

“He Is Coming”

the
REFORMATION
herald

Vol. 53, No. 1



21ST GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION,
Sibiu 2011, Romania

A GENERAL CONFERENCE

What is a General Conference? The expression “General Conference” is self-explanatory. It is not one person, or a small group of people.

As we will learn in this issue of *The Reformation Herald*, the words of a few persons are not to be considered as the voice of God, yet we are told that the “decisions of a General Conference composed of an assembly of duly appointed, representative men from all parts of the field, should be . . . respected,”¹ and further, that “the representatives of [God’s] church from all parts of the earth, when assembled in a General Conference, shall have authority.”²

No GC officer should be considered as being the “General Conference.” Even a small group of GC officers should not be considered as being the “General Conference,” but “an assembly of duly appointed, representative men” “from al parts of the earth,” when acting in harmony with God’s Word, make up the General Conference whose voice must be respected.

When Moses was visited by Jethro, his father-in-law, an interesting conversation took place. Jethro realized that Moses—capable as he was—was undertaking a very heavy burden for one man alone. Therefore he counseled Moses: “Provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: and let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee. If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace” (Exodus 18:21–23).

Moses gave heed to this sage advice—and the governing of God’s people prospered.

In the system recommended by Jethro to Moses, we find four levels of administration: rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

In our system of organization there are: local churches, fields (or conferences), unions, and a General Conference. If the brethren and sisters of all levels fulfill their duties, God’s work will prosper.

Finally, what is a General Conference? It is a general assembly made up of duly elected representatives of God’s church from all the regions of the planet that meet together to decide important matters related to the spiritual progress of God’s children.

In this special issue of *The Reformation Herald*, we will bring to the knowledge of our readers news and important decisions of the General Conference delegation session held in Porumbacu, Romania, from August 23 to September 13, 2011. *R*

¹ *Gospel Workers*, p. 490; ² *Ibid.*



The *Reformation Herald* staff would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new Editor, Bro. Davi Paes Silva. He was chosen by the worldwide delegation to serve in this capacity, and we trust that the Lord will utilize his talents in a mighty way. We also would like to thank Bro. D. Sureshkumar for the dedicated service he faithfully rendered as Editor during the past two terms. It is our prayer that the Lord may bless his labors in the vineyard and continue to make him a blessing to others always.

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Official Church Publication of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement

“The age in which we live calls for reformatory action.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 488.

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THE REFORMATION HERALD® (ISSN 0482-0843) features articles on Bible doctrine that will enrich the spiritual life of those who seek to know more about God. It is published bimonthly by the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement General Conference, P. O. Box 7240, Roanoke, VA 24019-0240, U.S.A.

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Printed and distributed by Reformation Herald Publishing Association. Manuscripts, inquiries, address changes,

subscriptions, payments, and donations should be mailed to the address below. Periodical postage paid at Roanoke, Virginia 24022.

Subscription rates: United States, U.S. \$14.95; foreign (air mail), U.S. \$20.00; single issue, U.S. \$ 3.50

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Reformation Herald, P. O. Box 7240, ROANOKE, VA 24019.

Vol. 53, No. 1. Copyright © 2012 January–February Issue.

Illustrations: 123RF on pp. 3, 5–7, 32

Why Does God Call for a GENERAL CONFERENCE?

By B. Montrose

What is a General Conference?

The term “general conference” has been so often used in Adventism that we too easily forget it is supposed to mean exactly what it says: A general assembly or gathering of individuals meeting for a specific goal or purpose.

The unit found in the SDA Reform Movement is based on the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy guidelines for church organization in the last days. Thus, the primary definition for us of the term “general conference,” refers specifically to the quadrennial sessions, where delegates elected by the church membership around the world assemble to report on the progress of God’s work in the various corners of the vineyard and together elect officers to carry out the decisions made to advance His cause around the world.

In the interim between delegation sessions, the General Conference Council elected at the quadrennial sessions assembles annually. The Executive Committee meets as needed and is entrusted with carrying out many of the decisions made at the delegation session of the worldwide church.

Following God’s plan

It would be a fallacy to think that the SDA Reform Movement General Conference office building in Roanoke, Virginia, U.S.A., is just a place for a few persons to labor when they are not promoting the Lord’s work in the various missionary fields. The building actually represents the work of God’s church as a whole, and the officers laboring there have been elected as representatives of the total membership of faithful men and women who comprise the entire SDA Reform Movement worldwide. Thus it represents a people

who are pressing together to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, operating in harmony with God’s organizational guidelines.

In 1874, “Brother A” (identified as Elder George I. Butler) was a minister who, when he finally had experienced genuine conversion, was greatly blessed by improving his attitude toward leadership among God’s people. An inspired Testimony written to increase his understanding is applicable also today:

“I have been shown that no man’s judgment should be surrendered to the judgment of any one man. But when the judgment of the General Conference, which is the highest authority that God has upon the earth, is exercised, private independence and private judgment must not be maintained, but be surrendered. Your error was in persistently maintaining your private judgment of your duty against the voice of the highest authority the Lord has upon the earth. After you had taken your own time, and after the work had been much hindered by your delay, you came to Battle Creek in answer to the repeated and urgent calls of the General Conference. You firmly maintained that you had done right in following your own convictions of duty. You considered it a virtue in you to persistently maintain your position of independence. You did not seem to have a true sense of the power that God has given to His church in the voice of

the General Conference. You thought that in responding to the call made to you by the General Conference you were submitting to the judgment and mind of one man. You accordingly manifested an independence, a set, willful spirit, which was all wrong.

