

GENERAL CHURCH PAPER OF THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST REFORM MOVEMENT



January-March 2000

Vol. XLI, No.1

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### The Reformation Herald

"The age in which we live calls for reformatory action."

—Testimonies, vol. 4, p. 488.

### OFFICIAL CHURCH PUBLICATION OF THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST REFORM MOVEMENT

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Illustrations: PhotoDisc on p. 3 and back cover.;

Annual subscription (in the U.S.A.)	\$ 6.95
To any other country	\$11.00
To any other country by AIRMAIL	\$15.00
Single issue	\$ 3.50

#### Volume XLI Number 1

THE REFORMATION HERALD (ISSN 0482-0843) features articles on Bible doctrine that will enrich the spiritual life of those who seek to know more about God. It is published quarterly by the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement General Conference, P. O. Box 7240, Roanoke, Virginia, U.S.A. Internet http://www.sdarm.org • e-mail: sdarm@worldnet.att.net. It is printed and distributed by Reformation Herald Publishing Association. Manuscripts, inquiries, address changes, subscriptions, payments, and donations should be mailed to the address below. Periodical postage paid at Roanoke, Virginia 24022.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

The Reformation Herald P. O. Box 7240 ROANOKE, VA 24019

## God's Peculiar Treasure — His Church

"Consider, my brethren and sisters, that the Lord has a people, a chosen people, His church, to be His own, His own fortress, which He holds in a sin-stricken, revolted world; and He intended that no authority should be known in it, no laws be acknowledged by it, but His own." <sup>1</sup>

"The church is God's peculiar treasure, precious in His sight, and dear to His heart of infinite love. Christ gave the parable of the vineyard to set before His hearers the wonderful history of His church. The householder made every provision that the vineyard should receive the best of attention. Nothing was left undone that could be done to make the vineyard an honor to the one who owned it." <sup>2</sup>

"Nothing in this world is so dear to God as His church. With jealous care He guards those who seek Him. Nothing so offends God as for the servants of Satan to strive to rob His people of their rights. The Lord has not forsaken His people." <sup>3</sup>

"To God, the dearest object on earth is His church. 'The Lord's portion is His people; Jacob is the lot of His inheritance. He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; He led him about, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye.' 'For thus saith the Lord of hosts: After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you; for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of His eye." "4

"The elect of God are dear to His heart. They are those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, to show forth His praise, to shine as lights amid the darkness of the world. The unjust judge had no special interest in the widow who importuned him for deliverance; yet in order to rid himself of her pitiful appeals, he heard her plea, and delivered her from her adversary. But God loves His children with infinite love. To Him the dearest object on earth is His church." 5

"At times, the Lord may seem to have forgotten the perils of His church, and the injury done to her by those who follow principles which He can not indorse. But God has not forgotten. Nothing in this world is so dear to the heart of God as His church. He marks every action of the members. It is not His will that worldly policy shall corrupt her record as a representative of heaven. Nothing so offends the heart of Christ as injury done those whom He died to save. His heart of love is grieved when the lame are turned out of the way by the crooked paths made by others. God does not leave His people to be overcome by Satan's temptations. He will chastise those who misrepresent Him. But He will be gracious to all who sincerely repent. Christ loves His church. He will give all needed help to those who call upon Him for strength for the development of Christlike character." 6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Testimonies to Ministers, p. 16.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Review and Herald, July 10, 1900.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Manuscrit Releases, vol. 1, pp. 155, 156.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Signs of the Times, July 13, 1904.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Christ's Object Lessons, pp. 165, 166.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The Review and Herald, January 9, 1908.

## In a Little While

ne of the most impressive visions that the servant of the Lord had of the earth made new is described in the following words:

"The wonderful things I there saw I cannot describe. Oh. that I could talk in the language of Canaan, then could I tell a little of the glory of the better world. I saw there tables of stone in which the names of the 144,000 were engraved in letters of gold. After we beheld the glory of the temple, we went out, and Jesus left us and went to the city. Soon we heard His lovely voice again, saying, 'Come, My people, you have come out of great tribulation, and done My will; suffered for Me; come in to supper, for I will gird Myself, and serve you.' We shouted, 'Alleluia! glory!' and entered into the city. And I saw a table of pure silver; it was many miles in length, yet our eyes could extend over it. I saw the fruit of the tree of life, the manna, almonds, figs, pomegranates, grapes, and many other kinds of fruit. I asked Jesus to let me eat of the fruit. He said, 'Not now. Those who eat of the fruit of this land go back to earth no more. But in a little while, if faithful, you shall both eat of the fruit of the tree of life and drink of the water of the fountain.' And He said, 'You must go back to the earth again and relate to others what I have revealed to you.' Then an angel bore me gently down to this dark world. Sometimes I think I can stay here no longer; all things of earth look so dreary. I feel very lonely here, for I have seen a better land. Oh, that I had wings like a dove, then would I fly away and be at rest!" 1

Sometimes we also feel like the Lord's servant—lonely, sad, weary, and ready to depart from this world.

We too would fly away from all the problems of this life, if we could. But we must be patient and wait for the fulfillment of God's promises. It may take place in a little while, perhaps sooner than we anticipate.

When a farmer plants the seed in the field, he would be more than pleased if he could harvest it the following day. Still he waits patiently as he watches day after day the springing up of the seed, then its growth, then the appearing of the ear, and finally the ripening of the grain. During that waiting time he very often needs to root out the weeds, sometimes adding some fertilizer to the soil, and even watering the plants. But after a long, wearisome, laborious, waiting time, he will enjoy the harvesting of the ripened fruit.

So it is with the coming of the Lord. We are to wait patiently until that day when the harvest will be ripened and the harvesters will gather the grain into the heavenly garner. The apostle James understood this truth when he said:

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord.
Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." James 5:7, 8.

The apostle Paul also tells us that we should wait patiently for the fulfillment of God's promise, even if its fulfillment seems to delay too long. Nevertheless, He assures us that it will be fulfilled:

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little

while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul." Hebrews 10:35–39.

Many years ago we were thinking and speaking of the year 2000 as something so remote that it appeared to be an eternity away. But now it is a reality. Although we have another year to toil before the beginning of the new century (the year 2001), the new millennium is just around the corner. What will the future hold? Just as the year 2000 which seemed to be so far away has already come, the greatest event in history will also come. In a short time we will be in our eternal home, if we hold fast to the end. Let us have patience, courage, and hope.

"We are still amidst the shadows and turmoil of earthly activities. Let us consider most earnestly the blessed hereafter. . . . Let us be encouraged by the thought that the Lord is soon to come. Let this hope gladden our hearts. . . .

"We are homeward bound. He who loved us so much as to die for us hath builded for us a city. . . . Soon we shall witness the coronation of our King. Those whose lives have been hidden with Christ, those who on this earth have fought the good fight of faith, will shine forth with the Redeemer's glory in the kingdom of God.

"It will not be long till we shall see Him in whom our hopes of eternal life are centered. And in His presence, all the trials and sufferings of this life will be as nothingness." 2 &

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Early Writings, pp. 19, 20.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Testimonies, vol. 9, pp. 286, 287.

