth.

MARK FROELICH



DICTIONARY OF THEOLOGICAL TERMS FREE AND AVAILABLE

MEMBERS AND PASTORS CAN USE THE RESOURCE TO ENHANCE BIBLE STUDY

JARROD STACKELROTH

A new resource that can help church members and pastors with their personal Bible study has been developed by the Biblical Research Institute (BRI) and is now available for free online.

Promoted during the BRI video report Wednesday morning at the General Conference Session, the *Seventh-day Adventist Biblical-Theological Dictionary* will contain 5,698 entries when complete. So far, about 1,500 have been submitted. The length of articles varies, from 50 words up to 4,000.

Daniel Bediako, BRI associate director of the General Conference, was editor of the project, alongside BRI assistant director, Keldie Paroschi.

"This is a huge project," said Bediako. "We have had a Bible dictionary that's more or less historical and biblical, but now we are combining theology and even ethics."

"The dictionary does not seek to be comprehensive, but to present what is useful for theological and practical understanding, and Adventist concerns," said Bediako.

The South Pacific Division (SPD) received the letter A, the section of the dictionary with the most words, 584. Some examples are *Abida*, *Advice*, *Alexandria*, and *Ancestors*. The categories include people, places, plants, objects, animals, Old and New Testament terms, and the meaning of biblical names and theological terms.

The letter S has the second most entries, with 531, and is assigned to the West-Central Africa Division. Trans-European Division was assigned the letter F and has now finished, so they have been assigned other

projects. The letter with the smallest number of words is letter X, with only one word, *Xerxes* (which has not been completed yet), with the letter Y being the second least, with 15 words.

"[It is] not just the number of entries that makes this a significant and difficult project," said Danijela Schubert, who helped coordinate the SPD entries. "The writers of the articles are a very select group of people. They all have a doctorate from a theological field or are in the process of obtaining one. Also, the process of approval is rigorous."

The project's scope is vast. "It is an international project," said Bediako. "We have assistant directors in all the world divisions."

When writers finish, they submit their entry to the assistant editor in each division. The entry is then submitted to the division's Biblical Research Committee for comments. Once approved, it is then submitted to the BRI. Editors Bediako and Paroschi review every entry.

"We've also added depth," said Bediako. "Sometimes, if an entry in the old edition is 800 words, this time it's about 3,000 words."

The whole dictionary will be available for free online, accessible everywhere and able to be updated at any time. "We have told the authors that we are writing for the ordinary church member," said Bediako. "If we use Hebrew and Greek terms, we still translate them so that you know that this is the word we're talking about. It reads so that even high school graduates are able to understand it."

Bediako hopes all the entries will be completed by next General Conference Session in 2030. 📌



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dictionary.adventist.org.

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THE MYSTERY

*It's not the end;
it's the beginning*



JOHN BRADSHAW

DEVOTIONAL
MESSAGE
PRESENTED
WEDNESDAY MORNING,
JULY 9, 2025

He was as sorry as everyone else when he learned his friends had lost a family member to death. But optimistic he could do something about it, a self-proclaimed prophet in a certain country convinced the grieving family to open the dead man's grave. Promising to re-create the resurrection of Lazarus, he climbed down into the grave, opened the casket, and lay down on top of the deceased, shouting in his ear, urging him to wake up. But whereas Lazarus was raised from the dead, the deceased, on this occasion, was not.



As our friend learned, death is difficult to overcome. But not for the lack of trying. For several years Silicon Valley billionaires have been investing in possible solutions to counteract dying. And while some have seen impressive results in terms of positive health impacts and reducing biological age, there haven't been any real signs that someone is about to outwit the grim reaper. Transhumanists, who promote the idea of merging humans with machines and inserting microchips into human bodies, still haven't managed to crack the code of life. Cryogenics has been promoted as a way to preserve a body until the time a person may be brought back to life. In 2002 the body of Boston Red Sox legend Ted Williams was cryogenically frozen in liquid nitrogen, but as yet, science has provided no evidence Ted Williams' experience is a viable alternative to that which has plagued our planet for 6,000 years.

A PROFOUND TRUTH

These futile exercises serve to obscure one of the greatest realities of all. Jesus said 2,000 years ago, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). Job wrote, "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God" (Job 19:25, 26).

What we're fond of referring to as "the state of the dead" is one of the most profound truths in the entire Bible. We live, we die, we sleep the sleep of death, and then, when Jesus returns, the saved who have died in faith in Jesus are raised from their dusty beds. They are brought back to life to die no more. This world was not designed to be the sum of human existence. God offers everyone everlasting life.

Our time on this earth is brutally short. Even if you live 80, 90, or even 100 years, you have experienced only the tiniest fraction of what God has prepared for you. "Let not your heart be troubled," Jesus promised. "You believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:1-3). Having just told His closest friends that He was going to die, Jesus assures them that they can face their uncertain future with confidence, because He would one day come back to gather them and take them to be with Him in His Father's house.

I love that the Bible is a book of common sense. There isn't another plausible explanation for what happens in death, let alone another biblical explana-

**This world was
not designed to be
the sum of human
existence.**

tion. We know what we can know. People live, and people die. We can't speak from experience about what happens next. The Māori of New Zealand believe that the spirits of the dead travel to the northernmost point of the country before descending into the sea and the underworld, then returning to their ancestral homeland. Australian aboriginals believe the dead enter a realm known as the Land of the Dead. What both traditions have in common with virtually all other cultures is the belief that the dead, in one way or another, survive bodily death. Yet no one has ever seen the soul of a dead person. No one can explain how a disembodied spirit exists independently of the human form. No one has ever reconciled the idea that the dead may witness our lives on this earth—surely as distasteful an idea as any ever conceived. If you want to live forever, if you want to know what happens in death, if you want to unlock the key to living a successful life in

Faith in Jesus is dying to the old life of sin and being reborn to live a life of victory.

this world, I recommend to you the plain teachings of the Word of God, the only place you can learn what you can't know from experience about death.

IT'S NOT THE END

This is 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17. "For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."

What a thought! The dead in Christ shall rise! Death is not the end for the believer in Jesus.

Can you imagine that day? When Jesus returns, those who

died in faith and now sleep in death will live again. Think of the reunions as loved ones are reunited! We will never again know the devastating, empty, desperate feeling of learning that a loved one has passed. But through faith in Jesus, we can anticipate the joy of immortality, the awe of beholding an innumerable company of angels, and the thrill of seeing Jesus.

Yet the beauty of the Bible teaching on the state of the dead goes beyond proof texts about sleep and stories of resurrections and canceled funerals. Notice what Paul said in Romans 6.

"Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" (Rom. 6:1, 2). Dead to sin! "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (verses 3, 4). And then verse 7: "For he who has died has been freed from sin."

As blessed as we are to understand what the Bible teaches about death, what is just as important is understanding what Paul says to us about death in Romans 6, and the impact it has on our spiritual lives.

"Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to

sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (verse 11). The problem so many people have in their Christian experience is that they never realize that faith in Jesus isn't simply a modification of the old life. Faith in Jesus isn't simply accepting a new belief system and relying on enthusiasm for Jesus to file some of the rough edges off your life. Faith in Jesus is dying to the old life of sin and being reborn to live a life of victory. You're no longer motivated by your own desires, but by Jesus dwelling in your heart. You begin to say with Paul, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Gal. 2:20).

The same writer penned these remarkable words: "For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13). And there's the key to a meaningful life of faith. Jesus at work in the life of the believer. An undivided heart, the carnal nature having been put to death that Christ might reign on the throne of your life.

Our understanding of death tells you more than that the dead sleep. It tells you your old life may die, and that in the place of that old life, a new creation may exist for the glory of God. 🦋

John Bradshaw is the president of It Is Written.



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Together but Different

Two perspectives of one couple's first time at a General Conference Session.

MELJOHN ESTACHIO

Attending the General Conference (GC) Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the first time has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. It has given me a deeper understanding of the church's worldwide mission and helped me grow in faith and love for God. Even when, because of my wife's medical condition, I found myself in the first few days of the session watching live online from a hotel, I still felt the unifying spirit of all the attendees.

From the moment I walked into the convention center the first time, I felt something special. Thousands of Adventists from around the world were gathered together. I saw people from many different countries wearing their traditional clothing, speaking many different languages, yet united in one faith. It was like a picture of heaven, where people from every nation worship God together. It will be just like the children's song—everyone is precious in God's sight.

Each day the session began with worship. The music was powerful and uplifting. Choirs and

orchestra from different parts of the world sang with joy. The sermons were full of inspiration, reminding us to stay faithful and active in God's mission. One message that stood out was the reminder: "Jesus is coming soon. Get involved!" This made me think more deeply about my role in sharing the gospel.

The GC Session is also about the work of the church. I watched how leaders and delegates from all over the world came together to discuss important decisions. They prayed before speaking, and even when people had different opinions, they still showed respect and unity. It was clear to me that the Holy Spirit was leading.

One of my favorite parts was visiting the exhibit hall. I saw booths from different ministries, schools, hospitals, and mission projects. It was amazing to learn how the Adventist Church is serving people in many ways—through education, health, media, and community service. I saw how God is working around the world, and it made me proud to be part of this movement. And I appreciated the freebies being handed out by the different ministries.

I met many new friends aside from the friends I've known but not seen for several years. Some were pastors, youth leaders, missionaries, or just regular church members like me. Even though we came from different backgrounds, we shared the same hope and the same love for Jesus. We prayed and laughed together, encouraging each other, especially during lunchtime in the dining hall.

Sabbath was unforgettable. Thousands came together for worship. The preaching was powerful, and the testimonies from missionaries touched my heart. Some were working in difficult and dangerous places, but they stayed strong because of their love for God. It reminded me that we all have a mission, no matter where we are.

This experience helped me see the Seventh-day Adventist Church not only as a local congregation but also as a worldwide family. We may have different cultures, but we share one faith, one mission, and one hope in Jesus Christ. It was a powerful reminder that the church is alive, growing, and preparing for Christ's soon return.



MJ jumps in to serve by distributing the GC Session to the delegates. JOSEF KISSINGER



MELJOHN ESTACHIO

MELINOR ESTACHIO

Faith-building. Being able to attend the GC Session in person is already a miracle and an answer to countless prayers. Considering my medical condition, the almost 24-hour trip from the Philippines, the change of time zones, my fluctuating blood pressure, the extreme temperatures, all I can say is “Hallelujah! The Lord is good! His mercies endure forever! And while only seeing a small fraction of our global church family, I am really happy to be part of this worldwide movement. *Thank You, Lord, for making me a part of this church!*

Eye-opening. Hearing the reports and stories thus far, I wanted at one point to cry, because there’s still so many people who seem unaware of Christ’s love. How does the church growth and retention rate compare to the increase in world population? Is what I’m doing enough? *O Lord, am I really where You want me to be? Help me to completely surrender to You, that I may know and obey faithfully.*

Listening to the discussions on the floor, I could not help comparing them to local church board meetings or constituency meetings, only this was much broader, the impact greater, espe-

cially when it came to the *Church Manual* amendments. *Dear Father, please give clarity in all amendments, that Your wisdom will be revealed even in the translations.*

Focused. When my husband and I ran the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) booth, my job was to take Polaroid pictures. It was fun seeing all the smiling faces with the carabao (water buffalo found in the Philippines) and the surprised look of the youngsters when the Polaroid film came out of the camera. But it got me thinking: *What is this booth for? What are we doing here?* But the Lord reminded me the SSD theme of Harvest 2025—The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Dear Father, enable us through Your Spirit to be intentional in laboring in Your harvest, wherever it may be. May we give generously from the resources You’ve entrusted to us. May we rejoice when You finally come to gather Your people. Amen. 🙏

MelJohn (MJ) Estachio serves as director of Life Hope Center in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD). **Melinor**, his wife, works in the SSD office.

Enabling Global Mission

KAREN PORTER

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has long been committed to spreading the gospel across the world, a mission that spans cultures, languages, and geographies. A crucial aspect of fulfilling this mission is deploying dedicated international service employees (ISEs)—individuals who are called to serve in mission fields around the globe. While each individual is employed by their calling/host organization, the General Conference International Personnel Resources and Services (IPRS) team plays a pivotal role in supporting these missionaries throughout all stages of their service, from recruitment to repatriation, with the ultimate goal of enabling ISEs to focus on their mission of spreading the gospel.

MISSION AND PURPOSE OF IPRS

At the heart of IPRS is its mission to provide excellent service in human resources, finance, and relocation support, ensuring that ISEs have the resources and care they need to fulfill their calling. IPRS aims to handle all the logistical and bureaucratic challenges associated with international missionary work, allowing ISEs to concentrate on the work they are called to do, whether that be in pastoral, medical, educational, or other specialized fields.

