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SPECIAL REPORT



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IN THIS ISSUE

That They May Be One <i>Editorial</i>	3
That We May All Unite and Work Together <i>New president's address</i>	4
2019-2024 General Conference Officers and Committees	8
23rd General Conference Session Delegates	10
Engaging the Youth <i>The North American Region</i>	12
Opening New Territories <i>The Central American Region</i>	14
Welfare Evangelism and Online Missions <i>The South American Region</i>	16
Pressing Onward Despite Violence and Poverty <i>The Northern African Region</i>	18
Evangelism, Literature, and Work Projects <i>The Southern African Region</i>	20
Through the Printed Pages . . . <i>The European Region</i>	22
Teaching the Present Truth <i>The Eurasian Region</i>	24
Pressing on Amidst Extreme Opposition <i>The Asian Region</i>	26
Evangelism and Education <i>The Pacific Region</i>	28
Highlights from the Session	30
The GC Spiritual Meetings <i>One picture is worth a thousand words.</i>	34
The Better Land	40

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Layout and Design G. Melnychuk

Web: <http://www.sdarm.org>
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THAT THEY MAY BE ONE

1

The Jewish leaders interpreted the Messianic prophecies according to their selfish ambitions, ignoring the suffering Messiah foreseen in Isaiah chapter 53, and applying the glory of the second coming of Christ to His first appearance as the Saviour from sin.

This wrong vision affected the understanding of Christ's disciples, and they, too, expected that the Messiah would defeat the Roman Empire and put Israel as the head of the nations on earth. They dreamed about getting a high position in the expected kingdom, and their wrong interpretation of prophecy led them to strive among themselves about who would be the greatest in the coming kingdom.

It took time to correct this understanding, and even when Christ was about to ascend to heaven, they presented Him their question: "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" Acts 1:6.

Their dispute about the first place in the kingdom caused a lot of suffering to Jesus. Thursday evening, before being arrested by His enemies, Christ offered a special intercessory prayer in behalf of His disciples: "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also

may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. . . . I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou has loved me." John 17:21, 23.

Christ has the same intense desire for unity among His people today. In spite of our different personalities and characteristics, if we surrender our life to Christ, the Holy Spirit will guide us into perfect unity.

Only when we reach this blessed state can we reveal God's character to the world, and the world can understand that God sent His Son to save human beings.

When Christ died on the cross of Calvary, He made ample provision for the reconciliation between the world and God, and between all human beings. He is still working and waiting for the complete unity of His church.

Our acceptance of Christ's sacrifice will promote harmony between us and God and between us and our brethren.

In John 15, Christ repeated the expression, "Love one another." "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." John 15:12. This commandment was new to His disciples and is also new to us. It is not enough to love one another. We

need to love "as I [Christ] have loved you."

God's work in this world cannot be finished without the demonstration of love in the life of His children on earth. We are told that "when the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own."¹

God is love. His character is one of perfect love. When we make complete surrender of our life to Christ, the Holy Spirit sheds His love abroad in our heart. This is what we need in order to reach perfect unity with Christ and with one another. God is anxious to see His character of love reflected in His people so that Christ can come and to take us home.

This is His supreme goal for His people today as it was regarding His disciples when He was fulfilling His mission on earth. May the Lord help us to reach this blessed condition! Then He will come to take us home. *R*

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¹ *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 69.



That We May All

UNITE AND WORK TOGETHER

*Excerpts from the message
given by Eli Tenorio at the
Spiritual Meetings of the 23rd
General Conference on Sabbath,
September 21, 2019*

Let us go back to nearly 2,000 years ago—when a cloud of angels received our Lord Jesus Christ at His ascension. The angels in Heaven eagerly awaited and rejoiced at the reunion of the Redeemer back into the celestial courts.

Yet two angels that had been walking with Jesus for 33 years¹ evidently paused. Now I can imagine these two angels wanting so much to join in the glorious moment there in Heaven, yet they stayed back to come close to the disciples and give them a message that must have sounded like a beautiful melody to their ears: “Ye

men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” Acts 1:11. Hence this name, “Adventist.”

It is interesting that when Christ was there on the Mount of Olives, He remembered how much humanity had rejected His call of love and mercy. He remembered that His own disciples whom He had so greatly loved had rejected Him. But He did not take this moment as a chance to rebuke them for their faults. Instead He loved them till the end.

I want to tell you this morning, that regardless of your faults—even though you may have often rejected the invitation of Jesus, you may have rejected the call of His word, you may have rejected the preachers that God has used to call you to repentance—yet Jesus loves you to the end. He will never give up on you. You may give up on Him; you may give up on yourself. But Jesus will always have hope to redeem you. Jesus loved even His enemies. He surprised the world—because who else has called their enemy “brother”? Who has called their traitor a brother? He

calls us brethren. He called Judas, “brother,” “friend.”

The Lord of the universe is eager to welcome us with the privilege of being together with Him in that glorious kingdom. He calls us His friends—and when on earth, He loved even His enemies and tenderly yearned for their souls. Even Judas, the betrayer, the Lord addressed as “Friend” in the hope that somehow that hardened heart could be touched. Yes, we have a Master that loves both His friends and His enemies.

This same Jesus is the One who made an earnest prayer to His Father in behalf of all His disciples: “And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.” John 17:11.

Jesus prayed that we might be one—but we can only be one if we are united with Jesus.

The Lord tells us something very beautiful here in His prayer to His Father, referring to “those whom thou hast given me.” God gave you to Jesus; you belong to Jesus because He created you and redeemed you on the cross of Calvary. You are the most important thing in this world to Him.

If you are united to Christ, you are a disciple of Jesus—and you will show to the world that you are His disciple. How do we do this? It is by loving our neighbor. Jesus explained: “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 13:35.

If Jesus is abiding in your heart, you will be capable of praying for your enemy; you will be capable of looking upon those who have betrayed you and deceived you, and think about each of those persons and see in each one a soul for whom Christ has died.

What are some areas of life in which we can fulfill the prayer of Christ? In a practical sense, referring to our topic this morning, what does it mean for God’s people to be united and work together at the close of this earth’s history?

God is calling us . . . that we may all unite and work together . . .

1. To restore the marriage institution:

Inspiration tells us: “Like every other one of God’s good gifts entrusted to the keeping of humanity, marriage has been perverted by sin; but it is the purpose of the gospel to restore its purity and beauty.”²

Jesus is here this morning to restore your marriage—and the work of the church is to help restore marriages. So many people are confused in their marriages, deceived, full of anguish—but the work of the gospel is to restore marriage. Inspiration continues:

“The divine love emanating from Christ never destroys human love, but includes it.”³

Do you understand what Jesus is telling us here? Divine love is not there to take away the pleasure of human love, but rather it **includes** human love. God wants you to be happy and enjoy the life that He gives you with the wife He gave you, with the husband He gave you. He wants you to be happy in our marriages. He does not destroy human love. . . .

That wonderful sentiment that you had the first time you looked at that young lady, your young eyes sparkled . . . you had a desire to be near her . . . you wanted always to be with him. There was something beautiful when you held hands. The love of Jesus is to strengthen, refine, and purify this love. And we have an even stronger desire to be together, to hug each other and show love to one another in every sense.

By the love of Jesus, “human love is refined and purified, elevated and ennobled. Human love can never bear its precious fruit until it is united with the divine nature and trained to grow heavenward. Jesus wants to see happy marriages, happy firesides.”⁴

If your home is not happy, if that chemistry that was there at the beginning of love is dying or even is gone, it is because the divine love has somehow been renounced. But there’s a solution because the gospel

transforms marriages, restores marriages.

Some steps that the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy give us:

Let us read together *The Adventist Home* in our homes and ask for God to perform the miracle that your marriage and my marriage need. Because in a corrupted world like this one in which we live, a marriage that lasts 50, 60, 70 years is a miracle—and the gospel has the power to create this miracle.

God is calling us that we may be united and work together:

2. To restore the family altar:

In this hurried world in which we live, many are tempted to leave the house without morning worship. We come home tired and are tempted to neglect evening worship. We may sometimes say, “Oh, I don’t have time.” Do you realize what you are saying when you don’t have morning worship? You are saying, “I don’t have time for Jesus.” But in reality, to live without having time for Jesus is to be losing time. Jesus is everything in this world. He should be everything to you and to me.

Speaking of family worship, let’s see what Inspiration tells us. Let’s see what happens when you pray together with your family in the morning and the evening:

“As [the human father] bows with his family, at the altar of prayer, to offer up his grateful thanks to God, for his preserving care of himself and loved ones through the day, angels of God hover in the room, and bear the fervent prayers of God-fearing parents to Heaven, as sweet incense, which are answered by returning blessings.”⁵

What do the angels of God do when you are having worship? The angels of God come to your home and take to Heaven the fervent prayers of God-loving parents as sweet incense that are answered by returned blessing. The response of God is blessings upon your family.

Do you want to have the companionship of angels throughout your day? Do you want the angels to go with your loved ones throughout

the day? This is what Inspiration tells us: Have morning worship.

Visitors to your home may not know why, but your home will be a peaceful place with the angels hovering around, taking care of you and your family.

God is calling us that we may be united and work together:

3. To restore the Sabbath:

To sanctify the Sabbath according to Bible principles is so needed in a stressful world. People are suffering in this world because of stress and depression. If they had only heard about the Sabbath and could learn how to keep it holy according to the Bible, they would find help for their depression and sorrows. Let us keep the Sabbath and share the Sabbath. Inspiration tells us how to keep the Sabbath:

“On Friday let the preparation for the Sabbath be completed. See that all the clothing is in readiness, and that all the cooking is done. Let the boots be blacked, and the baths be taken. It is possible to do this. If you make it a rule, you can do it. . . . Before the setting of the sun, let all secular work be laid aside, and all secular papers be put out of sight.”⁶

When should we finish doing our work? Before the setting of the sun. We are told to put the secular newspapers out of sight. . . . But nobody reads the newspaper anymore. What is God telling us to lay aside? Do I need to explain? No? May God give us strength to put away those things that distract us—advertisements that distract us and make us see things that are not in harmony with the Sabbath.

“There is another work that should receive attention on the preparation day. On this day all differences between brethren, whether in the family or in the church, should be put away.”⁷

God is telling you that on Friday before the sunset, confess your faults to those whom you have offended. Talk with those people and perhaps tell them why you, too, were offended, but be sure to enter the Sabbath in

peace. Do everything in your control to achieve this. How many families would be saved if this action were put into practice! If every Friday we would go through everything that had happened and I would say, “My dear wife, forgive me; the Holy Spirit told me of something that did not make you happy,” it would be a blessing. Children would be asking forgiveness from the parents and parents from the children. You can't imagine the difference that would make in that beloved person in your life. But God knows and that's why He said to do this before receiving the Sabbath.