“God gave you a precious experience at that time which was of value to you, and which has greatly increased your success as a minister of Christ. Your proud, unyielding will was subdued. You had a genuine conversion. This led to reflection and to your position upon leadership. Your principles in regard to leadership are right, but you do not make the right application of them. If you should let the power in the church, the voice and judgment of the General Conference, stand in the place you have given my husband, there could then be no fault found with your position. But you greatly err in giving to one man’s mind and judgment that authority and influence which God has invested in His church in the judgment and voice of the General Conference.”¹

When called into question, Ellen White testified of her own case in 1896, “I had not one ray of light that He [the Lord] would have me come to this country [Australia]. I came in submission to the voice of the General Conference, which I have ever maintained to be authority.”²

Many students of Advent history suspect that certain leaders at that

time really wanted to send the Lord's messenger to the opposite side of the world in an attempt to silence her words of reproof. But regardless of anyone's motives, God was still able to use her as an instrument to promote His cause in that new continent. She honored the challenge and respected the leadership of His organization. The really crucial question arises later, after her death: When the General Conference of any given church goes so far as to disown the ten commandments of God and the faith of Jesus in word or in practice, then what? Such a body would be on very shaky ground and could not be trusted to bear the candlestick. We have been warned of that exact danger. (See *The Review and Herald*, June 7, 1887; *Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 403.) The only hope for the last faithful remnant of that church is not to settle down into an easy spirit of independence, but rather to press together and ensure that the General Conference be based on right principles of sound doctrine.

Genuine gospel order in the last days

From where do we get the idea of gospel order? In reporting one vision, the messenger of the Lord wrote: "I have been shown the order, the perfect order, of heaven, and have been enraptured as I listened to the perfect music there. After coming out of vision, the singing here has sounded very harsh and discordant. I have seen companies of angels, who stood in a hollow square, everyone having a harp of gold. . . . There is one angel who always leads, who first touches the harp and strikes the note, then all join in the rich, perfect music of heaven. It is melody, heavenly, divine, while from every countenance beams the image of Jesus, shining with glory unspeakable."³

When the crisis of dealing with Lucifer came upon heaven and there was a job to be done, "the angels were marshaled in companies, each division with a higher commanding angel at its head."⁴

Indeed, gospel order comes from heaven. Cherubim and seraphim are each given individual responsibilities which they execute faithfully and



cheerfully, motivated by fervent love for their Creator.

In studying the scriptures we can readily observe the divine concept of order established from the earliest days of the ancient patriarchs. A system of gospel order was also employed in the time of the Exodus when, on the wise recommendation of Jethro, "Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves" (Exodus 18:25, 26). (See also Numbers 31:48; Deuteronomy 1:15; 2 Chronicles 25:5.) Thus the people of God's heritage were to be one great nation, with the opportunity to establish smaller units in which they could govern themselves. It was never God's plan for Israel to look to an earthly king.

When Christ was on earth, He also organized the vast multitude of people into small companies when He, with the assistance of His disciples, ministered to human needs at the miracle of the loaves: "And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass. And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties" (Mark 6:39, 40).

After the ascension of Christ, important decisions involving the future and the welfare of the church were made by representatives of the worldwide body assembled at Jerusalem. Acts chapter 15 relates the history of one such general conference session in the early church. The apostle James served as the presiding officer, and major doctrinal issues were decided by the believers.

Is gospel order very important today?

The Spirit of Prophecy writes: "The Lord has shown that gospel order has been too much feared and neglected. Formality should be shunned; but, in so doing, order should not be neglected. There is order in heaven.

There was order in the church when Christ was upon the earth, and after His departure order was strictly observed among His apostles. And now in these last days, while God is bringing His children into the unity of the faith, there is more real need of order than ever before; for, as God unites His children, Satan and his evil angels are very busy to prevent this unity and to destroy it."⁵

"I saw that this door at which the enemy comes in to perplex and trouble the flock can be shut. I inquired of the angel how it could be closed. He said, 'The church must flee to God's Word and become established upon gospel order, which has been overlooked and neglected.' This is indispensably necessary in order to bring the church into the unity of the faith."⁶

The apostle explained: "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:9, 10).

According to these statements, it is clear that gospel order is more urgently needed today than ever before. It is considered absolutely essential in order for God's people to come into unity of the faith. And unity of the faith is a basic prerequisite for the outpouring of the latter rain—the refreshing needed to enlighten this entire planet with the glory of God. *R*

References

¹ *Testimonies*, vol. 3, pp. 492, 493.

² *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, p. 156.

³ *Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 146.

⁴ *Early Writings*, p. 145.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 97.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 100.



WHY ARE GC DELEGATION SESSIONS NECESSARY?

By A. Balbach

In ancient Israel there were three yearly feasts for which all the men of the nation were to assemble at the sanctuary (Exodus 23:14–17). After the conquest of the land of Canaan, the Israelites held for a time their annual gatherings at Shiloh. Later on, Jerusalem became the center of worship for the Jewish people.

In those days it was relatively easy for the tribes of Israel to convene three times a year, because the whole nation lived in a small territory. Today, the people of God are scattered practically all over the world, which makes it difficult for them to hold general meetings. Not all the people come together; they rather send their representatives to an official business session once every four years. Besides the business session, there is also a spiritual convention, which is attended not only by the local brethren and sisters but also by a number of visitors from other countries.

The importance of general gatherings

The plan of God for His church, as revealed in Ephesians 4:1–16, demands a general coordination, an international and worldwide interdependence. The church is compared to a human body. There is no room for the idea that in every place or in every country

the believers should be left to develop the work on a local basis, to the best of their ability, without any connection with other parts of the world. Those who have tried to organize and conduct an independent work, excusing themselves with the argument that they do not want to be controlled and exploited by other people, are usually found doing the very things they purport to be fighting against. Contrary to their opinion, their own experience should prove to them that organizational and administrative oneness is as important for the church as it is for an army in the battlefield. This is one of the reasons why we must have periodical gatherings at every level of the work—local church business meetings, state conference sessions, union conference sessions, and General Conference sessions. General Conference sessions are held for different purposes:

Reports

When Paul and Barnabas and other church leaders came to Jerusalem for the first general assembly for consultation and decision on an important issue which was threatening to divide the church, “they declared all things that God had done with them” (Acts 15:4). First of all, the delegates at a conference want to hear official reports

about the development of the work.