THE PRIORITIES OF THE MISSION REFOCUS PROGRAM

The IPRS team works in alignment with the priorities set by the Mission Board, which has outlined strategic focuses to guide the church's global mission. These priorities emphasize areas of greatest need, such as:

- Direct-contact mission with the goal of establishing new worshipping groups.
- Focusing on countries within the 10/40 window and among people groups with non-Christian religions.
- Reaching urban areas with populations exceeding 1 million.

- Ministering to regions that are postmodern or post-Christian.
- Addressing areas with a low Adventist-to-population ratio.
- Providing high-impact equipping for direct-contact mission by managing and training local direct-contact workers.

While IPRS acknowledges that other positions not fitting these criteria may still be important, these priorities are the team's focus. They help direct the allocation of resources, training, and support, ensuring that mission efforts target the most urgent needs and challenges around the globe.

THE PROCESS OF RECRUITING AND DEPLOYING ISES

IPRS collaborates with General Conference Secretariat (SEC), Treasury (TRE), Presidential (PRE), world divisions, attached unions/field, and General Conference institutions to ensure the missionary's call aligns with the church's broader mission objectives. This coordinated effort ensures that ISEs are deployed to the right areas, addressing the most urgent needs for mission work in countries with limited access to Christian resources.

The IPRS team is engaged from the moment individuals are identified as candidates for mission service, whether in pastoral work, health care, education, or other specialized areas. These individuals must be baptized, in regular standing within the church, and demonstrate a strong commitment to the mission of spreading the gospel. Furthermore, they must possess the necessary experience and qualifications, including educational degrees such as a master's degree, depending on the role.

FINANCIAL AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR ISES

Once an ISE is ready to serve, IPRS is responsible for the comprehensive support necessary to ensure their relocation and continued mission service. This support includes addressing financial and logistical issues, such as providing funding, shipping personal belongings, and facilitating transportation to the mission field.

The IPRS team also collaborates closely with divi-



sions or organizations that may have specific requirements for the position, ensuring that budgetary constraints are met and that the ISE is equipped with the necessary tools to thrive in their environment. ISEs are typically supported by the General Conference's mission budget, but there are occasions when local organizations cover the expenses.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND ONGOING IN-FIELD SUPPORT

Once an ISE is deployed, IPRS continues to provide ongoing human resources support, manage annual leave, and offer pastoral and psychological care. The IPRS team ensures that the ISE is adequately supported in their work, both professionally and personally, by providing guidance and addressing any challenges they may encounter while in the field.

The annual leave allows the ISE to renew personal contacts, remain connected to their homeland society, and enjoy association with family (parents and/or children), while providing a period of change and rest. It also offers the opportunity to stimulate interest in missions at home churches as the ISE visits them with up-to-date reports.

PERSONNEL RETURN AND REPLICATION OF SERVICES

Upon completing their mission service, ISEs undergo a comprehensive process for personnel return. IPRS ensures a smooth transition by handling all aspects of repatriation, including the shipment of personal belongings, returning individuals to their home countries, and processing the final financial settlement.

Moreover, IPRS helps ensure that the experiences and knowledge gained during their service

IPRS ensures that missionaries are equipped, cared for, supported, and able to return home with their mission work accomplished—leaving a lasting impact on the world.

are not lost. The church encourages sharing these valuable lessons with others, promoting the replication of successful models and strategies that ISEs have used in the field. This feedback loop is essential for the continued growth and effectiveness of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's global mission efforts.

CONCLUSION

In prioritizing regions with the greatest need and providing missionaries with the resources and care they require, the IPRS team plays a critical role in the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church by offering comprehensive support to international service employees throughout their mission journey. By managing logistical, financial, and human resources concerns, IPRS enables ISEs to concentrate on their primary calling: spreading the gospel. The IPRS team ensures that missionaries, whether in pastoral, medical, educational, or other specialized roles, are equipped, cared for, supported, and able to return home with their mission work accomplished—leaving a lasting impact on the world. 🌱

Karen Porter is an associate secretary of the General Conference.

Sharing Christ With the Hardest-to-Reach People on Earth for 54 Years

DUANE MCKEY

An average day at Adventist World Radio (AWR) is an adventure. Reaching the world—including the hardest-to-reach people—with the good news is one of the ministry’s goals and often involves creative solutions. On any given day you’ll find AWR:

- Broadcasting on more than 2,000 stations around the globe.
- Sharing the Bible via solar-powered “Godpods” in remote areas.
- Meeting felt needs through health outreach—including with a semitruck providing hope and help across Ukraine.
- Hearing from hardened criminals whose lives have been transformed after learning about the gospel—such as rebel soldiers who have put down their guns and let go of deep-seated vendettas to follow Jesus.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Adventist World Radio’s first broadcast hit the airwaves in the fall of 1971. Manager Allen Steele and his wife, Andrea, led a small group of dedicated believers in those early days, and throughout the decades it has grown to become a powerhouse for the gospel via shortwave, AM/FM radio, digital audio, podcasts, YouTube evangelism, cell phone evangelism, health outreach, in-person evangelistic series, and more.

Initial broadcasts were transmitted via shortwave radio in Portugal, which provided programming to Europe and the former USSR in 10 languages for 12 hours a week. In the years that followed, AWR added more and more countries, aided significantly by powerful transmitters and 300-foot towers in Guam that began broadcasting in 1987. By 1996 AWR was already broadcasting in more languages than Voice

of America and the British Broadcasting Corporation. In 2005 the potential coverage of the towers alone had grown to 3.5 billion people.

SOLAR-POWERED BIBLES

AWR has always been more than a radio ministry. In 2007 AWR began sending “Godpods”—solar-powered audio players containing the Bible, Bible studies, sermons, and children’s material—to villages in South Sudan that couldn’t be reached otherwise.

Since then, AWR has sent Godpods worldwide, customized with local dialects. Godpod stories have poured into the ministry ever since: from the converted thief who stole a Godpod and couldn’t believe the “radio” worked inside his cave, to prisoners on death row who gave their hearts to Jesus after listening to a Godpod during their final days, to children who have memorized entire chapters of the Bible and like to fall asleep listening to the device. You too can own a Godpod. Stop by the AWR radio/Godpod booth in the Level 1 hallway to purchase yours during GC Session.

FROM BROADCAST TO BAPTISM

In 2017, when current ministry president Duane McKey came on



board, AWR expanded its focus even further with the name “AWR360—Broadcast to Baptism.” Through this new initiative nearly every aspect of the ministry encourages people to connect with the local Adventist church near them.

This outreach includes the establishment of AWR’s Center for Digital Evangelism in the Philippines, staffed by young people on fire for the gospel. Every day they respond to prayer requests, Bible questions, and comments left on AWR’s social media pages and YouTube videos.

Some of the most popular videos, created by the AWR headquarters staff, are the uplifting “miracle videos” filmed around the world, featuring stories of hearts transformed by God’s love.

During the COVID-19 worldwide lockdown, the ministry released two online programs when AWR couldn’t do as much in-person evangelism. Unlocking Bible Prophecies, featuring AWR vice president Cami



AWR President Duane McKey and Executive Vice President Cami Oetman at one of more than 2,300 meetings during Papua New Guinea for Christ in 2024.

Oetman, and Earth's Final Countdown, by McKey, quickly saw millions of views in more than 30 languages. Many people wrote to AWR to say they had joined the church after watching these series.

AWR continues to press forward, and in the last year alone the ministry:

- Launched 17 new radio stations and 146 new internet radio stations.
- Sent 33,461 Godpods to people in 26 countries.
- Printed 220,000 Spirit of Prophecy books.
- Expanded its reach in the Middle East through AWR's radio station/center of influence in Nazareth, which has now become a beacon of light for the Arab world.
- Printed more than 10 million tracts in multiple languages, with more than 4 million Pidgin English tracts distributed in Papua New Guinea (PNG) alone. During the Paris Olympics a group of young people also distributed tracts in multiple languages.

IN-PERSON EVANGELISM AND HEALTH EVENTS

In-person evangelistic series and health events are also a core part of the ministry. In partnership with the General Conference's Total Member Involvement (TMI) initiative, more than 2,300 AWR evangelistic series were held across Papua New Guinea (PNG) in 2024, resulting in hundreds of thousands of baptisms.

In addition, through AWR360° Health (joined by Pathway to Health for this event), medical teams provided more than 26,000 free services in

PNG, including cataract surgeries, dental services, and health screenings.

In 2023, during Christ for Europe, AWR and TMI partnered with 1,530 churches in 38 countries across Europe to hold evangelistic meetings. Guest speakers and local preachers connected with the community from Ireland to Italy to Iceland to Ukraine.

McKey summed up this event, as well as AWR's ministry as a whole: "Christ for Europe truly did exceedingly abundantly above all we could ask or think! This series showed us that there's a hunger for Bible truth across Europe, even though it's a place many people write off as too hard to reach. But we've seen that no place is too hard when you preach the full message!"

CONNECT AND LEARN MORE

Stop by the AWR booth (#2023) at GC Session to meet the AWR staff and hear the latest ministry news.

AWR is also debuting two new "miracle stories" books at GC Session, which you can receive at the booth for any donation: one by AWR president Duane McKey and one by AWR360° Nazareth director Wisam Ali—featuring stories of God's leading during the past few years. There will also be book signings throughout the event. Visit awr.org/gcsession to see the schedule and download digital versions of the new books.

To learn more about AWR and to watch inspiring miracle videos, visit awr.org. 📺

Duane McKey is a field secretary for the General Conference and president of Adventist World Radio.

Seek Knowledge. Affirm Faith. Change the World.

BORDES HENRY SATURNÉ

As a premier educational institution of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Andrews University values its rich legacy of transformative education rooted in faith, scholarship, and global engagement. Since its founding in 1874, Andrews University has consistently welcomed the world into its community and then sent its graduates back to the world to bring about positive change. The university remains dedicated to equipping students with a desire to be active followers of God and engaged members of their communities.

Approximately 100,000 alumni have reflected on its succinct mission statement during their memorable academic journey at Andrews University: “Seek knowledge, affirm faith, and change the world.” They have forever internalized the values, aspirations, and ideals of their alma mater. The echo of these profoundly powerful words continues to resonate in their hearts, solidifying in their thoughts the apocalyptic imperative to change the world with a transformative message of hope.

FROM ALL NATIONS, TRIBES, PEOPLES, AND TONGUES

Andrews University, ranked number one for ethnic and racial diversity, has a long tradition of welcoming faculty and students from around the world. This aligns with the church’s mission to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19, 20). With people from more than 100 different countries, it is a foretaste of the great reunion described in Revelation 7:9: “. . . a great multitude . . . from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb” (NIV).



Andrews University students, employees, and alumni celebrate their cultural heritage at the annual parade during Alumni Homecoming Weekend. JONATHAN LOGAN



Pioneer Memorial church has been the spiritual home for generations of world changers. REBEKAH HELSIUS



The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, which recently celebrated its ninetieth anniversary, prepares pastors and leaders for service in the world church. DARREN HESLOP

SPIRITUAL LIFE ON CAMPUS

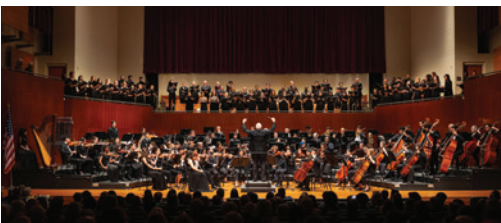
Andrews University offers a distinctive Seventh-day Adventist environment that nurtures spiritual growth both in the classroom and through Weeks of Prayer, chapel services, prayer meetings, Bible study groups, service trips, and student missionary opportunities. Ministry opportunities abound at Pioneer Memorial church and in other local congregations.



University president John Wesley Taylor V addresses a group of students in the School of Leadership. BORDES HENRY SATURNÉ



The Global Campus, launched in the summer of 2024, combines preexisting units to coordinate and streamline services for domestic and international students. DARREN HESLOP



The Howard Performing Arts Center is a world-class facility for fine arts presentations, located near the main entrance to the Andrews University campus. BLAISE DATOY

THE SEMINARY

The seminary offers six doctoral programs, five master's degree programs, and six dual-degree programs, as well as postdoctoral studies for a number of students. The academic journal *Andrews University Seminary Studies (AUSS)* publishes cutting-edge research articles, dissertation abstracts, and book reviews.

THE SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP

For the past 30 years the School of Leadership has equipped individuals to better serve God, the church, and the public. The highly flexible programs are designed to meet the needs of individuals in various fields. This dynamic community has produced leaders and professionals around the world.