“Before the setting of the sun, let the members of the family assemble to read God's Word, to sing and pray. There is need of reform here, for many have been remiss. We need to confess to God and to one another.”⁸

Do we have the habit of getting together to sing and pray before the Sabbath? Do not neglect this joyous privilege!

God is calling us that we may be united and work together:

4. To restore the health reform:

“It is the Lord's design that the restoring influence of health reform shall be a part of the last great effort to proclaim the gospel message.”⁹

The gospel is in health reform. Health reform is part of the gospel message, to be a blessing to humanity, to bless your friends, family members, and neighbors who do not know this precious message. You are the person to share it with them.

“The subject of Christian temperance should find a place in our sermons. . . . Let this phase of the message be revived, and let the truth go forth as a lamp that burneth.”¹⁰

As pastors we should teach this message and the members should share it.

The pen of Inspiration is so specific in regard to health reform. It enters into details essential to our life. And many times, it's true, it says things that we don't always like—for example, when the Lord's messenger testified: “I frequently sit down to the tables of the brethren and sisters, and see that

they use a great amount of milk and sugar. These clog the system, irritate the digestive organs, and affect the brain. Anything that hinders the active motion of the living machinery affects the brain very directly. And from the light given me, sugar, when largely used, is more injurious than meat.”¹¹

We may not like that reality, but we can pray that our Heavenly Father will work in our hearts. Another statement says:

“The habit of drinking [black] tea and coffee is a greater evil than is often suspected.”¹²

Why do you think God is telling us these things? There are even stronger messages. Please don't get offended at me; I'm only the messenger—and the way God said it is the way I want to give it to you:

“Tea and coffee drinking is a sin, an injurious indulgence, which, like other evils, injures the soul. These darling idols create an excitement, a morbid action of the nervous system.”¹³

There's no room for doubt here. Why do you think God tells us these things? It's because He cares about you and me! He wants us to have health and a clear mind to understand the gospel. He tells us about these things that are wrong because they do us harm. These are only a few examples, but this applies to anything we know to be harmful to our health—because He loves us!

God is calling us that we may be united and work together:

5. To restore the dress reform:

The Bible says: “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted?” Matthew 5:13.

Isn't it beautiful when you're in a bus station full of people and can say, “That person must be a brother or a sister from the church”? How do you know? By the way our brethren and sisters dress themselves. God's people are different; they are the salt of the earth and it brings great joy to Jesus to see you testify of Him. But what if we are inconsistent? What if the salt

has lost its savor? What message is given to the world?

“There is a terrible sin upon us as a people, that we have permitted our church members to dress in a manner inconsistent with their faith. We must arise at once and close the door against the allurements of fashion. Unless we do this, our churches will become demoralized.”¹⁴

“Fashion is deteriorating the intellect and eating out the spirituality of our people.”¹⁵

People are tired of being slaves to sin. Even children and youth are tired. I met a 10-year-old girl who said she was already tired of her life. All of us are tired of this world. We want something better that will bring us hope. Your heart—a converted heart—will make the difference in this world: Jesus in your life.

Some who are just coming to the faith ask, “Isn’t the most important thing just my heart?” That’s right, that’s the only thing that God wants. Only your heart. Because when we give Jesus our heart, we give Him everything. And the messenger of the Lord tells us: “I saw that the outside appearance is an index to the heart.”¹⁶

So, our exterior shows what our heart is like. If there is something wrong in our dress at some moment in our life, we have lost communion with Jesus. You could be dressed a certain way today; it might be the same as the first day you visited the Reform. The first time I came to the Reform, I got very embarrassed. I was coming from the Catholic church and I came for the first time to a church of believers. And I came dressed in a way that was not in harmony with the worship of God. But the brethren treated me with so much love and care—and that’s why I’m here today. I want you to know that it doesn’t matter how you’re dressed here today. The church loves you very much and we want you to be here with us always. Jesus cares about you more than anyone in this world and He will make the difference in our lives as we follow Him.

God is calling us that we may be united and work together:

6. In sharing the message of Righteousness by Faith:

The world is hungering and thirsting for the message of Righteousness by Faith. There are many sermons preached about faith; there are many sermons preached about works. But the gospel of Christ brings a balance of faith and works. This is our work—to unite together and preach the message of Justification by Faith as it is found in the Bible.

“There are two errors against which the children of God—particularly those who have just come to trust in His grace—especially need to guard. The first . . . is that of looking to their own works, trusting to anything they can do, to bring themselves into harmony with God. He who is trying to become holy by his own works in keeping the law, is attempting an impossibility. . . .

“The opposite and no less dangerous error is that belief in Christ releases men from keeping the law of God; that since by faith alone we become partakers of the grace of Christ, our works have nothing to do with our redemption.

“But notice here **that obedience is not a mere outward compliance, but the service of love.**”¹⁷

It is an error to think that our works can save us, but it is also an error to think that our works have nothing to do with our salvation. Why? Because the redeemed person is saved to produce good fruit as a result of love for Jesus because of the wonderful sacrifice He made for us on Calvary.

7. Announcing that Christ is coming very soon:

Dear brethren, Jesus is coming. The signs are all around us. Just as the days of Noah were, so shall be the coming of the Son of man. From the time I was young, they said that Jesus would come again soon. But He’s still not here. Our parents and grandparents waited for Him. But Jesus will fulfill His promise given with clear words:

“I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 14:3.

In His first advent Christ did not come as the world expected. Many expected Him to come as a king, but He came as a babe in a manger. He was crucified on the cross of Calvary for our sins. In His first advent, He did not come as people expected.

In 1844 He did not come where the church expected. The church expected Him to come to this world, but instead He went to the Most Holy Place.

And now, at His second advent, Jesus will come when the world is not expecting. Nobody is expecting Jesus to come, it seems—even among Christians, Adventists, Reformers. Many are discouraged. But today I want to let the Holy Spirit rekindle the hope: “Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.” Matthew 24:44.

Jesus is coming. People will come to you to talk about problems—political, environmental, physical, whatever. Brethren, there’s an easy way to tell them about the gospel: They will come to you with a problem and you will tell them there’s a Solution and it is Jesus. Hallelujah! May this be the hope and joy that we have—that Jesus is coming soon!

I want to be with you entering into those gates of Heaven. Let not anything in this world disconnect us from Jesus, that we may enter into the pearly gates with Him. May this be a reality in your life and in mine!

Amen. *R*

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- 10 *Temperance*, p. 239.
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Zimbabwe

Nkosilomusa Ncube



The North American REGION

ENGAGING THE YOUTH

Mission in Action — *adapted from the report of Duraisamy Sureshkumar*

In this influential region, we have five Fields and one Union, with a total membership of 1009, and 1408 Sabbath School attendees. The work force includes 26 ministers, 14 elders, and 20 workers. Currently we have 65 places of worship.

In the **Western North American Union**, there are lots of programs going on which draw our young people together. One such program is the media used in production projects in the Northern California Conference where our young people are actively engaged in the Lord's business. We are encouraged by their seriousness about God's business while still in their youth.

There is an overall progress in the Lord's work, both in membership as well as in spiritual lines. Even though we have reason to be concerned about the spiritual well-being of our people, the Lord has thus blessed us with His sustaining grace.

Sadly, we recently lost four senior ministers, Bro. Francisco Devai, Bro. Alfons Ballbach, Bro. Daniel Dumitru and Bro. Chong Kyu Chang. Since they were laid to rest in the Lord, we have missed their valuable experience and contribution. The loss of them as pillars in the temple of God reveals all the more the importance of involving the next generation—the future of the church. The fledgling missionary program, Plymouth Leadership College, is currently underway to achieve that aim.

The **East Central U.S. Field** was recently blessed with a much larger building with 3 acres in Indianapolis, thus facilitating their ability to host outreach programs. There are a lot of young people attending our church there and the number continues to grow. Camp meetings and other events held in this Field, and a layman in Maryland has volunteered his time to develop an excellent series of Bible

topics on YouTube, delivered by a variety of talented young speakers.

The **Eastern U.S. Field** also hosts camp meetings and other activities in their Massachusetts facility. The brethren in the **East Canadian Field** likewise regularly hold events with a lot of emphasis on nurturing the youth.

The **Southeast U.S. Field** has hosted music camps, which are an effective way to reach the heart through the discipline and spiritual benefit of learning sacred music as a bulwark against the prevailing current of the world. An ongoing missionary seminar program, along with canvassing, health, and other outreach programs are being held as well.

Overall, while we reckon the work the Lord has wrought through us in the North American Region, we feel that we could do a lot more to advance His cause. We need more workers. More outreach programs should be

conducted. Plans should be made to evangelize all the unentered areas in this vast region in the upcoming years. May we come with the commitment to evangelize the midwest United States, which can be considered as largely unentered territory.

We need many more laborers, and all must have a spirit of self-denial in order to provide facilities for carrying the message forward into new Fields.

“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).

“There is a work to be done, and let every heart as well as every hand be engaged to do this work. . . . We are called now to be educated, that we may do the work that God has assigned to us, and it will not crush out our life. The humblest can have a share in the work. . . . It is not more mighty men, not more talented men, not more learned men, that we need in the presentation of the truth for this time; but men who have a knowledge of God and Jesus Christ, whom He

has sent. Personal piety will qualify any workers, for the Holy Spirit takes possession of him, and the truth for this time becomes a power, because his everyday thought, and all his activities are running in Christ’s lines. He has an abiding Christ; and the humblest soul, linked with Christ Jesus, is a power, and his work will abide.”¹

“The world is to be warned. Field after field is to be entered. The command given us is: ‘Add new territory; add new territory.’ Shall we not as a people, by our business arrangements, by our attitude toward a world unsaved, bear a testimony even more clear and decisive than that borne by us twenty or thirty years ago?

“Upon us has shone great light in regard to the last days of this earth’s history. Let not our lack of wisdom and energy give evidence of spiritual blindness. God’s messengers must be clothed with power. They must have for the truth an elevating reverence that they do not now possess. The

Lord’s solemn, sacred message of warning must be proclaimed in the most difficult fields and in the most sinful cities—in every place where the light of the third angel’s message has not yet dawned. To everyone is to be given the last call to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

“In proclaiming the message, God’s servants will be called upon to wrestle with numerous perplexities and to surmount many obstacles. Sometimes the work will go hard, as it did when the pioneers were establishing the institutions in Battle Creek, in Oakland, and in other places. But let all do their best, making the Lord their strength, avoiding all selfishness, and blessing others by their good works.”²

May the Lord help us to take hold of His work as we have never yet taken hold of it! *R*

References

- ¹ *The Home Missionary*, November 1, 1897.
- ² *Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 54.



A map of Central America and the Caribbean region, showing countries like Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Guyana. Major cities like Los Angeles, San Diego, Dallas, Houston, Mexico City, Bogota, and Caracas are marked. The Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea are also labeled.