Keeping accurate records and giving systematic reports is a well-established practice. The local churches send their reports to the state conference, the state conferences submit their reports to the union conference, and the union conferences forward their reports to the General Conference. Also the regional secretaries and GC departmental secretaries send their reports to the GC office and to the GC Council on a regular basis. When a GC session is near, the GC officers prepare their reports covering a four-year period, from the last conference to the forthcoming conference. In this line, the GC secretary seems to have the hardest job, because he must present a global statistical report including all the unions, fields, and missions. This report must show, not only the present membership, but also the number of new souls added since the previous session, as well as any decreases in membership resulting from death or apostasy. The number of ministers, workers, colporteurs, and church employees, as well as church properties and institutions, must also be reported to the GC delegation in session. This shows how important it is for the unions, fields, and missions to send in their quarterly reports regularly.



The first general assembly held at Jerusalem (A.D. 51) contains a lesson combined with a warning. "Not all . . . were pleased with the decision [of the Council]; there was a faction of ambitious and self-confident brethren who disagreed with it. These men assumed to engage in the work on their own responsibility. They indulged in much murmuring and faultfinding, proposing new plans and seeking to pull down the work of the men whom God had ordained to teach the gospel message."¹

Their teaching to those converted from among the Gentiles was: "Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved" (Acts 15:1).

Indeed, there have always been some discordant believers in the church. Even today there may be some who, out of some nonessential burden, want to formulate an additional test of fellowship and point of salvation; who consider as apostatized those who do not support their personal views; who put their own conclusions above the decisions of the general council of believers. "From the first the church has had such obstacles to meet and ever will have till the close of time."² Let us heed the warning.

"The word of God does not give license for one man to set up his judgment in opposition to the judgment of the church, neither is he allowed to urge his opinions against the opinions of the church. If there were no church discipline and government, the church would go to fragments; it could not hold together as a body. There have ever been individuals of independent minds who have claimed that they were right, that God had especially taught, impressed, and led them. Each has a theory of his own, views peculiar to himself, and each claims that his views are in accordance with the word of God."³

"In the church at Antioch the consideration of the question of circumcision resulted in much discussion and contention. Finally, the members of the church, fearing that a division among them would be the outcome of continued discussion, decided to send Paul and Barnabas, with some responsible men from the church, to Jerusalem to lay the matter before the apostles and elders. There they were to meet delegates from the different churches. . . . Meanwhile all controversy was to cease until a final decision should be given in general council. This decision was then to be universally accepted by the different churches throughout the country."⁴

"The broad and far-reaching decisions of the general council brought confidence into the ranks of the Gentile believers, and the cause of God prospered."⁵

"When dissension arose in a local church, . . . and the believers were unable to come to an agreement among themselves, such matters were not permitted to create a division in the church, but were referred to a general council of the entire body of believers, made up of appointed delegates from the various local churches, with the apostles and elders in positions of leading responsibility. Thus the efforts of Satan to attack the church in isolated places were met by concerted action on the part of all. . . . [God] requires that order and system be observed in the conduct of church affairs today no less than in the days of old. He desires His work to be carried forward with thoroughness and exactness so that He may place upon it the seal of His approval. Christian is to be united with Christian, church with church, the human instrumentality cooperating with the divine, every agency subordinate to the Holy Spirit, and all combined in giving to the world the good tidings of the grace of God."⁶

Doctrinal questions, church discipline, and other issues

In spite of the widespread availability of the Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy,

and the Principles of Faith and Church Order based upon them, old and new questions are always coming up. Easy matters can be settled together among the members of a local church with the help of the minister. Other matters may require the help of the state conference or union conference. Matters that cannot be solved by the union conference are referred to the General Conference office during the quadrennium, and from there they may be sent on to the Ministerial Working Committee, the Doctrinal Council, or the GC Council. In many cases, questions can be answered straight from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Others can be addressed according to the way these inspired writings have led in our previous GC decisions. Delegates do not bring questions directly to the GC session; the union conferences and those fields and missions directly attached to the GC send in all their questions well in advance. This is the only way to ensure that any point which should rightfully be considered at the GC delegation in session will indeed go to the session.

Certain subjects may be brought up before the GC delegation in session, not because the elected GC Committees or Councils do not have the answer, but because all the unions, fields, and missions must necessarily be involved, sharing responsibility in whatever solution may be adopted.

Mutual encouragement

The apostle Paul says that "whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning" (Romans 15:4). Therefore, we should learn lessons also from the yearly gatherings of Israel.

"At these yearly assemblies the hearts of old and young would be encouraged in the service of God, while the association of the people from the different quarters of the land would strengthen the ties that bound them to God and to one another. Well would it be for the people of God at the present time to have a Feast of Tabernacles—a joyous commemoration of the blessings of God to them. . . . We sustain a loss when we neglect the privilege of associating together to strengthen and encourage one another in the service of

God. The truths of His word lose their vividness and importance in our minds. Our hearts cease to be enlightened and aroused by the sanctifying influence, and we decline in spirituality. In our intercourse as Christians we lose much by lack of sympathy with one another. He who shuts himself up to himself is not filling the position that God designed he should. We are all children of one Father, dependent upon one another for happiness. The claims of God and of humanity are upon us. It is the proper cultivation of the social elements of our nature that brings us into sympathy with our brethren and affords us happiness in our efforts to bless others."⁷

"The greater the responsibilities placed upon the human agent, and the larger his opportunities to dictate and control, the more harm he is sure to do if he does not carefully follow the way of the Lord and labor in harmony with the decisions arrived at by the general body of believers in united council."⁸

Plans for the advancement of the work

A General Conference delegation session is the most appropriate time and place for the representatives of the church to acquaint one another with the problems, needs, and possibilities existing in each area. This enables them to adopt both local and general plans for the advancement of the work and to secure mutual cooperation.

Election of GC officers

"God has not set any kingly power in the Seventh-day Adventist Church to control the whole body or to control any branch of the work. He has not provided that the burden of leadership shall rest upon a few men. Responsibilities are distributed among a large number of competent men.

