

"GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD"

the
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20TH GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION,
Jeju - SOUTH KOREA

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NOW IS GOD'S TIME

It has been about 83 years now since we first organized as a movement. By the grace of God the work of the Reform Movement has entered around 130 countries, including some difficult ones where the task was nearly impossible. Nevertheless, the helping hand of the Lord provided strength for us to pass through those rough weathers and to have a safe landing. May we then say that "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13) and utter "Ebenezer," for the Lord has helped us thus far. Looking at our history, with all our strides and struggles, it is evident that God has brought His church thus far by grace.

The lapse of time has produced no change in Christ's parting promise. He is with us today as He was with the disciples, and He will be with us "unto the end." Christ ordained that we all should proclaim the gospel. It is both a privilege and honor to serve our Lord in the church. God has chosen us and is sustaining us (John 15:16). This very reason holds us accountable to work for God with great loyalty, to the maximum of our ability. He calls us to undivided service with an unconditional commitment of heart, soul, mind and strength.

In approximately half of the countries that we have entered there is still much work to be done in all these areas of the world. God wants to use all of us to involve in this finishing task of His mission which was the commission of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The people God uses are common people, consecrated people, committed people, and courageous people. So, let us educate and encourage all members around the world to dedicate at least one day each week for doing missionary work individually and involve our youth as well.

God calls for a total consecration and a thorough devotedness. He has no place in His work for half-hearted men and women. Those who are half-devoted, half-converted, Christ says of such, "I will spue thee out of my mouth" (Revelation 3:16).

Do you want to be the kind of person God uses? I do! Regardless of what it costs in time, energy or reputation, it will be worth it to be used of the Lord. It is time that we as Christians uplift a higher standard and hold fast the sound words and the good things committed unto us. Then can we say, "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad" (Psalm 126:3).

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

—Testimonies, vol. 4, p. 488.

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UNITED FOR ACTION

Beloved brethren, friends, visitors, young people, and fellow believers watching this program around the world. I greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The theme for this Conference is "Go Ye Into All the World." That is the commission to everybody. Christ's last words to His disciples were, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20). "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" (v. 19).

This commission is also reconfirmed in the Spirit of Prophecy, "Go to the farthest bounds of the habitable globe, and know that wherever you go My presence will attend you."¹

This is a promise of God, and this promise we must claim.

Some time ago, there was a ship sailing in the ocean heading toward Brazil. Suddenly this ship experienced a problem causing those aboard to run out of drinking water. They did not know what to do—there was no land in sight. In distress, they sent out an emergency message, SOS—"Save Our Souls."

A nearby ship received the message and answered back, "Where are you located?"

The distressed shipmen told the latitude and longitude of their location.

The answer came back again, "Be happy. Drop the bucket. Draw the water. Drink and fill."

"What? With the salty ocean water?"

"You are in a place of good, sweet drinking water."

The inhabitants of the ship did not know they were in the mouth of the Amazon river. They needed a message from outside.

Similarly today, souls who are sinking in sin do not realize their situation. They give the Macedonian cry, when the water of life is right within their reach.

"Evangelistic work, opening the Scriptures to others, warning men and women of what is coming upon the world, is to occupy more and still more of the time of God's servants."²

So, going and reaching is our real work. God says, "Go." God says, "Reach." And what do you do when you reach them?

We are told, "God's people must spread over all the world, planting the standard of truth in the dark places of the earth and doing their utmost to destroy Satan's kingdom."³

What then is their mission? To reach, to teach, to plant the standard, dispel the darkness, and build up the kingdom of Christ. This is our mission.

"The Lord designs that the presentation of this message shall be the highest, greatest work carried on in the world at this time."⁴

So this is our highest aim, our highest object.

I remember hearing about an incident that took place in 1867. There was an old missionary that had spent a great part of his life in India. His name was Dr. Duff. He was from Scotland—he was a Scottish missionary. Because of working hard for a long time in India, he got a little bit sick. He grew old, so they brought him back to Scotland. There was a conference like this one in a place called Edinburgh. The old missionary asked his people if he could attend the conference, and he expressed his desire to address the congregation. His request was granted, and he began to speak powerfully before the congregation. Suddenly, he fainted. They took him out, and a few minutes later he recovered and told the people, "Take me back. I am not finished. I must speak!"

They answered, "Look, pastor, you cannot. You will die!"

"Even if I die, I would wish to do this—and I want to finish my work!"

They were surprised, but they brought the aged missionary back to

Make a decision today: "I will go, or I will send. I will be ready for action!"

the hall. The entire congregation stood on their feet, with tears in their eyes. They were amazed at the power the Lord had given to this missionary. Then he came to the front—and in his faint and feeble voice he spoke.

The trembling voice of this veteran soldier for Christ declared, "Fathers and mothers of Scotland, is it true that you have no more children to send to India for the Lord's service? When Queen Victoria would require volunteers for her army, you would freely send your young men without a question. You would not consider health, you would not consider the weather, you would not consider life or death. But when the King of kings says, 'Why not your child?' you don't send one. . . . If that is so . . . take me back to India! I will preach on the bank of Ganges. Let this old man's voice echo in Himalaya."

Brethren, that was a powerful message. Thousands stood up. Many missionaries went. Although there are very few Christians there, Christianity has nonetheless reached that remote land.

We need missionaries, we need ministers, we need soldiers for Christ, we need ambassadors for the King of kings. The need for evangelistic workers is the need of the hour today.

"The harvest truly is great."⁵

Ambassadors for Christ are needed today. How many do we need?

"There should be one hundred earnest, faithful laborers in home and foreign mission fields where now there is one."⁶

"The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago—a revelation of Christ. A great work of reform is demanded, and it is only through the grace of Christ that the work of restoration, physical, mental, and spiritual, can be accomplished.

"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their

needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"⁷

Christ came to preach the good tidings, to bind the broken heart, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to open the prison to them that are bound, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. (See Luke 4:18, 19.)

My brethren, Jesus came to seek that which was lost. He brought good tidings. We have before us a great work. What is that work? The closing work of giving the gospel—God's last warning message to the sinful world.

"We have before us a great work, the closing work of giving God's last warning message to a sinful world. But what have we done to give this message? Look, I beg of you, at the many, many places that have never yet been even entered. Look at our workers treading over and over the same ground, while around them is a neglected world, lying in wickedness and corruption—a world as yet unwarned."⁸

Do you remember the experience mentioned in the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy about the American businessman? He said that he worked for the Lord 24 hours a day. When questioned how he could do that—when did he sleep then—he explained, "When I sleep, my men work in China."

My brethren and sisters, "Go!" Or if you cannot go, then "Send!" Go or send. This is our commission. It is our mission. If it stops, the church ceases to exist. Mission is the heartbeat of the church. If the heart stops beating, we stop living. Can you imagine that? We must have a living church of active Christians.

Every believer by baptism not only makes a public declaration of being a follower of Jesus Christ but also pledges himself to work with Him for the salvation of other human beings. Not only ambassadors—we are **coworkers** together with Christ. Therefore mission is the hallmark of every Christian and it is the test of his or her faith.

What are the challenges affecting us today? Every generation has a different challenge. Today's challenges are: Population, transportation, communication, knowledge expansion, research in the world's religions, hundreds of new religions, urbanization, secularization, social, economical and political gaps, as well as ongoing revolutionary change in every culture. Does this affect our religious standards?

The servant of the Lord says, "Yes, it does." So then, what do we have to do? We need to make provision to face the various challenges and overcome them.

The number of people in this world who have never heard about Christ is 8-10 times greater than in the time of the apostle Paul. Barely 20% of the world's population today is Christian. In just 10 years from now, this will reduce to 15%. What—is it going to be reduced? Yes, at the rate at which this is going, it will happen. So, we need to get into action.

Suppose you would go to the airport. You stand there for about an hour and find that no airplane is taking off or landing. What would be your thought? There obviously must be a problem.

You go to the train station. You stand for hours. No train comes. No train goes out. No passenger goes past. What would be your thought? Something is wrong.

Can this be compared to our situation? We are the church. We do not see people coming in or going out to preach the gospel. Something is wrong. There is a problem. We must have an active church, bringing in and sending out, fulfilling the great commission.

The gospel commission is God's idea. Jesus said that His mission was to seek and save that which was lost. Luke 19:10. And again He says, "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you" (John 20:21).

My brethren, if Jesus has left us with this commission, we should not tarry. We should not sit back and twiddle our thumbs.

There are many changes taking place even in our church today. Just 80 years ago, the church started with just a small group of people in Europe. Now, today, it is spread all over the world in more than 120 countries. We have members

on every continent. Can we just sit back and relax and say, Wonderful, the Lord has done great things? Can we just sit back and rest? No, my brethren, we still have to go and reach the unreached areas.

There are other problems. Even where progress is visible, there is also some inventory to be taken. What is the situation?

1. Increasing worldliness.
2. Changing roles of the laity.
3. Social reform taking place all over the world.
4. Spiritual decay.

These are the things that affect people all over the world. In spite of all these things, the Lord has made provision to reach new countries. Yet when we open new areas, we seem to run out of missionaries. Bro. Jaksic has been pleading with us for the last 8 years to send one missionary to Mongolia. We don't find one. We were making an appeal to send one missionary to Albania. We couldn't find any. The work of the Lord is opening in many places in Africa.

We see new places and we need missionaries to fill these places, brethren.

We should have a decided position before we leave this place: How will we provide for these people?

We should be united in action so that we can accomplish the goal.

Mission is the work of the Holy Spirit—it is not the mission of a man. As a church, we cannot be guided by some geographical, organizational or ecclesiastical institution, nor by the business principles developed by the Ford Motor Company or by Microsoft. Rather we must be guided by principle—by the Holy Spirit. We should devise the plan and that plan is, "Go or send." Reach the unreached. Save the lost.

In the Spanish language they have one phrase that I like: "Siempre listo." Always ready—ready for service, ready for sacrifice. This should be our mission, brethren. We need to have a critical self-investigation to determine what will be our course of action.

We cannot witness unless we have a personal experience with Christ. And let us all work unitedly—united with one another, united with Christ. Then we can get into action!