The Central American REGION

OPENING NEW TERRITORIES

Mission in Action — *adapted from the report of Segundo Daniel Guzmán Hurtado*

The Lord's work is going forward in this Region. Besides the areas already established, four new Missions have recently been organized:

- The Cuban Mission;
- The North Central American Mission consisting of Belize, Guatemala and El Salvador;
- The South Central American Mission, consisting of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama; and
- The Jamaican Mission.

New missionary contacts were also made in the **Grand Cayman Islands** and **Aruba**, resulting in baptisms.

Seminars have been held on doctrine, administration, stewardship, social assistance, evangelism, and health. Homeschools are being established in various places as well as distance learning missionary schools.

Despite being the poorest country in the Americas, the work of the Lord is developing in **Haiti** more than in any other Caribbean country. By

the grace of God, in that Mission we have two missionary schools, one for theological training, and the other for medical missionary training. We are also thankful for the financial support of the General Conference to carry out the missionary school projects in that Caribbean country. In addition, I would like to report that the Haitian Mission will have a headquarters from which the missionary schools and the administrative offices of the work will operate.

The Haitian Mission was also blessed with the installation of an industrial bakery that was donated by the General Conference Department of Stewardship and Welfare.

“In all parts of our world experiments will be made, processes invented and methods discovered in the preparation and manufacture of healthful foods that can be used for the benefit of all the people. The all-wise God, who has given light and

wisdom to one party, will not withhold His light and wisdom from others who are just as devoted to the interests of our sanitariums and all lines of medical missionary work. There are to be new food industries. Foods that are perfectly healthful and yet inexpensive are to be made, and thus the way will be opened for those to find work who, by accepting the truth, have been thrown out of employment. The Lord God of heaven will give understanding to His human agents.”¹

The Cuban Mission was organized in February 2017 with 12 members. Currently there are several interested souls who are studying our message in the cities of Havana, Camagüey, Santiago and elsewhere in Cuba. The restrictions of the Cuban laws do not allow us to have a fixed location and public place for worship services. So, we have to meet in different places. Let us pray to God that our work may continue to develop in Cuba.

“The field is the world’ (Matthew 13:38). We understand better what this saying comprehends than did the apostles who received the commission to preach the gospel. The whole world is a vast missionary field, and we who have long known the gospel message should be encouraged by the thought that fields which were once difficult of access are now easily entered. Countries hitherto closed to the gospel are opening their doors, and are pleading for the word of God to be explained to them. Kings and princes are opening their long-closed gates, inviting the heralds of the cross to enter. The harvest truly is great. Eternity alone will reveal the results of well-directed efforts put forth now.

“Providence is going before us, and Infinite Power is working with human effort. Blind indeed must be the eyes that do not see the working of the Lord, and deaf the ears that do not hear the call of the True Shepherd to His sheep.

“Christ longs to extend His sway over every human mind. He longs to stamp His image and character upon every soul. When He was on this earth, He hungered for sympathy and co-operation, that His kingdom might extend and embrace the whole world. This earth is His purchased possession, and He would have

men free and pure and holy. ‘For the joy that was set before Him,’ He ‘endured the cross, despising the shame.’ [Hebrews 12:2.] His earthly pilgrimage was cheered by the thought that He would not have all this travail for naught, but would win man back to loyalty to God. And there are triumphs yet to be accomplished through the blood shed for the world, that will bring everlasting glory to God and to the Lamb. The heathen will be given for His inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for His possession. Christ will see of the travail of His soul, and be satisfied. [See Isaiah 53:11.]

“ ‘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. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side. Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee.’ ‘For as the earth bringeth forth her

bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.’ [Isaiah 60:1-5; 61:11.]”²

In **Jamaica**, together with Brother Rolly Dumaguit, we held five days of health lectures and natural treatments were given to conference attendees. As a result of those efforts, the work was launched in that country, and now, by the grace of God, we have seven (7) members. The Jamaican Mission Committee was organized in March 2019 and we now have an ordained elder in that country.

By the grace of the Lord, two missions were formed in northern and southern Central America. The formation of these missions has made the administration of the work easier, and our staff is working enthusiastically so that these missions, in the not too distant future, will be transformed into Unions—which was the main objective for which these units were created.

May God continue to bless His work in behalf of precious souls in this populous area! *R*

References

- 1 *The Health Food Ministry*, p. 52.
- 2 *Gospel Workers*, pp. 28, 29.





The South American REGION

WELFARE EVANGELISM AND ONLINE MISSIONS

Mission in Action — *adapted from the report of Rômulo Pereira Borges*

The Lord's work is going forward in the North Union of **Brazil**, with almost 6,000 church members. Public conferences with spiritual messages, training, and evangelism are accompanied by humanitarian missions, health projects, lay evangelistic activities, public conferences, literature distribution campaigns, and the Online Bible Course—"Connected with God"—with courses on various subjects.

The North Union operates a primary school and a branch school in the city of São Domingos do Araguaia, in the city of Brasília, as well as a vegetarian restaurant providing a healthy option for the community.

The South Union is our second largest Union in the world, headquartered at the rural Chácara Ebenézer site in Itú, S. Paulo state.

The work is active here; in 2017, edifying lectures with historical and theological content were presented to

hundreds of brethren and interested persons to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation by Martin Luther. Several humanitarian missions have been carried out in partnership with the General Conference Welfare Department to serve the population with material for emotional, physical and spiritual needs.

In the territory of the South Brazilian Union, there is a health clinic located in Almirante Tamandaré, 8.75 miles from Curitiba, Paraná state (Clínica Naturista Oásis Paranaense), that offers the Brazilian public with methodically applied water, clay, plants, etc., as alternative medicine for alleviating and preventing diseases.

Focusing on the younger generation of the church, the South Union, in partnership with the North Union, has prepared a college program for the youth entitled *Enar*. This program

has been systematically carried out in recent years to encourage the young to study the grand themes of the Bible.

In Almirante Tamandaré, the two Unions operate a theological seminary which prepares missionaries and leaders for the work of the Lord. In the last four years, two sets of students completed their studies, graduating in the cities of Curitiba, and Itú. Many of the trainees have been introduced as missionaries in the various Fields and Missions of the Unions.

The Media Studio in Itú provides topics on various subjects for evangelization and reaching out to souls. Currently, programs are carried out for young audiences—for couples, families, and also productions specifically designed for children. Some prophetic series and biblical themes are part of the weekly program of this studio. In partnership with the Spanish-speaking South American Unions, the studio produced the

series, "Principles of Faith" on DVD in Spanish.

The Brazilian Unions maintain a publishing house, *A Verdade Presente* ("The Present Truth") located in the city of Itaquaquecetuba, S. Paulo state, in order to meet the needs of the evangelistic and denominational publications of the church. In the last four years, this entity has launched new books and brochures for missionary work.

In **Perú**, two major seminars were held for workers, pastors, and church officials, with several public conferences included.

In 2016 a youth congress was held in the city of Cañete. Over 2,000 attended, with good interaction between the speakers and the congregation. The event was crowned by a wonderful baptism of dozens of souls.

The largest event of the Peruvian Union in this quadrennium was the national congress held in February 2018 in the city of Trujillo in the north. About 3,000 attendees came; the general theme was "Maranatha, the Lord Is Coming!" Precious themes of prophetic and eschatological content left positive impressions in the minds of the people.

This Union has many educational units, including a boarding school and publishing house.

In **Bolivia**, we have an academic school and missionary school. Public conferences, including youth congresses, have recently been held where several persons have been baptized and new souls are taking their stand on the Lord's side.

In **Ecuador**, the missionary school has recently been reactivated and both doctrinal and public conferences have been held.

Chile hosted seminars on Sabbath school, management, and leadership, as well as public conferences with themes about the Sanctuary and Justification by Faith. The Union held an international youth congress in the town of Lago Ranco with the theme: "Each One in Search of One More." People of all ages and backgrounds participated, including many from foreign countries.

The Southern South American Union headquartered in Buenos Aires, **Argentina**, also hosted public conferences and a national congress with themes on last-day events, culminating in a joyful baptismal feast. The missionary school is going forward and health campaigns are being promoted to awaken new interests.

In **Paraguay**, humanitarian and evangelistic projects as well as health campaigns are held, thus opening doors for Bible studies and missionary visits.

"The mission of Christ was to heal the sick, encourage the hopeless, bind up the brokenhearted. This work of restoration is to be carried on among the needy suffering ones of humanity.

"God calls not only for your benevolence but for your cheerful countenance, your hopeful words, the grasp of your hand. Relieve some of God's afflicted ones. Some are sick, and hope has departed. Bring back the sunlight to them. There are souls who have lost their courage; speak to them, pray for them. There are those who need the bread of life. Read to them from the Word of God. There is a soul sickness no balm can reach, no medicine heal. Pray for these, and bring them to Jesus Christ."¹

Guyana has seen baptisms and a Bible school raised up to train lay missionaries. The SDA Reform Movement is also registered as a Mission in **French Guiana**, where many souls are asking for regular visits and studies from God's word.

In 2017, our first church was inaugurated in **Suriname**, followed by a baptism.

May the Lord continue to guide His work in this populous Region! *R*

References

¹ *Welfare Ministry*, p. 71.





The Northern African REGION

PRESSING ONWARD DESPITE VIOLENCE AND POVERTY

Mission in Action — *adapted from the report of John Bosco*

The evangelistic work in the Northern African Region has been very difficult in some areas—yet we rejoice as we see souls thirsting to hear and accept the word of God and making their decision to follow Jesus Christ.

Tanzania has seen several outreach activities and a reorganized mission with 194 baptized members in Mbeya.

In **Kenya**, a recent project held was a humanitarian project together with the General Conference Welfare Department to help in some projects such as a boring a hole for well water in a community that had a problem with water.

In **Rwanda**, we faced great difficulties because 27 of our local chapels were shut down due to the many government's need to use the facilities. This was a serious problem for the new Union which had been moving along well.

Many thanks to the General Conference which has given support

and made great efforts to help the brethren in this situation.

Currently almost 18 churches are again worshipping in peace and we hope that God will also help those that are not yet restored.

When our churches were re-opened, it was a great miracle for us to see new souls. We don't know how it happened, but they wanted to join our message, bringing our membership there to be nearly doubled. The brethren are working hard to see how we can divide into at least 2; already a new plot has been purchased, thank God.

Rwanda has plans to build a missionary school and the plot of land was bought for those speaking the Rwandese language widely used in large parts of the east African countries.

Togo was recently developed; we were able to baptize 15 souls and the mission was organized. An experienced minister was sent there

with his family, and new souls are now being prepared to take their stand for the Lord. We are developing well because we have two rented places where people are worshipping every Sabbath. There are more than 30 interested souls preparing to become members.

The Reform Movement message has been growing steadily in **Burundi**, reaching almost the entire country.