"Every member of the church has a voice in choosing officers of the church. The church chooses the officers of the state conferences. Delegates chosen by the state conferences choose the officers of the union conferences and delegates chosen by the union conferences choose the officers of the General Conference."⁹

How do we choose a place for a GC session?

The choosing of a place for a GC delegation session is not an easy matter. A final decision can be made by the GC Council, and the place can be announced worldwide, only after the Council has found answers to a number of questions, such as: where and who?

The GC Council suggests one, two, or three tentative areas—for example, Europe, North America, South America—and asks which union or field would be willing and able to host the delegation. No union or field will extend an invitation without first considering: whether they can secure a suitable place (we repeat: a suitable place) for the session well in advance; whether they can obtain competent personnel and organize adequate services to handle the delegation for three weeks; whether they can finance the cost (food, lodging, and local transportation). Of course, the neighboring unions and fields are expected to help. While, on the one hand, these unions and fields incur heavy expenses with the entertaining of a GC delegation session, on the other hand they save a considerable amount of money by not having to buy expensive airline tickets for their delegates.

Important considerations

The union or field serving as a host may overlook certain questions which may be important to the GC Council and to the delegates in general. For example: What will be the total cost of transportation for the delegation—if the session is held in North America? In South America? Are visas required, and how troublesome and expensive is it to obtain these visas? Are there easy telephone connections to and from the place of the conference? How are the postal services of the country in question? How about its political and economic

stability? These and other questions come up when the prospective place of a forthcoming GC session is under discussion.

Sessions of prayer

When preparations are made for the holding of a GC session, much more than human wisdom, technical arrangements, and personal experience are needed. At every step the plans for such a session are placed before the Lord in prayer. And when the circular letter announcing the place and time of the conference is sent out, many of our brethren and sisters are requested to mention this important event every day in their prayers, entreating the Lord to bless the preparations, to protect the delegates on their trip there and back, and to take the work of the delegation into His own hands, so that everything may be done according to His will.

"It is now that we are to learn this lesson of prevailing prayer, of unyielding faith. The greatest victories of the church of Christ or to the individual Christian are not those that are gained by talent or education, by wealth or the favor of men. They are those victories that are gained in the audience chamber with God, when earnest, agonizing faith lays hold upon the mighty arm of power."¹⁰ *R*

References

¹ *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 196.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 196, 197.

³ *Testimonies*, vol. 3, p. 428.

⁴ *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 190.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 197.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 96.

⁷ *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 540, 541.

⁸ *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 199.

⁹ *Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 236.

¹⁰ *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 203.

Introducing the Delegation

 On Tuesday afternoon, August 23, 2011, the 21st delegation session of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement was seated with 159 of the 204 delegates representing a worldwide church membership of 37,330. The meeting was held at the new youth property building that was developed by the Romanian Union near Sibiu, in a village called Porumbacu de Sus, Romania.

It was our privilege to recognize two units on the continent of Africa that have become self-supporting members of the world sisterhood of churches. The Angola Union with 1,367 members, and the Rwanda Field with 1,017 members.

It is always exciting to see the work of the Lord entering into new territories. During this term, the Ethiopian Union Mission was established in Africa with a total membership of 551 at the end of 2010. In the northern part of South America, a new unit was also established: the Suriname Mission with just a few members.

Several former GC presidents were present during the meetings to give

their experiences and share their advice when needed. Francisco Devai (1967–1979), Wilhelm Volpp (1979–1983), John Moreno (1983–1991), and Alfredo C. Sas (1995–2003). Neville S. Brittain (1991–1995), who left just before the delegation session began,



was a speaker at the public meetings in Sibiu, Romania.

After all the reports were presented from the outgoing administration, along with many questions being asked and responded to, on Thursday, August 25, 2011, the temporary officers were elected. Davi Paes Silva was the temporary chairman, Peter D. Lausevic the assistant to the temporary chairman, and Eli Tenorio da Silva as the temporary secretary. After the election of these of-

ficers, the outgoing administration laid down their offices and the temporary officers took over the responsibilities of operating the session.

The delegation subsequently divided into six temporary committees: Nominating, Doctrinal, Finance, Bylaws, Medical, and Plans.

Below are excerpts from the opening address of the outgoing president of the General Conference, Duraisamy Sureshkumar, to the delegates assembled from the four corners of the world.

Excerpts from the opening address of D. Sureshkumar

Once again, after many years (since Puslinch, Ontario,

Canada, in 1983), we are holding a delegation session on our own church property. We read (COL 69) that Christ is waiting for a perfect reproduction of His character before Jesus will come again. A prophecy is recorded for those living in the last generation that their identity sign will be “in their mouth was found no guile” (Revelation 14:5). God claims that He would produce a people without deceit. In the book *The Desire of Ages*, p. 671, we have an account that

the honor of God and Christ is involved in accomplishing the perfection of the character of His people. If we are His people, then a progressive character must be seen as we develop from one grace to another grace, from one glory to another glory. In Romans 8:17 it states that we will have a wonderful opportunity to partake in the heirship of Christ. In 1 John 3:2 it states that we are His children. The children of a royal family have a clear recognition of who they are, whether they contribute something or not, simply because of their title. Who can be the children of God? Romans 8:14 answers this. We need to have leadership because of who we are. We need to be guided by the Holy Spirit and then we become the children of God.

Can we be controlled by another spirit? 2 Corinthians 11:4. It is possible that there can be another spirit, other gospel, or other Jesus that is guiding us. But there is only one condition to be the children of God, and that is to be guided by the Spirit of God. In order for us to be guided by the Spirit of God, we need another prior step (John 1:12). We must receive and accept Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, and then we receive the power. This is a judicial right, a legal authority, and then we have the power to execute and to perform. That will be the greatest experience. The honor of God and Christ is involved in the perfection of the character of His people. It is not our honor or character that is involved here. It is His honor and character that will perfect His people. Can He do so? Yes, otherwise He would not have made this promise.