#### REPORT OF THE 18TH SESSION OF THE

## Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement General Conference

#### A Brief History

From the time the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement was first organized as a General Conference in 1925, the church has gone through crisis after crisis. She has experienced both external and internal problems. Nevertheless, during the seventy-four years since the organization of our church, we have witnessed the powerful hand of God leading His people in this Reform Movement. In the time of persecution and distress during World Wars I and II. and afterwards when atheism was ruling in the eastern part of Europe, the church faced terrible oppression. Many faithful souls sealed their destinies with their

own blood. Hundreds of our brethren were taken to prison for keeping God's law, and many of them suffered martyrdom, but the enemies were not able to blot out the church. Jesus has said that "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18.

The church is the only object of God on earth which is supremely dear to Him. The Spirit of Prophecy affirms:

"Although there are evils existing in the church, and will be until the end of the world, the church in these last days is to be the light of the world that is polluted and demoralized by sin. The church, enfeebled and defective, needing to be reproved, warned, and counseled, is the only object upon earth upon

which Christ bestows His supreme regard. The world is a workshop in which, through the cooperation of human and divine agencies, Jesus is making experiments by His grace and divine mercy upon human hearts. Angels are amazed as they behold the transformation of character brought about in those who yield themselves to God, and they express their joy in songs of rapturous praise to God and to the Lamb. They see those who are by nature the children of wrath, converted and becoming laborers together with Christ in drawing souls to God. They see those who were in darkness becoming lights to shine amid the moral night of this wicked and perverse generation. They see them becoming prepared by a Christlike



GC delegates of SDA Reformers, first session, Gotha, Germany, 1925. Front row, left to right: Constantin Ursan, Wilhelm Richter, Dumitru Nicolici, Wilhelm Korpmann, Johann G. Hanselmann, Otto Welp, P. Rasmussen, Wilhelm Mass, Joseph Adamczak, Albert Krahe. Back row, left to right: Mihai Streza, Karl Kozel, Heinrich Spanknoebel, Sister A. Ottender, A. Jurgens, K. A. Ekeroth, Sister Ekeroth (not a delegate), Max Koehler, C. Adams.

experience to suffer with their Lord, and afterward to be partakers with Him in His glory in heaven above."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, pp. 49, 50.

Alas, some who once were earnest advocates of the present truth have given up their faith and have become enemies of God. His truth, and His people. In some places they have betrayed their former brethren, reporting them to the authorities for their adherence to God's Ten Commandments. A few who had only material interest in view, and who had been unfaithful stewards in the church, resorted to forbidden means. They sought out the aid of the ungodly against the church by taking the cause of God to worldly tribunals. The merciful Lord looked graciously upon His people, and great victories were obtained for His honor and glory.

The Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement began small, in Europe, during World War I, with about 4,000 people who were disfellowshiped from the Seventh-day Adventist Church because of their firm stand against participation in war. From that humble beginning the work has extended to many parts of the world. Because of the strong persecution which was inflicted against the church, many brethren had to seek refuge in foreign countries, where they planted the seed of present truth. It sprang up, and the Reform Movement is now established in most parts of the world. Today it has already reached ninety countries, territories and islands.

In the early days of the Reform Movement, delegation sessions were held every three years, but after the 1940s it was resolved to have

them quadrennially. In the first session (1925) there were present 18 delegates, representing about 4,000 members, but in 1999 there were 158 delegates elected, representing a worldwide membership of 27,840. The very small beginning of the Reform Movement took place in 16 countries in Europe, but it has grown like the mustard seed of the parable.

### General Conference Council and Doctrinal Council

Prior to the 18th Delegation Session of the General Conference, the Council held its meetings, combined with the Doctrinal Council, at the headquarters of the South Brazilian Union, near Itú, São Paulo state, Brazil. The offices of the Union are located on a beautiful country property, with twelve acres



GC Council and Doctrinal Council Meeting at work.

of land, many fruit trees, and a few buildings. The brethren there had made plans to provide accommodations for the members of the two General Conference Councils.

The meetings commenced on September 28 and ended October 14, 1999. Important doctrinal issues were examined. Most of the time was taken to consider the manuscript prepared by the Standing Doctrinal Committee under the title: "Fundamental Beliefs of the SDA Reform Movement." After examination, correction, addition of statements, the two Councils resolved to submit the document to the 18th Delegation Session, where it was decided that a copy should be sent to every Union, Field and Mission for evaluation and suggestions.

As the time was approaching to commence the delegation session, the GC Council met to examine and finalize the program and the agenda for the session.



The GC Doctrinal Council and the GC Council during their combined meetings from September 28 to October 14, 1999: Front row, left to right: Brn. Alfons Balbach, João Moreno, Rudolf Ludwig, D. Sureshkumar, Alfredo C. Sas, Ari Gonçalves da Silva, Daniel Dumitru, Gerson Barros. Back row, left to right: Brn. Branislav Jaksic, John Garbi, Mario Alvarado, Ion Tomoiaga, Wilhelm Volpp, D. Samy Doss, Benjamin Burec, Peter D. Lausevic, Ruffo Lopez, Simeon Karvatskii, Davi P. Silva, José Romero, Doru Laza.



#### The Session

The General Conference Council in 1997 made a decision to hold the 18th General Conference Session in one of the following countries: 1) Hungary: 2) Germany: 3) U.S.A.: 4) Brazil. The Executive Committee made thorough investigation about the most suitable country in which to hold the session. Their concern was to consider the travel costs, accommodations and food, and the availability of personnel to organize everything connected with the session. After weighing the possibilities and conveniences, it was decided to hold the session in Brazil.

The two Brazilian Unions joined their efforts in the project and elected thirty three teams to organize the various needs of the session.

A nondenominational Christian campground, called "Cesareia de Felipe," was rented. The location was beautiful, amidst the mountains, in the municipality of Itú, São Paulo state, not far from the head-quarters of the South Brazilian Union. The site has a magnificent view of the surrounding area. There

the delegates assembled to hold the session.

On October 20, 1999, the 18th Session of the General Conference was officially opened. After an address presented by Brother A. C. Sas about the importance of preparing ourselves for the latter rain, opportunity was given for a season of prayers in different languages: Hindi, Portuguese, Spanish, German, Ukrainian, French, Hungarian, Romanian, Tagalog, Yugoslavian, Indonesian, Bulgarian, and English.

The list of the different Unions,

Fields, and Missions was read and it revealed that 158 delegates should be present, representing ninety countries. The delegates submitted their credentials as emissaries of the Reform Movement in the whole world. A few delegates were not yet present at the beginning, but we had 128 seated, which made the session legal. Some of the missing delegates arrived later, and the total number at the Session reached 151. Only seven delegates were not able to come at all. This delegation was larger than any of the previous sessions.

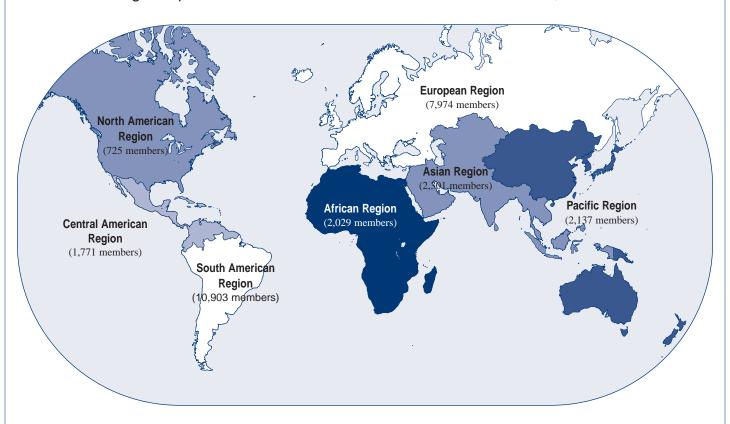


Building where the session was held.