THE GLOBAL CAMPUS

The Global Campus extends access to Seventh-day Adventist education, creating a virtual community designed to nurture learning. It supports faculty and students by promoting best practices in distance education and international partnerships. The Global Campus also operates Griggs International Academy and maintains the official records of Griggs University.

RICH MUSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Andrews University has been blessed with a strong music program and a state-of-the-art performance space. In addition to several official university ensembles and the WAUS radio station, students and employees participate in worship and praise across campus and in the community.

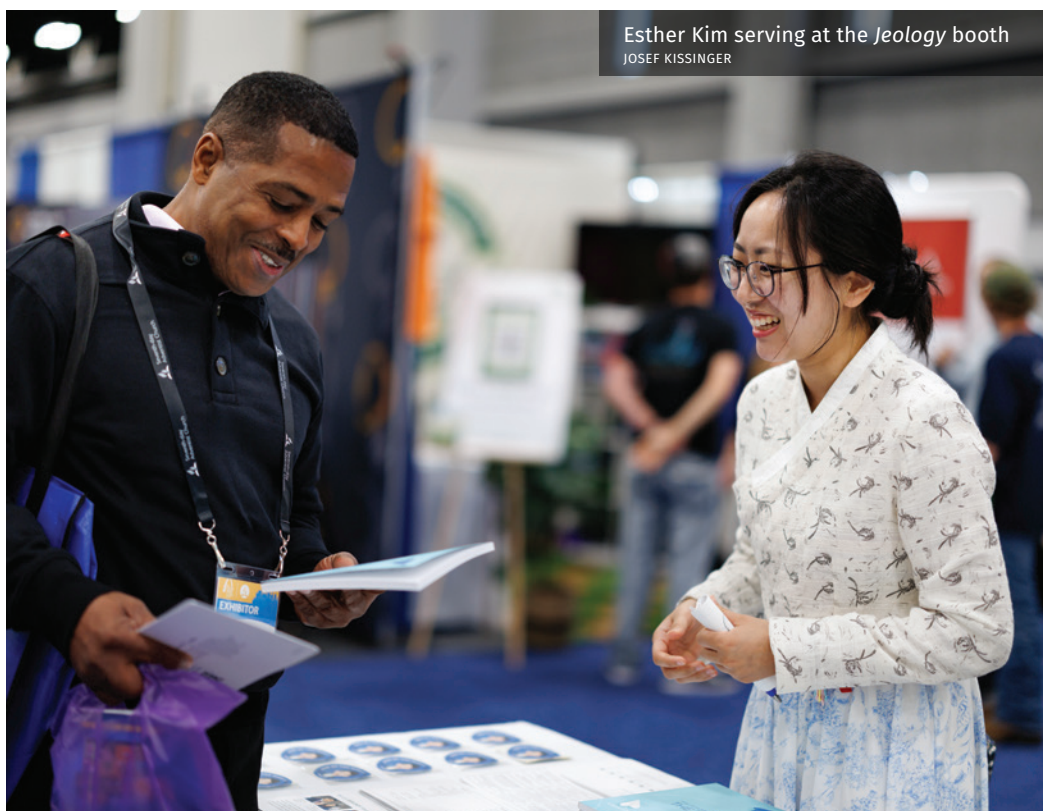
CONCLUSION

At Andrews University, the flagship institution for higher education of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we are determined more than ever to *seek knowledge, affirm faith, and change the world*. Would you join us in that sacred and thrilling endeavor?

For more information, please visit www.andrews.edu, call 269-471-6509, or email undergrad@andrews.edu or graduate@andrews.edu. 📌



Bordes Henry Saturné is vice president for Strategic Enrollment Management, Marketing, and Communication for Andrews University.



Esther Kim serving at the *Jeology* booth
JOSEF KISSINGER

One Mission, Many Nations

ESTHER KIM

I walked into the Dome for the first time with a heart full of anticipation. This was my very first time attending a General Conference Session, and I had come as an exhibitor for *Jeology* (@itsjeology on Instagram), a ministry devoted to helping people read and understand the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Our booth, nestled among countless others, was just one thread in the rich tapestry of global Adventist ministry on display. But as the days unfolded, I realized the GC Session was more than an event; it was a glimpse of what the kingdom of God on earth might look like.

The day began early with morning worship, led by John Bradshaw. His message was both timely and timeless, a stirring call to keep the Word of God close to our hearts, to prepare for Christ's soon return, not through sensational news headlines or fear-driven interpretations, but through grounded faith and Scripture. He reminded us of

Matthew 24:14, that the end will not come until “this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world.” It’s not the rise of chaos or antichrist powers that signals the end; it’s the global fulfillment of the Great Commission.

For me, that message hit close to home. Jeology is built on the conviction that the Bible must be central in the final work of God’s people. As Pastor Bradshaw spoke, I felt reanchored in that mission. Revelation 14 describes a people who “keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus,” a people who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. That’s the church I want to be part of. After worship I joined a group of attendees in prayer. Though we were strangers just moments before, we prayed like family, about our ministries, our burdens, and the hope of Jesus’ return. There’s something beautiful about being surrounded by people who share not only your beliefs but also your sense of urgency and purpose.

The morning business meeting was another layer of the GC experience, perhaps less emotionally charged, but just as important. Having served in student government at my university, I was surprised by how familiar the parliamentary procedures felt. But it was more than procedural familiarity that struck me; it was the realization that this was a world church, united in structure yet rich in diversity. Decisions were made that will impact millions of Adventists globally. Amendments to the *Church Manual*, nominations for division offices—it all revealed how much care and prayer goes into building a global body of believers.

For lunch my friend and I opted for a humble classic: peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches on the side of the hallway wall. We skipped the official meal lines, which were surprisingly efficient, and joined the many attendees who had brought meals from home. There was something charmingly communal about it: people from all over the world sitting on the floor, sharing food, stories, and laughter. It reminded me that this wasn’t just a conference; it was a family reunion on a global scale.

After lunch the Dome filled with music as choirs from around the world lifted their voices in praise. The diversity was breathtaking, languages, dress,

There’s something beautiful about being surrounded by people who share not only your beliefs but also your sense of urgency and purpose.

rhythms, and melodies from every corner of the globe. And yet we were singing one song. One praise to one God. In that moment I caught a glimpse of heaven, not as a vague concept, but as a living reality. A place where every nation, tribe, and tongue worships in harmony.

Later in the afternoon I attended a session during which a motion was brought forward strongly encouraging churches to elect a coordinator for public campus ministries. As someone who has served in campus ministry for nearly a decade, I was touched deeply by this. While I’ve been blessed to work with churches that support our mission, I know many student groups who operate without consistent church backing, no home base, no financial support, no mentoring network. Seeing delegates advocate for stronger support of public campus ministries was not just encouraging—it felt like an answer to years of prayer.

Looking back on the day, I am filled with gratitude. What stood out most wasn’t any single sermon, vote, or song; it was the overwhelming sense that we are not alone. That across oceans and languages and cultures there are people who love Jesus, cherish His Word, and are eager for His return. Meeting them, talking to them, praying with them—it was a reminder that the gospel is alive and is moving.

For anyone who’s never attended a General Conference Session, I would say this: come, at least once in your life. Come not just to witness the business or browse the exhibits, but to be reminded that you are part of something much bigger than yourself. I came as an exhibitor. I left reinspired as a disciple. 🍌



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Ralph S. Watts, Jr.

His legacy of mission, ministry, and service

BETH THOMAS

Ralph S. Watts, Jr., will never forget his first General Conference Session: San Francisco, California, in 1940. He was 7 years old. His family had just been evacuated from war-torn Korea, where his father served as president of the Korean Union. His father's position as a delegate enabled them to attend session that year.

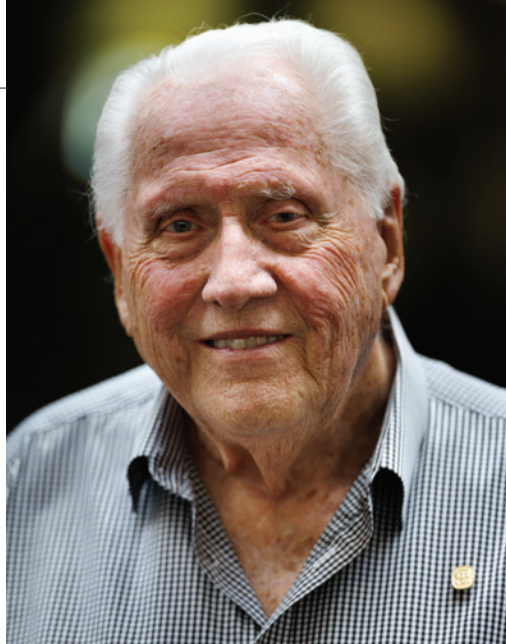
Watts grew up in a world shaped by mission and movement. He attended school in Shanghai until political unrest forced another evacuation. Their family moved to Singapore, where with the help of a missionary tutor, Ralph continued his schooling. He was already aware that ministry—and leadership—were part of his calling.

After Watts entered pastoral ministry in Nebraska, his administrative gifts quickly became evident. By age 32 he was a division departmental director; then he was elected president of the Southeast Asia Union. His leadership spanned continents—from Korea to the United States—and included pivotal roles as president of several conferences.

A conversation in 1985 shifted his path. Then-General Conference president Neal Wilson stopped him in a hallway during a board meeting visit and asked, "Are you married to the Southern California Conference?" Watts loved leading the conference, loved the people. He didn't want to leave. But Wilson was starting something new: a restructured relief agency—ADRA—and he needed Watts to lead it.

Reluctant at first, Watts agreed after encouragement from his wife, Pat, to give it three years. He stayed for 17. Under his leadership ADRA expanded from a fledgling disaster relief agency into a global development powerhouse. His vision helped turn ADRA into a trusted name across the Adventist Church and in international humanitarian circles.

Even after his retirement in 2002, Watts didn't slow down. He assisted in managing the main



JOSEF KISSINGER

stage for two GC sessions from behind the scenes, chaired the board of Quiet Hour Ministries, and led a charity focused on building women's health centers across Asia and Africa. "My heart breaks for these women," he said. "They carry the water, raise the children, run the home—often while their husbands don't offer much assistance."

In all, he has attended 17 or 18 (he's lost track now) General Conference sessions—missing only one in 1954 while studying Greek during college. From San Francisco to Vienna, from Dallas to Toronto, and eventually to St. Louis, each session has marked a chapter in his decades-long service to the church.

At age 92 he has returned once more to the General Conference Session in St. Louis, representing the General Conference as a delegate at large. This will likely be his last.

He hopes the church will embrace a sense of urgency as it moves into the future. "The older I get," he says, "the more I want the church to realize we don't have five more years. There has to be that kind of urgency. You look at what is happening in our world today! We don't realize how close we are. I believe that I can live to see Jesus come, because I think it's going to happen quick."

Watts has lived through war, displacement, church growth, and global change, but his faith and purpose have not wavered. From San Francisco to St. Louis, from pastor to president, from missionary child to global leader—Ralph Watts has served wherever God called.

And he's never lost sight of the mission. ▀

Each morning at 9:00 a.m. members of all five health-care systems gather in their joint exhibit to pray for the requests on the tree. JOSEF KISSINGER



Unique in Identity; Unified in Mission

North American Division-based health-care systems join together at the General Conference Session

BECKY ST. CLAIR

It's the tree that draws people in—a three-tiered 16-foot structure with ribbon branches that sway gently in the exhibition hall. Beneath it attendees pause to write prayers or reflections on leaf-shaped cards, then quietly attach them to the branches, adding their voices to the hundreds already fluttering above. But the tree represents more than just a peaceful moment—it stands at the heart of a meaningful and perhaps unexpected

collaboration. In this space five Adventist health-care systems have come together to share one space, one story, and one mission of healing.

The Spirit of Reflection Tree resides in the joint exhibit shared by AdventHealth, Adventist Health, Adventist HealthCare, Kettering Health, and Loma Linda University Health. Though the five North American-based health-care entities have shared exhibit space for the past two General Conference (GC) sessions, this is the first year they have also each displayed their individual brands.

The similarities between their names often leads to confusion among the general Adventist population. "We definitely wanted to show up in this exhibit in our own brands, so people can see them, begin to understand them, understand the geography associated with each one, and answer some of those questions," says Garrett Caldwell, director for external communications at AdventHealth. "So we thought, *Let's come together. Let's share the foundation we have in common and tell our story collectively.*"

“While each system operates from its own unique histories and geographical areas, they are all part of the ecosystem of ministries making up the overall impact of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.”