God's people have a great work to do. The world must see that in the church the truth is preached, the truth is lived. Jesus says "I am the truth" and He is the complete system of truth. David said, Thy law and commandments are truth and holiness. These are the people that have that truth, that practice the truth which also have the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus. This is the identification mark of His people. To this people He gives the title of a holy nation, a peculiar people who are called out of darkness into this marvellous light.

We have a duty to give this light to others. Isaiah says, "arise and shine." Unless we shine, how can we be the watching people on the walls of Zion? We are guardians and are given the duty. God says we have to give the warning, and if we do not give the warning and the wicked will surely die, then their blood will be upon us. We have a life and death obligation. It is not just a privilege but an obligation to fulfill the requirements of duties. If we do not receive the unction of the Holy Spirit, we are powerless. Without power, we are actionless. Without action, we are dead, and this would be a very dangerous situation.

Through the church eventually will be made manifest the final and full display of the love of God to the world that is to be lightened with its glory.¹ Our prayer should be, "Lord, help me to have Thy light" or we lose our purpose.

The first settlers in America were a people of vision. They made a city council. In the next year they built a road for 5 miles into the forest. In the fourth year they impeached the council, for they did not understand where that road would go. But in the U.S.A. today, it is the only country that has the longest and widest network of roads. If they did not catch the vision, they would be only a nation among the nations. We need to catch the vision.

We can in our generation finish the Lord's work. Then, why not ask for the power to finish the work today? We have something to tell the people, we have something to tell Jesus. One thing we can say, Thank you Lord, for saving my soul, for guiding my hand, for bringing me here, for choosing me. We need to experience the depth of His love and His blessing.

As we commence our work, we need to do an evaluation, a self-evaluation and then a strategic planning. My burden is for the young people: One group are those that need to be sustained; the other are the young professionals with quality of life and quality of strength and talent. These resources of our young people are wasted in the Philistine land. I want to thank the Lord that my son is working for the church. When he was about to be employed by a large corporation, one of our minis-

ters talked with him. That prompted his decision. We need to pull the talents of the youth to work for the Lord.

We pledged ourselves to the work of training our leaders and youth, to establish missionary schools in many places, and to hold seminars. Many ordained people have increased since then. The training programs were our priority.

"Missionary operations are constantly embarrassed for want of workers of the right class of mind—workers who have devotion and piety that will correctly represent our faith.

"There are many who ought to become missionaries, but who never enter the field because those who are united with them in church capacity or in our colleges do not feel the burden to labor with them, to open before them the claims of God upon all their powers, and do not pray with and for them."² We should appeal and pray for them and with them, so we can channel the resources for the benefit of God.

"Those who have the spiritual oversight of the church should devise ways and means by which an opportunity may be given to every member of the church to act some part in God's work. Too often in the past this has not been done. Plans have not been clearly laid and fully carried out whereby the talents of all might be employed in active service. There are but few who realize how much has been lost because of this."³ We cannot overlook the talents of our young people.

We should keep in our mind the 11th commandment: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:34, 35). Please read John 17 repeatedly that we may fulfill the prayer of Jesus.

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). May this conference have this aim. Let us ask His grace that we can do all things through His power and grace. Amen. *R*

References

¹ *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 50.

² *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, pp. 500, 501.

³ *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 116.



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Adapted From the Report Presented by Manuel Henda

THE AFRICAN REGION



African countries entered

The African countries where the message of Reformation has entered are: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

ANGOLA has progressed to being a Union in November 2009. The country is divided into four fields. The Angolan Missionary School finished its first graduation in November 2009.

New interest has been created in **BENIN**. Similar to how Cameroon was evangelized, the Gospel Worker from Nigeria has been assigned to visit this neighboring country to create awareness about the Present Truth. And he is gaining so much ground in this country that soon there will be a harvest of first fruits.

The development of the work in **BOTSWANA** is moving forward and one full-time worker is engaged in the work for this prosperous country.

BURUNDI is a poor country, yet, rich in faith in the saving message of reformation.

A worker from Nigeria was assigned to begin the work in **CAMEROON**. The

*I*t is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: to shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night, upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery; upon the harp with a solemn sound. For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands. O Lord, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep" (Psalm 92:1-5).

The work in Africa has progressed through God's merciful grace bestowed on faithful believers and sacrificial supporters.

work is established and needs encouragement.

The **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO** faces challenges as a nation, due especially to difficulties in transportation resulting from the destruction of the basic infrastructure during the civil war. Nevertheless, God's work presses forward, and the country is large and with many missions.

The work in **ETHIOPIA** formally began in November 2008. The work is divided into 3 missions and is organized into a Union Mission to promote the rapidly growing interest.

The work in **GHANA** continues to go forward.

KENYA is the hub of Central Africa. The believers in this country are working untiringly for the soon coming of our Saviour. The last reorganization demonstrated how brethren working in unity can achieve great things for the Lord. The brethren and sisters are of much courage as a new chapel was erected, and two primary schools were established.

MOZAMBIQUE was reorganized in 2008, and the message is growing with much interest.

A worker was placed in **MALAWI** from the Zambian Mission, and the first souls were baptized in 2008.

There is a group in **NAMIBIA** from Angola. The believers are assisted by the GC with English literature, and interest is being shown for the message.

The work in **NIGERIA** is divided into two missions. The registration of our organization was completed with the government in August, 2010.

The brethren and sisters of the **EAST NIGERIA MISSION** are of good courage and are erecting a monument for the Lord.

The message of reform has a wonderful impact on the unstable area of ethnic clashes in the vicinity of the **CENTRAL NIGERIAN MISSION**.

The message in **RWANDA** has grown marvelously during the last four-year

term. A medical/evangelism seminar with much interest was conducted in rural towns, and a monument for the Lord was erected for the occasion. Members and interested folk attended from all Africa and overseas.

The believers in **SEYCHELLES** are few yet joyous in their fervor for the Lord.