### Worldwide membership: 27,840

(as of December 31, 1998)

During the quadrennium there was a worldwide net increase of 4,282 members.



American Samoa	Croatia	Guyana	Nepal	Slovenia
Angola	Curaçao	Haiti	New Caledonia	South Africa
Argentina	Czech Republic	Honduras	New Zealand	South Korea
Australia	Denmark	Hungary	Nicaragua	Spain
Austria	Democratic Rep.	India	Nigeria	Sri Lanka
Belgium	of the Congo	Indonesia	Norway	Sweden
Belize	Dominican-	Italy	Panama	Switzerland
Belorussia	Republic	Japan	Papua New-	The Netherlands
Bolivia	Ecuador	Kazakhstan	Guinea	Ukraine
Bosnia-	El Salvador	Kenya	Paraguay	<b>United Kingdom</b>
Herzegovina	Estonia	Latvia	Peru	<b>United States</b>
Botswana	Fiji	Lithuania	Philippines	Uruguay
Brazil	Finland	Macedonia	Poland	Uzbekistan
Bulgaria	France	Martinique	Portugal	Venezuela
Canada	French Polynesia	Mexico	Puerto Rico	Western Samoa
Chile	Germany	Moldova	Romania	Yugoslav-
China	Ghana	Mozambique	Russia	Federation
Colombia	Guadeloupe	Myanmar	Seychelles	Zambia
Costa Rica	Guatemala	Namibia	Slovakia	Zimbabwe

#### Reports

The reports of all GC officers were presented which showed the following:

#### **Statistical Report**

Number of Unions	14
Fields attached to GC	24
Missions attached to GC	20
Churches	569
Groups	643
Chapels	592
Buildings	
(used as chapels)	165
Rented places	121
Private homes used as	
meeting places	348

#### **Employees**

Ministers	1	74

Elders	81
Bible workers (full-time)	334
Bible workers (part-time)	70
Voluntary Bible workers	644
Office workers	108
Institutional workers	40

#### **Literature Ministry**

Colporteurs	1,351
Colporteur leaders	18
Converts through colpor	teur
work	111

#### Distribution of literature

Hardcover books	sold 588,557
Paperback books	2,454,353
Booklets	215,835
Pamphlets/tracts	7,063,988
Magazines	289,427
Total value in US	dollars
\$	10,708,210.00

After the presentation of the reports, a temporary chairman and a temporary secretary for the session were elected from the delegation. The outgoing president invited all officers of the General Conference to come forward and lay down their responsibilities in the hands of the chairman and secretary of the session, and in the hands of the delegation.

After a season of thanksgiving to God for His guidance during the quadrennium, various committees were elected, namely: Nominating Committee, Finance Committee, Bylaws Committee, Doctrinal Committee, and Plans Committee. The session then proceeded with its work.



Delegates socializing during the interval. View of the surrounding area from the session hall.

### Pictorial News of the Delegation Session



Bro. D. P. Silva presenting the secretarial report.



Committees being chosen by the delegates.



Partial view of the delegates during morning worship.



One of the dormitory buildings where the delegates stayed.



Brn. D. Sureshkumar (right) and J. Garbi (left), served as Temporary Chairman and Temporary Secretary during the Session.



Delegates coming down for lunch, 169 steps for daily exercise. Going up was the problem!

### **Delegates From Regions**



GC representatives and delegates from the North American Region.

Delegates from the African Region.



Delegates from the Central American Region.

### **Delegates From Regions**



Delegates from the European Region.



Delegates from the South American Region.

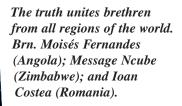
### Delegates From Regions





Members of the North American Region consulting on a matter before putting it to vote. A fresh air committee!

Brn. Tomoiaga and Cracea from Romania discussing some points.



Patiently waiting their turn to enter the dining area.



Some chose to eat outside
— plenty of food, sunshine
and a lovely view.



Bro. Doru Laza (right) missed on a lot of "goodies" since he had to leave early to attend patients at the Romanian sanitarium.



"Inspection time!" Bro. and Sis. Sas were pleased with the beautiful and bountiful supply of fruits for the evening meal.



Some chose to eat inside the dining hall.



Bro. V. Raileanu from Romania (on right) carried his Portuguese grammar book everywhere. He did very well and learned a lot of Portuguese.



Bro. M. Wanegui (French Polynesia) on a tight spot!



Sisters Alexandrina Silva and Maria Balbach sharing a happy moment while their husbands were at the session.



Caught without ties and happy about it! (Brn. L. Vukotic, M. Milinkovic, V. Hristov, D. Zic.)



Bro. D. Dumitru among one of the teams of excellent helpers. All will remember how they happily catered to everyone's needs, such as helping with phone calls, mail, laundry, etc.



Always working with a smile!



After preparing a delicious lunch, the kitchen team enjoyed the good food as well.



Everyone was thankful to this efficient group of workers.



The kitchen staff also sang beautifully during the evening worship. They were practicing while peeling veggies and doing other chores.

# ····General Meetings ··



Preparing for the opening meeting.

ME delegation session was interrupted from November 3 to 7, 1999, for the holding of the spiritual convention.

On November 4, 1999, special buses arrived at "Árvore da Vida," in Sumaré, São Paulo state, where the spiritual gatherings were held. This campground belongs to the same Christian associations of the premises where the delegation session was held.

"Árvore da Vida" (meaning Tree of Life) is a very large, modern campground in the country, surrounded mainly by sugar cane plantations. All the guest houses were filled with visitors from foreign countries and from Brazil. The auditorium accommodates approximately 11,000 persons, and it was nearly full, or so it seemed to us.

In the early morning hours of November 4, 1999, a long line of cars and buses filled with guests formed by the gate, each waiting patiently for their turn to register. All were eager to take part in the spiritual feast. The ministers and workers in Brazil were all mobilized with various duties assisting the brethren and friends so they felt comfortable in the camp. Traffic officers, guest

house inspectors, those assigned to maintain order and hygiene, all were at their post of duty. The kitchen staff composed of 150 persons was divided into three shifts, to prepare food for all the thousands of visitors. Trucks fully loaded with fruits, vegetables, etc., were coming in, one after the other. The scenario appeared to us as if the whole world was concentrated on that campground. It was amazing! Impressive!

The theme selected for the conference was entitled: "ALMOST HOME," and the subjects were powerfully delivered.



Bro. D. Sureshkumar addressing the attendees during the spiritual meetings. Bro. Jaime Campos is translating.



Partial view of the thousands present.



Auditorium for 11,000 people.

### The following were the subjects presented during the general meetings:

#### Thursday, November 4, 1999

7:30–9:00 p.m. — Opening of the Conference — The Chairman and Secretary of the GC Delegation Session, Brn. D. Sureshkumar and J. Garbi

#### Friday, November 5, 1999

6:30–7:00 a.m.— Morning Devotion: Our Great Danger — S. Karvatskii, *Ukraine* 

9:00–10:30 a.m. — Sermon: Mercy Still Available — R. Ludwig, *Germany* 

11:00–12:30 p.m. — Sermon: The Sanctuary: Mercy and Justice —D. P. Silva, *U.S.A*.