Ethiopia was reached during this quadrennium largely thanks to our California brethren who organized a medical missionary trip there. This was a big help and the brethren were happy with people from around the world visiting and helping them.

Missionary work is growing well in **Uganda**, especially in Kampala, where we did not have any members—but now that is quickly changing.

North Kivu suffers from poverty due to the need of our brethren to

move. They cannot stay home for more than one year and six months due to the military activities in the area as constant war is going on. Yet the membership is growing there. The Rwanda Union leaders are helping to visit them, and the Welfare Department is helping those brethren who don't have anything to eat nor clothes to wear.

The places without war are where our members are moving to live, but one big problem has been that the youth moving with them have not had a school in which to study because of the Sabbath day. They cannot attend the schools attached to other denominations because those don't allow them to keep the Sabbath; they even try to force them to do exams on the Sabbath day. But we thank God that a school has been built in one place and all our youth are using this school. We have many teachers in this Mission, so it was easy. About the poor members—especially those who are in refugee camps—the General Conference Welfare Department has provided food for them and the brethren are happy with this. To improve the situation for the future, 4 hectares have been purchased and the members are happy to cultivate this land themselves. In 6 months, the brethren will have enough food to eat and will also sell it, as this will help the Mission, too.

Sierra Leone is another new country added during this quadrennium. To establish this Mission on a solid foundation, a house was rented for meetings in Bo, a large city where most of the members are.

The Lord's work is new in **Madagascar**, where we are soon to build a church in the capital city of Antananarivo. A baptism of 11 souls was recently held in May.

Ghana is an important center from which the Present Truth reaches surrounding countries. New people are coming to visit the new church building in the capital city of Accra.

The Reform Movement message in **Nigeria** faces challenges due to war; yet in some places there is good progress. The construction of the church in Abba has attracted many new interests.

The SDARM has been in **Seychelles** for a long time and seminars were recently held to give a boost to the work. Now there are interested souls awaiting baptism soon.

Liberia is a very new Field with great possibilities of growth. Public conferences have been held in this country with important subjects such as the need to reform; this deeply touched the hearts of many who decided to join the Reform Movement. Training seminars for members and organizational conferences have been

held, two brethren have been ordained as pastors and now the work is moving well.

In **Cameroon** we have organized groups of members in the major cities of Douala and Yaoundé, where they are laboring to expand the work.

Highlights

1. In North Kivu, our children were having a serious problem due to a lack of a school they could attend, but now both a primary school and a secondary school have been established to facilitate our children and the community in general.


2. In North Kivu, 4 hectares were purchased to give brethren who are refugees a place to cultivate and grow food for the time being.

In Domoma, the new capital of Tanzania, 9 hectares have been purchased for the headquarters and other projects for the future.

3. A printing office is much needed for printing materials such as *Sabbath Bible Lessons*, and in some cases items that need to be printed in the native language as well as for pamphlets and other missionary materials.

Until the return of our Lord and Saviour, there will always be precious souls on the African continent who hunger and thirst after the truth! *R*





The Southern African REGION

EVANGELISM, LITERATURE, AND WORK PROJECTS

Mission in Action — *adapted from the report of Manuel Henda*

In **Angola**, the third angel's message together with health reform as the right arm, has been developing in an astounding way. Almost every quarter, new souls have been added to the church by baptism. The spreading of the gospel through the radio has been a great blessing by carrying the message to places otherwise difficult to reach.

Programs on topics such as "Youth for Christ" and "The Restoration of the Family Altar," brought about a spiritual revival in the hearts of many youth and families. A huge conference was held last year, where many visitors attended and 5 brethren were ordained. Young people are being trained at the missionary school to be defenders of the truth.

A printer has now been installed in Angola with the fundamental objective to benefit the South African region. However, because the machines are very old, they do not work consistently. We appeal for your generous help to

update this equipment. Thank you for kindly considering this request.

Zambia is a nation which is making great spiritual progress, thanks to the commitment of the country's leadership. Six years ago, the Zambian Field was organized as a Mission Union, with approximately 300 baptized members distributed throughout two Missions, soon to be expanded into more. The Sabbath school seminar held by the GC* departmental director fostered revival—and the canvassing seminar held by the Colporteur Department was very successful. We believe that as canvassing is implemented in Zambia, it will help the Union Mission to become self-sustaining.

I would like to appeal that canvassing be implemented in all countries, especially in Africa, to help the churches become more self-sustaining and productive. This plan can work.

How shall I describe our church in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**? In spite of innumerable difficulties that the brethren face—the lack of everything—the church is spiritually strong. The brethren are always engaged in the mission of winning souls for the Lord Jesus Christ, and, as a result, their membership is constantly growing. Plans are underway to establish a health clinic to train young people in natural treatment methods. Fundraising has begun.

In the area of Kananga, we have brethren who are refugees due to the civil war. After making a list of each family's needs, money was sent to the local Welfare Department and the people were assisted with food, clothing, and medical care.

We are also building a missionary school in the Congo to accommodate 20 students. The great purpose of this missionary school is to train young people from the French-speaking

countries in Africa, so that they can carry the message to other French-speaking countries which have not yet been reached.

In **South Africa**, we have held several public conferences encouraging the members to carry out a more effective missionary work, with positive results. They are also contributing toward the purchase of a property for the headquarters.

The missionary school in Johannesburg, though they do not have a physical building, is training the youth from English-speaking countries to meet the great need in this area. In this school we have representatives of Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Namibia.

A seminar was recently organized by the first GC Vice President for the training of workers and colporteurs, with the participation of workers coming from neighboring countries, young people, and members in general. Brethren assisted from Australia, the United States, and Mexico; public health lectures followed by consultations and applications of natural treatments. It was an excellent event that encouraged many people.

The GC Missionary Department also came to give a seminar on evangelism, culminating with

public meetings which attracted the attention of many people by the way the message was presented.

In **Mozambique**, the message has made good progress; a social project is also being planned that would help the brethren financially, beginning with agriculture and milling. Two Mission conferences were also held during the quadrennium.

The work in **Zimbabwe** is seeing interest and good will despite financial challenges. Our church in **Malawi** has been exemplary in the way the brethren are engaged in missionary work, using their own resources to win souls to the Lord Jesus Christ. The GC first Vice President held a training seminar for both workers and members with good results and the GC Welfare Department leader met with the members in various places to find out about their needs and to determine possible solutions through projects. Two of the most wide-ranging solutions involved the implementation of agriculture, using a pump to irrigate the crops to be produced, and providing sewing machines for sisters who are dressmakers.

The agriculture project is already in progress. The pump has already been supplied and is operating in the fields.

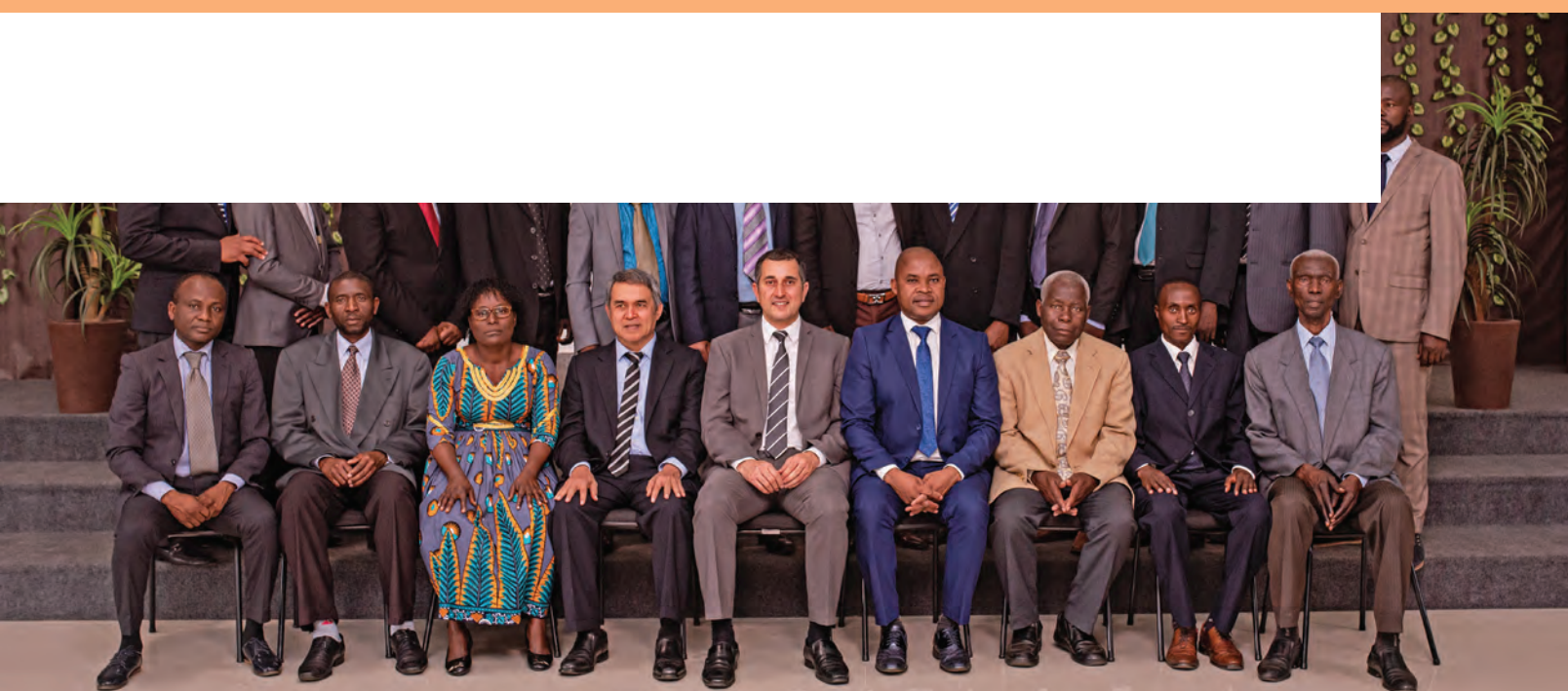
In **Namibia** the GC Missionary Department held an evangelistic seminar with the participation of brothers from Angola, Zambia, Malawi and Congo. Angolan pastors also visited this country, performing various spiritual activities, including baptism.

Good news has come from **Botswana**, where a pastor was sent, reclaiming backsliders and attracting new interested souls.

There has been a great deal of work in developing the message in **Congo – Brazzaville**, where the message is generating good responses; presently there are seven souls in the baptismal class who will soon descend into the baptismal waters. Evangelistic meetings are also planned with the aim of attracting new souls.

Benefiting the Southern African Region, the print shop is playing an important role in the expansion of the gospel by producing leaflets and small booklets to be distributed free of charge to those interested. This way the message can quickly reach people, languages, and tribes, hastening the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. *R*

* General Conference [GC throughout].