The **SOUTH AFRICAN FIELD CONFERENCE** has generated much interest and many souls added to the fold. Camp meetings and tents have been held to arouse interest among the people. These yielded their sure results. The **SOUTH AFRICAN RESDA MISSION FIELD** also presses onward.

The work in **TANZANIA** started with just two members—and with the assistance of the Kenyan Mission, the work spread and was organized in (December 2007). There are interested people in many different cities in Tanzania. The registration process was completed in November 2007.

TOGO was penetrated by our brethren in Ghana, with the health message initially. There are many interested souls.

The work in **UGANDA** was reorganized (December 2007) and is stable and moving forward and upward.

The Zambian Mission is well organized and has great potential. In July-August 2009, **ZAMBIA** was blessed to host the African Workers' Seminar.

The nation of **ZIMBABWE** has experienced an economic crisis till 2009. Nevertheless, the work is still progressing. They have distributed the Bible Workers to different cities and towns to do greater works.

In summary, through the power of God, the progress of the work in Africa has prospered through His merciful grace, the earnest faith of the believers in this region, and the sacrificial dedication and heartfelt support of brethren and sisters from various countries around the world. *R*



MISSION IN ACTION

Adapted from the report of Bro. D. Samy Doss

THE ASIAN REGION



*T*he great commission of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ sends us out to proclaim the gospel to a lost world, many of whom will hate us for it, according to John 15:18–21.

“Certain countries have advantages that mark them as centers of education and influence. In the English-speaking nations and the Protestant nations of Europe it is comparatively easy to find access to the people, and there are many advantages for establishing institutions and carrying forward our work. In some other lands, such as India and China, the workers must go through a long course

of education before the people can understand them, or they the people. And at every step there are great difficulties to be encountered in the work.”¹

In **BANGLADESH** and West Bengal we have interested souls in the message of reformation and we continue to study with them.

INDIA, the world’s largest democratic country and the second most populous country which is housing 1.2 billion or more, has many dimensional diversities. On one hand, we have freedom to preach the gospel as this is constitutionally a secular country. On the other hand, we cannot preach the gospel openly as many of the states in India have a ban on conversion, which can overrule the Federal law.

Visitations to some places require much effort because of the diverse kind of landscapes and inaccessible locations with normal mode of transportation. Nevertheless, the Lord has been by our side so that we are able to do a lot of work for His cause. New groups, churches, missions, and fields have been established. Notably the church in Bangalore was established in the state of Karnataka.

In Andhrapradesh, another state in India with a population of over 70 million, an awakening is taking place. Here a team of about 15 pastors belonging to different denominations or individual ministries has asked for a prolonged seminar wherein we present studies on deeper subjects. God willing, there may come a great harvest in this state in the near future.

“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. . . . If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you” (John 5:18, 20).

In the state of Jarkhant there are several souls from some local tribes interested in our message. At least four volunteer workers are laboring for these souls. Here, the Maoist activists (an insurgent group) hinder the work. The brethren, however, work hard to carry the torch of truth in this underdeveloped state.

In Manipur, where the majority of our people live, there was a prolonged strike for 69 days. People had been suffering for want of food and other vital commodities; for the strike blocked two main national highways which link Manipur with the mainland. This paralyzed the movement of vehicles and commodities. The resultant was that prices escalated and people found it hard to cope with the situation and the work also suffered in a great measure.

By the grace of God, a few monuments for the Lord were built during this quadrennium as well.

As mentioned, India is housing 1.2 billion people—which is almost twice the population of Africa—having several states with a population of more than many countries in the world.

We have very good reason to expand our work in this region as it is a heathen land and the birthplace and bosom of so many heathen religions of the world. Here is where we are to preach Christ.

“Among earth’s inhabitants, scattered in every land, there are those who have not bowed the knee to Baal. Like the stars of heaven, which appear only at night, these faithful ones will shine forth when darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people. In heathen Africa, in the Catholic lands of Europe and of South America, in China, in India, in the islands of the sea, and in all the dark corners of the earth, God has in reserve a firmament of chosen ones that will yet shine forth amidst the darkness, revealing clearly to an apostate world the transforming power of obedience to His law.”²

From the constant outbreak of religious violence against Christians in certain states and the natural calamities that occur around us in the form of earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, wars, rumors of wars, spiritual declension, moral decay, and easy-go filthy societies, all cause us to understand that the coming of our Lord is near—and it is much nearer than when we first believed.

Since **MALDIVES** is a Muslim country, it’s very difficult to work here as well. We have visited this country and found some interested people.

We have 4 members in **MALAYSIA**. Plans are underway to penetrate this country to seek for souls athirst for the gospel of Christ.

The believers in **MYANMAR** are encouraged by our visits.

The mountainous Hindu nation of **NEPAL** has its own sets of problems. Politically, it struggled to find its prime minister, and it is a difficult country again as the country has a complete ban on conversion. You cannot baptize one soul in this country. They have to be carried across the border for baptism. A group of believers still is encouraged in the Lord. There are two members in **OMAN**.

PAKISTAN has suffered from terrorism and instability. Our believers are always at the verge of martyrdom for the sake of the gospel. It is a nation that hates and persecutes Christians.

The believers here are trying to acquire a plot for a church in Karachi, the business city—and to establish a school.

We do have 2 members in **SAUDI ARABIA** who have moved to this Arab nation. This is one of the hardest countries to do missionary work. Our people, however, try their best to find souls for Christ and also remain strong to the core.

There are interested souls in **SINGAPORE**, and we keep on communicating

with them. Soon there will be avenues opened for our work to be established.

SRI LANKA is a perpetually war-stricken country. The just-ended ethno-political conflict sees bomb blasts almost every day and military actions everywhere. However, the country was visited several times and the brethren and sisters encouraged. We held a camp meeting in December 2010. It’s our duty to pray for this troubled country and our believers there.

We do have some interested souls in **THAILAND**.

There are four members in the nation of **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**. There is a great potential to do a missionary venture in this country.