7:00–7:30 p.m.— Opening of the Sabbath: This Is the Day — J. Garbi. *U.S.A*.

8:00–9:00 p.m.— Sermon: Are Sins or Names Blotted Out? — J. Romero, *Venezuela* 

#### Sabbath, November 6, 1999

6:30–7:00 a.m.— Morning Devotion: The White Raiment — A. Gessner, *Brazil* 

9:30–10:30 a.m. — Sabbath School — B. Burec, *U.S.A*.

11:00–12:00 noon — Divine Service: Almost Home — A. C. Sas, *U.S.A.* 

3:00–4:00 p.m.— Experiences and Praises (Part 1) — D. Dumitru, *U.S.A.* 

5:00–6:00 p.m. — Experiences, Praises (Part 2) — D. S. Doss, South Africa

7:30–8:00 p.m. — Closing of the Sabbath: Abide With Us — M. Alvarado, *Peru* 

8:00–9:30 p.m.— Musical Evening — Roberto Martins Duarte, *Canada* 

#### Sunday, November 7, 1999

6:30–7:00 a.m.— Morning Devotion: Behold, I Stand at the Door and

Knock — P. Chapman, *Australia* 9:00–10:30 a.m. — Sermon: The Latter Rain — D. Sureshkumar, *India* 

11:00–12:30 p.m.— Sermon: The Final Events — P. D. Lausevic, *U.S.A.* 

2:30–3:30 p.m. — Sermon: The Time of Trouble — M. Barbu, *Romania* 

4:00–5:00 p.m.— Sermon: The Coming of Jesus — B. Jaksic, *Australia* 

7:00–8:00 p.m. — Close of the Conference —The Chairman and the Secretary of the GC Session



The brass band contributed to the praises to the Lord.



The great choir of over 600 members singing one of their beautiful renditions.

The two Brazilian Unions joined their efforts and prepared a choir made up of singers from the churches of different states of the country. This was the largest choir ever seen in our Reform Movement. There were about 650 singers, accompanied by four skilled keyboard players, and a brass band. Some of the visitors said when they heard the singing: "I feel like I am in heaven." The hymns were carefully selected and proficiently conducted.

The children were given much attention as well. During the meetings, designated persons conducted special programs for them in a separate hall.

As the meetings on Sabbath morning (Sabbath School and the Divine Service) were broadcast over the Internet (www.cg99.com. br), many Seventh-day Adventists saw the meetings and heard the messages, and in the afternoon they came to visit our conference.

The brother who was responsible to organize the kitchen reported that on the Sabbath, at lunch time, he collected over 7,000 coupons for entry to the dining area, and there were still many others who brought their own lunches and were not counted in this number. The administrators calculated that the attendance on the Sabbath was over 8,000 people.

In the evening an Adventist medical doctor related the experience he had with the book *The Sealing of God's People*. He read the book and was impressed by the message it contained. He gave a copy to his father, who also read it and ordered a few copies to be shared with his Adventist friends. As a result of reading the book, some of them were impressed by the message and had a reconversion experience. We praise God because the silent messengers are doing their work in the hearts of the people.

On Sunday forenoon the subject "The Final Events" was presented, after which an appeal was made for



Skillful musicians



Children praising the Lord



One of the classes for the children with their teachers who did an outstanding work.

the conversion of the young people. An altar call was made, and well over 300 of them came to the front. many of whom showed a desire to work for the Lord.

The new officers for the next quadrennium were introduced to the assembly. Then the choir sang the well-known Hallelujah Chorus by Handel. It was time to close the blessed gathering and all united their voices with the choir singing "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."

Most of the guests left for their homes that very evening, by buses or cars. The delegates also

traveled back to "Cesaréia de Felipe," to continue with the final part of the delegation session.

On November 11, 1999, at 7:00 p.m., the 18th Session of the General Conference was closed.

Then the new General Conference Council continued its work until November 18, 1999.

All those present at the session were convinced that the 18th Session could be the last one and, for sure, the last one in this century. We know that God holds the future in His hands and we do not fear.

We felt that in all things the hand of God was leading His work

forward. Those who visited Brazil from different countries to attend the gatherings testified that they were blessed, and did not regret coming to a far country where all the guests were treated so kindly by their brothers and sisters in the Lord. It was like a big, big family reunion. We thank all the brethren in Brazil for their hospitality and brotherly love shown toward all.

Now we look forward to a similar meeting in the future, perhaps in that great assembly when Jesus comes to take His people to their eternal home. Let us be ready for it, and may God bless us all.





Bro. A. C. Sas with Dr. Carlos A. Cavalcante who related his experience with the book "The Sealing of God's People."

### More pictorial news of the GC General Meetings . . .

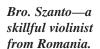


Part of the "Arvore da Vida" campgrounds.



Cars being welcomed at the campgrounds.

Bro. A. Balbach (left), happy to be back in Brazil.





When there was no more room, the tents went up . . .



The quartet "A Verdade Presente."

### **Newly Elected GC Officers**



Alfredo C. Sas President



D. Sureshkumar Vice President



Branislav Jaksic Vice President



John Garbi Secretary



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John Garbi Roberto Martins Duarte

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David Zic Muthukaruppan Natarajan

Simeon Karvatskii \*Ruffo Lopez \*Peter D. Lausevic

(\* These two brethren were nominated by the

GC Council, after the session)

Regional Secretaries: Africa: D. Samy Doss Asia: D. Sureshkumar

Assistant-Asia: M. Natarajan C. America: Eduardo Lainez Claros N. America: Davi Paes Silva S. America: Matheus S. Silva Europe: Marin Barbu

Assistant-Europe: Semion Karvatskii

Pacific: Branislav Jaksic

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Daniel Dumitru Publishing Department



Marin Barbu Regional Secretary— Europe



Davi Paes Silva Regional Secretary— North America



Eduardo Lainez Claros Regional Secretary Central America

### Newly Elected GC Officers (continued)



Matheus Souza da Silva Regional Secretary— South America



D. Samy Doss Regional Secretary-Africa



Ionita Aurelian Raducu Young People's Department Secretary



Peter D. Lausevic Council Member



Ruffo Lopez Stewardship Department Secretary



David Zic Sabbath School Department Secretary



Simeon Karvatskii Assistant Regional Secretary—Europe

M. Natarajan Educational Department Secretary





Josif Tuleu

Welfare and Health

Rolly Dumaguit Colporteur/Missionary Department Secretary

**Auditor:** Ruffo Lopez

**Departmental Secretaries:** Colporteur/Missionary: Rolley Dumaguit

Educational: M. Natarajan Sabbath School: David Zic Young People's: Ionita Raducu Reformation Herald Publ. Assn.:

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Neville S. Brittain **Publication Approval Committee:** 

Davi Paes Silva Francisco Devai Lucacin Fernando Flores Henry Brostovski

Alfredo Carlos Sas **Reformation Herald Editor:** Assistant-to-the Editor: Barbara Monteiro **Public Relations:** Benjamin Burec **Doctrinal Working Committee:** D. Sureshkumar

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**Doctrinal Council:** Alfredo Carlos Sas