The European REGION THROUGH THE PRINTED PAGES

Mission in Action — *adapted from the report of Ferenc Matyas*

Europe—the birthplace of the Protestant Reformation—is still ripe for reform. With such a heritage as can be found here, it behooves us to reclaim those lost sheep who are the heritage of that great movement.

The **Romanian Union** is the largest field of Europe. Economic hardship has led many to emigrate from this country, but it is interesting to see a young generation take on the challenges of the work. Several young people have been ordained as ministers or elders to carry on the banner of truth. Currently there are 20 young people undergoing missionary training. They place great emphasis on the education of the youth and family, and they organize beautiful programs for spiritual conferences, as well as music conventions where young people use their talents to serve the Lord.

The canvassing work is also advancing well and the printing house has a great role to play in it.

They are constantly modernizing and updating their equipment. Medical missionary outreaches and cooking demonstrations are held in various places involving young doctors and medical professionals in these projects. The sanitarium, which has been functioning for almost 20 years, is proving to be a great blessing and help not only here in Romania, but by the grace of God, in other countries also. They have already seen 1,000 patients who have received treatment in this institution, and patients leaving with great spiritual and physical healing. In the last quadrennial in the Romanian Union there were 120 baptisms, five elders and four ministers ordained, and three Bible workers hired.

The Field in **Spain** is making great sacrifices to bring together and strengthen the churches. They place a particular emphasis on educating the youth, children, and families to live

up to the principles of our church and reach out to others.

The brethren of **Portugal** have reached out in support of two Portuguese-speaking islands, namely **São Tomé** and **Cape Verde**, with good results, so now we have members there as well. Radio programs are also hosted as well as conferences and canvassing projects. At the end of the year, the brethren prepare food packages for those in need. In the last two years, 20 people were baptized in this Field.

Hungary has gone through a difficult economic situation, which also affected the church. Yet the brethren press on. The missionary school has produced very good results, and young people are actively involved in taking over the workload from the older generation. They organize health lectures, cooking classes, musical evangelistic outreaches, and advanced Bible classes. These meetings are well attended, especially by young people

and many young people are studying for baptism. There is also a group of young people who are eagerly waiting for the start of the next missionary school. For many years the prison ministry has also yielded good results.

The **Italian Field** seeks to involve every member to take part in medical missionary work. In many places they organize cooking demonstrations, food shows, and Bible circle readings, drawing many interested people to the spiritual conferences that involve new visitors as well as regularly supporting the visitors and friends of our church in Albania. A missionary program has begun in the island of Sicily with some success.

The **South German Field** holds good spiritual meetings, and there are interested people. They host medical missionary outreaches, give lectures, and attend book fairs—where they give books, including *The Great Controversy*, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *The Desire of Ages*, and *Steps to Christ*. The recipients of these books were mostly young people.

The **North German Field** encompasses also the Netherlands, Denmark, and Sweden, where the brethren are selling/giving away books, giving medical presentations,

establishing Bible circle readings and making personal contacts. At their larger spiritual meetings, which are linked with the South German Field, there are many interested visitors. In these meetings they present information about Christian values, the importance of family, the education of children, healthy and well-balanced lifestyles—topics which in the larger part of Europe are seriously challenging to the people in worldly circles.

To the Field in **France** there are two other Fields attached, **Belgium** and **Switzerland**. Recently, three ministers were ordained and they are giving attention to young people, who are also becoming involved in the spiritual meetings and health outreaches.

Our brethren are gathering in several places in **Bulgaria** and are preparing good pamphlets and holding outreach programs.

The Field in **Austria** is hosting spiritual conferences, evangelistic programs, book stands, letterboxing programs, and making personal contacts.

England is a Field which seems to be one of the most stable Fields economically. Our membership has reached 50 in a relatively short time

and has expanded to other areas besides London.

In **Croatia**, the brethren are doing canvassing work to reach out to new areas. The center of the Field is Lipik, where we have a beautiful church building.

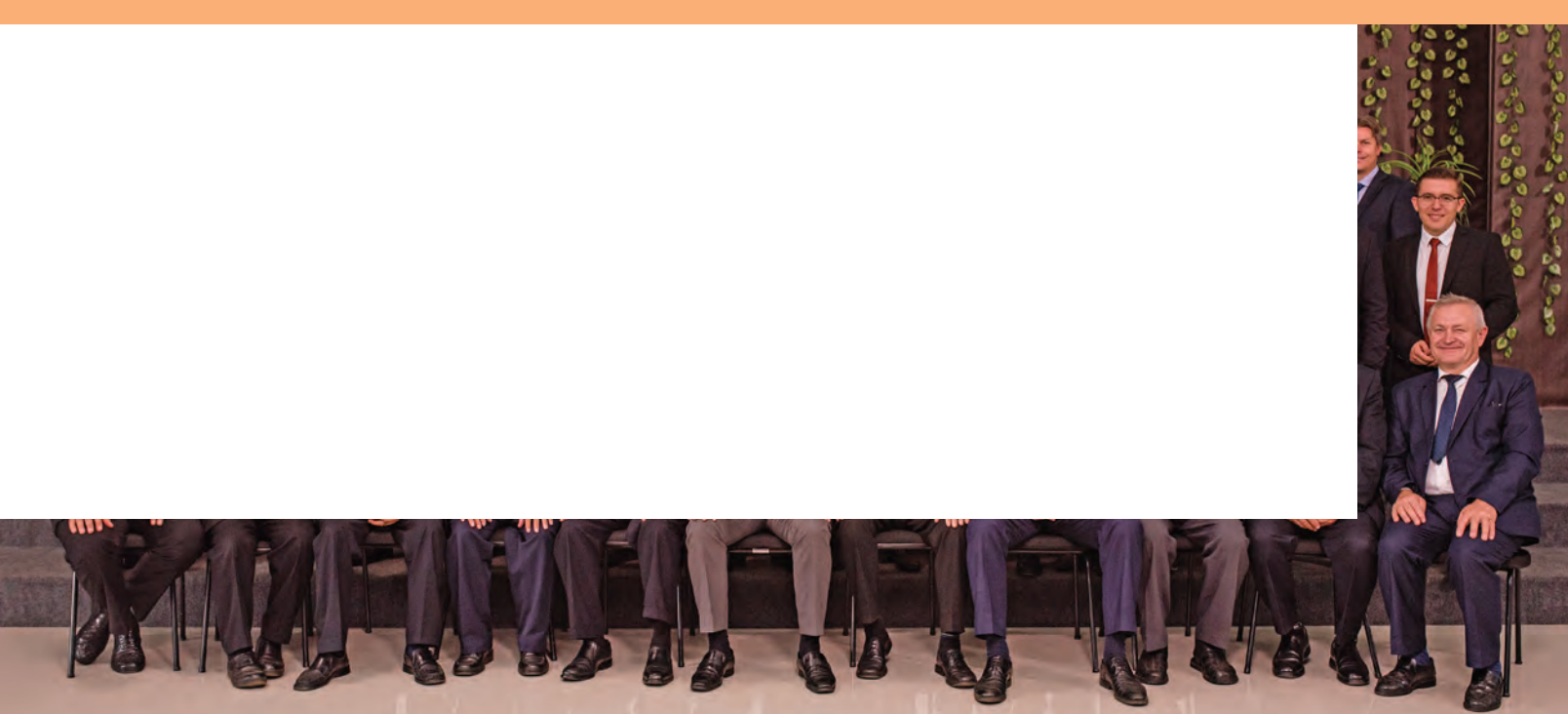
The **Moravian Mission Field** encompasses a large area, including Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Macedonia. The economic and political situation in this area is challenging, but the brethren are doing book evangelization, public health meetings, personal relationships, and music outreaches to introduce the gospel.

The **Vojvodina** Field headquarters are in Novi Sad, which is a fast-growing city. Here we have a nice church building. The brethren spread leaflets as well as organize book stalls, food shows, and medical presentations to which hundreds are flocking.

Greece is a relatively new area where we now have a few members. Through the help of health missionary outreaches, we have been able to break the ice here. And this is how we find visitors whom we visit regularly.

As the world becomes more secular, as everywhere else, the European continent will always be in need of the precious message of the Gospel. *R*

Georgi
Iraq





Mission in Action — *adapted from the report of Peter Mangul*

The Eurasian Region encompasses a vast territory where people of different nationalities live, speaking different languages and professing different religions.

This Region is composed of Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Moldova, Turkey, Israel, Poland, Czech Republic, and Slovakia.

The headquarters of the Ukrainian Union are in Chernivtsi, where we hold seminars, spiritual meetings, youth congresses, Council meetings, missionary school sessions and medical missionary programs.

The Transcarpathian Field is the largest in the number of members and young people that actively participate in different missionary projects. They print newspapers and brochures and spread them in different towns and villages as well as conducting musical concerts in various public places. Camp meetings are organized for the young

people and children. They have also begun the construction of a health center and we hope that soon it will be completed and dedicated to the Lord. The brethren in the Field have registered a charity that actively helps orphanages and hospitals and regularly serves charitable lunches for the needy.

The Chernivtsi Field is also well organized and actively working. The brethren give out newspapers, pamphlets, sell books and have traveling libraries in different places. Young people also actively participate in various missionary projects.

The brethren conduct youth and children's camp meetings regularly. Young people also participate in musical concerts and every Sabbath they are broadcasting the Sabbath School, sermons and the youth meetings from the headquarters. In cooperation with the medical department they often organize cooking courses and cleansing

programs based on natural treatment with the help of juices.

The Black Sea Field also has well-organized missionary work. They have regular traveling libraries; the workers, lay members and young people spread newspapers, tracts and books. They also conduct Field and regional youth meetings.

Religious freedom is limited in the territory of the **Russian Union**, but the Lord still works in behalf of His people who are dedicated to His service. For example, in Uzbekistan where Islam is the national religion, when the new country's president was elected, there were some changes made regarding religious freedom. By order of the president, even the Bible was translated into the Uzbek language and printed for mass circulation. Developments like this have been appreciated by our people.

Mongolia is also a part of the Eurasian Region and the brethren from

Russia will carry forward the work there, as Russian citizens can freely travel to Mongolia.

The brethren of the **Moldova Union** hold spiritual meetings, seminars, and youth congresses with participation of the General Conference brethren. They also sell and give out health books, cookbooks, and spiritual books and tracts—as well as having a regular missionary school program.

In cooperation with the Union brethren, the Youth Department holds a youth congress in August every year and many young people from other countries attend. They invite the brethren from the General Conference to participate in them. These meetings are very blessed opportunities for the young people, and at the end of these meetings they usually hold a baptism and also calls for special consecration and preparation of future candidates for baptism are made. The Media Department is actively participating in the missionary work through broadcasting the youth congresses and spiritual meetings. Currently they record a detailed analysis of the *Sabbath Bible Lessons* in the Russian and Romanian languages for posting on YouTube.