Overall, there is a real spirit of excitement, thankfulness, and unity among our people. God is knitting us together with His web of love, consolidating friendships and brotherhood that the work may go forward.

We are also praying and considering other regions of the world where we might be of help. We plan to continue and extend our services to God’s flock of missionary workers around the world. But friend, that’s where you come in. It is only because of your prayers and financial support that we are able to help many missionaries stay on their field of service and continue their vital work for the Lord. As we do, more and more people will have the experience of hearing the gospel for the first time, and letting the words of scripture “wash over them” in a life-transforming way.

Thank you for caring about those who haven’t heard, and for those who have dedicated their lives to bring the Good Tidings! May God be with us and bless and strengthen us all. AMEN. *R*

References

¹ *Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 25.

² *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 188, 189.

MISSION IN ACTION

Presented by the Regional Secretary, Bro. Eduardo Lainez

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN REGION



With great thankfulness for God's protection and the blessing of our brethren and sisters, "wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear" (Hebrews 12:28).

The Central American Region is located in the center of the American continent which serves three unions:

Mexico, Central America, and Colombia; three fields: Venezuela, Dominican Republic, and Haiti; six missions: Puerto Rico, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Lucia, Guyana, and French Guyana. The Region has an estimated 2,400 members, ecclesiastically served by 13 ministers and 18 elders. Following the American isthmus from north to south, it comprises the countries of MEXICO, GUATEMALA, BELIZE, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, COSTA RICA, PANAMA, COLOMBIA, and VENEZUELA. In the

Caribbean Sea the places where we have membership are HAITI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, PUERTO RICO, GUADELOUPE, MARTINIQUE, SAINT LUCIA, DOMINICA, GUYANA, and FRENCH GUIANA. The total is 19 countries. In the other islands where we have Sabbath School students include BARBADOS, JAMAICA, and CUBA.

During this term there has been an increase in the membership of the church, and we have had the privilege of anointing new ministers and elders, reaching new regions in countries where we already have the work estab-

Reaching out to new souls, educating the next generation.

lished, and in making contacts with other countries.

Missionary schools are established in the following countries: Mexico, Honduras, Colombia, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, and Haiti. These schools have been supported and led by the General Conference. I am thankful for this valuable contribution to our region. In addition, the Lord has blessed us with:

- 6 elementary schools (Mexico, Honduras, and Colombia).
- 2 high schools (Honduras and Colombia).
- 1 colporteur school (Honduras).

The missionary schools and colporteur school have been of great value in the preparation of the young people who are happily accepting the call to work in the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank the Lord for giving us many young people in the Central American Region, as can be seen in the youth conventions, conferences, and other spiritual meetings. Most of them are a valuable promise that can carry the responsibilities of the holy cause of the holy gospel in the future.

The colporteur work has been a great spiritual and economic blessing in whichever country it has been established. The countries of this Region with the greatest potential in the colporteur work are Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, Panama, Nicaragua, Colombia, and Venezuela. Thanks to the efforts of the Colporteur Department director and the Publishing Department of the General Conference, it has been possible to maintain active the colporteur work in this Region. May God's name be praised.

With the wonderful assistance from the brethren and sisters throughout the globe in the form of the First Sabbath Offerings, donations from the General Conference, the collaboration

of volunteers from the United States of America in their project to help Honduras, other donations and local efforts from the local brethren, new properties have been purchased, new temples have been built, others have been repaired from being ruined by natural disasters, and other projects are under construction. It is not possible to mention them all, but we, the brethren and sisters of this region are grateful for all your great help.

May the Lord's blessing be poured in this solemn assembly is the desire of my heart, and let us keep in mind the vocation of our high calling to which we have been called with the inspired words from the Lord's servant:

"The greatest work, the noblest effort, in which men can engage, is to point sinners to the Lamb of God. True ministers are colaborers with the Lord in the accomplishment of His purposes. God says to them, Go, teach and preach Christ. Instruct and educate all who know not of His grace, His goodness, and His mercy. Teach the people. 'How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?' (Romans 10:14). . . .

" 'How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!' 'Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the Lord hath comforted His people, He hath redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord hath made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God' (Isaiah 52:7, 9, 10)."¹ *R*

References

- ¹ *Gospel Workers*, pp. 18, 19.



MISSION IN ACTION

Presented by the Regional Secretary, Bro. Simeon Karvatski

THE EURASIAN REGION



Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him” (Hebrews 10:35–38).

“There is a great work to be done in the earth, and the Lord Jesus has taken men into copartnership with Himself, in order that heavenly agencies may cooperate with human agencies. Christ

was in travail of soul for the redemption of the world, and those who are laborers together with God are representatives of Christ to our world and will have compassion for the lost and will travail in soul for the redemption of men. Unless the church awakes and attends to her post of duty, God will charge the loss of souls to her account. I have a deep interest that the work of God shall advance.”¹

What do we see today? The earth cannot bear the people’s iniquity anymore. In politics we see only land redistribution. The developments in the economic and religious movements impel us to serious meditation and action as we prepare for the final

events. Only because of the work that is being done in heaven in our behalf, as described in Revelation 7:1–3, that we have been able to hold this delegation session once more in Romania.

The Eurasian Region is very vast and is composed of many countries of different nationalities, different political systems, different religions known worldwide as well as locally. We find them all here! The climate is mostly rigorous and cold.

THE EAST-EUROPEAN UNION embraces the countries of Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Latvia, and Belarus.

The life of the church and its ministry cannot be divided. That is the reason why in **UKRAINE** we conduct—for the insiders as well as for the

The warmth of Christ's truth radiates comfort in this rigorous and cold climate.

outsiders of the church—seminars on medical, welfare, youth, and children's programs. We organize outside libraries in crowded places. We have spiritual meetings and delegation sessions in the fields and unions regularly. We have baptisms and new people are brought into the church. Besides that, we prepare the workers for ordination and ordain them for the ministry. There are other ministries that we are doing in the church as well. We are living and working among the people of this world, and their interests are changing—they are more interested in the things of the world. There are also difficulties and controversies, for sure.