D. Sureshkumar Branislav Jaksic Peter D. Lausevic John Garbi Davi Paes Silva Matheus Souza da Silva

Samuel Diaz Wilhelm Volpp Mikhail Demian

Mervyn Brice Southwell Jose Romero

Traian Cracea Ari Gonçalves da Silva Carlos Estrera

D. Samy Doss

**Finance Committee:** Ruffo Lopez

Josué Devai Charles Balbach

**Bylaws Committee:** Peter James Jackson Neville S. Brittain

Paul Chapman

### **Delegates From Central America**



Eduardo Lainez Claros Honduras



Angel A. O. Rivas Honduras



Audelio Paz Guatemala



Segundo D. Guzmán Venezuela



Yamileth R. Torrealba *Venezuela* 



Víctor H. Tomalá Ecuador



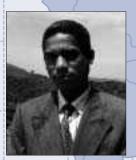
Joffre Salvador Ecuador



Daniel A. Jaimes *Mexico* 



José R. Domingos *Mexico* 



Salomón Carrasco Dominican Republic



Susana Fernandez

Dominican Republic



José Romero Venezuela



José A. Usuga *Colombia* 



Ciro A. H. Velasco *Colombia* 

### **Delegates From North America**



### **Delegates From South America**



Delvacir D. Preto North Brazilian Union



Josías T. Almeida North Brazilian Union



Ivan S. Lima
North Brazilian Union



Edson O. Custódio North Brazilian Union



Rudolfo Gessner North Brazilian Union



Otávio N. Freitas

North Brazilian Union



Álvaro D. C. Menezes

North Brazilian Union



Luis C. Melo
North Brazilian Union



Erotildes J. Almeida North Brazilian Union



Lourival J. Santana North Brazilian Union



Caetano V. Sink
North Brazilian Union



Nelson B. Melo North Brazilian Union



Hermes S. Barbosa North Brazilian Union



Aurelino S. Barbosa North Brazilian Union



Silas N. Oliveira
North Brazilian Union



José de Libório North Brazilian Union

### **Delegates From South America (continued)**



Artur Gessner
South Brazilian Union



José O. Lima

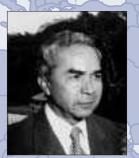
South Brazilian Union



Romulo P. Borges
South Brazilian Union



Daniel D. Carneiro
South Brazilian Union



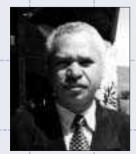
Admir R. Prazeres
South Brazilian Union



José H. P. Santos South Brazilian Union



Gerson Barros
South Brazilian Union



José P. Souza South Brazilian Union



Geremías P. Nunes South Brazilian Union



Geraldo B. Cardoso

South Brazilian Union



Eliseu M. Duarte South Brazilian Union



Josif Tuleu
South Brazilian Union



Eli T. Silva South Brazilian Union



Josué Devai South Brazilian Union



Edson M. Ribeiro
South Brazilian Union



Durval B. Santos

South Brazilian Union

### **Delegates From South America (continued)**



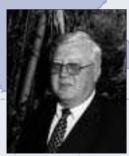
Adelaide R. Rocha South Brazilian Union



Jaime Campos
South Brazilian Union



Marcelo A. Silva
South Brazilian Union



Edgar C. Luup South Brazilian Union



Olmício N. Freitas
South Brazilian Union



Samuel Díaz Vergara Peru



Julio C. Díaz Peru



Julio L. Duire

Peru



Manuel J. Rodríguez *Peru* 



Isaac Chichipe Peru



Guillermo Yañac Peru



Juan C. Silva Peru



Santos A. Nuñez Peru



Demetrio C. Alva Peru



Mario Alvarado Peru



Ramiro Pereda Peru

### Delegates From South America (continued)



Esmeraldo Herédia

Argentina



Miguel D. González Argentina



Franz Terceros Pedrazas
Chile



Cipriano D. Moreyra

Chile



Samuel R. Ramos

Bolivia



Eduardo C. Rodriguez *Bolivia* 



Joel Morales Bolivia

### Delegates From the Asian Region



Solomon Dumaguit *Philippines* 



Carlos Estrera
Philippines



Fely E. Fernandez *Philippines* 



Benyamin Linga Indonesia



Simanjuntak Daud *Indonesia* 

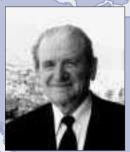


Alwin Vedhasingh *India* 

### Delegates From Europe



Marin Barbu *Romania* 



Ion Tomoiaga Romania



Simion Muresan Romania



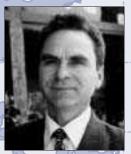
Doru Laza Romania



Emil Paul *Romania* 



Victor Muresan Romania



Beniamin Sirbusca Romania



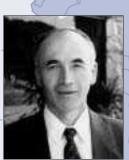
Florin Pistea Romania



Valentin T. Liviu *Romania* 



Traian Borza *Romania* 



Vasile Buftea Romania



Traian Cracea Romania



Valerian C. Raileanu *Romania* 



David Muresan *Romania* 



Ioan Costea Romania



Gheorghe N. Ovidiu *Romania* 

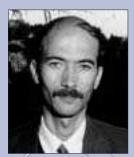
### Delegates From Europe (continued)