Even the setup of the exhibit illustrates the concept of “many parts, one body” (see 1 Cor. 12:12), which is exactly the message they are trying to send: while each of the systems operates from their own unique histories and geographical areas, they are all part of the ecosystem of ministries and organizations making up the overall impact of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Individual systems working together toward one collective mission.

Once they decided to work together, coordinating teams from each system began meeting monthly, then weekly for the final six months. They developed a foundational statement they dubbed “the manifesto” and identified key messages they wanted to convey. Then it was a matter of determining how to make that message tangible and experiential for exhibit guests.

“Collaboration means you have to take into consideration others’ perspectives, creative visions, and intended purposes, and put them together with yours—which may be very different,” comments Costin Jordache, senior vice president for strategy and brand at Adventist HealthCare. To aid with this goal, the executives met to determine a path of clarity for their combined teams. “We had a lot of meetings to get to that point,” Jordache says. “Collaboration is hard. But we were all determined to make it work, and in the end it was worth it.”

The spirit of collaboration isn’t limited to this exhibit. The five health-care systems already work together in meaningful ways, including through the Adventist Health Policy Association, where their CEOs advocate together on legislative issues in Washington, D.C., and through a bioethics consortium that allows leaders to navigate complex questions at the intersection of faith, ethics, and health care.

While these ongoing efforts reflect behind-the-scenes cooperation and alignment of mission, Sabbath afternoon will offer a public expression of that unity. For the first time, all five CEOs will stand side by side on the main stage to share how their individual organizations are part of a shared purpose bringing healing and hope through Adventist health care.

That same spirit of unity is embedded in the physical layout of the GC Session exhibit itself, designed

with an open, central space for reflection and connection. Distinct brand displays line the perimeter, surrounding what has quickly become the emotional and spiritual heart of the exhibit: the Spirit of Reflection Tree. Though not intended to be the centerpiece of the exhibit, it quickly became apparent to the exhibitors that the tree was capturing not only the attention but the hearts of attendees.

“People come to the tree, and they pray,” says Caldwell. “Sometimes they cry. They share their story, their hope, and their prayer. We believe even this is the beginning of a healing experience.”

The leaf cards provided at a table under the ribbon branches of the tree feature a variety of 16 different prompts and accompanying scriptures to encourage visitors to express gratitude, joy, hope, and peace. On the back is blank space for writing prayer requests, and provided clips allow visitors to attach those requests to the tree.

“Over the course of GC [Session], we want to fill the tree with leaves,” Caldwell says, referencing Revelation 22:2, which, in talking about the tree of life, says, “The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

Each morning at 9:00 a.m. the exhibit staff from all five systems gather around the tree and pray for the requests hanging there. They are written in multiple languages, and range from hope-filled gratitude to faith-filled petitions. Going forward, the hope is that the five systems will re-create a similar concept in their hospital lobbies for patients, families, visitors, staff, and administration.

“This is the ministry of health care,” states Jordache. “These organizations must operate like the best businesses in the world, because without revenue there’s no ministry, but we are very much fueled by the understanding that we form, with the church, an ecosystem of impact within our communities.”

What has unfolded at GC Session isn’t just a successful exhibit—it’s a glimpse of what’s possible when mission drives collaboration. In a world that often prioritizes competition over connection, these five health-care systems chose to tell one story, together, demonstrating that unity doesn’t require uniformity and that working side by side can amplify impact without sacrificing identity. ▀

SESSION GALLERY



DAVID B. SHERWIN



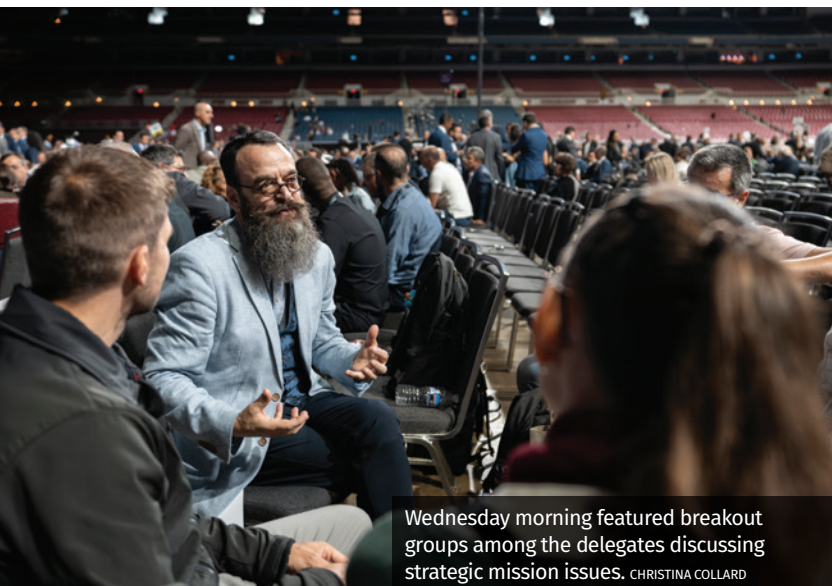
Abner De Los Santos participates in one of the morning worships. MARK FROELICH



A participant from the Southern Asia Division report greets delegates and attendees. JOSEF KISSINGER



Dora Desamour (center) and Crystal Ward (right), along with a deaf interpreter, lead out on the My Journey Stage in the exhibit hall. JOSEF KISSINGER



Wednesday morning featured breakout groups among the delegates discussing strategic mission issues. CHRISTINA COLLARD



Kenneth Logan on the organ
JAMES BOKOVY



MARK FROELICH



All elected officials have their portrait taken. MARK FROELICH



Daniel Biaggi directs the Shenandoah Valley Academy choir. CHRISTINA COLLARD



The Real Center of Power

Daily prayer opportunities unite attendees in spiritual focus.

BETH THOMAS

In America's Center Convention Complex, Room 120 hums with a quiet energy. An estimated 1,000 guests are coming together daily—not to debate motions or cast votes, but to seek divine guidance through prayer.

Coordinated by the General Conference Ministerial Association and part of the Revival and Reformation initiative, these prayer sessions provide an opportunity for reflection and intercession. They are open to everyone and provide a space for attendees to pray for the business of the

church, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the personal burdens they carry.

These are significant meetings, and decisions are being made for the future of our church. "We believe the Holy Spirit needs to guide those decisions," said Melody Mason, one of the coordinators. "Of course we have consecrated leaders who are praying, but we believe that we are like Aaron and Hur behind the scenes, holding up the arms of Moses. We are here to hold up the arms of our leaders, to pray for the Holy Spirit to be poured out on every aspect of session, whether it's the worship services, the agendas, the committee meetings, the nominations—we're here to pray."

And it's not only delegates and family members who are taking advantage of the prayer room. Convention workers and people from off the street also feel comfortable joining in the prayer sessions, Mason said. "They've told us, 'This is my favorite place to come during my break,' and they're praying with us."

Whether whispered in Room 120, scribbled on a Post-it note, or lifted silently in front of a city map, each petition is a reminder that prayer is the heartbeat of the church.

The prayer room is open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and daily programs begin with a revival time when guests join in worship and praise. This is followed by a study on Elijah, during which they learn lessons from his life on how to be God's last-day "Elijah"—calling for revival and reformation. Pastor Don MacLafferty has been leading these sessions, interspersed with a study of the Word and prayer.

Room 120 remains open throughout the day for personal prayer and meditation.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

The prayer room is not the only place where guests can explore this power. Several ministries in the exhibit hall are offering unique spaces for prayer and reflection.

One special place is a quiet corner in the General Conference Family Ministries booth, covered with brightly colored Post-it notes holding very specific prayer requests. Sharing about their Prayer Rest Stop, Dawn Venn, senior editorial assistant for Family Ministries, said, "People will pause here for quite a while and just pray over the requests they see—the people, the countries. Then they'll leave and bring back their family members or friends to experience this."

Others are adopting this idea of a prayer wall as a ministry for their own churches. "It is an easy way to engage the community and church through

prayer. Visitors can take a photo of the posted prayer requests to take home to pray over," said Daniel Taipe, a creative consultant working with Family Ministries. "Guests are recognizing names and prayer requests of friends and promising to pray over them. It's a simple activity to connect members together."

And while there are opportunities to uplift specific personal prayer requests, booths such as Mission to the Cities and the Ministerial Association highlight large secular cities and local towns in need of prayer. At the Global Missions exhibit, Karilyn Suvankham, communication specialist with the Department of Adventist Mission at the General Conference, shared how people can use the Mission to the Cities prayer map featuring 580-plus cities of 1 million or more people to specifically pray for the unreached in those areas of the world.

In yet another area, a Spirit of Reflection Tree stands in the center of the North American Division Adventist health-care systems exhibit, a statement to the uniting power of spiritual connection with the divine that crosses cultural boundaries. (For more on this story, see Becky St. Clair's feature on p. 26.)

Whether whispered in Room 120, scribbled on a Post-it note, or lifted silently in front of a city map, each petition is a reminder that prayer is the heartbeat of the church. 🍀



A guest adds a prayer request to the Family Ministries wall. JOSEF KISSINGER



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ADHILAKSHMI IS HOPE

HANNAH DREWIECK

HOPE CHANNEL
EVENING DEVOTIONAL
MESSAGE PRESENTED
WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2025

For 21 years Adhilakshmi carried the ache of ungranted prayer requests. Despite her burning desire to be a mother, she could not conceive a child. There was no explanation of which she was aware. It just seemed as if there were a growing silence that followed her through her home in Meyyur, a village in southern India.

Her husband's family didn't hide their disappointment. She was quietly pushed out of celebrations, left on the edges of joy. Over time the shame settled in her bones. The pain turned inward. And one day, when it became too much, she tried to end her life.





The doctors hadn't been able to help. No treatment had worked. But God had heard. And the same community that once looked down on her now watched in awe.

But even in that darkness God was already moving. One afternoon as she sat alone with the television playing in the background, something caught her attention. A Christian meeting was airing on Hope Channel India. She paused. She watched. She listened. And for the first time in a long time something stirred. It wasn't joy—not yet. But it was hope. It was small and fragile, but alive.

She began attending Christian gatherings in her village and nearby towns. Her mother, Pootha Lakshmi, also started to believe, followed by her brother Murugan and his family. Together they found something beautiful. But not everyone saw it that way. The village fought back. Accusations flew. Locals claimed Christians were spreading foreign ideas with foreign money. They tried to shut down the meetings. The pressure was real. But so was the faith.

One night Pootha Lakshmi knelt and wept as she prayed. "Lord, my daughter has been without a child for 21 years. If You bless her with a child, I will accept You." Adhilakshmi and her husband prayed too, quietly but earnestly: "If the Lord blesses us with a child, we will accept Him."

They couldn't say it aloud, not yet, but their hearts had already chosen Jesus. And then God moved.

Despite fierce resistance a church was built in their village. People tried to tear it down. But it stood. Before the dedication, Pootha Lakshmi brought her daughter to the nearly finished church. She spent the entire day crying at the altar, begging God for a miracle.

That same month Adhilakshmi conceived. The doctors hadn't been able to help. No treatment had worked. But God had heard. And the same community that once looked down on her now watched in awe. When the baby boy was born, they named him Samuel, and they dedicated him in the very church built by prayer, tears, and faith.

It all started with a broadcast. A single message on a quiet day that reached a woman on the edge of despair. From there it grew into a prayer circle, a family of believers, a church standing strong in the face of opposition.

Adhilakshmi's story isn't just about receiving a child. It's about what happens when people choose to believe together. When families pray in unity. When a community stands for the truth, even when it's hard. That's how the message spreads. That's how hope multiplies.

Adhilakshmi and her community united to become hope. We are all hope. 🍀

Hannah Drewieck is the communication coordinator for Hope Channel International.

TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION REPORT

Good News From Unexpected Places

During 2022-2025 the Trans-European Division (TED) embarked on a strategic journey under the theme “Engaged In Mission” (the TED version of “I Will Go”). With a renewed focus on mission, leadership development, and digital discipleship, leaders across 28 countries and territories were invited to extend love to the whole person, grow lifelong disciples together with all ages, and multiply communities among people groups, old and new. Below are just a few of the stories that reflect this ongoing journey and God’s rich blessings.

EXTENDING LOVE

In 2022 the Adriatic Union Conference (AUC) launched the Helping Hand Ministry Center in Pula, Croatia. Since opening its doors, it has served more than 5,000 people, providing free health, psycho-social, and emotional support to those in need. Funded by the TED, the AUC, and the Croatian Conference, the center offers a unique integration of professional care and spiritual exploration. It not only provides therapeutic services and online counseling but also hosts engaging group workshops that address emotional growth, relationships, and spirituality for those interested.