In conclusion, I just want to tell you about an incident in Brazil:

It was a Saturday. There was an army officer. He took his wife and two of his children to the zoo in Brasilia. It was a good day—there were many people there with their families and children. Near a little enclosure, many were observing a fresh water seal (sea lion). Everyone was watching. And as they were watching, one little baby slipped out of the hands of the mother and slid straight down into the enclosure. A mother seal became furious because she herself had a new baby. So she came to attack the human baby. No one knew what to do. But the army officer had not a second thought—he did not delay. He quickly handed his own child to his wife and immediately jumped into the enclosure to rescue the baby. The mother seal was so furious that she viciously attacked the officer. Although he was able to save the baby, he left his wife a widow and his two small children orphans in his heroic action to save the baby. He died as a brave soldier.

Brethren and sisters, when we are in action, we should not fear the consequences. What is your decision today? Are we ready to be united as a people, as collaborators with Christ that we can finish the task so that Jesus can declare, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant"? If you reduce that powerful declaration into just two words in today's language, it would be: Mission accomplished! Mission possible!

Action is necessary. Make a decision today: "I will go, or I will send. I will be ready for action!"

I want to thank the Lord today that He has given us this desire. The victory is ours. ✎

References

- ¹ *Evangelism*, p. 15.
- ² *The Review and Herald*, August 2, 1906.
- ³ *Evangelism*, p. 18.
- ⁴ *Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 11.
- ⁵ *Gospel Workers*, p. 27.
- ⁶ *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 488.
- ⁷ *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143.
- ⁸ *Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 103.



By God's grace, encouraging progress in throughout the world was witnessed at

PROGRESS, PLANNING, CHALLENGE



*F*ive new countries were entered, plus several new units were now recognized for the first time:

- Bandundu Mission
- Burundi Mission
- Cameroon Mission
- Equator Mission
- French Field (previously part of the German Union)
- Kasai-Occidental Mission
- Kasai-Oriental Mission
- Malawi Mission
- New Caledonian Mission Field
- North Congo Mission
- North Kivu Mission
- Rwandan Mission
 - South Kivu Mission
 - Tanzanian Mission
 - Ugandan Mission

Other units showed sufficient growth to be recognized now at the next wider level (for example, from Mission to Field or from Field to Union, and so forth):

- Central Angolan Field
- Colombian Union
- Italian Field (already operating since 1995 but officially recognized now)
- North Angolan Field
- North Chinese Union
- South Angolan Field
- South Chinese Union
- South Indian Union
- Kasai-Occidental Union

Although steady growth was experienced in many, many places, the increase in souls reaped was especially noteworthy in Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, Nepal, Rwanda, Vietnam, and Western Congo. In Central America 10 new properties were purchased, plus 11 new churches were built in other parts of that same region.

Currently the 10 largest units by membership are: South Brazilian Union, North Brazilian Union, Romanian Union, Peruvian Union, Philippine Union, East European Union, Kasai-Occidental Union, Moldavian Union, North Indian Union, and Colombian Union. The worldwide regional distribution of membership is as follows:

spreading the message of reformation
this 20th Delegation Session.

PLANS, AND CHALLENGES AHEAD

41%	South American Region
15%	European Region
15%	African Region
10%	Asian Region
7%	Eurasian Region
5%	Pacific Region
4%	Central American Region
3%	North American Region

Plans

A few highlights from some of the plans made are: promote missionary publications, an online missionary school, DVDs and CDs for personal evangelism, health ministry and sanitariums, a medical foundation and continuation of the International Medical Congress every two years, agricultural projects, and educational seminars on evangelism and stewardship.

Challenges Ahead

If we are to truly fulfill Christ's call we also preach, teach, and heal. Beginning with our current total of 32,856 church members, 2,160 meeting places, 155 health institutions, 30 radio programs, 50 church schools, and 24 websites, we are called to share the love of Christ with 6 billion souls in the world. Yet institutions will not actually finish God's work—people

will. Individual effort on the part of all imbued with the Holy Spirit will be a power to touch the heart of souls everywhere. We must recognize that our true work, expressed in our life and experienced with the motto, "helping people appreciate God's transforming grace," is to expose precious souls to the life-transforming and renewing grace of Christ. Our work is to help prepare them for His soon return.

To accomplish this goal, workers must be trained around the world in every unit. Seminars should be held in organization and administration. Lay members must be heavily involved in finishing the work. People must be educated to share sacrificially their means and set self-determined goals and objectives in undertaking new mission projects. Our Lord has bidden us, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

"Go to the farthest part of the habitable globe, but know that My presence will be there. Labor in faith and confidence, for the time will never come when I will forsake you.

"To us also the promise of Christ's abiding presence is given. The lapse of time has wrought no change in His parting promise. He is with us today as truly as He was with the disciples, and He will be with us 'even unto the end.'



" 'Go forth preaching the gospel to all nations,' the Saviour says to us, 'that they may become children of God. I am with you in this work, teaching, guiding, comforting, strengthening you, giving you success in your work of self-denial and sacrifice. I will move upon hearts, convincing them of sin, and turning them from darkness to light, from disobedience to righteousness. In My light they shall see light. You will meet the opposition of satanic agencies, but put your trust in Me. I will never fail you.'

"Think you not that Christ values those who live wholly for Him? Think you not that He visits those who, like the beloved John, are for His sake in hard and trying places? He finds His faithful ones, and holds communion with them, encouraging and strengthening them. And angels of God, that excel in strength, are sent forth by God to minister to His human workers who are speaking the truth to those who know it not." —*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 17. *OR*



Jeju?

Gam-sa-ha-mi-dah, Korea!
Arigato, Japan!
 (THANK YOU!!!)

These two countries, as Jesus said of Mary Magdalene, “did what they could.”

“Jeju? Where is this place? Never heard of it before.” Those were the words many were saying. Yes, it is a faraway country for sure! It’s not so well known in the western hemisphere, but it is well known in Asia—and it is a beautiful island, especially for vacationers. The island is on the very southernmost tip of the coast of South Korea. Jeju is a “Special Self-Governing Province,” meaning, a country within the country of South Korea.

Another question that came up often was, Why go to Jeju to hold a General Conference Session? Aren’t there cheaper places around the world where the meetings could be held instead of in the Pacific Region? Cheaper and closer places could be found, of course, but there were other reasons. The main one was that for Jeju, being a famous tourist spot in Asia, no visas are required for most countries of the world, and this would definitely facilitate the documentation of many of our delegates coming from the African continent, Eastern Europe, and from some Asian countries

as well. Another strong reason was that the brethren from that region needed a spiritual feast too. So to Jeju we all went, and it was worth it! If you did not come, you certainly missed some of the most spiritual meetings of the SDA Reform Movement. There were not thousands of people attending as in past GC Spiritual Conferences, but there was an Upper Room experience to most of those present.

On the way to Jeju, each delegate had a memorable and unique experience. An interesting factor for those coming from North America was that we never saw night during our flight. With all the layovers and approximately 20 hours of continuous traveling westward, there was no sunset, the sun was shining all the way to Seoul. From U.S.A. we left in the afternoon, arrived in Seoul the next day in the evening, and one day was lost in the horizon somewhere . . .! On our way back to U.S., it was the opposite experience. We left in the morning and arrived on the “same day” in the evening. One interesting fact is that the jetlag remained with us for many days after crossing so many time zones, and we figure it must have caused havoc to the circadian rhythm in our bodies—a good excuse for sleeping in.

The Delegation Session was scheduled to begin Wednesday in the early morning of September 19, 2007. The 19 members of the GC Council arrived a few days earlier and were to meet

If you did not come, you certainly missed some of the most spiritual meetings of the SDA Reform Movement.

already on Friday in Jeju. Sabbath was a happy time for all, but on Sunday morning, Nari also arrived in Jeju! If you are wondering who Nari was, it was a deadly typhoon. What a time of deep reflection and lots of prayers for the angels to be very near the brethren there! Following is an excerpt from the local newspaper after the storm passed through:

"Typhoon Nari quietly vanished from the Korean peninsula in Monday's wee morning hours after lashing the country's southernmost Jeju Island and southwestern regions. At least 20 people are presumed dead or missing after Nari pounded southern areas Sunday accompanied by gusts of up to 150 km an hour.

"According to the Korea Meteorological Administration, Korea's highest mountain, Halla [in Jeju], saw 556 millimeters of rain on Sunday alone, the highest daily rainfall since Korea began keeping records in 1927. The storm flooded more than 200 households on the island, swept away hundreds of cars, wiped out roads and wrecked ships at anchor.

"All ferries and flights to and from the island were suspended on Sunday, and some 20,000 travelers on Jeju were stranded overnight. Limited air traffic only resumed before noon Monday at Jeju International Airport."

That was precisely when the majority of the delegates were scheduled to arrive. After the frightening Nari experience, approximately 180 delegates were met at different hours of the day and night from three different airports, Seoul, Kimp'o or Jeju airports. We must really congratulate our brethren from Korea for their organization in picking up the brethren arriving from all continents and countries of the world. All the delegates had the same experience with the efficiency of the transportation and accommodations.

Wednesday morning, September 19, 2007, at 7 o'clock all the delegates

were assembled at the meeting hall for the first morning worship. Bro. Sureshkumar, GC President, welcomed each one with words of encouragement and thankfulness to the Lord for traveling mercies.

On this first Wednesday morning, the rostrum was nicely decorated with the motto of the 20th GC Session, "Go Ye Into All the World." Then the members of the outgoing administration walked to the rostrum marking the beginning of the session. Soon they would lay down their offices after presenting their reports. The spiritual address was given by Bro. Sureshkumar and he continued, "exactly four years ago today, after the Brazilian conference in 2003, the Lord helped us and we had success in our path. This path was not a bed of roses, but as Samuel in the past set a monument of thankfulness and called it Ebenezer—'hitherto hath the Lord helped us'—this morning I want to say the same, 'Ebenezer!'"

Bro. David Zic, the GC secretary, came to the podium and called the name of each delegate to come forth and present his credentials, a letter from his country testifying that he was officially elected as representative to the session. At the same time each delegate received a binder and pen, a souvenir from the Korean Field, as well as a badge with his/her name, number, and country of representation. Everyone had to be scanned at the entrance of the auditorium before voting on any issue. This technology was all set up by the younger generation of the Korean brethren—all homeschoolers—and we could really say that they were very good at what they did. We must congratulate all of them for the success.

The delegates-at-large were called-up first as part of the outgoing administration, then the regional secretaries, followed by the individual countries. During that first morning, not all delegates had arrived due to traveling complications, but as the first days

progressed, 179 had arrived. Not all units were able to send their complete delegation which would have made a total of 187, representing 132 countries and a worldwide membership of 32,856 up to December 31, 2006. According to the provisions of the General Conference Bylaws, there was quorum and the session was declared competent to transact business.