Ionita A. Raducu Romania



Valerica Iamandei Romania



Nelu Iancu Romania



Francisc Szanto Romania



Simeon Karvatskii Ukraine



Anatoly G. Bogatov *Ukraine* 



Petro Stratan *Ukraine* 



Mikhail Demian Ukraine



Vyacheslav Melnychuk *Ukraine* 



Alexandr Menovshchykov *Ukraine* 



Mykhaylo Stoyka *Ukraine* 



Alexander Volgin Russia



Nicolae Arseni Moldova



Gheorghe Dovbenko *Moldova* 

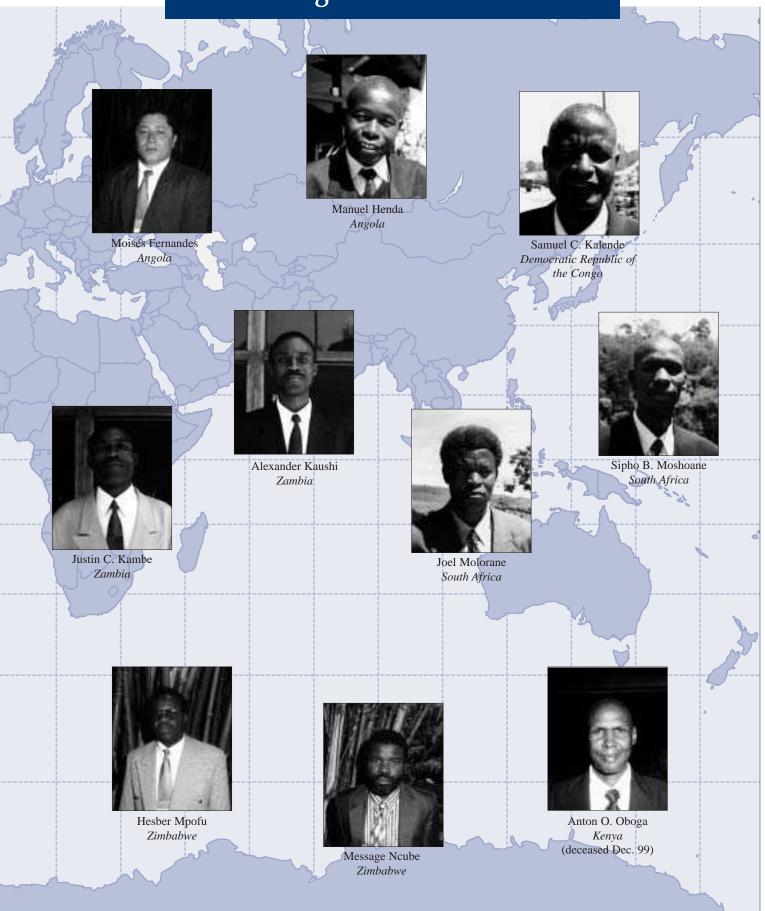


Petru Mangul Moldova

### **Delegates From Europe (continued)**



### **Delegates From Africa**



### Delegates From the Pacific Region



Paul E. Chapman Australia



Peter J. Jackson
Australia



Mervyn B. Southwell *Australia* 

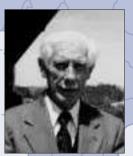


Kim Dong Chun South Korea



Marcel Wanegui French Polynesia

### **Translators**



Alfons Balbach English, Portuguese, German



Francisco Devai English, Portuguese, Spanish



Nehemiah Won Jun Chang English, Korean



David Bulaya English, French



Edgar Palamarchuk English, Russian



Marius Stroia English, Romanian, German



Elsa Burec Assistant Secretary during the session

# EXPERIENCES IN THE LORD'S VINEYARD

(Bro. Manuel Henda was a delegate representing Angola at our 18th Delegation Session in Brazil. He told several experiences during the meetings at various local churches during the time of the delegation session.)

#### **ANGOLA**

It is with great satisfaction that I come before you today, and I would like to share this experience with you. First of all, I would like to read Psalm 91:7, "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee." I have read this chapter many times before, but not until I had gone through the experiences I am about to tell you, did I fully understand the meaning and depth of this verse.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, I live in a place that for the last 30 years has been at war. I wish to tell you that when this war began, I was a child. I passed my youth in wartime, married in wartime, and today I have gray hair and I am still in a country at war. Many times we don't find adequate words to express what takes place. The disgrace and calamities are very great, but the hand of God is still greater.

When we all thought that the war was over in 1992, and all could then vote in freedom, you can't imagine the happiness of the people in general as they went to the voting booths! When the counting of votes ended, a new war began through the media. "There was fraud!" was the cry. Others would say, "The counting is right," and still others, "We'd better stop or the war will start again!" And sure enough, the commotion began again. The government would try to calm down the population by saying, "Keep calm, keep calm!" Instead, we soon heard bombs and airplanes.

My wife said to me, "Let's run away. It is not good for us to be here in this neighborhood; let's go!" So we began our preparation to leave. I was confused, going in and out of the house, thinking and looking what to take with me. Finally . . . I did not leave. My wife urged me, "What are you doing? It is fear that keeps us here." I could only say, "I don't have

any more strength. If you can take the children, you go." My wife then said, "If you don't go, it is better for us to stay together."

Brethren, you can't imagine what happened next. Soon the bullets were whistling and pelting down on us like rain. Some other brethren thought to take refuge in my house. They were coming hurriedly and would fall down; their luggage and belongings were scattered all over. I could not even look at them. Why did they come, I was asking myself. We

"A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee."

ran to hide ourselves under the beds, but with the bombs falling down, there was safety nowhere; perhaps in the closet, but it was not really safe there either. You cannot imagine the commotion, as we were scurrying here and there!

As the women were still seeking to find a place, the men were praying to God. When we stopped praying, you could not believe how the bullets would be coming down, and again we would fall down on our knees. The spirit was strong, but the flesh was weak. What a terrible thing!

A bomb fell on my neighbor's house. The neighbor came running out of the house, carrying a child hit



by the bomb with the intestines falling out! They ran to my house asking for help. I am a nurse by profession, but in that day I could not even hold a pair of tweezers in my hands. A short time afterwards the child died. A week later the women were gaining more courage, but the men were not. I came to the conclusion that the women were stronger, more resilient than the men.

When the war seemed to be over, a peace agreement was made with the warring factions. Only then we had the opportunity to go outside and see the effects of the war. You cannot imagine the amount of corpses lying in the streets! It was necessary for a large bulldozer to come and push the dead bodies into a mass grave and bury them all.

Then it was time to look for our relatives. The Opposition faction was pushed back 10 km, and I could see that those that ran from the cities were all killed. Had we left as we were planning, we would have been killed also. Thank God we did not leave our home.

Now another war more terrible began. When a bullet hits you, you may die in a few seconds. But there is a bullet that kills slowly. Hunger! All was destroyed with the war, and the army was there only 10 km away. They were intelligent and the leader of the Opposition followed biblical history. He made the siege just like in Jerusalem of old, and all the means were consumed, nothing was left. The children were hungry and they wanted to eat. As a father, you don't know from where to draw food to feed your children. What anguish! In the morning you would leave with a bag in your hands, looking for one grain of corn-just one! The children see you leave and they are happy because when Dad comes home there will be something to eat.

You are tired because of the hot sun, you sit down, and you see someone else also sitting down, and you



Some of the brethren in Angola.

say to yourself: "Poor man, he will die." When you find a few grains of something, you take them home. Then you toast the grains, give thanks to God, and make the distribution—one or two grains per person. After you chew the few grains, you drink one liter of water and give thanks to God. But God provided blessings to such an extent that I could not even imagine.

Bro. Jorai da Cruz (one of the ministers that visited Angola in the past, and who was also present at the time this experience was being told), saw my "cassava plant" which was a great fortune in my life. At this time, each day I had to limit myself to a few leaves; I would pluck them and boil them. You cannot picture the joy of the children jumping around the cook pot when those leaves were being cooked! The whole family was smiling. I had to protect my cassava plant because during the night someone could come and pluck out the whole plant, and I would lose my fortune. If the cassava disappeared, then our fate would be the same as the rest of the people. Thanks be to God! When we plucked one piece of sugar cane, we had to be careful that someone would not steal it from our hands while chewing on it. They were looking to see where the roughage would be thrown away so they could pick it up and chew on it some more, until the whole piece was completely gone.

Many times we walked about the city and could not find anything, and what kept us from being totally discouraged? God taught us. For the children's sake, we would place a pot on the fire just like we would be making soup, we would put a stone in the

pot and close the lid, and we would say to the children. "let's wait a little, it is not ready to eat"; and after being hungry the whole day, they would get tired of waiting, sit down, and slowly fall asleep. Then one by one they were placed in their

beds. Then the pot was taken off the stove until the next day. Before the children would wake up, I would go out again to find food. God would always help us find something.

A great number of people died of starvation before various international organizations coordinated kitchens in Angola. They served porridge to the people, and kept them alive. So it was at the time when Bro. Jorai came. He can tell you how he found us. We looked like walking skeletons, and as we walked you could hear the noise of the bones. Today we are here seen by you, and it is a great privilege for me because I never expected it. On another occasion we will tell more. Thank you for all the help the brethren sent through Brn. Jorai, João Batista, and Moises, and if it were not that you extended your arms to the hungry at that time, we would have died a long time ago. I thank God for all.