The community’s response has been overwhelmingly positive. Locals have expressed deep gratitude for the support they have received, espe-

cially during the challenging times following the COVID-19 pandemic. In spite of the center’s connection to the Seventh-day Adventist Church being clear, it is warmly embraced by those it serves. Many not only have found healing but have also been introduced to Christ through their journey with Helping Hand.

The center’s impact has gained national recognition. Croatia’s leading television network, HRTV1, featured Helping Hand on its respected program *Together in Spirit*, highlighting the valuable contribution the ministry has made to improving lives. The broadcast praised the team’s compassionate and professional approach, especially in responding to the emotional and mental health needs of the community.

Encouraged by the success in Pula, the conference now plans to expand the model by establishing a similar center in the capital, Zagreb. With professionals already showing interest and a shared vision for collaboration between centers, the future of Helping Hand points to a growing network of care and outreach.

For more on this story, scan the QR codes.



GROWING LIFELONG DISCIPLES

Health Coaching in Sweden. A profound shift is taking place in Adventist Health Ministries: moving away from simply dispensing information to recognizing that true lifestyle changes require more than knowledge. They demand relational, emotional, and contextual support. To accomplish this, in Brunskog, Sweden, *Life-StyleTV* championed a new relational approach by hosting the Lifestyle Coaching Skills Workshop in its studios in February 2024. Spearheaded by Katia Garcia Reinert, associate director of Health Ministries at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (GC), the workshop was a trailblazer.



The Helping Hand Center in Pula, Croatia, is well-received for offering free health, psycho-social, and emotional support to those in need. MIŠO HAVRAN



The heart of this movement is a biblically grounded conviction not just by giving advice, but by journeying together. DAVID NEAL

Participants from across Europe—Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Belgium, and Scotland—were encouraged by Reinert to see themselves, not as travel agents, but as tour guides. Travel agents plan the trip and send the travelers on their way—their job ends before the journey begins. Tour guides, on the other hand, go with the travelers, offering support, sharing insights, and helping them reach their destination. That is the heart of lifestyle coaching—not giving advice from a distance, but walking alongside someone as they work toward better health.

At its heart this movement is rooted in the New Testament call to support one another—not just by providing information, but by journeying together. This coaching model values empathy over instruction, creating space for real, lasting change. As one participant noted, knowing what is healthy is not the same as living it. That is why shared experience, grace, and companionship make all the difference.

For more on this story, scan the QR code.



Education—A Growing Ministry. As of 2023, the TED operates 62 educational institutions: 32 primary schools, 25 secondary schools, and five higher education providers. These are staffed by 683 teachers and more than 280 support personnel, serving

4,329 students. The five higher education institutions within TED are in the United Kingdom (UK), Poland, Serbia, Hungary, and Croatia. The largest is the Polish College of Theology and Humanities, with 694 students at the end of 2023. Because of the faithful work and the testimony of teachers and staff, 76 students were baptized across the division between 2022 and 2024.

In September 2018 Kompas, the first Adventist kindergarten in Poland, was launched by the Polish College of Theology and Humanities in Podkowa Leśna, near Warsaw. By 2023 it had officially expanded into a primary school. The school started with 13 children and has since grown to 75, with the teaching staff increasing from 3 to 32 across both the nursery and primary school.

MULTIPLYING COMMUNITIES

Historic Baptisms in Cyprus. In June 2024 the warm waters of Amathunda Beach in Limassol, Cyprus, became the site of a life-changing spiritual event. Twenty individuals were baptized—ages 10 to 75—a powerful testament to God’s transforming work in people’s lives, both young and old. This also marked a 15 percent growth in Adventist membership in Cyprus.

Among the newly baptized were Ellenique van Vliet-Chrysanthou and Jeroen van Vliet, a successful fashion industry couple who had spent



A celebration of joy in June 2024 with a baptism in the Mediterranean Sea described by one person present as an “unforgettable moment of heaven touching earth.” CYPRUS MISSION

TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION REPORT CONTINUED



The Baltic Union and Greece cohort—not just planting churches but igniting a movement. ANTHONY WAGENERSMITH

14 years searching for purpose in life. They found it in Christ and publicly dedicated their lives to Him. Their baptism was witnessed by their Cypriot family, as they expressed a fervent desire to share the gospel and discern God's voice more clearly in their lives.

A few weeks later a wave of baptisms followed, with powerful stories of faith, healing, and family restoration. Among them were Iurii and Olga Paseniuk, a Ukrainian couple who found refuge and a new spiritual home in the Limassol Adventist Church. Also baptized was Sasho Velkov Stoyanov, a former substance abuser whose transformation was an answer to his son Mario's prayers. In a touching family moment, Mario's mother and aunt were also baptized. A young couple, Angel and Elizabeth Dimitrov, joined the Bulgarian Adventist group through baptism, while Pallavi Morem, a passionate Bible student from a Hindu background, was baptized alongside her teenage son. Her husband was welcomed into membership by profession of faith, completing a family's united commitment to Christ.

Eight young Pathfinders also took their stand for Jesus, each bringing their own testimony of courage and devotion. Valentino Vladimirov chose

baptism over football, and Emmanuel Mirilov was baptized by his father, Branislav Mirilov, in a deeply moving moment of grace and reconciliation. Other baptized believers included Ernest Akochere from Cameroon, and two Rwandan women, Cyiza Tumukunde and Deborah Icyeza, who testified to finding spiritual refuge and family in Christ. The service overflowed with joy, music, and tears—heaven touching earth as lives were eternally changed by God's grace.

For more on this story, scan the QR code.



Church Planting on the Rise: The ACTS Movement. In 2023 the TED launched the ACTS Church Planting Support System—a relational, cohort-based initiative designed to support volunteer and paid church planters across Europe. Through four learning modules and peer coaching, participants are equipped to grow in leadership while establishing vibrant new faith communities. In partnership with local unions, three regional residencies have been established: one in the Nordic countries and the Netherlands, one in the Baltic countries and Greece, and one in the British Union. While church planting efforts averaged seven per year between 2000 and

2021, by 2025 an inspiring 85 new churches are at various stages of development, including 15 global mission projects.

This church-planting momentum is matched by a renewed focus on evangelism. In collaboration with unions and the GC's Christ for Europe initiative, more than 100 evangelistic series were held in 2023 alone, with follow-up continuing through 2024. To support this surge, the TED Mission Board allocated approximately US\$3.15 million between 2022 and 2024, including \$2.4 million through Global Mission and \$750,000 for local church projects. Together these initiatives are fueling a movement of growth and faith—one church, one community, and one story at a time.

For more on this story, scan the QR code.



Christ for Europe: A Long-Term Initiative. Christ for Europe is a long-term initiative led by the GC in partnership with Europe's three divisions, including the TED. Its aim is to share the gospel across the continent with boldness and cultural sensitivity, recognizing Europe's diversity and spiritual complexity. Since 2023 the TED has supported numerous mission projects, working alongside GC personnel and local pastors to combine strong biblical proclamation with an understanding of each local context.



The Christ for Europe "I Will Go" team cycling around the Shetland Islands, UK, sharing literature and making friends. JAMES BOTHA

One of the strongest responses to Christ for Europe came from the British Union Conference (BUC), which launched the Reflecting Hope initiative in early 2023. Supported by Adventist World Radio, this lay-led, clergy-engaged movement involved 62 pilot congregations across the BUC territory, aiming to make mission an organic, locality-appropriate part of church life. Throughout the year, churches hosted outreach and evangelistic events, culminating in a November gathering of 250 representatives to review progress and prepare for future expansion.

At the heart of this initiative is a renewed focus on Christlike love and spiritual growth. Mission is reframing the church's posture—from self-preservation to selfless service. As members discover and use their spiritual gifts, communities are being transformed into "open-door churches," places where people are welcomed, supported, and led toward Christ through authentic, practical love.

For more on this story, scan the QR code.



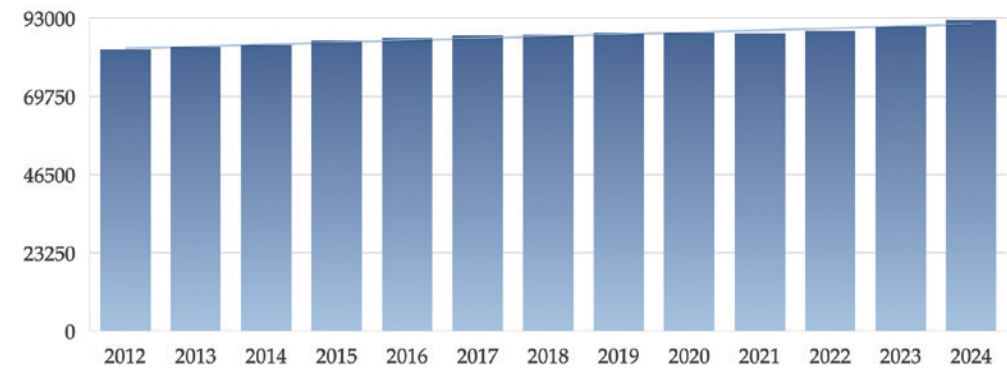
One Year in Mission and Service. From 2022 to 2024, the TED and Newbold College of Higher Education have offered more than 60 young adults the opportunity to combine academic learning with hands-on mission. Each year participants spend one semester studying at Newbold, followed by three months of service across the division and beyond—blending theory with practice in a meaningful way.

The program has a lasting impact on participants' spiritual and personal growth. It deepens their relationship with God, fosters community with like-minded peers, and equips them with valuable evangelistic skills. For several of them it also became a turning point in discerning God's call to pastoral ministry, shaping their future paths in faith and service.

For more on this story, scan the QR code.



Membership

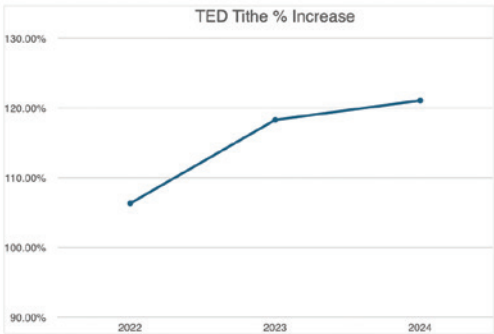


BUSY LOVING, BUSY GROWING, AND BUSY SHARING

This brief report reveals a vibrant picture of God’s people in the TED actively loving, growing, and sharing their faith. By the end of the first quarter of 2025, TED membership reached 92,591 members across 1,407 churches and companies. These are organized into 11 unions and three attached fields within 28 European countries and territories, serving an estimated population of 208 million. Since 2022 God added 4,084 new members, representing 4.61 percent growth in membership, and nine new congregations. These numbers reflect ongoing growth that exceeds population growth and a commitment to the church’s mission.

During the past three years tithe contributions increased by 6.3 percent in 2022, 11.27 percent in 2023, and 2.35 percent in 2024, respectively, a pattern that reflects a broader global trend. The increases in 2022 and 2024 were below the UK’s annual inflation rates, while 2023 was the only year in which tithe growth outpaced inflation.

Furthermore, the tithe growth was greater than the increase of membership. The membership growth rates for the same period were 0.79 percent, 1.47 percent, and 2.13 percent. We give



thanks to God for our faithful members, led by our 631 pastors, and we deeply appreciate their commitment to God.

God’s work across the TED continues to inspire, echoing the call to never grow weary of doing good (see Gal. 6:9). From Iceland to Cyprus, from Ireland to Hungary, and from Greece to Estonia, leaders, pastors, teachers, members, and support staff have been busy loving, busy growing, and busy sharing.

For more on this story, scan the QR code. 🍷





EURO-ASIA DIVISION REPORT

Our Mission: Keeping Hope Alive



ADRA provides food and clothing throughout the region.

Boundless expanses, a rich palette of cultures, and a diversity of traditions—this is what may be found in the Euro-Asia Division (ESD). A land with a 1,000-year history, where Europe and Asia meet. A place of confrontation and historical intertwining of Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism. A region where empires, cultures, and people have collided throughout the centuries, forming a complex mosaic of ideas and beliefs. Of the 12 countries in the ESD territory, almost half—Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Armenia, and Georgia—confess the Orthodox faith. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan are Muslim.

When ranked by area, the ESD is the largest division of the church. We have a population of about 300 million people, with more than 57,000 Adventists living and ministering in 1,545 congregations and groups. In most of our territory adherence to traditional values is juxtaposed with secularism and preoccupation with the material. In spite of difficulties the Adventist Church in the ESD continues to proclaim the three angels' messages. Our greatest

emphasis is in engaging lay members in ministry, which is reflected in our I Will Go general strategy.