All the new missions or units which became operational during the last quadrennium were presented and accepted by the delegation. Next followed the presentation of the reports by each member of the outgoing administration.

According to the provisions of the Bylaws of the General Conference, as soon as the presentation of the reports is ended, the next step is the election of the temporary chairman and secretary for the continuity of the session. The result of the ballots was: Bro. Peter D. Lausevic to be the temporary chairman, and Bro. Paul Balbach to be the temporary secretary. At this point, all the outgoing administration laid down their offices and responsibilities and joined the rest of the delegates on the floor, with rights to vote.

Bro. Peter D. Lausevic then began his chairmanship of the session. The first item was to record our corporate thankfulness to the Lord. Brethren from each region gave their Bible verses as follows: Isaiah 25:1; 12:5; Psalms 116:12-14; 117:1, 2; 121:1; 90:16, 17; 48:14; 25:11, 12; Malachi 3:16, 17; Romans 8:28; Hebrews 3:1.

Various committees were formed and worked sometimes late into the night—especially the Nominating Committee. The first nomination was for the office of the president, and Bro. D. Sureshkumar was reelected. Part of his acceptance speech was:

"Beloved brethren, I want to thank the Lord for the confidence that you have placed on me again. With your cooperation I will be faithful to the Lord and try to serve you.

The plan is that each member should bring at least one new soul to the truth every year.

I want to read my favorite Bible verse in 2 Timothy 1:12–14, 'I know whom I have believed. . . .

"How many will cooperate with me, and pray for me and my family?" This was the important question addressed to all delegates.

Two vice presidents were elected, Bro. Davi P. Silva and Bro. Peter D. Lausevic; secretary, Bro. Paul Balbach; treasurer, Bro. Roberto M. Duarte. The regional secretaries came next, as well as the directors for the other departments. You can see the complete list of officers on the following pages.

On the last Sabbath before the delegation session ended, we held the Lord's Supper. This was at times done in previous GC sessions. For the foot-washing of the brethren, a big circle was formed around the swimming pool of the hotel. The staff must have thought our behavior very unusual, as we observed them taking pictures from the windows and terraces. The hymn singing, the foot-washing, and our customary form of greeting each other asking for forgiveness, then the distribution of the grape juice, must have caught their attention greatly. The custom in Korea is to greet one another by bowing respectfully in front of the other person, but they were seeing hugs and kisses among the brethren. Interesting that the Spirit of Prophecy mentions this, "Then it was that the synagogue of Satan knew that God had loved us who could wash one another's feet and salute the brethren with a holy kiss, and they worshiped at our feet."—*Early Writings*, p. 15.

Although we had busy 12-hour days, we started with prayer and ended with prayer. There were prayer groups throughout the session, particularly in the early morning hours (between 6:00 AM and 7:00 AM).

Bro. Peter D. Lausevic continued bringing very spiritual insights to the delegation before the business session on the subject of the nature of Christ. What an inexhaustible subject! No wonder

this theme will be in heaven the study of the redeemed ones for all eternity.

Special prayers were requested as the delegates were in contact with their families and fields of labor. Fathers were asking prayers for their firstborn who have stepped off the platform of truth; sick brethren needed comforting words; families in mourning called to give us the sad news about the loss of a loved one; special prayers were specifically requested for some who had left the Reform Movement and joined another organization; and for the delegates present, discernment to make wise resolutions, as this will affect the future of our church.

The Medical Committee brought their report to the delegates and one of their resolutions was to publish a health magazine called *Lifesource Health and Wellness* which will be available soon. Our people need to be aware of the new discoveries in the realm of natural medicine, thus vindicating the instructions given over 100 years ago to God's church by the Spirit of Prophecy.

The Plans Committee brought their recommendations and they were very good ones. One of these recommendations if taken seriously by all members would impact the church immensely. The plan is that each member should bring at least one new soul to the truth every year. How soon would the sealing work be completed, and Jesus would be ready to return! The new members would also bring one more. Working on the plan of geometric progression would indeed make a great difference in our movement.

Finally the time ran out for the business part of the 2007 GC Delegation Session. It was Thursday 1:30 p.m. and the hotel employees needed to rearrange the auditorium for the spiritual meetings beginning that same evening. Bro. Sureshkumar, the reelected president, thanked all the Korean brethren and the young people who had helped very much; he compared them as a little

Gideon's army. Bro. Francisco Devai, a senior brother and former GC president for three terms, came to the podium and pronounced the Lord's blessing spoken by Aaron:

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: the Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

And so ended the 20th GC Delegation Session in Jeju, now gone for eternity!

The hotel workers were quick, and in no time the auditorium changed. You can have an idea if you visit our website, www.sdarm.org, click on Jeju, then on Photo Gallery. At this point the entire Travellers Hotel was reserved only for our people. The guests had arrived. Every room, deck, garden, and eating area had our people. It is a pleasant experience to see brethren and sisters everywhere. It gives us a sense of security—a safe environment. Then time to begin the first meeting arrived and, lo and behold, now there were over 400 persons.

We were very impressed to see the involvement of the young people in the services and particularly their devotion to praising God with sacred music. About three to four days before the general meetings started, families from mainland Korea and from Japan (Jeju is a separate island south of Korea) became very active. You could see children and youth practicing their instruments. And during the public meetings, we were greatly blessed with their "Heavenly Music" for it gave us a taste of what it might be in the kingdom of heaven. Their music "CD's" were gone very quickly. There were also very gifted brothers and sisters who sang hymns of praise. It was very touching to see and hear the choir from Japan, every one sang in the choir, literally from ages 5 to 85. What unity among the believers! Our hearts were truly "warmed" by the reception and treatment we received.

About 10-15 children of different sizes and ages and early teens participated in a string orchestra under the direction of Sis. Tabitha Chang. They played the violin, cello, flute, and piano very beautifully. We apologize to these young ones for not including their names herewith. Let's just call them "little sweethearts" as Bro. Sureshkumar called them. In all the meetings they were faithfully at their post of duty, from 7 a.m. to the end of the day at 9 p.m. They just sat quietly and reverently waiting for their turn to play. That speaks loudly about the home-schooling education of the children. We congratulate the parents and may God grant them wisdom to continue the work they began. A CD called *Mission* was prepared with special items presenting by the orchestra and other items during the conference. You can contact Reformation Herald Publishing Association to buy a copy of this CD.

The messages were powerful. Just imagine brethren coming from different countries around the world. Was it a coincidence that they all spoke Christ-centered messages? No, the Lord prepared each one, and although the speakers had not communicated with each other, the messages pointed to Christ the Saviour.

All the regions were represented, and they showed their progress through PowerPoint presentations. Read excerpts in this magazine. The physical needs were different in each region but the great want is the same around the world—Jesus Christ.

We also want to thank the Korean sisters for their nice idea when collecting the offerings during the Sabbath services. They wore their native dresses. On Saturday evening, a musical concert delighted the attendees, and the hidden talents were shown in solos, duets, quartets, choirs, and orchestra items.

October 7 came too soon. The last meeting on Sunday night was the public presentation of the newly elected officers for the next quadrennium. They were invited to come to the rostrum and audibly pledged together:

"We, the servants of God, before Him and in the presence of the witnessing angels and this congregation, pledge ourselves that

we will serve the Lord faithfully, and we all pray that we will serve you faithfully with the blessing of God. Amen."

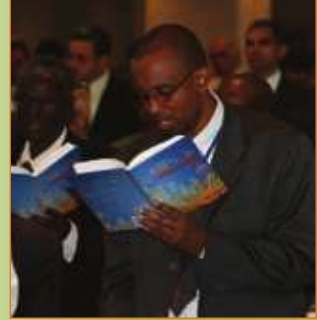
Bro. Marcelo Silva came to the podium, representing the two Brazilian Unions and as a token of appreciation gave to the leaders of the Korean Field, Brethren Kyu Tae Park and Jong Hwan Hyun, a beautiful picture of the Brazilian famous Iguazu (Iguaçu) Falls with the signatures of the 36 Brazilian delegates present in Jeju.

Korea is a beautiful country. We had pretty views from our meeting site of mountains and ocean. Think of the vast number of people living in that country and the need to spread the Gospel to so many souls. Just think of Seoul, the capital city, where our planes first landed—it is the second largest city in the world, with over 23 million inhabitants (larger than many countries). Asia has more than half the world's population, and yet many have not heard the truth about Jesus and the Three Angels' Messages. With most of Asia being under Communism and Mohammedanism, this is indeed the last frontier for the gospel. The good news is that the truth has entered China, Mongolia, Vietnam, and other countries in that area. We were blessed to meet the 6 delegates from China. How good it is to see that they embrace the same truth. How good it will be to see our brethren and sisters again and, better yet, to be able to speak with them in the language of Heaven. The Lord says, "Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me" (Revelation 22:12).

"For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit" (Isaiah 57:15).

It was now time to end the last meeting and the well-known hymn began, "Till We Meet Again," and there were teary eyes throughout the congregation. We learned a few Korean words, but one that we will never forget is, "Gam-sa-ha-mi-dah God, Gam-sa-ha-mi-dah Korea, Arigato Japan, for a job WELL DONE!

—Staff with P. Balbach





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 Esther Lee
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 Sehun Kim



Presented by the Regional Secretary, Bro. Branislav Jaksic

THE PACIFIC

Who would think, 20 years ago, that we would go to China? Or Mongolia, or to Vietnam? But today the message is going everywhere, and people are pleading to hear the Word of God. In one country people asked me, Who is this Jesus? Tell us, Who is this Jesus you talk about? Yes, we have to tell them about Jesus, about our Saviour, our Redeemer, about our Creator, about our Friend, the only one that has answers to the problems of all humanity.

- **Australia:** We have a new Union headquarters in Australia. We have our own campground there with buildings and facilities for conferences.

- **New Zealand:** What is very wonderful about New Zealand is that the young people are very zealous in the Lord's work, like in Australia as well. In every state and mission we proclaim the message.

- **Papua New Guinea** is a big island above Australia. If you study the history about Papua New Guinea, not long ago this was a country where people practiced cannibalism. I spoke with one brother and I asked him about this, and he told me, "Oh, brother, when I was a little boy I ate humans. My grandpa would catch them, and he would eat the little brains, and the

members of the family would eat other parts of the body, and we children would eat the feet and legs." This man became a Christian, accepted vegetarianism, and today he is a member of God's church. The light came to him, and he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour.