(On another occasion, Bro. Henda gave an up-to-date account of the Angola situation as follows:)

In the beginning of January 1999, again we were faced with a different problem. The war now was worse than before. We all know about the old ongoing war, but since January things have deteriorated even more. The government announced that it was militarily sufficiently equipped to destroy the Opposition faction. The Opposition, in turn, also announced that they had sufficient force to take even the capital, if necessary. Loaded with heavy equipment, the airplanes entered the country. The recruiting of the young men was announced and all between the ages of 14–25 had to comply. They could not go to school, work, or do anything else; mandatory military service for all the young men

was imposed. One of the military leaders said: "I want to see only gray-haired civilians, all other men from ages 25 to 60 must wear a uniform and be part of the army."

All were in anguish. Some of the brethren thought to flee from the capital to the provinces, and others from the provinces to the capital. The purpose of all was to escape from this decree. Some were coming and others were going. Near the end of January the war began again, a fierce battle. The government's cannons reached 140 km, and wherever the bombs hit there was total destruction. The Opposition also had the same equipment, and the government forces tried to stop them by exterminating the cities taken by the Opposition. But only children were rescued before the bombardment.

The military airplanes transported the children to the capital, leaving their parents and relatives behind. Adults were not allowed to go aboard. Great anguish prevailed everywhere. The cities of Uambo and Bie suffered much. I received many letters from the brethren of these places pleading for help. It was broadcast in the news that all that was green had been consumed as food; not even the grass was left. The radio stations appealed to the United Nations to come and save them from total tragedy and genocide. In the capital which is a city planned to accommodate 500 thousand inhabitants, today there are 5 million. Hundreds of children walk around the city searching for food and housing. When we also walked through the streets, searching food for our children as well, we witnessed this calamity of children of all ages begaing for food.

Brethren, please include Angola in your prayers because our situation is very critical. Here in Brazil is like a little heaven, there is food in abundance and we find all that is needed. God knows what each one can do to save one life. Pray that God may intervene that the Angolan people may be delivered from further suffering.

Also remember and pray for the family of our medical doctor who passed away not long ago, Bro. Bernabé Catende. His wife lost the clinic that her husband had founded, and today she and her children are suffering from want and hunger.

# EXPERIENCES IN THE LORD'S VINEYARD

(These experiences were told by a minister who lived through those dreadful years when religious restrictions were very strong in Romania.)

#### **ROMANIA**

During the time of religious restriction, our meetings in Romania were carried out during the night. On one occasion while we were having an election of church officers, we were faced with an unusual problem: the majority of the brethren did not want to hold any responsibility in the church. This could have been due to the imprisonment, penalties and heavy fines suffered by many. There was no liberty; even when there were funeral services, the secret police agents were there. At the baptismal ceremonies, only a few brethren would participate, in fact, very few of them would even know where and when the baptism would be held. Only two or three persons would know about it. These were to announce to the baptismal candidates where to go. All had to be done in so much secrecy.

Another interesting point was that our pastors would go to their field of labor, and all that they were going to say had to be memorized. No Bibles were taken, therefore all was said by memory. They had to learn that in case they were caught, no books would betray their faith since imprisonment was a certainty.

Our biggest problem was the Sabbath school lessons. They were written by hand. This job was distributed among the brethren so they could copy the lessons. When we could get a typewriter, we also had to find personnel to type the lessons. The place where these typewriters were kept was a secret. Even the officers of the church did not know who these helpers were, or where they lived. I remember that a minister came once to my house from far away. He asked me if we had lessons. "I'm sorry, I don't have them," was my answer. "You will have to go to the house of this other minister to get lessons." Because the place was far away, I decided to help him out. I took my briefcase and we went to Bucharest. As we approached a certain building, I left him at the sidewalk and went up to the specified floor. I was there only for a few minutes and

came down immediately with the lessons. So I told him: "We are blessed today, we found some lessons." He asked me, "Who lives here?" "I'm very sorry, but it is not necessary for you to know who lives here. I'm not even sure myself who these brethren are. We don't need to know where the lessons come from."

On another occasion, I visited a brother who lived far away from the capital. I was going to visit him to inform him of my activities. When I arrived I noticed that there was a person present who was not familiar to me. He was not a relative of the family, but he was an agent of the secret police. As soon as I came in, other policemen entered behind me. "What do you have in your briefcase"? they asked me right away, and "Who are you and what are you doing here"? I answered: "I don't have anything." In my briefcase I had personal things which he did not need to know about. But as I was caught by surprise and was in shock, I even forgot what I actually had in my briefcase. They were searching the whole house, so the family and I sat down and were waiting until they were finished with their search. Suddenly they left, and I remembered the material that was in my briefcase. Immediately I got rid of all the Bible literature that could compromise us. Soon after the agents returned and took me to the police station. They interrogated me for five hours. They made a complete search of everything I had. They wanted to know who the treasurer of the church was, and where the ministers lived. I told them, "I cannot tell you that!" (I told them that because we should not lie, only speak the truth.) I continued, "I'm happy because I see that you don't like traitors among yourselves either, and I will not be a traitor." I addressed one of the chiefs and said: "Cursed is the one who betrays the country." He then said, "You read too much; we are going to your house to investigate you."

At home I had three typewriters which my wife and two daughters were using to type the Sabbath school lessons. In the beginning I was not afraid,

because I thought they would let me go after the investigation was over. But now I began to worry about my young daughters. They drove me, and there was a total of four persons in the car going to my house. I did not know anything about them, only that they were from the secret police. They were riding in silence, no one was talking, so I decided to say something, "Excuse me, I don't know you, but one thing I know, that my wife will be happy because you are taking me by car and I will get home faster." Immediately they stopped the car and said: "Get out and go." "Are you going to leave me here in the middle of the road"? I asked. They continued, "We have to solve some problems first and then we will go to your house. Go now!" So I found a bus stop and took the bus home.

At home the family was getting ready for their meal. My wife said, "How nice that you are home early. Come to eat with us." So I prayed for the food, and my prayer was very emotional and my wife and daughters noticed that something had happened. As my hunger had left me, I told them what had happened. So we put all the typewriters together and also the literature that we had in the house in a large bag, and took it to the home of another brother who lived in that area. One of my daughters then said something that impressed me, "Are we going to be afraid of the devil now, Dad?" From that day on, my daughters traveled 40 km every day to the house of this brother to type the lessons.

In summary, the Lord always helped us out of our problems. The inspired pen says that difficulties teach us lessons. We did in fact learn much during those long years during the restricted regime. We thank God for His care toward us. In 1990 we did not have any church in Romania. Today, nine years later, we have 84 churches, one missionary school, and one successful sanitarium, applying natural remedies only. Our membership is the second largest in our movement. May God be praised!



#### Nepal

Do you know which country in the world has the Sabbath day as the official day of rest? And this is officially authorized by the Government? I wish to tell you in advance, it is not Israel. In Israel there is an agreement made that the servants may do their work on the Sabbath day. I am talking about a country which is in Asia, whose federal law says that they should keep the Sabbath day (Saturday), the seventh day of the week. The name of that country is Nepal. There the Sabbath day is a national holiday. Everything is closed on the Sabbath: offices, schools, markets, etc. No buses, taxis, or trains run on the Sabbath. (By the way, there are no trains in Nepal.) It is easy to be in Nepal and get a job because no one works on the Sabbath day. Would you like to go to live in Nepal? But, there is a problem there. Religious conversion is prohibited. One cannot be converted from one religion to another. Baptisms and other religious ceremonies are not permitted.