In **Turkey** there is a small group of our members that hold meetings every Sabbath, but unfortunately, in **Israel** there is no special place to hold meetings.

Poland is a Catholic country, but for the time being there is tolerance to the Protestant churches in this country. The headquarters of the Field are in Katowice where there is a wonderful church. Every Sabbath they worship the Lord in this church and on the last Sabbath of the month they have a missionary program. The brethren then invite their friends and acquaintances. The members actively participate in the program, singing songs and playing different musical instruments. As far as possible, they offer the people books, tracts, and *Sabbath Bible Lessons*.

Meetings are held in three places in the **Czech Republic**. The largest local church is in Liberec, where there are many young people and children. Meanwhile they gather in a rented facility, but we hope that the construction of a church will soon be completed and the new building will become the place of worship to the Lord and the center of active missionary work.

The second place of worship is in Prague. There the brethren, youth

and interested people also gather in a rented facility.

The third place of worship is in the eastern part of the country near the border with Slovakia.

In April 2017, 45 young brothers and sisters from Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, and Kazakhstan were registered as students in our missionary school in Ukraine. During these two years, the students have studied subjects such as:

Skill in preaching the truth to people (from the book *Gospel Workers*); God's amazing grace; interpretation of the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation; history of the church in different periods of time; history of the Adventist church; Bible history; doctrines of the church; history of the Reform Movement; organization and order of the church; christian ethics; medical missionary work; music in the services.

We believe and hope that after graduation from the missionary school many young brothers and sisters will actively help in different departments. Some students are already taking part in the service of the Lord.

May the Lord bless the efforts of all! *R*





Mission in Action — *adapted from the report of Samy Doss*

Well over half the population of planet Earth lives in Asia, so the work of reaching the teeming multitudes here with the final message is a truly monumental task.

Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. It is an Islamic nation; hence, the work cannot be carried out as much as it should. Terrorism, insurgency, anti-national groups, and religious extremism existing in this country prevent the work which would otherwise be speedy.

It took long before we could visit the interested groups, teach them the precious truth for the present, and bring them to the fold of Christ. Despite the continual threats from terrorism and opposition, the work of reformation is expanding. The brethren here relentlessly work hard in order to reach out for souls that are perishing in the world and who are athirst of the truth. We have a group

of about 10 members. Much more work is to be done in this country with the newly found groups.

Bhutan is a Buddhist kingdom. Brethren here are striving hard to spread the truth; it cannot be done openly.

The work in **India** is quite progressive in spite of many difficulties. New members are frequently being added to the fold. Much more work is to be done with decided efforts. India has over 400 million souls unreached who have never heard of Christ and Christianity. It is a country with about 1.3 million people, meaning that nearly one-third of the population is yet to know of Christ and of His matchless love. Most of our members are in Manipur—and although there are many challenges, the work has grown remarkably in the state of Andhra Pradesh and elsewhere. Interest is growing in the states of

Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, and West Bengal.

The propagation of the gospel of Christ is in full swing in the northeastern region of India, where there are several small states and union territories. As this region is quite mountainous, movement between places is hard. However, the work has taken a new dimension, more places have been reached, and the glad tidings are being shared among the people. Many have shown interest in studying the truth. There will be a sure reaping in the days to come.

During the past quadrennium, the Lord's work already established in Tamil Nadu saw expansion to several new places: Vilupuram, Cuddalore, Thoothukudi, Nilgiris, Kanyakumari, and Mayiladuthurai.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands consist of 572 islands. This is a territory of India, famous for exotic wildlife, coral reefs, and remote tribal

groups—even the North Sentinelese which are the remotest group on the earth. We have a group of 11 members and they are constantly working to find new souls.

In **Bahrain** we have two members, and the brother amidst his busy schedule and work-related limitations, volunteers doing God's work. It will have a sure result. We trust there will be more souls in this Islamic kingdom.

Myanmar is a Buddhist country with a great majority of Muslims in the north. The country has few road connections. Moreover, since the terrain is quite mountainous, it makes the movement from one place to another very difficult. Enormous efforts are being undertaken to expand the work in this country. There have been frequent visits made to encourage the brethren to do more evangelism.

Nepal, a country nestled at the bosom of the Himalayas, is a Hindu/Buddhist country. Our work is growing and more interested groups have shown their desire to join the Movement. Studies are being given

in order that the people may be ready for baptism and acceptance into the church.

Oman is an Islamic kingdom in which we have had a small beginning that is expanding.

Pakistan, an Islamic nation known as a "safe haven for terrorism," is against all propagation of other religions, including Christianity. However, the Lord in His goodness and wisdom had His people in this country well-established long before. The brethren here face opposition, suppression, and even persecution every time they go out to preach the gospel of Christ. We need to remember them in our prayers.

Qatar tops the list of the richest countries in the world in terms of GDP and per capita income ratio, and this Islamic kingdom has more immigrants than nationals. There are souls that are interested in the message of Reformation. These souls are yet to be visited and have the precious truth shared with them.

The large Islamic kingdom of **Saudi Arabia** is totally against the penetration of other religions.

Therefore any Christian activity has to be done secretly.

"Mohammedanism has its converts in many lands, and its advocates deny the divinity of Christ. Shall this faith be propagated, and the advocates of truth fail to manifest intense zeal to overthrow the error . . . ? O how we need believers who will now present Christ in life and character, who will hold him up before the world."¹

The island nation of **Sri Lanka** was stricken by civil war for decades. Now it seems like peace has been wrought, yet the fire of animosity and enmity among ethnic groups has not been fully quenched. We have two Missions here that face a challenge in seeking to share the truth under such circumstances.

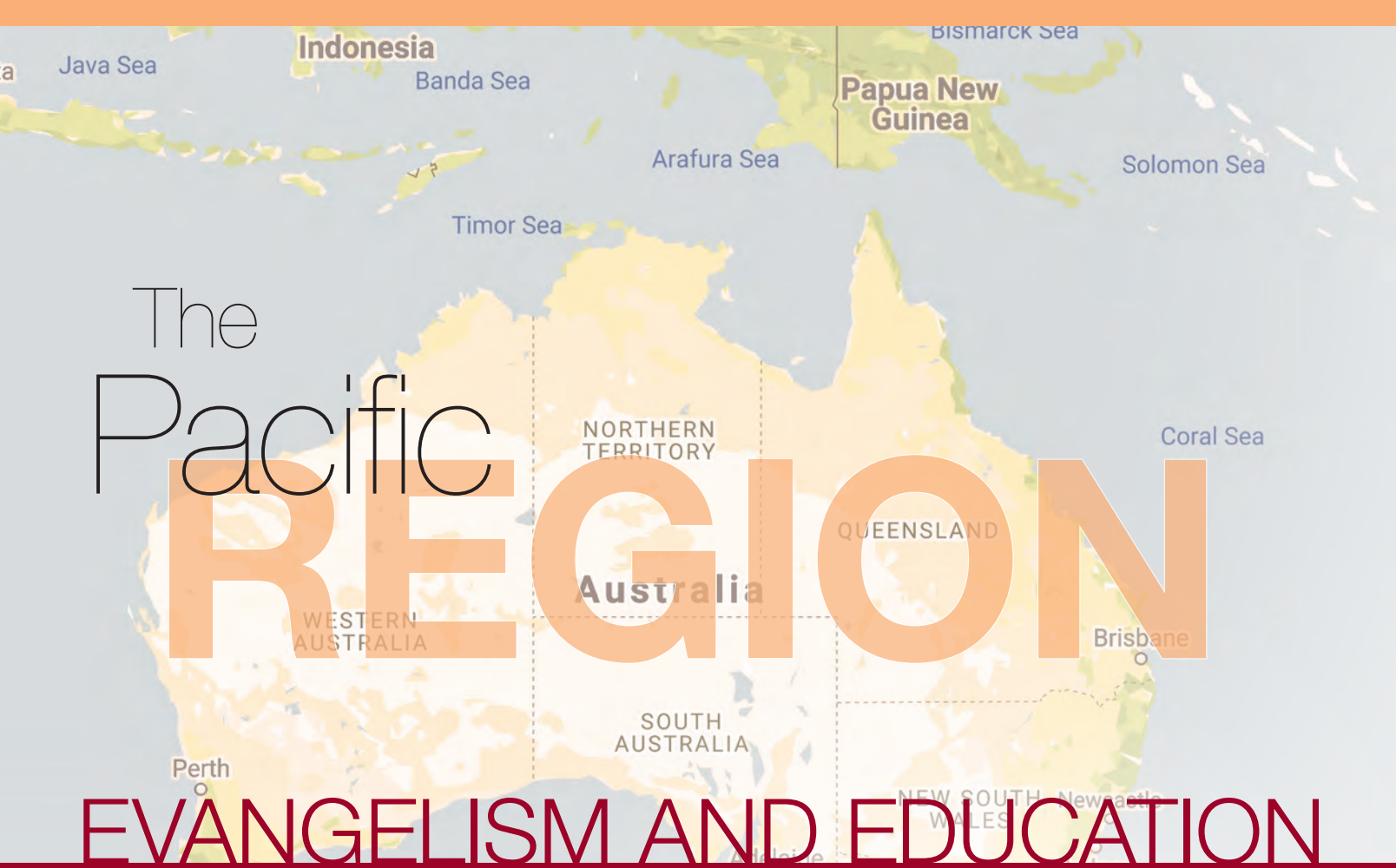
Thailand has also been entered and in the **United Arab Emirates** we have 9 members.

In closing, let us lift up our voices in thanksgiving and praises for all that the Lord has wrought both in Asia and other regions around the world. *R*

References

- ¹ *The Home Missionary*, September 1, 1892.





EVANGELISM AND EDUCATION

Mission in Action — *adapted from the report of Rolly Dumaguit*

Communication is a big priority in the **Australasian Union Conference**, where all the workers of the Union regularly meet by Skype to share their experiences in their successes and challenges.

Cooking, raw food, and health demonstrations are a highly successful way in which souls are being reached. Services offered to the community include blood pressure testing, blood sugar testing, fruit and vegetable juicing and many other activities.

Another missionary endeavor that this Union is using to try to reach people is through colporteur evangelism. Many encouraging experiences have been told by the young people after canvassing. They have also been blessed by the seminar given by the General Conference this quadrennium on sacred music. The climax of the event was a concert of sacred music presented before the public, where many guests attended.

The media department produces missionary-oriented video clips published on Facebook and YouTube.

A Righteousness by Faith Symposium brought ministers and Bible workers together to study and discuss about the vital topics related to the work of Jesus for humanity. Some were not able to attend in person, but joined via Skype conference call.

Seventeen students from five countries completed the Missionary School training program at Elim Heights and Schofields. The students were also assigned to preach in different churches in the New South Wales Field and even in the Melbourne churches—including to do home visitation and practical Bible studies.