We are almost completing the headquarters in New Guinea. They don't have chairs to sit on, they don't have proper beds to sleep on, they are very poor people, but they are very rich in the Word of God. They love the Lord. When they come to what we call church, they start singing, when they close the meeting they sing, during collection of offerings they sing, when the meeting is finished they sing, and when they walk out they sing. They don't show long faces. They don't have beautiful cars, no beautiful seats to sit on (but for me they provided one because it is difficult for me to sit on the floor). They brought a chair with three legs and they leaned it against a tree, and I sat on that chair. I was with them, and we rejoiced together. In one place we have about 20 members only, but when we have a conference in that particular place, approximately 300-400 people come together. They are Protestants, Catholics, Adventists. "How did you travel to come here?" I asked some of them.

"I walked one week to come to this place."

"What shoes did you wear?"

"I have come barefoot the whole way."

They came to hear the Word of God. I praise the Lord for He has given me the opportunity to work among these people. They are very dear to the Lord's heart and to my heart.

- **Fiji:** Our work in Fiji is also going well.

- **Western Samoa:** Praise the Lord! We have brethren and sisters in both Western and American Samoa.

- **Vanuatu:** This island nation used to be called New Hebrides. One brother from Australia invested his own money and built a school in Vanuatu. This school has now 300 students. It is run by our principles and many parents from other private schools are bringing their children into our school because of its high standards.

- **French Polynesia:** Why is this called French Polynesia? It is an archipelago governed by France. One sister built a beautiful, little church in Garabao, and now the brethren worship in that building. The climate there is tropical, very warm and so are the believers. They reflect the warmth



of the country, singing continually. One brother donated land very near the sea, and all conferences, youth gatherings, and spiritual conferences are held there at our campground in Tahiti. When you arrive on that island, the brethren and sisters give you a royal welcome.

They sing at the airport, and every person brings a wreath of flowers and puts it around your neck to welcome you. With great joy they begin to sing and everybody at the airport is watching what is going on. They ask, "Who is this person that arrived? Who are these people?"

And I tell the brethren, "Let them know we are having a conference, tell everyone at the airport that they can come." So they give leaflets to everyone, and we have a big conference.

In Australia, when we have such gatherings, we have to invite people one month in advance or 6 weeks ahead, and few people show up. When we have a conference in Tahiti, on Tuesday or Wednesday, I ask, "Brother, have you sent out the invitations?" He says, "No, brother." Then I say, "Brother, no one will come!" But on Thursday they handed out the invitations everywhere, and on Friday night and Saturday our hall is packed with people. People just come, and we have a wonderful feast over the whole weekend. Most of our brethren that joined our message were from the majority church, most of them were fishermen.

The sea is everything to the people in Tahiti. Fish is their main food—they live from the sea. When we took the message to Tahiti, and when we told

them that we are vegetarians and do not use any flesh food, they asked, "Not even fish?" "Fish is flesh." "Then how shall we live?" My answer was, "Just grow things."

They grow watermelons, and cantaloupes, and many other things. And now they are better off financially than when they were fishermen. They cannot grow enough, so great is the demand.

• **New Caledonia:** This is a long narrow island surrounded by a number of smaller ones. One sister from the island of Maré visited Noumea, the capital city of New Caledonia, and there she heard our message. She was advised, "Sister, preach the message to your husband by your way of living. Preach the truth by your life! Don't force it upon him; just live out the Reform message." She did so and it had a great effect on him. After a while he noticed the changes in her life and he asked her, "What is going on with you? Is that about the Reform message you talked to me about?" She said, "Praise the Lord! By His grace I have changed." He said, "I want to change also!"

I happened to be there when he came to Noumea and we studied together, and he said to me, "Brother, I want to join the Reform, but I don't want to join by myself, I want the whole congregation of my church to change, and when we are ready, we will let you know and you come back." And so it happened. The whole congregation accepted the truth and they were rebaptized and received into the

church. Underneath the sign Seventh Day Adventist, they added, Reform Movement.

• **Japan:** What a joy we had there! The young people can sing beautifully. The sisters there helped to build a beautiful church that has been dedicated.

• **South Korea.** The headquarters is in Kimchon; perhaps some of you have had the privilege of being there.

• **Mongolia.** Here the people were under a communist regime for 70 years. Now, praise the Lord, freedom has come to them and the message has reached them. They still live a nomadic life, their houses are built with timber and other materials. And they move around and stop from place to place with their cattle and sheep. A very beautiful country.

• **China.** By the grace of God I have been going to China for 8 years, and we have brothers and sisters here from China tonight. For me those 8 years were joyful ones. We formed a close bond with the brothers and sisters there and the Lord is being glorified and the message is going forward.

• **Vietnam.** The work is just beginning there, but is off to a strong start.

• **Cambodia.** We don't have members there yet, but our *Sabbath Bible Lessons* are going there, and one Adventist minister is translating our lessons, printing them, and distributing them in his congregation.

There are many other countries, and the word is Mission Possible. . . .

(Continued on p. 19)

Presented by the Regional Secretary, Bro. Eduardo Lainez

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN REGION

In the world there are millions and billions of people but very few have the privilege to know the message for these last days.

It is a great privilege to be called children of God. When our Saviour came into the world, not even His own brethren accepted Him. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12). This is the highest privilege that a human being can attain. In this world there are titles given to honor men and women, but all that will stay here—the person dies and all dies with the person. But those who have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ will be assured of eternal life, as they become a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a peculiar people.

When we look at ourselves and compare our efforts with the work of the Master, we see how far we are from the goal He has proposed to us! We are insufficient and small, and only through the merits of Christ can we show forth His praises.

During the years 2003–2007, the work in the Central American Region has grown in many countries. This includes all the countries of Central America, plus Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and all the islands of the

Caribbean (including the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Saint Lucia, Jamaica, the Bahamas, and so forth).

The Lord's work has been established in Mexico, Honduras, Venezuela and Colombia for some time already, but in other countries the work is fairly new. Bro. Evans Benjamin has been a great help in the work of this region and we thank him and his family for the sacrifices they have made.

In Mexico, a property with 15 acres was purchased not long ago, and our brethren are using it for their conferences. The publishing department is also functioning there. The Mexican Union has a stable canvassing department with an average of 40–50 full-time colporteurs. This Union has had the largest increase in membership in the region because of the spiritual harvest in the new mission of Chiapas.

In the health work, during the conferences people give testimonials telling how they were healed in our small clinic in Vera Cruz. People with serious physical impediments come to the clinic. After a series of natural treatments they are walking again.

Churches are being built in Haiti,

Mexico, and the Dominican Republic with the help of funds received from the First Sabbath Offerings. We thank the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference and all the brethren, sisters and friends for their continuous generosity.

A missionary school has been established in Haiti where 20 young people have been trained and have since graduated. Also in Santo Domingo there is a missionary school with 16 students.

In Honduras we began another school cycle in the city of Siquatepeque in March 2007. Bro. Homero Paredes made valuable contributions with his classes on his visits there.

During the last four years two brethren were ordained to the ministry, and four to eldership in the Central American Region.

We are planning to open the work in Cuba. There is a little group of people that are studying our *Sabbath Bible Lessons* and show much interest.

The work is very new in Belize, formerly known as British Honduras.

We are insufficient and small, and only through the merits of Christ can we show forth His praises.

There we have a little church—a group of almost 20 members—plus a number of interested people.

In **Honduras** we have the headquarters of the Central American Union. There are about 400 members in that country. There are more than 20 church buildings, and a missionary school building is under construction there. A primary school is operating in the city of La Ceiba Atlantida, and now a secondary school has been established as well.

On the island of **Martinique**, a brother has recently donated a good place for our meetings. Bro. Louis Georges Louisy has worked as an elder for many years, and now we have Bro. J. Cadaxa who has come from Portugal to help in Martinique and Guadeloupe.

In **Nicaragua**, in one place we have a church with 30 members and many visitors, and now a new group of believers is coming up in another place. There are about 50 persons—including children—and they already have a chapel.

In **Costa Rica**, we have two church buildings, the newest one is in the city of Guayabo. We have groups in different parts of the country and over 50 attend our Sabbath schools. In Decem-



ber 2006 we had a conference in Costa Rica with visitors from several countries of Central America. In one place, there is an active group of interested ones, who are working to promote a great awakening.

In **Panamá**, in the capital city, a church was dedicated in December of 2007. Many visitors are attending our meetings.

El Salvador has an official membership of 73, but many visitors are coming to our meetings. In San Fernando the brethren became interested when they saw our magazine with news and photos of the GC Session held in Germany in 1991. This magazine fell into the hands of Bro. Alonzo, and he became interested and now he is our elder there. He is sitting among delegates today in this session.

What about **Haiti**? If you will recall, a few years ago a group of young people went to build a church in Haiti. The first group of missionary school students, prepared by Bro. Evans Benjamin, have just finished their classes and graduated. Currently we have 97 members there.

The **Dominican Republic** has a membership of 176. There is a new group of about 40 interested persons who say they cannot understand why they did not know, earlier, that we existed.

The total membership of the region as of December 31, 2006, was 1,385, and since more baptisms are being performed in various places, this number has already increased.

May God bless all! *✠*

The Pacific Region (Continued from p. 17)

Is it possible for us to proclaim this message to everybody in the world? Napoleon said, "Impossible is a word found only in the dictionary of fools." Brethren, we must not think that it is impossible for us to proclaim the message.