Once when I was returning to India from a trip, I decided to visit Nepal. One of the reasons to visit that country was to meet a Seventh-day Adventist man, an old friend of mine since the time we were colleagues in the university. Arriving in Nepal I went to the headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, because I knew that he was working there. We met each other at the SDA Union office, and he invited me to go with

# EXPERIENCES IN THE LORD'S VINEYARD

(As presented in one of our churches in São Paulo, Brazil, by brother D. Sureshkumar.)

him to a suitable place to talk together. We went to a faraway place, and among the many questions he asked me was whether I had left the SDA Church. I wish to emphasize the fact that he had heard that I had left the church. His question was like this:

"I was informed that you are no longer an Adventist, is it true"?

"No, it is not true. I am still an Adventist," I said.

"But I was told," he said, "that you are no longer an Adventist minister."

A copy of that newspaper was providentially read by the wife of the governor, and when she read the article she realized that it was about the Adventists.

"This may be half true," I said. "I do not belong any more to the organization of Seventh-day Adventists. But I live the Adventist principles, in the true Adventist church."

Then I began to explain to my friend and brother in Christ the dif-

ference between the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement and the SDA Church. For some reason he did not want to continue the conversation in that place, so we went out into a field. There we studied some prophecies, the history of the church, and so he asked me to stay a little longer in the country. He wished to know more about the matter. I stayed there for a while, after which I left.

Some time later I returned to Nepal and went to see him again. This time I noticed that I was welcomed in a cold, strange way in the SDA Union office. I inquired about my friend, and they informed me that he was no longer there. He had moved. But nobody wished to give me information as to where he had gone. A boy asked me if I could go to the Adventist hospital. I acceded to his request. The next day as I reached the hospital I met a person who told me that my friend had been transferred to Hong Kong. I found out the details and the reason for the transfer of my friend when this brother told me everything, but he also revealed this to me in a secluded place, away from the city. My friend, who was a minister of the SDA Church, had introduced in his lectures in the Adventist seminary the doctrine of the sealing as we believe and teach it, and as it is in the Spirit of Prophecy, and so he brought against himself the displeasure of the Adventists leaders in that place. He tried to preach the message of reformation inside the church, and then he was transferred to another country. I found out that this brother who was telling me these things had been one of his students. We were about 60 km away from the city, and there I studied with this person about the Reform

Movement, and together with him we visited many other interested people.

The third time I visited Nepal, a few brethren were ready for baptism. Because in that country baptism is forbidden, we traveled by bus to the borders of India and crossed the border with the brother with whom we had studied before (the student that I met at the hospital) together with a few others.

This brother who is a medical doctor and is well off financially, dedicated himself to the work of the Master. He donated a piece of land to the church and built a chapel with his own resources. Then he prepared a sign board and placed it in front of the church with the words: Church of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement.

One day the governor of that province was passing by the chapel, and after they went farther he asked his driver to go back so that he could see the sign of the church again. He began to ask about that organization and who was the responsible leader. Since nobody could give the correct answer to the governor, he immediately ordered the chapel to be sealed up and commanded a group of policemen to watch the building day and night. All those who would belong to that organization were to be arrested.

When our brother arrived at the chapel he saw there the policemen and he openly and happily declared that he was the owner of that place.

"It is very good," said the policemen, "We were waiting for you. You are under arrest."

They handcuffed our brother and took him to the police district. The next day his photo was published in the newspaper with a phrase saying: "A revolutionary leader is imprisoned."

A copy of that newspaper was providentially read by the wife of the governor, and when she read the article she realized that it was about the Adventists. In the newspaper was also a photo of the sign of the church. She called her husband by telephone and told him that his men had arrested the wrong person. The wife of the governor had studied



Some of the brethren in Nepal.

medicine in one of the Adventist universities and had knowledge about Adventists, and so she convinced her husband that the Adventists were a religious people and they were not revolutionaries or terrorists.

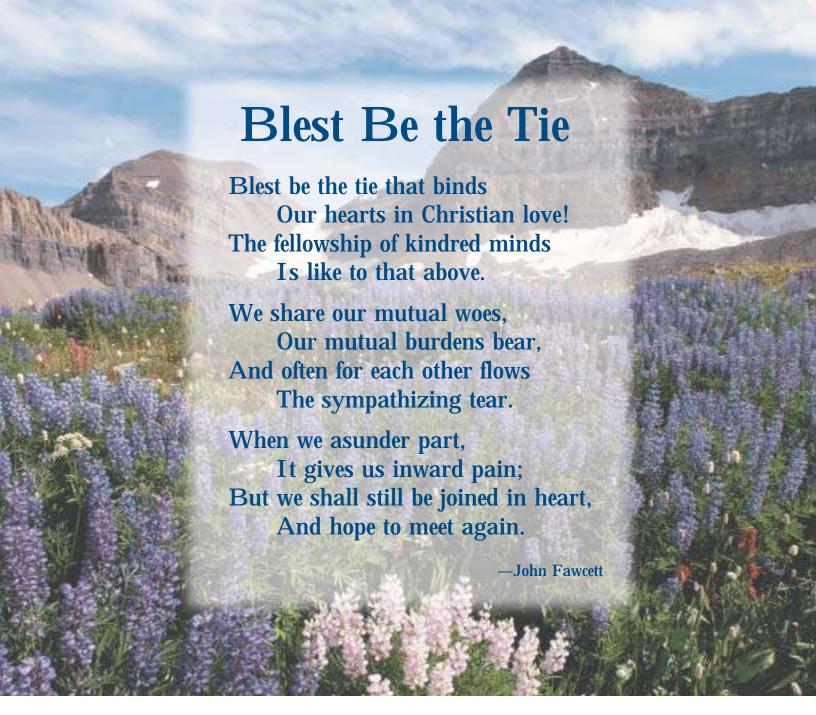
Finally the misunderstanding was settled. The words "Reform Movement" is the title used by the revolutionary group in that country. The officer of the government thought that he had arrested the chief of this group. It was all a misunderstanding. But it turned out for good, because our brother made contact with that influential officer of the government.

After many different agreements, our church is now in the process of being registered in that country. The governor himself suggested for us to use the name, "Association of Seventh Day Adventists, for a Healthier Life." Other names were also suggested but it appears that this one is the most convenient one. The General Conference office was consulted and the brethren are in agreement with this name. The first registration of this kind must be authorized by the local governor, and then it should go to the royal palace, where the king will sanction by a royal decree the registration of the Association. We believe that by now the registration is completed. Please, pray for it.

In that country, Nepal, life is completely different from everything

in other countries. On one occasion while I was staying in the house of the governor we heard a terrible, strange noise at night. As we were not able to find out anything, we went back to sleep. In the morning we were informed by the newspaper that a tiger had entered one residence just opposite the governor's house. The tiger entered through the window of a bov's room. In the midst of the screaming of the boy and later of the whole family, the tiger also got frightened, and began to bite and lacerate them. They were not all killed because the neighbors came with all sorts of weapons and broke the door of the house. The frightened tiger ran away through that open door. We went to visit that family in the hospital and it was terrible to see one without ears, the other without eves. and parts of their bodies torn. Their problems are different from ours, and they live very different lives from us here in the western world.

We thank God that though circumstances, customs, and ways of living are different from our own, there is one thing which we have in common—our faith in the word of God, in Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and the hope of eternal life in God's kingdom. The great family of God will soon be together where everything will be pleasant, beautiful and good. Let us be ready for that blessed eternal home!



**The Reformation Herald** P. O. Box 7240 Roanoke, VA 24019

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