By God's grace, the **South Pacific Union Mission** was recently registered legally with the government of **Vanuatu**, where the headquarters are located and we have a membership of 100 souls.

The headquarters of the **Fiji** Mission Field is located in Suva, the capital city of Fiji, where a First Sabbath Offering will be gathered for a building to be constructed there.

Our largest membership in the South Pacific Union Mission is in **Papua New Guinea**, where some 10 Filipino medical volunteers recently came to do some medical work. In the course of five days, 750 persons were served, benefitting most of our members as well as people outside our church. Services were rendered such as blood sugar tests, blood pressure tests, herbal medicine information, and distribution of herbal supplements. In addition, 500 kg of brown rice was distributed to our church members during the last day of the program. There was a successful colporteur seminar held here as well.

The work in the **Solomon Islands** is growing and funds are being raised to purchase land for a headquarters near the capital.

Faleasiu is the center of our work in the **Samoa** Mission Field, where a new church building was recently finished and dedicated to the Lord. Another property was donated for a second place of worship and interested souls have also been contacted in **American Samoa**.

A team of Fly and Build volunteers from Australia, Vanuatu, and French Polynesia went to Mare Island, **New Caledonia** to build the first SDARM church building in this island country. Donations from the First Sabbath Offering around the world and from the fund generated by the Mare local church made the construction possible from start to completion.

With its headquarters in Papeete, the **French Polynesian** Mission has a membership of 66 souls with one ordained elder and three young Bible workers who started their training in the Philippines and had additional training in Australia.

To update our missionaries, a seminar-type missionary school is ongoing in the three units in **Indonesia**. Several health expos and campaigns have been done there and the General Conference Welfare Department is making a feasibility study of producing herbal rubbing oil for massage to raise funds. There are new interests on the islands of Tagulandang and Kalimantan.

In **South Korea**, where our headquarters are located in a rural area, we have 128 members who are also actively supporting the work in **Vietnam**, and where, thankfully, religious intolerance has relaxed a little bit and home churches can be visited without fear. A farm with a house on it is the site of our first chapel there and the income of the farm can augment the financial needs of the Mission. By God's grace, the work here is going forward.

The headquarters of our work in **Japan** is located in rural Saitama Prefecture. The vast majority of our members here are females and they are very active in livestreaming their programs every Sabbath, producing of CDs with doctrinal presentations, distributing literature, and giving health and cooking classes. Recently they gave some public meetings in Okinawa and it motivated them to continue the work because in every program, an average of 50 persons have attended and some now are undergoing Bible studies.

A Filipino medical team is planning to visit **Laos** before the end of this year to follow up the work. A Thailer who was just baptized into our church who speaks Mong (a language spoken in southern Laos) is being deployed to work there.

A few years ago, a brother from Portugal with his wife went to **East Timor** to establish the work in that country. The work there is slowly moving forward. Since the country speaks Portuguese, we can get some religious music and sermons from Brazil to operate a religious radio program. As of this writing, two interested persons are preparing for baptism.

Another country just visited during this quadrennium is the Kingdom of **Tonga**, where interest is growing and a permanent Bible worker will be sent to establish the work there.

Serious religious difficulties are being experienced in the People's Republic of **China**. The publishing of the Bible was banned and those in the north are not allowed to conduct Bible studies, do missionary work openly or have public worship on Sabbath. The believers there need our prayers.

The headquarters of our work in the **Philippines** is located in Kabatang, Tiaong, Quezon Province, with a total membership of 1,441 souls. The Philippine Union has one primary school, a missionary school, and a publishing department.

It is our prayer that the Lord may continue to bless His work in the Pacific Rim! *R*





HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION

From the discussions and decisions taken at the 23rd SDARM General Conference Delegation Session, below are a few highlights:

Quinquennial Sessions

The interval between two General Conference delegation sessions has been amended to five (5) years (quinquennial interval) instead of four (4) years (quadrennial interval).

Deacons and Elders

The office of the elder is often ignored, and the responsibility of the ordained deacon is misunderstood in the church today based on the account in the New Testament (Acts 6:1–8; 1 Timothy 3:13). The men who are known as the seven deacons of the apostolic church were chosen and ordained to attend to the “business” of the church and to provide spiritual and material support (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 89). The Bible charges elders with the tasks of teaching and leading the local churches, yet the deacons’ responsibility is more service-oriented. They are to handle the physical or temporal matters of the church to free up the ministers and elders to focus on shepherding the spiritual needs of the church.

“The appointment of the seven to take the oversight of special lines of work, proved a great blessing to the church. These officers gave careful

consideration to individual needs as well as to the general financial interests of the church, and by their prudent management and their godly example they were an important aid to their fellow officers in binding together the various interests of the church into a united whole.”—*Ibid.*

In order to give the ministers and the elders more time to focus on the church’s spiritual side, the deacons are responsible for the administrative and business work of the church and assist the ministers and elders in their duties, in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church.

“The fact that these brethren had been ordained for the special work of looking after the needs of the poor, did not exclude them from teaching the faith. On the contrary, they were fully qualified to instruct others in the truth, and they engaged in the work with great earnestness and success.”—*Ibid.*, p. 90.

Therefore, the implementation of the Biblical principle of ordaining deacons would be a great blessing to the church. Below are some of the responsibilities of deacons. As a minister is responsible for the spiritual needs and yet has many assistants, the deacon may also have assistance in his work.

Financial management: The deacons are the ones primarily responsible for the general management of the church along with the day-to-day finances.

Care for the poor and needy:

The example in Acts 6:1–6, clearly shows that one of the major purposes of their ordination, and involvement in financial management, is that the poor are cared for, the sick and needy are visited and that the widows are materially taken care of in an official, recognized capacity.

Church orderliness: All the responsibilities of a material nature during the meetings of the local church fall upon the deacon.

Those taking this responsibility who are not ordained are not called deacons. They may be called ushers or another term that describes their work without all the responsibilities that come with ordination as a deacon.

Church grounds: The maintenance and cleanliness of church property, both of the grounds as well as the building itself, making it ready for church services, is the deacon’s responsibility. This includes having the doors open and ready for any of the scheduled church activities and any of the technical needs (sound system, video as well as projection equipment, HVAC, etc.).

Material management: Deacons should be available to help in a variety of ways so that the pastors and elders are relieved to concentrate on teaching and shepherding the church.

Assistance to services: Preparing for and helping with baptisms, preparation for the communion

service and assisting the minister or elder in such services are all to be part of the deacon's responsibilities.

Spirituality: The deacon is to assist in the spiritual needs of the church (Acts 6:8). Based on the pattern established in Acts 6 with the apostles and the "seven," it seems best to view deacons as servants who do whatever is necessary to allow the ministers and the elders to accomplish their God-given calling of shepherding, teaching, and in other ways spiritually administering the church. Just as the apostles delegated the financial administration to the seven, so the ministers and elders are to delegate due responsibilities to the deacons, so that they can focus their efforts on bringing souls to Christ while the deacons help the elders retain the souls that have already come into the church.

Seeking candidates: The church especially needs to evaluate the qualifications of treasurers and welfare workers to see if they meet the requirements to be ordained as deacons.

Doctrinal Committee Recommendations

The following are some of the recommendations from the Doctrinal Committee:

Communion bread and celiac disease

In reality, the type of grain in the communion bread is immaterial as long as it is considered bread and has no leavening agent in it, as Christ is completely "unleavened" from sin and any of its attributes (1 Corinthians 5:7, 8; 1 Peter 2:21, 22). Since the leavening agent is required to be absent as a perfect symbol of Jesus, and since leaven specifically works upon the gluten in order to make the bread rise and make it light, and since a seed type manna was equally a perfect bread symbol of Jesus (John 6:31–35; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 297; *Evangelism*, p. 284), and specifically used in the New Testament to represent Jesus, it is quite natural to draw a conclusion that another grain that has no gluten may also be used and still perfectly maintain its representation of Jesus as the bread of life for this world.



Armageddon

Armageddon is a universal war between all the nations of the earth during the sixth and seventh plagues that is the result of a peace conference (*compare*: 1 Thessalonians 5:1–3; Revelation 16:15) held in Palestine (verse 16) after the nations surrounding the Euphrates River have been left powerless or have been annihilated, thus paving the way for the eastern nations to be involved in the Middle East (verse 12). This peace conference will be devised by the nations as a result of a strong seemingly godly religious influence (verses 13, 14). However, the result of this deceptive religion is the worship of false gods. Therefore, this religious influence must be the three evil spirits of papal system (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4) which had set the final date for the destruction of God's people (Revelation 13:15; *The Great Controversy*, pp. 590, 604) blaming them for all the plagues and wars. Instead of peace, this conference results in a universal world war (Joel 3:9–15). This attempt on the lives of the saints is interrupted by the voice of God which delivers His people (Joel 3:16; Revelation 16:17), destroys a good portion of Babylon (verses 19–21), stops the war among the nations (chapter 6:15) and delivers the people of God by the second coming of Christ (verses 14, 16, 17). This is how "Providence has a part to act in the battle of Armageddon" (*The SDA Bible Commentary*, [E.G. White Comments], vol. 7, p. 983).

The seven last plagues are a result of the great conflict between Christ and Satan (*The Great Controversy*, pp. 449, 450, 605). As the plagues near their end, the battle intensifies, and God arises in defense of His people. God uses not only natural disasters but also the nations themselves to inflict His judgments upon them (Matthew 21:40, 41; *The Desire of Ages*, p. 596). From this we see that although Armageddon is a literal war between all the nations of this earth, the religious basis is clear and comes to an end by the second coming of Christ (Revelation 19:11–21) and ushers in the millennium (chapter 20:1–6).

The door is not closed for further study on this point.

The Temporary Medical Committee:

1. Some of their recommendations

- Regular health check-ups.
- Regular check of B-12 levels.
- Regular check of Vitamin D, especially those who live in the northern hemisphere.
- Other necessary analysis (lab, ultrasound, blood pressure, PAP test, PSA test, etc.).

2. Some diseases found in the SDARM that could be avoided

(*Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, p. 12; Deuteronomy 28:1, 2):

- Obesity and insulin resistance (Hyperinsulinism); (*Child Guidance*, p. 379).
- Depression and Melancholy (Proverbs 17:22; Psalm 32:1–6): Pastors have their place in the treatment of depression. It is important that they know and are familiar with their place in this treatment.
- We recommend that they read *The Ministry of Healing*, and the last chapter of *Steps to Christ*, as well as similar books from other authors.
- Cardiovascular Disease: Prevention of this disease is much more than vegetarianism and not smoking (Proverbs 14:30; 4:23).

3. Some principles of health often forgotten (*The Adventist Home*, p. 508; *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 25; Exodus 15:26):

The Lord's messenger testified: "I saw that the reason why God did not hear the prayers of His servants for the sick among us more fully was, that He could not be glorified in so doing while they were violating the laws of health."—*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, pp. 25, 26.