I remember, some years ago a young man in Australia accepted the message, and he had very rich parents. His father said to him, If you join this church

I will disown you. But he accepted the message, and his father told him, "Get out of here, I don't want you here anymore!" The mother, crying, prepared him a little suitcase and hugged her son. He came and stayed with me, and told me, "Brother, I don't have any place to live and this is the little bag my mother prepared for me." I talked it over with my wife. We had a little humble house, and I told him, That is all we can offer

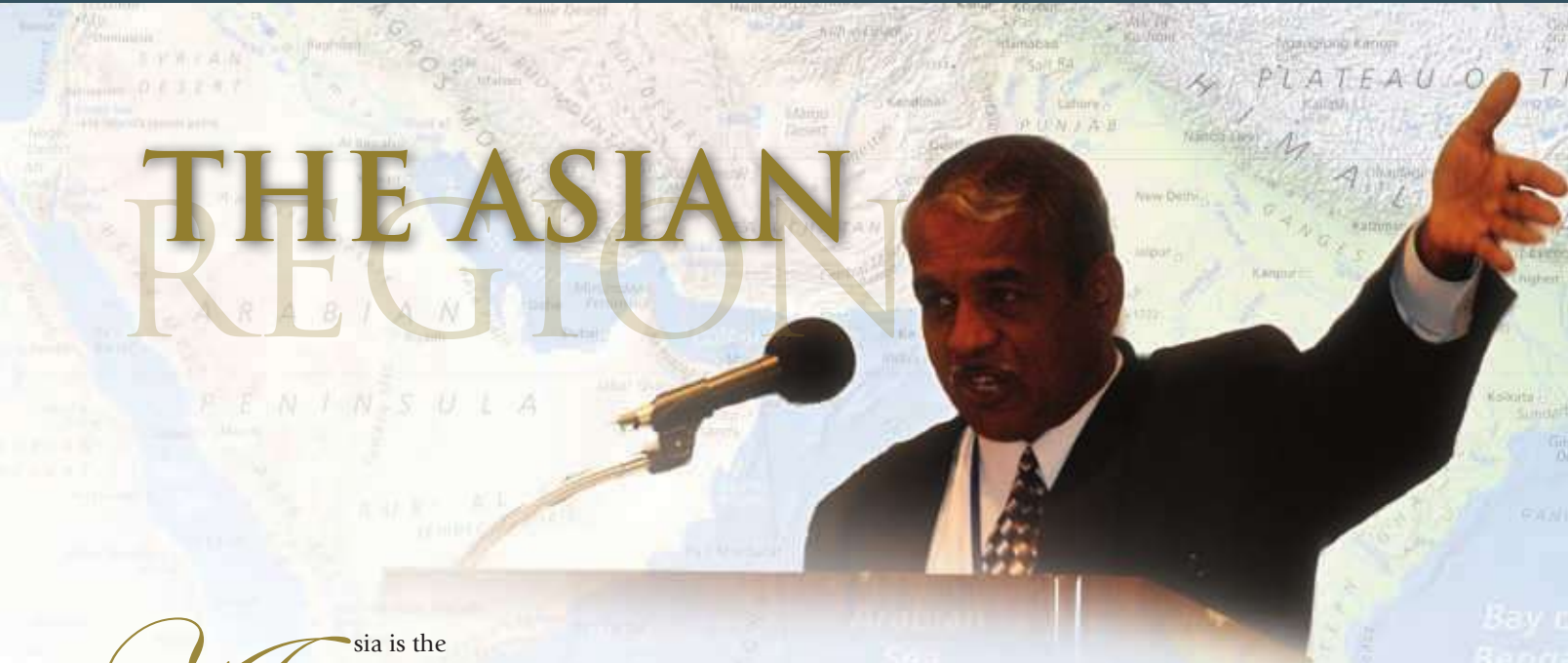
you! He accepted it gladly and said to me, "I feel like telling everybody about Jesus, do you think something is wrong with me?" "No, no, just tell everybody," I said. That kind of zeal is what we need.

The Lord wants us. "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world (Matthew 24:14)," and then Jesus will come! It will be the end of all sorrows, pain and suffering. *✠*

MISSION IN ACTION

Presented by the Regional Secretary, Bro. M. Natarajan

THE ASIAN REGION



Asia is the biggest continent in the world. India is a subcontinent. In the Asian region there are so many countries: India, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, and the Middle East gulf countries—all of these together we call the Asian region. This region is known for religions, as it gave the world so many of them, such as Hinduism, Taoism, Buddhism, Shintoism, Islam, and several others. When we come to India, 83% are Hindus, 11% Muslims, and less than 3% are Christians. The remainder is everything else. The Hindus love their religion very much and guard it jealously. As Christians we need to go into these countries because God has told us to “Go ye into all the world.” So we go.

Despite all the difficulties and problems, the work is progressing well in the Asian Region. God is paving the way for us to go in. With all the many obstacles in our way, so far nothing serious has happened to us yet. The work continues to go forward and God is leading us all the way.

As I have mentioned, there is intolerance

erance between Hindus and Christians. In one place in India a family of foreign missionaries from Europe was traveling by car—the father, mother and two children. Some Hindus came and ordered the car to be stopped. The missionary asked, “Why are you stopping us?” “We don’t want you here in India . . . not even in this world.” They poured gasoline all over the car and set it on fire. This family of missionaries was burned alive. Why? Because they were Christians.

I witnessed the scene of one Christian missionary being cut in pieces. Why? “India is only for Hindus; all others should not enter in.” Even the Muslims have difficulties there. In India there are constant fights between Hindus and Muslims. Because of this conflict, thousands are killed in India, but God says, “Go ye.” How can we go? Because the throbbing heart of God resounds, “My son and daughter, I ask you to go into the world, I know very well there is tribulation, but be sure of what I have spoken: In me you will have peace, I have overcome the world; be of good cheer. Don’t be scared of death. You go, I send my Spirit with

you and will protect and lead you and bless and pave the way for you, and I will open the door for you and remove all the obstacles in the way, but go into the world.” With these words in mind, we go!

Most of the nations in Asia belong to the Muslims. In not even one of all these countries are Christians in the majority. I was put in prison because I was baptizing someone. God saved me from a 2-year prison sentence, and in one week He delivered me.

When we enter Nepal, another country where Christians are not welcome, we must give Bible studies underground. Publicly we cannot conduct any meetings. If we perform a baptism, we must go out somewhere. They don’t like people from India, and they don’t like tourists, either. If I go into that country, they say, “He is from India, he is a tourist, and he is a Christian, and we don’t like him.” But Jesus said we should go. Secretly we give Bible studies, and since we cannot baptize them there, we bring the candidates to another country and after the

baptism he or she goes back to Nepal.

Once I was traveling by bus when three terrorist extremists entered the bus and ordered everyone, "Give me all you have." One of them stood in the front by the driver, another by the door, and the third stole items from the passengers. After looting all the valuables, the third man put the bag with the booty on the floor, took a gun and said to the one near the driver to point at me. "Shoot him!" he said. On that bus I was the only one from India, the only Christian, and the only tourist. The man repeated, "Shoot him, go ahead!" I could not say anything, I was very afraid and cried to the Lord, "Please bless me and save me." I thought I would be dead any second. Then the man near the door told the other fellow: "Come quickly!" So he took the booty and left me and ran away. God saved my life.

Before coming here to Jeju, I went to Nepal. After finding a lodging, I went out to shop for food. I saw a big crowd shooting at each other. There was a battle going on. All the shops were closed and I could not go back to my room. I was hungry. I managed to return to my hotel, and I asked the owner to please give me some food. So he gave me a little, and for the next 10 days I could not go out of the room lest I be killed. On the 11th day I finally had a chance to come out and run away to India—hungry and tired. These are obstacles against Christianity. But God entrusted to us the gospel commission, "Go into all the world, I will be with you."

We expect tribulation and it's true that it will come, but we are to commit everything to God. He will take care and He is there with us. We need to be purified and strengthened through tribulations and stress. If there is no tribulation we may not know ourselves.



God permits adversities to develop our characters after Christ's pattern. Because He loves us, He wants us to understand our responsibility in connection with the gospel commission.

In **Nepal** we have 4 churches now in different parts of the country. The work is flourishing and developing. Our brethren have to work among Buddhists and Muslims. It is rare to see Christians in that country.

Bangladesh is another Moslem country which cannot easily be visited. On one occasion some of our brethren tried to distribute literature there. I was among them. We were on the platform of a railway station when we opened our packages and began to hand out pamphlets to the passers-by. Some people came with a can of gasoline, poured it on our publications, and set it on fire. Then they began to sprinkle gasoline on us, and we had to run for our life. Next day a daily paper carried our pictures with the following caption, "If you see these people, hand them over to the police." The airport was 300 miles away, and we continued running for our life. God heard our prayers and saved us, allowing us to escape. But to that country, God said, "Go ye." In spite of all obstacles, God has opened the way. Today we have at least one good family in Bangladesh.

Pakistan is still dangerous. If you ask Bro. Williams, he can tell you about the difficulties he faces there. In a Christian church (not ours), a group of men entered and began to shoot. Nine people were killed in the very act of worship-

ping. Christians are always in danger. Two of our brethren were on their way home with their two children after a worship service when two men on a motorcycle shot them. Some time ago, together with Bro. Sureshkumar and Bro. Williams, we gave health lectures in one place. At that time we baptized 52 souls. Today, despite all difficulties, we have 200 members in that country.


Sri Lanka is still worse. In other countries we have non-Christians as our enemies, but in Sri Lanka we have Christians against our church. They have threatened and troubled us.

When we leave home we are not sure if we will come back alive. In Matthew 24 our Lord explained that this is the beginning of sorrows. You will be hated for my name's sake, He said, and professed Christian will betray one another. We expect losses, disappointments, but we have the Saviour's promise, "My son, My daughter, My grace is sufficient for you."

The Lord is calling for laborers. There is a great work to be done in the highways and byways. People are hungering and thirsting for the words of life. How many in this group today will say, Here am I, send me? How many of us are ready for this commitment? We are responsible for souls that are perishing. Let us be determined to face tribulation or whatever may come. Our motto is "Christ." God is calling us for one purpose to preach Christ. Then let us rededicate ourselves and work for our Master. ✍

Presented by the Regional Secretary, Bro. Devapiryam Samy Doss

THE AFRICAN REGION



Great is my joy, my dear brethren, sisters, visitors, and friends: The Lord has made it possible for us to be here together today; He has assembled His people on His holy day to worship Him in spirit and truth. To all who are assembled here from far and near, I would like to convey greetings from the believers in Africa.

As of now the work has entered almost all the countries in the sub-Saharan region. the northern countries (which are predominantly Muslim countries) and a few countries in West Africa are still untouched. Currently we have members in Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, and Togo in the west; Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda in the east; Burundi, Congo, Malawi, Rwanda, and Zambia in Central Africa; Angola, and Namibia, in the Southwest; and Botswana, South Africa, and Zimbabwe in the southern part, and Mozambique in the southeastern part.

Angola has now developed into three financially sound and viable Fields. A new missionary school is under construction there.

New interest has been created in Benin and a new harvest of first fruits is anticipated shortly.

In **Botswana**, the brethren recently acquired a piece of land by themselves and have erected a monument for the Lord.

Many properties have also been acquired and structures roofed, by the grace of God, in **Burundi**.

Recently there was a harvest of 23 souls in **Cameroon** and more are currently awaiting baptism.

There are several missions now in **Congo**.

A Bible worker has recently been sent to **Cote d'Ivoire**.