"Three years of life and ministry are behind us," reports Mikhail Kaminskiy, ESD president. "Looking to the past, we as church members in the Euro-Asia Division take several things with us into the future—the faithfulness of God's children, the self-sacrifice of pastors, and the diligence of laborers as well as their generosity; hospitality; [and] their love for their neighbors, for Jesus, and for His Word. In fact, it is by the Word that we live. For only it endures forever. And only it offers hope."

MISSIONARY MINISTRY: TRAINING AND PRACTICE

Taking part in missionary ministry is a challenge given to all ESD pastors. During the past three years efforts have been made to train pastors and to involve them in conducting evangelistic programs. Pastors field schools were held in all the unions of our division, with all church ministers participating. During the day they were trained by experienced evangelists, and in the evening they conducted evangelistic programs in

EURO-ASIA DIVISION REPORT CONTINUED

local congregations. As a result, 10 evangelistic programs were held, through which many people were baptized. But most important, the field schools were the first step toward hundreds of evangelistic programs that pastors would implement in their congregations.

The General Conference Back to the Altar initiative has been implemented at all levels of the church, which contributed to the personal spiritual growth of believers and the revival of the tradition of home worship services in Adventist families.

In 2024 our division hosted the Pastors' Kids Congress. When we see young people ready to follow in their fathers' footsteps to continue their life's work, it gives us confidence that the mission of the church will be continued in spite of all the difficulties and obstacles.

BIBLE SCHOOL: EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVANGELISM

In recent years the ESD congregations have paid considerable attention to the development of a Bible School initiative, especially in online format.

Hundreds of church members and pastors have led Bible classes with friends, relatives, and people they've just met.

Part of the project includes experiences from across the division shown weekly to congregations in short video format. Milana Balan, a member of the Adventist church in Moscow's Vostochnaya community and a student at I. M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University, relates this story: "I studied in a music school and suggested to one of my teachers to consider studying Bible School lessons. When we met again, I asked her if she had ever studied the Bible. I discovered that previously she preferred not to discuss this subject with anyone, but after a short conversation I asked: 'Do you want to really get to know God? Not just to know that He exists, but to know what God is like?' I prayed while she considered her answer, and she said: 'Well, perhaps yes.' We started a Bible study, and after a short time she was baptized! There is no greater joy for me than to see a person give their life to Christ!" Milana is one of many students throughout the Euro-Asia Division who are evan-



Recent graduates of Zaoksky Adventist University

gelizing their fellow students and teachers and leading them to Christ.

YOUTH IN MINISTRY

Between 2022 and 2025 one of the priorities was training, engaging, and entrusting responsible ministry to young people. Community youth meetings, electing young people to serve local congregations, summer camp meetings, creative youth activities on city streets—all these and more engaged young people in the mission of the church.

One Year in Ministry was one of our youth's major mission projects. In the city of Samara, Russia, young people worked throughout the year in a new center of influence. They led in youth meetings, health exhibitions, and special outdoor activities every day. As a result a new congregation was formed a year later. Similar projects with teams take place each year in different cities in the ESD territory. Special attention is paid to the education of leaders. Youth ministry leadership schools were held in all the unions, which brought together more than 2,000 attendees.

In 2023 the Youth Congress in Zaoksky brought together 1,200 young people. About 50 young girls and boys mastered various methods of missionary service by taking part in numerous workshops. The culmination was the dedication to God and baptism of 53 young people on the last day of the congress. More than 100 responded to the call to become pastors, and 20 expressed a desire to participate in the One Year in Ministry project.

Elementary and secondary education is actively growing as part of the ESD Education Department ministry. There were 27 primary schools and 17 secondary schools registered in 2024, with more than 2,000 students attending. Children and teens are working with chaplains to study the Bible and to learn to build their relationship with God.

The only Protestant institution of higher education is Zaoksky Adventist University, which trains pastors, chaplains, and teachers for Adventist schools. The campus of Zaoksky Adventist Univer-



The Euro-Asia Division office

sity could be called “the Euro-Asia Division Center of Youth Life.” The largest forums gathering thousands of young people are held here.

One important project is Official Volunteer Cooperation With Museums of the Tula region, where Zaoksky students provide substantial assistance and support. Such community involvement opens up new opportunities for the mission of the church.

Children's Ministry in the ESD is aimed at educating the younger generation and involving them in the mission of the church. During a five-year period, Holiday Bible Schools have been attended by approximately 30,000 children, a third of whom were not from Adventist families. The outcome of this ministry was the baptism of more than 900 children under the age of 15. Ministry in children's departments in congregations, camp meetings in conferences and unions, mission projects involving children, and more help them learn to serve God and their neighbors.

MEDIA SYNERGY IN MISSION FULFILLMENT

Media ministry is developing in the ESD territory. In October 2024 Hope Channel Russia cele-

EURO-ASIA DIVISION REPORT CONTINUED

brated its tenth anniversary. It broadcasts its programs over the internet, cable networks, and streaming platforms. The number of viewers and the regions covered by the message are constantly growing. Radio programs are broadcast in many languages and reach residents in such countries as Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and many others.

Media ministry also collaborates with other church departments, achieving a more effective fulfillment of the church's mission. Digital evangelism projects in the Euro-Asia Division are prayer programs for people in big cities. On social media people are invited to share their prayer needs. Then a pastor speaks to them, and they are invited to join a local congregation. Through this ministry the message of hope reaches thousands of people.

For more than 30 years the Source of Life Publishing House has presented God's message through books. The production of printed literature has faced many challenges in recent times, but despite this, more than 2 million Adventist books, magazines, and missionary materials are published annually.

Literature evangelists in the ESD are some of the most dedicated workers in the field of God. Thanks to them, many people are becoming acquainted with end-time truth and joining the church. Distribution of the book *The Great Controversy* is another way to engage church members in ministry. Local congregations order thousands of books each year to distribute to their friends, acquaintances, and anyone with whom they come in contact.

Internet resources are actively involved in this book promotion, gaining hundreds of thousands of views.

Wrote one of the visitors to the Book of the Year project website: "My family practices Buddhism, as does our whole Republic of Buryatia. I found the true God on the pages of the beautiful book *The Great Controversy*. When I started reading this book, I realized that this was the truth I had been looking for [for] so long."



PRACTICAL EVANGELISM

In Moldova 6-year-old Alice saw a video in church depicting what life is like for children living in Africa. "We have such good gifts, and they don't even have clean water," she said to the pastor. "I want to raise 20,000 leu [about US\$1,000] to help them." The pastor told the congregation about her idea. Alice began to stand at the door of the church every Sabbath with a homemade box and an invitation to donate. In addition, Alice had beautiful long hair. When she discovered her hair could be sold, she decided to cut it and raise more money. Eventually, after three years, the amount needed had been raised and was donated to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to be directed to help children in Africa.

In 10 countries of the Euro-Asia Division ADRA provides humanitarian aid, following Christ's example of welfare ministry. In recent years thousands of people affected by floods in the Far East, Siberia, Ural, and Kazakhstan have obtained aid, including the earthquake victims in Afghanistan. In addition, support was provided to thousands of refugees in armed conflict zones in Russia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. Many of them found temporary shelter in Georgia and Moldova. ADRA also implements development programs for children and teenagers in Moldova, and feeds and clothes the homeless in Kyrgyzstan. ADRA shows compassion and assistance in both peaceful and difficult times.

One way to reach secularized society is through the ministry of the Adventist Church's Health Department. Good health, according to Scripture, is one of God's greatest blessings, and caring for it is a work to which everyone is called. To motivate their fellow citizens to take care of their health and encourage them to lead a healthy lifestyle, Adventists are opening sanitariums, health-food cafés, and rehabilitation centers in the Euro-Asia Division. Through the All-Russian organization Health League of Nations, the Seventh-day Adventist Church received a presidential grant to promote the principles of a healthy lifestyle among the population. Volunteers of the church regularly organize health exhibitions for adults and children as prevention and health education, talking about how to preserve and strengthen health through a healthy lifestyle. For several years church members have been actively participating in the All-Russian campaign 10,000 Steps to Life, conducting cooking classes and organizing Sabbath events and health weeks.

All areas of the church's ministry are focused on the main goal—to continue to spread the message of hope and to labor in the field of God.

Perhaps one of the most effective instruments of mission are the Adventist health centers. The services provided by such centers are varied and address all areas of human life: physical, emotional, and social. Guests of the health centers are invited to continue fellowship in the Bible School project. People are happy to respond, and the fellowship continues.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE WITH HOPE

The past three years have been a time of searching for effective ways to preach God's Word. New houses of prayer have been built in the Euro-Asia Division; schools and impact centers have been opened for ministry to adults, children, and youth. Thousands of evangelistic projects were accomplished, and field schools and Bible conferences were held.

The Bible School initiative has become an inspirational project in every congregation that encourages even the humblest church members to pick up a Bible and offer another Bible lesson to their friends and acquaintances. They then minister to them to help lead them to the kingdom of God. This is the calling of the church both in the present and in the future.

All areas of the church's ministry are focused on the main goal—to continue to spread the message of hope and to labor in the field of God. Those who are obedient to the love of the Lord cannot stop moving toward His coming, remaining faithful to Him, and doing the work of salvation together with Him. ■



Leaders at a Back to the Altar initiative bringing people together for revival and reformation

WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION REPORT

Mission Unstoppable



Spanning from the Atlantic coast to the Sahara Desert, the West-Central Africa Division (WAD) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is an area known for its remarkable diversity and vibrant spirituality. This distinctively varied region encompasses 22 countries, home to more than 478 million people. WAD membership hit the symbolic bar of 1 million in 2024. Within bustling cities, peaceful rural areas, terrorist-stricken regions, ancient customs, and modern developments, Adventism is gaining a strong foothold.

A LAND OF MISSION

Nations such as Benin, Cameroon, Nigeria, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Cabo Verde, and Ghana each narrate unique stories of faith, hardship, and spiritual revival. The 10/40 window covers 11 of our countries. They present both hurdles and opportunities for the church's mission.

The church is growing, and more and more people are understanding the real sense of freedom in Christ. In the heart of Hêvié Akossavié, a neighborhood famed as a stronghold of voodoo in Cotonou, Benin, Hensley Mooroooven, under-

secretary of the General Conference, led the Pentecost 2024 campaign from April 14 to 27, 2024, under the theme "Hope for a Troubled World."

On April 27, the final day, under the scorching sun, 18 pastors attended the baptismal candidates. Among the candidates, Christine had broken away from her old life to follow Jesus Christ. "The slavery and obstacles had lasted too long," she said. She entered one of the three wooden baptistries built for the occasion.

Toward the end of the ceremony, undecided souls succumbed to the repeated calls of Selom Sessou, WAD executive secretary. One by one they were led to the baptistry.

Four women faced hostile spirits during their baptism. Three were quickly freed from these malevolent influences in the name of Jesus. The fourth required a session of deliverance prayers outside the water before she was finally freed.

Komlan Adjéoda Simon Djossou, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Eastern Sahel and preacher at Segbeya, in Cotonou, emphasized the significance of the event, noting that "Hêvié is a global center of voodoo, attracting



followers from all over the world in search of power. It is a locality deeply feared and entrenched in voodoo rites and practices.”

TESTED BY CHALLENGES

The mission in WAD is facing various difficulties. On April 16, 2025, a group of Adventist students traveling from Port Harcourt to Babcock University for the GYC Africa program were kidnapped along the Benin-Lagos Expressway, Ore, Nigeria. Around 5:00 p.m., one bus carrying 18 passengers was attacked by gunmen, resulting in one student being shot and rushed to the hospital for emergency medical attention. Seven others were injured while 10 were kidnapped by the armed assailants and taken into the forest. The kidnapped students were forced to walk for more than 40 hours barefoot in the bush, crossing four rivers, and subsisting on mangoes, cocoa, and dirty water during their captivity. Thank God they were released, and the injured responded well to treatment.

After the WAD Dream Pathfinder Camp 2023, held on the campus of Valley View University in Accra, Ghana, which brought together more than 12,000 participants, a participant from Chad was captured by the jihadist militant group Boko Haram. Facing imminent death, he turned to prayer. He was miraculously released!

A former Anglican priest and now Adventist pastor, Hillary Didi Kato, exemplifies strong faith during hardship. Even after 50 of his church members were kidnapped, his congregation remains steadfast, praying constantly for the safe return



of their captive brethren, two of whom were killed in the bush and four released.