- Regular physical exercise of at least 30 minutes per day.
- Regulated use of electronic devices, especially in childhood and youth.
- Mistakes in diet: use of refined sugars, refined fats (trans fats), aspartame, and insufficient intake

of raw unrefined food (Ibid., pp. 27, 28).

- Insufficient time in sunlight (Ecclesiastes 11:7).
- Insufficient water intake and insufficient use of water for prevention and therapy (*Healthful Living*, p. 90).

4. Health principle publications

(*The Publishing Ministry*, pp. 226, 227)

- Publication of a *Sabbath Bible Lesson* quarterly on health principles.
- Such a lesson to be accompanied by a pamphlet(s) that give the latest scientific evidences in support of each lesson.
- Regular publications of health materials in smaller and larger formats.

5. Proposal for the incoming Medical Department director

Encourage closed group communication using social media among all medical field workers.

6. Coordination of medical and missionary workers

- Stimulate better communication and cooperation between medical workers and the ministry (including pastors, Bible workers, and church leaders).
- Stimulate better communication and cooperation between medical doctors and those practicing natural therapy.
- Stimulate young people to enter the study of health sciences.
- Existing missionaries who have finished their training should be encouraged to receive health sciences education to increase their effectiveness.

Where Do We Go from Here?

Proposals for the future:

At every General Conference Delegation, there is typically a Plans Committee that comes up with ideas and suggestions that can be implemented as feasible.

This time, the Plans Committee made emphasis on the following areas:

- To continue with new canvassing



projects, especially in Africa and other developing countries.

- Continue the work of preparing our own health and spiritual books for canvassing and translate them in several languages.
 - Continue organizing vacation canvassing projects for the youth since this proved to be an effective way to keep them in the church and to make them feel like they have a purpose.
 - To keep updating the webpage canvassing.sdarm.org and make it a source of educational materials.
 - Dedicate a quarter of *Sabbath Bible Lessons* to the canvassing theme.
 - Take steps to encourage young people to devote one year of their lives either to canvassing or missions.
 - Encourage the Health Department to create a training program on the functions of the human body, prevention of disease, and natural treatments.
- Promote the preparation of a global missionary instruction manual.
 - Prepare a courtship guide/ counseling course for youth.
 - Focus more energy in general on the spiritual needs of teenagers and children.
 - Develop an educational curriculum for home school, church school, and missionary school in both traditional and online formats.
 - Promote organic agriculture and rural living.
 - Promote the work in new territories around the Pacific region in countries such as Cambodia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Myanmar, Taiwan, Macau, and others.
 - Promote studies specific for revival and unity of the church. *R*

References

- 1 *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 89.
- 2 *Ibid.*, p. 90.
- 3 *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 25.



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THE GC SPIRIT

T E S T I M O N I A L S

It is a sweet and blessed privilege to have the chance of meeting brethren from all over the world—wonderful people that share the same hope of Christ’s second coming to take us home! We are here on this earth to observe, learn, grow, love, and then to go home. What a blessed hope!

Right after the delegation we all had the amazing opportunity to participate in the biggest spiritual gathering that our church has had in the last four years. Moments of deep spiritual messages combined with prayers and very good quality sacred music ascended towards the throne of grace, with adoration and hope. How wonderful it is to praise God together! “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Psalm 133:1.

The place of the spiritual gatherings was called “*Estancia Arvore da Vida*” which means “*The Tree of Life Hall*.” May God bless each one of us with the most outstanding reward to be with Him forever around the Tree of Life on the New Earth!

—*Septimiu D. Muresan*

Being involved in covering the 23rd General Conference Spiritual Meetings and the activities leading up to that weekend was a rewarding learning opportunity. One of the highlights of my experience as web editor and content creator was the people with whom I worked—people with whom I have been working for years from a distance but now was able to work with side by side.

Then there were others I only met that weekend and they were ready to volunteer their talents. I was impressed by the way young people from various professional backgrounds (graphic designers, videographers, digital content creators, photographers, etc.) were so willing to make time to contribute to the event. Some contributed weeks of their time and talents—sacrificing paid jobs and volunteering their help in the meetings and the coverage of the event proceedings in the best quality possible. While the media team was small and had their limitations, everyone that participated did so with all their heart. I pray the Lord will continue to bless everyone who participated in every capacity, including the unseen volunteers who



UAL MEETINGS

took care of small details that made a big difference.

—Larissa Tenorio Gessner

Being at the General Conference in 2019 was like living in a village of Seventh-day Adventists for a weekend. The streets swarmed with people walking to and from dinner. The sound of laughter and affection diffused in the air as friends found each other. Then it was time for the next meeting and floods of people migrated into the worship hall. I felt like one pin in the middle of thousands as I sat in the pew. The choir assembled on stage. When they opened their mouths, a wave of sound washed over the congregation. I am sure I was not the only one that got shivers. It's like we were all literally experiencing the theme, "That They May Be One." As I soaked in the joy,

I was overcome with nostalgia of heaven.

—Gennifer Tudoroiu

This was the second time in my life to be able to take part in the Spiritual Meetings of the General Conference. I was very pleased to be able to participate in the international orchestra. As I was sitting on the stage, it was a special experience to see the whole congregation as they gathered together from all over the world. The meetings were very uplifting in every respect and I am thankful to God that we have such a worldwide community and that I got to attend this event on this occasion. A dream came true! We had many touching moments—for example, when the whole church was singing and praising the Lord. The farewell was very sad, because this company

will not necessarily meet again here, but we have the hope that in the New Earth many more of us will praise the Lord and will be together forever. May the Lord be with us all, Amen!

—Oliver Toth

What makes looking out on a congregation of over 5,000 people special? Is it the sheer quantity of individuals? Is it getting to see old friends or make new acquaintances? Or is it the palpable energy of such a gathering? Sure, it may be all those things. But more importantly, it is that desire to be one—one in hope, one in spirit, and one in Christ's love. Imagine what Heaven will be like—not a few thousand, but 144,000 standing on the sea of glass. Playing my instrument in harmony with over one hundred other excellent musicians from all around the world was

certainly a highlight of the event. How much more special will it be when we (the 144,000) sing the song of Moses and the Lamb to an audience of all the redeemed saints from throughout the ages. So for me, each General Conference I attend is just another reminder that whatever we go through in this life, it'll all be worth it to spend not just four days, but eternity with millions of perfect people in the only place that's truly perfect. What a day of rejoicing that will be!

—Bethany L. Montrose

* * * * *

The 23rd General Conference Session was a blessing to attend for several reasons. We all had wonderful opportunity to hear powerful messages on how “we can be one,” one in Christ and one with Christ. We learned that we must stay connected to Jesus our Saviour, 24/7.

We had a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, strengthen friendships, and develop new ones. We also had the ability to try delicious Brazilian foods including feijoada, pastel, and açaí. Finally, the 23rd General Conference was truly special because it was in Brazil. The music and passion by the Brazilian choir and congregation during hymns was amazing and inspirational to see and be a part of. Music is so touching, and people of Brazil truly put all their heart and soul into music. Psalm 95:1 says, “O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.” Those who attended this year’s General Conference found that this verse came true. It was a great blessing to sing unto the Lord our God and praise Him for all His wonderful kindness and grace towards us.

May God help you to make it to the next General Conference, and to be part in the praises to our King. But most importantly, may God help us to be part of heaven’s first, international, interstellar, multi-universal conference in which we can join praises to our King eternal! Will you be there? Will you be on that sea of glass (Revelation 15:2)?

—Paul Michael Balbach

The “Tree of Life” campus is a beautiful venue well-suited for just such an opportunity as this—a modern, congenial facility that is pleasantly comfortable and spacious.

Thousands flocked to the spiritual conference from nearly every continent, to hear the word of the Lord, to savor the powerful messages and enjoy the warm fellowship among the brethren.

Inspiring speakers faithfully presented stirring messages to challenge the congregation present—and via live stream—to dedication to the Lord Jesus.



“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word





of God." Romans 10:17.



The precious message of the everlasting gospel has awesome power to touch hearts, to comfort the weary, and fortify the soul.





How important it is for children to be aware of the vast vineyard of the Lord and how they can prepare to be missionaries for Jesus, going into all the world to take the Good News to every creature!

The newly-elected General Conference President brought a thought-provoking message to motivate God's people to higher ground in preparation for the glorious return of our Lord and Saviour.

Hearts were stirred and backsliders reclaimed as the love of Christ was poured out in rich currents upon the attentive congregation.



Nourishing, delicious plant-based meals were hospitably and efficiently served to the large number of guests, providing generous amounts of the delightful fresh produce for which Brazil is renowned.



The children's teachers were available to instruct those in the next generation in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The children were keenly attentive and appreciative of the special efforts made in their behalf. May they continue to grow in the faith!

Children and youth from various cultural backgrounds united their young, harmonious voices in glorious song and praise to the King of the universe.



In a nearby building on campus, truth-filled literature and other practical resources were made available to the many who fear the Lord and are earnestly seeking to cultivate the Reform lifestyle.



P.O. Box 7240
Roanoke, VA 24019-0240

MOVING? Please let us know.

The Better Land

Have you ever wondered what was the very first vision Ellen Harmon was given in her youth? It talks about the New Earth and mentions the children there, too! Let's get a glimpse:

"There I saw most glorious houses, that had the appearance of silver, supported by four pillars set with pearls most glorious to behold. These were to be inhabited by the saints. . . .

"I saw another field full of all kinds of flowers, and as I plucked them, I cried out, 'They will never fade.' Next I saw a field of tall grass, most glorious to behold; it was living green and had a reflection of silver and gold, as it waved proudly to the glory of King Jesus. Then we entered a field full of all kinds of beasts—the lion, the lamb, the leopard, and the wolf, all together in perfect union. We passed through the midst of them, and they followed on peaceably after. . . .

"As we were traveling along, we met a company who also were gazing at the glories of the place. I noticed red as a border on their garments; their crowns were brilliant; their robes were pure white. As we greeted them, I asked Jesus who they were. He said they were martyrs that had been slain for Him. With them was an innumerable company of little ones; they also had a hem of red on their garments. Mount Zion was just before us, and on the mount was a glorious temple, and

about it were seven other mountains, on which grew roses and lilies. And I saw the little

ones climb, or, if they chose, use their little wings and fly, to the top of the mountains and pluck the never-fading flowers. There were all kinds of trees around the temple to beautify the place: the box, the pine, the fir, the oil, the myrtle, the pomegranate, and the fig tree bowed down with the weight of its timely figs—these made the place all over glorious. And as we were about to enter the holy temple, Jesus raised His lovely voice and said, 'Only the 144,000 enter this place,' and we shouted, 'Alleluia.'

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

—*Early Writings*, pp. 18–20.