The health clinic in **Ghana** is being run successfully. There was a harvest of 26 souls not long ago. The brethren there have been instrumental in opening up the work in neighboring **Togo**.

The mission in **Kenya** has moved forward steadily and has done some remarkable work in the past four years. The brethren there have been instrumental in opening up the Lord's work in neighboring nations. God bless them that they may continue to play a vital role in carrying the torch of truth to unreached places. Recently they penetrated the far eastern city of Mombasa

where we had not a single member in the past.

Several visits have been made to **Malawi** by the brethren from the Zambia Mission. There are interested people in that country.

A Bible worker from Angola has recently been transferred to **Mozambique** to boost the existing work in that country.

There is also a group in **Namibia**—refugees from the time of war in Angola.

There are two Missions in **Nigeria** where the brethren are currently building a monument for the Lord and are entering new places with the present truth. Ten souls were baptized recently. The believers in that country need our prayers since violence and armed robbery have become a daily routine there.

The work in **Rwanda** is progressing quite well; many souls are being baptized and houses of worship are being roofed with the help of our brethren from California.

Christ commanded us to take the gospel to every nation, tongue, and people . . . to every nook and cranny of the world.



Seychelles and Zambia are both stable, and South Africa is experiencing considerable growth. Many new approaches are showing results.

The work is expanding in Tanzania and Uganda. Despite the colossal economic crisis in Zimbabwe, thankfully the work there is progressing as well.

We read that “Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:35–38).

In Christ’s work we specifically notice two aspects:

1. He went to every village and every city, to teach the people.
2. When He looked upon the vast congregation, He was moved with compassion.

What about us today? Do we have that burden for souls? We call ourselves the disciples of Christ; we call ourselves followers of our Saviour. Are we moved with compassion when we look at the perishing world? Millions are born into

this world and millions die every day. And, unfortunately, the message has not reached the uttermost parts of the world. Christ commanded us to take the gospel to every nation, tongue, and people. In other words, the message must go to every nook and cranny of the world.

I often ruminate upon my past. I think of my good old days, sitting in my comfortable home, in my country. I dream about abiding with my own people. But then I ask myself, “Is it God’s will that I remain in my homeland? Is my country the whole world?”

Praise be to God that he has chosen me to be His mouthpiece in Africa, where I have blissfully served Him for 12 years.

Let us inquire of ourselves: What is our responsibility in the Lord’s vineyard? Tilling the ground, sowing, planting, watering, and reaping? Surely we have to do that. But we have to go to all parts of the world as God’s laborers. The laborers are few. So each one of us should commit either to going, or to sending someone else. That is what God expects of us.

The gospel commission is not completed by the fact that we have reached over 120 countries. Evangelism is a worldwide enterprise. Beginning at home, we must reach our next door neighbor; he or she, in turn, is to speak to the next neighbor, and so forth. When the work is established in one

country, the brethren from that country are to take the message to the neighboring country. If we trust in the Lord and work in harmony with His plan, we will have 100 workers where, now, we have only one.

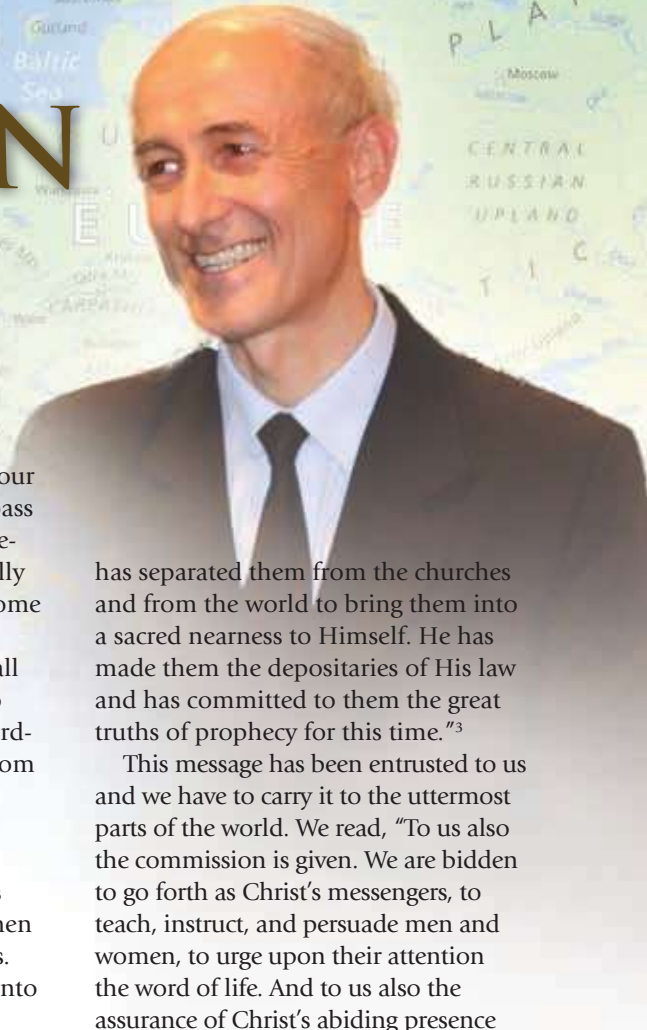
May I draw your attention to one of the miracles of Christ? Before feeding 5,000 men plus the women and the children, the Saviour told the people to be seated on the grass by groups of 50 and 100. Then the disciples took the baskets and shared the loaves and the fish among the hungry spectators. If the disciples had gone only to the front rows, those in the back would have complained for having been ignored. Applying this thought to our experience, I must say that we will certainly be blamed by those from whom we have withheld the bread of life.

Sometimes we establish a church and do not go any further. The local people are overfed, and though they have spiritual indigestion, they want more and more. And they are not happy when we tell them how to feed themselves, because we have to go to other places. This situation must change.

Brethren, we have a great responsibility—to cover the entire globe. Let us pray that Christ, through the Holy Spirit, may enable us to accomplish this great task. By the grace of God, the time that has been lost may still be redeemed. *✍*

Presented by the Regional Secretary, Bro. Marin Barbu

THE EUROPEAN REGION



Beloved brethren in Jesus Christ, I have a special joy to be here with you and I praise the Lord for having been granted the privilege to attend this General Conference Session. The song "They Come From the East and West" has been sung a couple of times and indeed the Lord has gathered us at His feet from the north, south, east, and west. My beloved brethren, I want to greet you in behalf of the brethren in Europe. At the same time I would like to thank the Korean brethren in behalf of the European brethren.

It is very encouraging for us to receive missionary news from various parts of the world. This afternoon I want to share with you some news from Europe. When I came to the Reform Movement I studied the prophecies and understood that most of them had already been fulfilled. But the prophecy in Matthew 24:14 was quite hard for me to fathom. How could it come true? At that time the borders were not open for us in Romania where I live. During those years when Communism was flourishing in our country, we used to have our meetings at nighttime. Those who read the Bible were considered to be enemies of the state. If anyone would tell someone about Christ, he or she would receive fines or be arrested. I somehow doubted how the prophecy of Matthew 24:14 could come true for us. But the fact that we are here is proof that the

prophecies are fulfilling, and what our Lord Jesus promised will come to pass for sure. The Lord said, "Go ye therefore into all the world." Now we fully believe that the whole world will come to learn about Christ's love.

Jesus has told us to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). According to the Spirit of Prophecy, to whom did the Lord give this commission?

Jesus explained, "To you, My disciples, I commit this message of mercy. It is to be given to both Jews and Gentiles—to Israel, first, and then to all nations, tongues, and peoples. All who believe are to be gathered into one church."¹

To whom is this commission given? To simple men and women who learn to love Him. Not only to the ministers—but to the believers in all centuries. Whoever has received the gospel has received the commission to spread it.

"To Christ's followers today, no less than to the first disciples, these words are spoken: 'All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.' 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature' (Matthew 28:18, 19; Mark 16:15)."²

"God has called His church in this day, as He called ancient Israel, to stand as a light in the earth. By the mighty cleaver of truth, the messages of the first, second, and third angels, He

has separated them from the churches and from the world to bring them into a sacred nearness to Himself. He has made them the depositaries of His law and has committed to them the great truths of prophecy for this time."³

This message has been entrusted to us and we have to carry it to the uttermost parts of the world. We read, "To us also the commission is given. We are bidden to go forth as Christ's messengers, to teach, instruct, and persuade men and women, to urge upon their attention the word of life. And to us also the assurance of Christ's abiding presence is given. Whatever the difficulties with which we may have to contend, whatever the trials we may have to endure, the gracious promise is always ours, 'Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world' (Matthew 28:20)."⁴

"The message of the soon coming of the Saviour must be given in all parts of the world, and a solemn dignity should characterize it in every branch. A large vineyard is to be worked, and the wise husbandman will work it so that every part will produce fruit."⁵

"God has qualified His people to enlighten the world. He has entrusted them with faculties by which they are to extend His work until it shall encircle the globe. In all parts of the earth they are to establish sanitariums, schools, publishing houses, and kin-



dred facilities for the accomplishment of His work.

"The closing message of the gospel is to be carried to 'every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people' (Revelation 14:6). In foreign countries many enterprises for the advancement of this message must yet be begun and carried forward. The opening of hygienic restaurants and treatment rooms, and the establishment of sanitariums for the care of the sick and the suffering, is just as necessary in Europe as in America. In many lands, medical missions are to be established to act as God's helping hand in ministering to the afflicted."⁶

I have been working in the European Region, dear ones, where the work is organized into eleven units: 3 unions, 6 fields, and 2 missions. The Lord is in our midst.

Literature is being freely distributed by our people in Germany and Romania, where the believers spread a table on a sidewalk or park and tell people about our message. Blood pressure checks and health seminars are offered to the public, as are children's camps offering classes in English, breadmaking, cooking, woodworking, speech, and Christian deportment. These have been very successful in the community.

In April 2007, the first class of missionary school students graduated. Some of them have already been employed in the Lord's work and others are active in their local churches. In August another class of students began their studies. Currently there are 25 sisters and 22 brothers attending.

Our Lord Jesus spent more time healing than preaching. An entire

heaven is interested in soothing the suffering. Therefore our medical personnel have met several times to promote the medical missionary work. One such meeting was held in Croatia in 2005, and another in Germany in 2006. The brethren are concerned with the question of why Christians get sick and how this can be prevented.