Besides sociopolitical instability in the Sahel region, many nations within our territory deal with natural disasters, religious extremism, and humanitarian challenges. Nigeria, Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso regularly encounter religious violence and displacement, yet the Adventist community remains steadfast and committed.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) has been crucial in offering humanitarian aid to forcibly displaced people and refugees. Between 2022 and 2025, ADRA helped more than 2 million people, distributing 208,311 tons of food and setting up 142 vegetable farms to support local food security in Cameroon.

Our Health Ministries Department is playing a key role in the communities. With 79 health-care facilities and nearly 12,000 dedicated staff that have welcomed more than 3 million patients, the church is also involved in training medical missionaries.



A vibrant gathering marking the closing day of the Pan-African Youth Congress in Nigeria. WADMEDIA

WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION REPORT CONTINUED



Group photo marking the conclusion of the WAD Annual Council in Grand-Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire, November 2024. WADMEDIA

STORIES OF CHANGE AND BROKEN CHAINS

In regions steeped in occult practices, the Adventist message continues to liberate individuals and communities from spiritual shackles. Notably, Chief Ikpe Asuquo Umoh from Nigeria converted and generously donated land for a new church, significantly impacting his village. In Batouri, Cameroon, an entire family once plagued by sickness and poverty experienced God's restorative power and resumed normal life.

Between 2022 and 2025 more than 50 pastors from other denominations joined the Adventist Church, marking a widespread spiritual revival. One of them, Joseph Zom, a former Anglican priest for 31 years, discovered Sabbath truths that led him to embrace Adventism. He now serves as a church planter. He started a new branch in Kurmin Musa, his village in Nigeria.

Major evangelistic campaigns profoundly impacted thousands. A satellite crusade led by Christopher Holland from Port Harcourt, Nigeria, resulted in more than 21,000 baptisms across 2,515 centers. A powerful story unfolded in Ubimini, locally known as the "Indian Village of Nigeria" because of its deep-rooted traditions in demon worship. James Enuada Dida, 58, renounced ancestral traditions for Christ despite death threats.

In Ubimini, we entered their sacred room. We toppled the two earthen statues: a god (Ibudu) and a goddess (Nwanyi) linked by a sacrificial altar. We toppled the idols and set fire to the symbolic

objects of worship (clothes, bonnets, talismans, bells, etc.). It was freedom through Jesus.

Reflecting on these events, WAD president Robert Osei-Bonsu described the campaign as a "true Pentecost experience," significantly reviving believers' faith and attracting many new converts. He praised the crucial role of media: "We praise God for the ministry of Hope Channel in the Adventist Church and in our division. It is a door that opens with new perspectives for media ministries."

The WAD Impact 2025 initiative with a goal of 200,000 baptisms has so far produced more than 126,000 baptisms from more than 13,000 sites. Looking ahead, the WAD Impact Family initiative will pave the way to an ambitious global satellite evangelism campaign, "Lagos for Christ 2026." This net event, broadcast worldwide by Hope Channel, promises to further expand the church's global mission, opening new opportunities for media-driven evangelism.



Participants of the Pan-African Youth Congress actively sharing messages of hope in the community. WADMEDIA

MEDIA: EXTENDING GOSPEL REACH

In July 2024 we launched Hope Channel Afrique that targets the French-speaking audience in 15 of our countries. Media ministries continue to significantly enhance evangelistic efforts. With 172 radio stations, one TV channel, and six television studios, Adventist World Radio and Hope Channel have reached millions throughout the division.

The influence of digital evangelism is clear through stories like that of Eric Ahedor, the founder of Christ New Creation Evangelical Church. Inspired by teachings on Hope TV, he converted to Adventism in 2022, donating church properties and continuing his devoted service

despite the loss of his wife. He is studying theology in Valley View University, Accra, Ghana.

One powerful testimony includes a Pentecostal church leader previously involved in occult practices, who, after hearing the message on Facebook, was led to conversion. An evangelistic campaign at his church resulted in mass baptisms and a transformed congregation in Ghana.

Markus M. Dangana, WAD treasurer, while addressing participants at the first Adventist technology conference at Babcock University, expressed his dream of “seeing more and more creatives and IT personnel involved in mission through technology.” The meeting took place in February 2025 with participants that came from each union.

WAD FACTS AND FIGURES

WAD LEADERSHIP

President: Robert Osei-Bonsu

Executive Secretary:

Selom K. Sessou

Treasurer: Markus M. Dangana

WAD STATISTICS (APRIL 2025)

Countries: 22

Unions: 12

Conferences: 57

Missions: 27

Regions: 4

Churches: 5,451

Companies: 5,509

Membership: 1,077,337

Membership retention: 105%

Evangelistic and pastoral employees: 1,876

Other employees: 1,473

Official languages:

Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish

Native languages: 1,000+

Population: 478M

EDUCATION IN WAD

Universities: 5

1. Adventist University of West Africa (LIBERIA)

2. Babcock University (NIGERIA)
World's largest Seventh-day Adventist university by boarding student population
Students: 12,975

3. Clifford University (NIGERIA)

4. Université Adventiste Cosendai (CAMEROON)

5. Valley View University (GHANA)
Ghana's first private university

Baptisms: 453

Number of schools: 1,139

Teachers: 3,870

Enrollment: 64,425 students

HEALTH MINISTRIES IN WAD

Clinics and dispensaries: 56

Hospitals and sanitariums: 35

Inpatients and outpatients: 2,553,832

PUBLISHING HOUSES

1. Advent Press (GHANA)

2. Imprimerie Adventiste (CAMEROON)



OUR VARIOUS LINKS

Website: wad.adventist.org

Facebook: facebook.com/wadventist

TikTok: tiktok.com/@wadventist

X: <https://x.com/WAdventist>

Instagram: instagram.com/wadnewshope

WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

Media: youtube.com/@wadventist

Hope Channel Afrique: youtube.com/@hopechannelafrique

WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION REPORT CONTINUED

COLLECTIVE ACTION: A MISSION UNSTOPPABLE

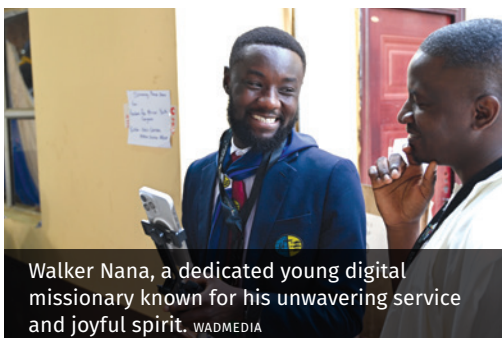
Our division prioritizes education within its strategic mission, utilizing it to nurture both academic excellence and spiritual growth. Prestigious institutions such as Babcock University and Valley View University embody this vision. Babcock University, internationally recognized as the largest Adventist boarding school, currently enrolls 12,975 students, while Valley View University, Ghana's first private higher education establishment, remains devoted to cultivating future Adventist leaders.

WAD's educational impact is broad-reaching, with 1,139 schools in the region employing 3,870 committed teachers who educate 64,425 students. These schools serve as crucial developmental venues, preparing young people to pursue their roles in mission and leadership. Such strategic initiatives as the "1,000 Young Adventist Missionary Volunteers" and major events such as the Pan-African Youth Congress 2024 at Babcock University have significantly promoted youth engagement focused on mission.

Enhancing inclusive outreach, the Adventist Possibility Ministries Department ensures that the gospel reaches everyone, particularly marginalized and disadvantaged populations. The Adventist Mission consistently maintains links with communities that are hard to reach, exemplifying Christ's compassion through prayer, practical assistance, and community service.

Moreover, literature evangelism is a key component of outreach efforts, with 632 literature evangelists distributing more than 1.3 million books, leading to 1,314 baptisms. These resources quietly witness in areas where overt evangelism faces obstacles.

The division's recent administrative restructuring reflects strategic insight, resulting in the formation of two new unions in Cameroon: West-Central Cameroon Union Mission, based in Yaoundé, and North-East Cameroon Union Mission, in Ngaoundéré. In Ghana the reorganized



Walker Nana, a dedicated young digital missionary known for his unwavering service and joyful spirit. WADMEDIA

WAD's mission flourishes, defined not merely by figures but by lives changed and communities revitalized.

Northern Ghana Union Conference led to the creation of the Mid-North Ghana Union Conference in Kumasi and North-Central Ghana Union Mission in Techiman.

Inspired by early pioneers like Hannah More, whose courage in 1863 introduced Adventism to the region, women continue to drive this legacy, greatly contributing to more than 12,965 recent baptisms.

The initial efforts by early missionaries have blossomed into a strong community of more than 1 million Adventists across 12 unions, 57 conferences, and 27 missions. Our endeavors have resulted in an impressive yield of 172,220 baptisms from 2022 to early 2025.

Youth also have an active role, participating enthusiastically in such initiatives as Global Youth Day, resulting in more than 21,000 baptisms. WAD's mission flourishes, defined not merely by figures but by lives changed and communities revitalized—truly an unwavering mission infused with divine grace. This is unstoppable mission. 🦋

Written by **Abraham Bakari**, director of Communication and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the West-Central Africa Division.

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Eighth Business Meeting

SESSION ACTIONS

62nd General Conference Session, St Louis, Missouri, July 8, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

RELATIONS WITH MEMBERS CONFIDENTIAL - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

VOTED, To cease debate and vote on the motion to reconsider the item Relations with Members Confidential - *Church Manual* Amendment.

RELATIONS WITH CHURCH MEMBERS CONFIDENTIAL - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

VOTED, To not reconsider the item, Relations with Members Confidential - *Church Manual* Amendment.

CHURCH BOARD AND ITS MEETINGS - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

Upon the decision of the chair, the request to refer item, Church Board and Its Meetings - *Church Manual* Amendment, back to the *Church Manual* Committee was accepted.

BUSINESS MEETINGS - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

VOTED, To cease debate and vote on the amendment to the item, Business Meetings - *Church Manual* Amendment.

BUSINESS MEETINGS - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

VOTED, To not amend the item, Business Meetings - *Church Manual* Amendment, by adding "This method should not be used when the agenda is dealing with personal or confidential issues," following "meeting" on line 30.

BUSINESS MEETINGS - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

Upon the decision of the chair, the request to refer item, Business Meetings - *Church Manual* Amendment, back to the *Church Manual* Committee was accepted.

TO FOSTER TITHING (ELDERS) - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

VOTED, To cease debate and vote on the motion to amend the item, To Foster Tithing (Elders) - *Church Manual* Amendment.

TO FOSTER TITHING (ELDERS) - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the motion, To Foster Tithing (Elders) by replacing "should regard" with "must keep" on line 15 of page 83.

TO FOSTER TITHING (ELDERS) - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

RATIONALE: This amendment expresses the need for confidentiality regarding the giving practices of members.

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Local Church Officers and Organizations, page 80, To Foster Tithing (Elders), to read as follows:

To Foster Tithing—By faithfully returning tithe, elders do much to encourage other members to return a faithful tithe. (See pp. 142-143, 175.) Elders can foster tithing by public presentation of the scriptural privilege and responsibility of stewardship and by personal labor with members in a tactful and helpful manner. Elders must keep all personal giving information as strictly confidential.

Elders should regard all financial matters pertaining to members as confidential and shall not give such information to unauthorized persons.

ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

Upon the decision of the Chair, the request to hold discussion on the item, Church Board and Its Meetings - *Church Manual* Amendment, until after lunch was accepted.

Guillermo E Biaggi, Chair
Claude J Richli, Secretary
Hensley M Mooroooven, Actions Editor
Tendani P Severance, Recording Secretary

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT #8

VOTED, To approve the following partial report of the Nominating Committee:

East-Central Africa Division

Secretary: Moses Maka Ndimukika
Treasurer: Yohannes Olana Beyene

Euro-Asia Division

Secretary: Ivan I Velgosha
Treasurer: Oleg Voronyuk

Inter-American Division

Secretary: Pierre Caporal
Treasurer: Ivelisse Herrera

Inter-European Division

Secretary: Ruben de Abreu
Treasurer: Norbert G Zens

North American Division

Secretary: Kyoshin Ahn
Treasurer: Judy R Glass

Northern-Asia Pacific Division

Secretary: Toshio Shibata
Treasurer: Tae Seung (Ted) Kim

South American Division

Secretary: Edward Heidinger
Treasurer: Edson E de Medeiros

South Pacific Division

Secretary: Michael B Sikuri
Treasurer: J Francois Keet

Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division

Secretary: Gideon P Reyneke
Treasurer: Hopekings K Ngomba

Southern Asia Division

Secretary: Ujwal Anant Kandane
Treasurer: Riches Christian

Southern Asia-Pacific Division

Secretary: Samuel Yotam Bindosano
Treasurer: Jacinto M Adap

Trans-European Division

Secretary: Robert C Cszmadia
Treasurer: Nenad Jepuranovic

West-Central Africa Division

Secretary: Vincent Roger Same
Treasurer: Dickson Sarfo-Marfo

Ninth Business Meeting

SESSION ACTIONS

62nd General Conference Session, St Louis, Missouri, July 8, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Upon recommendation of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, the item, General Conference Executive Committee - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment, was withdrawn.

TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION - CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

RATIONALE: Now that the full General Conference Executive Committee is invited to participate in a hybrid Spring Meeting, agenda items previously handled only at an Annual Council are now open for consideration at Spring Meeting.

VOTED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article I—Territorial Administration, to read as follows:

ARTICLE I—TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 1. The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, hereinafter - No change

Sec. 2. The duly organized divisions are: East-Central Africa Division, Euro-Asia Division, Inter-American Division, Inter-European Division, North American Division, Northern Asia-Pacific Division, South American Division, South Pacific Division, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division, Southern Asia Division, Southern Asia-Pacific Division, Trans-European Division, and West-Central Africa Division. The boundaries of these divisions shall be subject to adjustment at a Spring Meeting or Annual Council. ~~Annual Councils of the General Conference Executive Committee.~~

Sec. 3. If a territorial adjustment is made at an Spring Meeting or Annual Council, it shall be made only provided each division and other territory affected is represented at the council by at least one of its officers, or in the case of an unorganized territory, by a senior church leader from that territory. An exception to the requirement of such representation shall be made in a condition of emergency. In such a case, the General Conference Executive Committee shall make whatever adjustments are necessary for the conduct of the work in the territories affected.

Sec. 4. Administrations of all organizations and institutions within a - No change

APPROPRIATIONS - CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

VOTED, To take from the table the motion, Appropriations - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment.

APPROPRIATIONS - CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

VOTED, To cease debate and vote on the motion to amend the item, Appropriations - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment.

APPROPRIATIONS - CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the item, Appropriations - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment, by removing "Spring Meetings or," on line 18 to read as follows:

"Sec. 1. The General Conference Executive Committee shall make its regular appropriations to the world field at Annual Councils. These appropriations are to be based on a methodology that promotes mission priorities to be fulfilled through the work of world divisions and other denominational entities. ~~budget requests from the fields:~~

APPROPRIATIONS - CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

RATIONALE: Now that the full General Conference Executive Committee is invited to participate in a hybrid Spring Meeting,

agenda items previously handled only at an Annual Council are now open for consideration at Spring Meeting. The language regarding the process by which appropriations are considered is being updated to reflect current realities.

VOTED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article XIX—Appropriations, to read as follows:

ARTICLE XIX—APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 1. The General Conference Executive Committee shall make its regular appropriations to the world field at Annual Councils. These appropriations are to be based on a methodology that promotes mission priorities to be fulfilled through the work of world divisions and other denominational entities. ~~budget requests from the fields:~~

Sec. 2. Appropriations shall be made subject to the receipt of the full amount - No change

Sec. 3. Appropriations for major projects shall be held in trust for the - No change

Sec. 4. All funds raised in divisions, except the regular funds belonging to - No change

Sec. 5. To the extent permitted by law, General Conference funds in all the - No change

ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

VOTED, To cease debate and vote on the motion to divide the question on the item, Adventist Youth Ministries - *Church Manual* Amendment.

ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

VOTED, To not divide the question on the motion, Adventist Youth Ministries - *Church Manual* Amendment, into two parts separating the AYM Motto from the rest of the text.

ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

RATIONALE: This amendment expresses the importance of youth discipline-making.

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Local Church Officers and Organizations, pages 110 to 115, Adventist Youth Ministries, to read as follows:

Adventist Youth Ministrie

The various youth organizations of the church should work closely with the youth ministries Youth Ministries department of the conference. The church works for and with its youth through Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM). Under the AYM, youth are to work together, in cooperation with the wider church community, towards the development of a strong youth ministry that includes spiritual, mental, and physical development of each individual, Christian social interaction, and an active witnessing program that supports the general soul-winning plans of the church. In the quest for discipleship, disciple-making, the goal of AYM should be to bring all youth to a saving relationship with Christ, build them up in His Word to reflect a Christ-like character, train them how to serve the church church, public campuses, and communities using their spiritual gifts, and send them out to reach the communities in the power of the Holy Spirit.

AYM Mission—To lead young people into a authentic saving relationship with Jesus Christ and help them embrace His call to disciple-making and mission involvement. ~~discipleship.~~

AYM Motto—The love of Christ compels me. ~~us.~~

AYM Aim—The Advent Message to all the world in my generation.

AYM Pledge—Loving the Lord Jesus, I promise to take an active part in the youth ministry of the church, doing what I can to help others and to finish the work of the gospel in all the world.

The youth ministries Youth Ministries program of the church comprises three two broad categories, namely: Junior Youth (Adventurers: ages 4-9 and Pathfinders: ages 10-15) and Senior Youth (Ambassadors: ages 16-21, Young Adults: ages 22-30, and Public Campus Students and Staff (PCM): ages 16-30+). Public Campus Ministry is a specialized Senior Youth Ministry because it caters for both Ambassadors and Young Adults on public campuses. ages 10-15); Senior Youth (Ambassadors: ages 16-21 and Young Adults: ages 22-30), and Public Campus Students: ages 16-30+.

God said to Moses, “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates” (Deut. 6:6-9).

The apostle Paul added, “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12).

“We have an army of youth today who can do much if they are properly directed and encouraged. . . . We want them to be blessed of God. We want them to act a part in well-organized plans for helping other youth.”—GCB, Jan. 29, 1893, p. 24.

“We have an army of youth today who can do much if they are properly directed and encouraged. We want our children to believe the truth. We want them to be blessed of God. We want them to act a part in well-organized plans for helping other youth. Let all be so trained that they may rightly represent the truth, giving the reason of the hope that is within them, and honoring God in any branch of the work where they are qualified to labor.”—GCB, Jan. 29, 1893, p. 24.

“When the youth give their hearts to God, our responsibility for them does not cease. They must be interested in the Lord’s work, and led to see that He expects them to do something to advance His cause. It is not enough to show how much needs to be done, and to urge the youth to act a part. They must be taught how to labor for the Master. They must be trained, disciplined, drilled, in the best methods of winning souls to Christ. Teach them to try in a quiet, unpretending way to help their young companions. Let different branches of missionary effort be systematically laid out, in which they may take part, and let them be given instruction and help. Thus they will learn to work for God.”—GW 210.

“With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world!”—MYP 196.

While there is to be an active Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) in every church, it is important that the youth program not be isolated from the rest of the church. In addition to their AYM participation, youth should be integrated into responsible leadership and in all lines of church work. As young elders, deacons, and deaconesses, for example, they can work with and learn from experienced officers.

“In order that the work may go forward in all its branches, God calls for youthful vigor, zeal, and courage. He has chosen the youth to aid in the advancement of His cause. To plan with clear mind and execute with courageous hand demands fresh, uncrippled energies. Young men and women are invited to give God the strength of their youth, that through the exercise of their powers, through keen thought and vigorous action, they may bring glory to Him and salvation to their fellow men.”—GW 67.

Adventist Youth Ministries Committee—The Adventist Youth

Ministries (AYM) Committee is the umbrella organization in the church for the general planning of the youth ministry program. (See pp. 139-140.) The AYM Committee includes the following church-elected officers: Young Adults leader, Public Campus Ministry Ministries leader/coordinator, Ambassador leader, Pathfinder director, Adventurer director, plus the personal ministries Personal Ministries leader, youth Sabbath School division leader, children’s ministries Children’s Ministries leader, health ministries Health Ministries leader, principal of the school, the AYM advisor, and the pastor. The Young Adults leader, Ambassador leader, Pathfinder director, Adventurer director, and Public Campus Ministry Ministries leader are members of the church board.

If there are no distinct Ambassador Ministry or Young Adults Ministry ministry or young adults ministries established in the church, or until such time as they are established, the AYM Committee will plan for the senior youth ministry to include both age groups.

In parts of the world where there is no Pathfinder or Adventurer ministry, or until such time as they are organized, the AYM Committee will plan for appropriate activities for the junior youth.

The Young Adults leader may chair the AYM Committee. The committee should meet as necessary to develop short- and long-range goals and plans for a successful ministry. (See Notes, #19, p. 184.)

Young Adults Ministry Ministries Committee—The Young Adults Ministry Ministries Committee is responsible for Young Adult activities and works in coordination with the Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) Committee.

The church elects the following Young Adults Ministries officers: leader, associate leader, secretary-treasurer, and music director. This group forms the nucleus for the Young Adults Ministry Ministries Committee, which appoints other officers for the respective activities.

Local churches are encouraged to have Young Adult committees and to establish Senior Youth Societies (SYS). Senior Youth Societies serve as forums where evangelistic plans and senior youth issues are discussed. SYS will encompass the Ambassadors, Young Adults, and Public Campus Students. In these SYS meetings, young professionals should mentor those who are younger than them. The Young Adults Ministry Committee will manage the SYS.

Public Campus Ministries Ministry—Strengthening Ministry—Strengthening the Youth Ministries of the church, Public Campus Ministries Ministry (PCM), in collaboration with the Adventist Ministry to College and University Students (AmCUS), provides vision and strategic planning for ministry to and support for Seventh-day Adventist students (ages 16-30+) who attend college or university institutions not operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Public Campus Ministries Ministry Leader/Coordinator—The church may should appoint a Public Campus Ministries Ministry leader/coordinator to develop an intentional ministry with the purpose of caring for the special needs of college or university students in nearby institutions not operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and disciplining them to fulfil the AYM goal, mission, motto, and aim, in consultation with and support of the Adventist Youth Ministries Committee. Each local church may adopt one or two public campuses to support Adventist students and staff in executing their mission obligations and furthering their education or professional lives.

Ambassador Ministry—The Ambassador Ministry provides - No change

Ambassador Committee—The Ambassador Committee is responsible for Ambassador activities and works in coordination with the Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) Committee.

The church elects the following Ambassador officers: leader, associate leader, secretary treasurer, assistant secretary-treasurer, and music director. This group forms the Ambassador

Committee which appoints other officers for the respective activities.

Pathfinder Club—The Pathfinder Club provides a church-centered outlet for the spirit of adventure and exploration, in the context of spiritual development and soul-winning, for ages 10 to 15. Activities are carefully tailored to include, but not limited to, spiritual growth, leadership skills, witnessing opportunities, disciple-making, outdoor living, nature exploration, crafts, hobbies, or vocations.

Pathfinder Committee—The Pathfinder Club director and deputy directors are elected by the church. (See pp. 111-112, 184-185.) If two deputy directors are elected, there should be one male and one female. One of the deputy directors may also serve as club secretary and treasurer.

Additional Pathfinder staff may include instructors of craft and nature honor classes and counselors who are each responsible for a unit of six to eight Pathfinders.

Resource materials are available from the conference **youth ministries** Youth Ministries director.

Everyone involved in work with minor children must meet Church and legal standards and requirements, such as background checks or certification. Local church leaders should consult with the conference, conference AYM, which will ascertain and advise as to what background checks and certifications are available and/or required. (See Notes, #8, pp. 180-181.)

Adventurer Club—The Adventurer Club provides home and church - No change

Adventurer Committee—The church elects the club director and associates. (See pp. 111-112, 184-185.) Additional staff members are selected by the administrative staff of the club.

Resource materials are available from the conference **youth ministries** Youth Ministries director.

Everyone involved in work with minor children must meet Church and legal standards and requirements, such as background checks or certification. Local church leaders should consult with the conference, which will ascertain and advise as to what background checks and certifications are available and/or required. (See Notes, #8, pp. 180-181.)

continued in Bulletin 7

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT #9

VOTED, To approve the following partial report of the Nominating Committee:

General Conference

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries

Director: Ivan H Omaña

Children's Ministries

Director: Orathai Chureson

Communication

Director: Alyssa Truman

Education

Director: Lisa M Beardsley-Hardy

Family Ministries

Director: Willie Oliver

Health Ministries

Director: Zeno L Charles-Marcel

Ministerial Association

Secretary: Ramon J Canals

Public Affairs and Religious Liberty

Director: Nelu Burcea

Planned Giving and Trust Services

Director: Hector O Reyes

Publishing Ministries

Director: Mario Martinelli

Sabbath School and Personal Ministries

Director: James M Howard

Stewardship Ministries

Director: Marcos F Bomfim

Women's Ministries

Director: Galina Stele

Youth Ministries

Director: Sibusiso B Khumalo

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