The Lord has bidden us to establish sanitariums and we are very grateful to Him for our sanitarium in Romania. Many people from the higher classes come to this sanitarium, bringing a category of people whom the gospel could not reach any other way. At the sanitarium the brethren and sisters use fomentations with clay and pulverized charcoal as well as hydrotherapy. The most important therapy is sacrotherapy—whereby through the power of God's Word, people are brought to the feet of Jesus. Many come here with serious diseases and go home with Christ in their heart.

One example was that of a businessman who was brought to the sanitarium. After a while, he came back with his wife, and when they returned home they gave up their business. They surrendered their heart to Christ and their whole family became members of our church. Then, to reach out to the community, they bought a house in the city and established the first vegetarian restaurant in Romania.

Another important branch of the work which we consider a lot in Europe is the preparation of healthful food.

In Hungary, Romania, and Germany, cooking classes are held regularly.

The publishing work is a branch to which we have given much of our attention. We have a printshop in Romania where the *Sabbath Bible Lessons* for Hungary, Moldova, Romania, and Spain are printed.

Public meetings are also being held by our Young People's Department, including International Youth Congresses where as many as 16 countries have been represented at once. The Lord says that the youth are our future and with an army of rightly trained workers we can bring the gospel to all the nations of the world.

The work is also progressing in Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Italy, Portugal, and Spain and the harvest is being reaped.

So, beloved brethren, I would like to conclude with the following text: "O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!" (Isaiah 40:9).

Let us reveal to the people what God has done for us, so that when Jesus comes, those who will be saved by our united efforts will be able to tell us, "If you had not been there, if you had not left your comfortable home, I would not have been saved." My desire is that all of us should have this special joy!

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¹ *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 28.

² *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 106.

³ *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 455.

⁴ *Evangelism*, p. 15.

⁵ *Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 289.

⁶ *Medical Ministry*, pp. 330, 331.

Presented by the Regional Secretary, Bro. Simeon Karvatski

THE EURASIAN REGION

The Eurasian Region, with 2,389 members, consists of the East European Union with 1,435 members (Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Latvia, and so forth); and the Moldovan Union with 851 members (Moldova is divided into three Fields, and the Turkish Mission Field is attached to it). Besides these two Unions, the Polish Field, the Czechoslovakian Mission Field, and the Israeli Mission Field also belong to the Eurasian Region.

"In the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets" (Revelation 10:7).

The mystery of God was revealed to the apostle Paul and to the early Christians. He wrote: "If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel" (Ephesians 3:2-6).

This mystery has also been revealed to us. But there is also another mystery that we are to meet—the mystery of iniquity. In these last days we must un-

mask Satan's plans. Do you know what kind of mystery this is? What kind of work is carried on by the mystery of iniquity and how it is done? Revelation chapter 17 illustrates this as a dazzling woman holding a cup in her hand. What is in this cup? She suggests that everyone take a drink from it. Do you want to taste this drink? Everywhere in the world we can see the results of imbibing this drink. Today, the Lord in His mercy opens to us the mystery of His kingdom as well as the mystery of iniquity. What is our work? Inspiration tells us that our work is to go into the whole world as ambassadors of Christ and to reveal to the world the mysteries of God, His love and His character. We are to reveal God not only by our sermons, but by our life.

The second step is to unveil Satan's plans. This is our work today too. Christ asks us today, Who is ready to answer this call? Who is ready to say, "I agree; I will go"? With His wonderful love, He is well able to do everything without our help, but He does not want to do this work without our help. Who is ready then to answer the call of Jesus Christ? What are the characteristics of Christ's ambassadors? The Lord says, "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon

thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee" (Isaiah 60:1, 2). Praise God that Christ has given us His glory.

Referring to the ministry of John the Baptist, Jesus once asked His disciples, "What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind? But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they which are gorgeously appalled, and live delicately, are in kings' courts. But what went ye out for to see? A prophet?" (Luke 7:24-26). What did the people go out to see in the wilderness? A prophet who was preparing the way for the first coming of Jesus Christ. He asks us today: "What did you come to see in Jeju? Is there anything interesting on this island? What will we take from this place?" Everything is interesting here, but what did we come to see?—The work of Jesus Christ through His church in the last days, the preparing of the way for the second coming of Jesus Christ. Yes, our generation has the responsibility to prepare the way for His second coming.

I thank my God for all of you, my brethren and sisters in Christ. For a long time we [in the former U.S.S.R.] could not communicate with the rest of the church around the world, but the Lord

has opened the way. He says, "I have opened the door for you, and no one can shut it." We can do nothing in our own strength, but Christ can do everything. Among our formerly Communist countries, some have full freedom, but others still suffer under great difficulties.

Below we give you some information about the countries within the Eurasian Region:

- **Poland:** This is a country where 95% of the people are Roman Catholics. In Poland we have had good success, and during the last four years the work progressed there. Thank God, we have a church that holds regular meetings and we have experienced great blessings from the Lord. We also have a new group of about 10 believers in another city in Poland. I have studied the Bible with them for a long time and thank God we have had result. There are visitors and candidates for baptism. It is a joy to know that whenever the brethren go out of the house they take literature with them to distribute to the people. When they gather together on Sabbath in their local church, approximately 30 of them all want to tell their weekly experiences. The brethren are active in missionary work and spreading the message—even before they are baptized.

- **Czech Republic** (former Czechoslovakia): There are a lot of people coming to our meetings. Yet, materialism and unbelief prevail. One minister from Ukraine moved to the Czech Republic to help the brethren. Now, in the next few months they are planning to organize a church in an important city.

In **Slovakia** the people are more religious, and there we are having more success.

- **Moldova:** This is the birthplace of many of our pioneer missionaries that emigrated to various countries, especially to South America. Our brethren from Moldova have played an important role in the establishing and developing of God's work around the world. The work there is actively going on. Several seminars were held, as well as special meetings and youth congresses; there were baptisms; and several churches were built during the last quadrennium. The headquarters for the Moldovan



Union was also built in the capital city. The missionary work is well organized. The welfare, medical-missionary, colporteur and publishing departments are active. Recently the brethren began the work in Turkey, where we already have 11 members.

- **Ukraine:** There have been many seminars and special meetings in Ukraine. There are 20 active churches there. There were difficulties and lack of communication with the rest of the worldwide church in the past due to the previous political regime, but the brethren are doing their best to come to the unity of the faith.

- **Russia:** Russia embraces a large territory with rigorous climate. For more than 70 years the people had no religious freedom and the country was mostly atheistic. The predominant religion here is the Russian Orthodox Church. We have a church in Moscow as well as in two other areas. The SDA Reform Movement encountered a lot of difficulties in the past—many ministers and lay members were imprisoned, and even today we see the consequences of the past political system. There are preparations being made lately by the government to restrict religious liberty. Nevertheless, the workers are doing what they can to carry forth the gospel message. Sometimes baptisms are conducted in ice-holes in the winter. One elderly sister was recently baptized in the dead of winter—a large hole had to be carved into the ice in order to reach water. She did not want to wait for better weather; she wanted to be baptized as soon as possible; she wanted to be ready

for any eventuality. God has always been merciful in these cases of baptism in extremely cold weather. We know of no case when anyone got sick as a result.

In Siberia we also have some interested groups, and we are working with them. There is great need of experienced workers in Russia, and as in all places of the world, the financial difficulties are always present.

- **Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan:** In the Central Asian countries, Islam is the predominant religion, and intolerance to Christianity is quickly growing. Many people are forced to leave these countries. The brethren there are working according to their possibilities.

- **Belarus:** There is no religious freedom in Belarus. It is difficult to carry on missionary activities there, but we are always looking for opportunities. We have only a handful of members in Belarus.

- **Israeli Mission Field:** This country is always at war. Politics and religion are interrelated and this causes a lot of difficulties for our work. The mass migration of the citizens causes loss of communication and connection with the few brethren we have there. However, we are looking for possibilities to promote the work there also.

I am glad that we are not simply representatives from various regions. We are representatives of Jesus Christ. He has told us to go into the whole world and preach the gospel. This is our commission, and we have His promises to be with us always, even unto the end of the world. *✍*

Presented by the Regional Secretary, Bro. Matheus Souza Silva

THE SOUTH AMERICAN REGION



How much time is left? How many days remain before the end of all things?

“For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry” (Hebrews 10:37). The year 1844 marked a new era in the history of the world and in the history of the church. Now, 163 years have passed since the entrance of Jesus into the Most Holy Place. How long is Jesus going to be there, mediating for you and me?

The year 1888 marked the beginning of the last phase of the church of God on earth. Now, 119 years have passed since the angel of Revelation 18 began his work. Noah preached for 120 years and the Flood came. In 2008, we are completing 120 years of preaching the messages of “Christ Our Righteousness” and “Justification by Faith.” It could be that within the next year, everything could be accelerated, a few more prophecies could be fulfilled, and the persecution of God’s people could begin. The Spirit of Prophecy says that great changes are about to come upon us. The last events will be rapid ones. As God has

given us the privilege of attending this session, He has a special blessing for all of us. You and I should not return home the same way we came. We need a change before we can go home. God wants to bless us with the early rain and the latter rain. Oh, that we may receive this blessing during this session! In 1914-1918 our pioneers were disfellowshipped from the Adventist Church. In 1925 this last reformatory movement was officially organized. Since then, 82 years have gone by—twice the length of time that the Israelites sojourned in the wilderness. How much longer will we continue on our pilgrimage through the desert of this world?

Jesus is about to return. Our journey is coming to an end. We are almost home. It is my wish and prayer that we leave this place with a determination to hasten the coming of our Lord. As part of our preparation, we should lift up the principles by which we are characterized as a peculiar people.

As mentioned, the 1888 Minneapolis conference marked the beginning of the prophesied work of reformation. Today, after almost 120 years, the work has not as yet been completed, but we should be thankful to the Lord for two reasons: (1) He has called us

to carry on the good work that was started in 1888; (2) He has sustained the reformatory movement from the very beginning and has blessed all that work in the reformatory lines. Their “names are registered in heaven as reformers, restorers, as raising the foundation of many generations.”¹ The movement represented by the angel of Revelation 18 is to confirm and strengthen the third angel’s message.²

What is God’s plan for the honest souls in all religious bodies? They must be called out before the falling of the plagues. Under the latter rain, the light will shine and all true followers of Christ will take their stand with the remnant.³ Who will call them out under the latter rain? Brethren, let us be conscious of our great responsibility in the Lord’s great vineyard!

There are 245 countries in the world. The Reform Movement has reached a little over 120 of these countries. When shall we have access to the other 120? And when shall the last message become known where we already have an established work? Literature, schools, evangelists, money, system, and so forth, are important. But first of all we need to “remain in Jerusalem” until we be endowed with power from above. Without this upper room experience, we will not be able to accomplish our God-given mission.

God wants to give us the early rain



and the latter rain, so that we may return to our fields with our faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration. We should learn a lesson from the early disciples. They removed all differences that existed among them—especially the desire for supremacy—and they became united with one another by the ties of Christian love. Then they received the promised blessing.

“The disciples did not ask for a blessing for themselves. They were weighted with the burden of souls. The gospel was to be carried to the ends of the earth, and they claimed the endowment of power that Christ had promised. Then it was that the Holy Spirit was poured out, and thousands were converted in a day.

“So it may be now. Let Christians put away all dissension and give themselves to God for the saving of the lost. Let them ask in faith for the promised blessing, and it will come.”⁴

We should not go from this place without the assurance that we are fully united, pleading with God that He may bless our preparations for the receiving of the Holy Spirit in fullness. May the Lord be merciful to all of us!

The South American region consists of ten countries with about 400 million inhabitants. We have approximately 14,000 members in the region.

I am not going to speak about the work in each of these countries; maybe the representatives from these countries will have a chance to do so, I hope. And I’m sure the delegates from Peru will not forget to mention that recently there was a baptism of 50 souls in that country. The work in Bolivia has grown so much that there is a Union just in

that country alone.

I do have more firsthand knowledge of the work in Brazil:

Our missionary school there has been functioning for 53 years, preparing young people for the Lord’s work.

Our health institution has successfully treated over 20,000 patients over the years.

Our publishing house has distributed millions of books through our canvassers.

As part of our missionary work, families can be seen distributing pamphlets in the streets, especially at stop signs.

Our Welfare Department has offered help to many poor and needy families.

We have vegetarian restaurants in several places. Our cooking classes have shown good results.

About 3,000 students are enrolled in our church schools.

We are becoming more active through the radio, not only in Brazil, but also in other South American countries.

I now invite Bro. Josif Tuleu to give us a brief report on this new outreach in Brazil.

Bro. Tuleu said:

When I left the administration of our health institution Oasis Paranaense four years ago, one brother said to me, “Now you are retired; you need rest.” But I was not happy with that suggestion. I still wanted to do something for the salvation of souls.

The day after my arrival home, the opportunity came. Some of the brethren suggested that we start a radio program in which we could announce the treatments used in our clinic.

As soon as we started to air a two-

hour program on the radio, many calls began to come in. One evening, a couple came to see us in the studio. The husband was 85 years old and the wife was 80. She said,

“For 40 years I have tried to preach the truth to my husband, but it has all been in vain. Now I’m thankful to the Lord that it did not take long for him to make a decision.”

These dear souls, Adventist believers, are our members now.

Many people have been reached through the radio in the place where I live, near São Paulo. Every Sabbath we have about 50 visitors in our chapel—more visitors than members. Sometimes we have to put chairs outside the building to accommodate the visitors.

Some of the visitors give the following testimony:

“I have given up meat-eating; I don’t drink sodas or coffee anymore; and I am already keeping the Sabbath.”

A similar work would prove to be successful in other countries, too. This is one of the best methods to reach souls. Let us bear in mind that the health message is the entering wedge of the last message.

We are working to have our own radio station in Brazil. Please, brethren, give prayerful consideration to this work! *R*

¹ *SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, p. 1151.

² See *The Great Controversy*, p. 604; *Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 60; *Evangelism*, p. 230.

³ See *The Great Controversy*, p. 612; *Early Writings*, p. 261.

⁴ *Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 21.

Presented by the Regional Secretary, Bro. Homero Paredes

THE NORTH AMERICAN REGION

*T*his afternoon we are going to speak about our “mission in action” in North America.

The North American Region is composed of only two countries—the United States and Canada, having a combined total population of around 340 million people.

Unlike other regions, North America is known as a Christian continent. You can even see the inscription on the U.S. dollar bill, reading: “In God we trust.”

Jesus said to those who professed to believe in Him:

“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31, 32).

Since North America is a Christian continent, you may think that it would be easy to lead people to accept the present truth. Not so. Jesus said that only those who continue in His word can be His disciples. Only then can they claim real freedom.

In the following chapter, we read that Jesus healed a man who had been born blind. He used this miracle as an opportunity to teach a lesson about spiritual blindness. “Some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but

now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth” (John 9:40, 41).

I’m not sure who are easier to work with—Christians or non-Christians. Many times, when you are giving out pamphlets, people say, “Oh, I don’t need this. I am a born-again Christian.” Where people don’t feel any need, it’s hard to present the last message.

Nonetheless, by the grace of God, during the past four years we were able to hold evangelistic crusades, public meetings, and seminars on Revelation and last-day events, as well as workshops on evangelism for church members, and seminars on justification by faith. During these meetings, we also presented the health message.

The Spirit of Prophecy says: “The best medicine you can give the church is not preaching or sermonizing, but planning work for them. If set to work, the despondent would soon forget their despondency, the weak would become strong, the ignorant intelligent, and all would be prepared to present the truth as it is in Jesus.”¹

As ministers and laypersons alike, what challenge do we all face in the sad reality of our world today? “The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants

thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant” (Isaiah 24:5).

The words that Jesus spoke to the rich ruler, “One thing thou lackest,” show that it is not enough just to profess Christianity. Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). But, unfortunately, the professed Christian world today has transgressed the law of God and, as a result, the earth is defiled under its inhabitants.

One question raised by the psalmist resounds in our mind: “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Psalm 11:3).

“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity” (2 Timothy 2:19).

We can believe what we want, we can give to the Bible whatever inter-

pretation we choose—but there is only one foundation that stands firm, which is Christ. Our only safety is on that foundation. If we are sure where we stand then, “Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

There is a mission for us to be fulfilled before we can see God’s promise. There is a reformation to be carried out. We cannot just imitate the popular proclamation of the gospel, for the Lord warns us, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). The question is: When Jesus comes, who shall be able to stand?

“To prepare a people to stand in the day of God, a great work of reform was to be accomplished.”² So we will not go to heaven until we accomplish our mission—a genuine work of reformation. This is what will prepare a people to stand in the day of God.

When Nehemiah sought news about how God’s people were faring in Jerusalem, he learned that they were suffering great affliction, and he determined to do something about it.

“The spiritual restoration of which the work carried forward in Nehemiah’s day was a symbol is outlined in the words of Isaiah: ‘They shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities.’ ‘They that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in’ (Isaiah 61:4; 58:12).”³

Delegates from around the world are assembled here to assess the condition of the world today and consider prayer-



fully what can be done to repair and rebuild the old waste places. This may be a good opportunity for us to examine our families, consider their condition, and start a proper reformation in our homes. It may be a good opportunity for us to look at the church in our respective areas. Are the walls broken down? Are we raising the standards of Christianity? Let us keep in mind that this work that Nehemiah did has to be done again.

What the church needs today is leaders that will be faithful to the principles of reform.

What the church needs today is leaders that will teach the young people that it is a privilege to be different from the world.

What the church needs today is leaders that will encourage, instruct, and guide the believers in reformation.

This reformation is something like a car. The Spirit of Prophecy actually compares it to a car—a moving vehicle.

We read that “We should have a spirit of progress. . . . The work of God is onward. Reforms must be carried on, and we must take hold and help move on the car of reform.”⁴

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work.”⁵

“Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be

poured out upon His children.”⁶ God’s people will be united to carry on the work of reform. This will enable them to stand in the day of God.

“God is raising up a class to give the loud cry of the third angel’s message.”⁷

Popular Christianity is going from place to place, but people are not being taught that a change is needed in their life. One of the greatest heresies being promoted today is that people can be saved in their sins.

We have been called to proclaim a thorough reformation—a return to God’s principles. Let us echo the voice of the prophet: “I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me” (Isaiah 6:8).

May the Lord help us to be filled with the Spirit of Christ and the zeal of Nehemiah. Let us be a people that fear nobody but God. As soon as the last message has been proclaimed with power, we will need no more delegation sessions on earth. Let us move forward and upward by the help of God! *✠*

¹ *The Review and Herald*, June 25, 1895.

² *The Great Controversy*, p. 311.

³ *Prophets and Kings*, p. 677.

⁴ *Testimonies*, vol. 3, p. 540.

⁵ *Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 121.

⁶ *The Great Controversy*, p. 464.

⁷ *Selected Messages*, bk. 3, p. 410.

The Lord's SUPPER

At this session, the delegates partook together of the Lord's Supper—both to open the business proceedings and to close them. Why is this wise when assembling to work together on weighty matters of sacred importance?

The ordinance of feet-washing has been especially enjoined by Christ, and on these occasions the Holy Spirit is present to witness and put a seal to His ordinance. He is there to convict and soften the heart. He draws the believers together and makes them one in heart. They are made to feel that Christ indeed is present to clear away the rubbish that has accumulated to separate the hearts of the children of God from Him.

"These ordinances are regarded too much as a form and not as a sacred thing to call to mind the Lord Jesus. Christ ordained them and delegated His power to His ministers, who have the treasure in earthen vessels. They are to superintend these special appointments of the One who established them to continue to the close of time. It is in these, His own appointments, that He meets with and energizes His people by His personal presence. . . .

"How the heart of Christ is pierced by the forgetfulness, the unwillingness and neglect, to do the things that God has enjoined upon us! The heart needs to be broken, that selfishness may be cut away from the soul and put away from the practice. If we have learned the lessons that Christ desires to teach us in this preparatory service, the witness will respond to the

feelings implanted in the heart for a higher spiritual life. . . .

"We do not come to the ordinances of the Lord's house merely as a form. We do not make it our business, as we gather around the table of our Lord, to ponder about and mourn over our shortcomings. The ordinance of feet-washing embraced all this. 'But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you' (John 14:26). We do not come with our minds diverted to our past experience in the religious life, whether that experience is elevating or depressing. We do not come to revive in our minds the ill-treatment we have received at the hands of our brethren. The ordinance of humility is to clear our moral horizon of the rubbish that has been permitted to accumulate. We have assembled now to meet with Jesus Christ, to commune with Him. Every heart is to be open to the bright beams of the Son of Righteousness. Our minds and hearts are to be fixed on Christ as the great center on whom our hopes of eternal life depend. We are not to stand in the shadow, but in the saving light of the cross."—*The Review and Herald*, June 22, 1897. ❧

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