In Ukraine we organized a missionary school with the participation of brethren from the General Conference. As a result 85% of the former students are actively engaged in the work in several countries.

RUSSIA is a huge country where we have a lot of work to do, but we have limited religious freedom there. The influence of the Orthodox Church is growing stronger, yet notwithstanding the difficulties, the work of our church is developing with God's help. We organize missionary programs in different places, youth and children's programs, and we conduct baptisms. Gospel workers from other countries are been sent to this field to help in the ministry.

In the near future we plan to organize the Russian Union, and this is only the beginning of the work that is to be carrying forward according to Christ's commission.

In **KAZAKHSTAN** and **UZBEKISTAN** Islam dominates and it is especially fanatical and political in Uzbekistan. There is religious intolerance, and they are introducing stricter laws against Christianity. Many people have had to move to other countries. But the work is still going on as we organize different programs and

conduct individualized work with the local people.

The work slowly moves forward in **BELARUS** also. We are preparing workers who will move to this country to activate the missionary work. There we have different opposing forces, but we have possibilities to work there.

We can say that there is religious freedom in the **BALTIC COUNTRIES**, and we can work there notwithstanding other forms of difficulties that exist in the area. Because of the financial crisis, people are moving to different countries to find work, and this migration causes us to lose contact with the people. We have members and interested people there, and we need more workers that know their localized languages.

MOLDOVA is a very small country, and it is very God-fearing. The Moldovan Union consists of three fields. We have had spiritual meetings and delegation sessions there. They are organizing various spiritual meetings, missionary programs, seminars, youth and children programs, weddings, baptisms, and ordinations. They are also building new churches.

There is also some work being done in **TURKEY**, where we have church members. We have had good results despite the difficulties, hindrances, and controversies. Many members are moving to other countries.

POLAND is a Catholic country. The Reform Movement is registered there. We organize different meetings in this country and conduct missionary work with the help of the young people. In February 2010 we had a medical-missionary outreach there. The headquarters of the Field is in Katowice.

In **CZECH REPUBLIC** the people are very indifferent—religiously speaking. They are not interested in spiritual things, even though in name only they are Lutherans, Hussites, and Catholics. Our church is organized

there as a missionary field, and we have an ordained minister working there. We pay much attention to the missionary work in this country as the people are not acquainted with the Reform Movement. We are planning to buy a property for a place of worship. In March 2010 we held a medical-missionary outreach in Liberec. Many people were interested in the teachings of our church, and new interests have developed.

There is need of a worker for **SLOVAKIA**. Here the people are more receptive and are seeking for the truth.

There are members in **ISRAEL**. Due to the country's constant political and religious conflicts, there are difficulties for our people. They move to different areas, and we lose contact with them. But there are opportunities to work there.

My wish and prayer is that there should be no new teachings or new ideas in the doctrinal questions in the Reform Movement as we are not to be exposed to the influences of the world—and especially to the influences of other churches. In our life and in the service we are to follow the heavenly example: "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it. . . . And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount" (Exodus 25:8, 9, 40). Then we'll have success and the Lord's blessings! "Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).

May the Lord bless you abundantly! *R*

Reference

¹ *Testimonies to Ministers*, pp. 198, 199.

Adapted From the Report of Marin Barbu

THE EUROPEAN REGION



Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders" (Psalm 107:31,32).

The continent of Europe has been deeply affected by the worldwide financial crisis, and as believers we have sought with fasting and prayer to find solutions on a local level for the many problems it has caused to families in all economic brackets. Our fellow coworkers have been concerned to maintain our standards high so that our churches

can be centers for education and preparation of our future missionaries, and they have also made plans as to how to spread the present truth. In some countries, our spiritual conferences have been held in different cities than before and new people interested in Bible truth have been invited to attend. In other countries nutrition seminars have been planned, along with seminars on health, family life, prophecy, and evangelistic methods.

Geneva has been under the attention of the GC for the organizing of an ample public evangelistic action in the summer of 2010. Since then a good influence and interested souls continue in SWITZERLAND.

During the last four years, the Reform Movement has had the following organization structure in this continent: two unions (Romanian and the South Slavonic), nine fields (Austrian, Bulgarian, French, North German, South German, Hungarian, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish) and the English and Finnish Fields.

In ROMANIA, on January 1, 2010, in a solemn atmosphere, 37 students graduated from the courses of the missionary school in Fagaras, being available to contribute with their talents wherever they will be needed. A new group took their place in the classroom.

Various seminars, youth conventions, and spiritual conventions have been organized. At the same time, our printing shop has offered a large and varied

Faced with new economic challenges, the European believers press on by faith.

choice of publications at prices accessible to all categories of readers, so that the Present Truth should be able to find access into the houses of the people.

The **SOUTH SLAVONIC UNION** has especially enjoyed positive spiritual growth lately. Twice a year, in the beautiful building of Stara Pazova, spiritual conferences have been held where the believers from all the republics composing the Union have been encouraged by the interesting spiritual and health studies. Public meetings have been conducted in Novi Sad as well. In this city, through the hard work, goodwill, and generosity of the brethren and sisters abroad, a new chapel has been erected. The young people in Croatia contributed to the organizing and conducting of the evangelistic meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2010, and we hope that with their energies they will dedicate themselves unto other missionary activities in Europe in the coming years, encouraging other young people to get involved in missionary action.

The Austrian Field consists of three local churches: Wolfen, Graz, Vienna, and several isolated members. In **AUSTRIA** there are two Bible workers and in Wolfen (where the current headquarters of the Austrian Field is located), spiritual conventions are held quite often with the participation of the brethren and sisters from Germany, Romania, and Italy.

In **BULGARIA** our brethren and sisters have been blessed with two new chapels since 2007. With great sacrifice, they bought and renovated a 3-story building in the Kiril i Metodi Sreet in Sofia, where the Bulgarian headquarters is located. In 2010 the believers purchased a nice building in Dolno Oriahovita, with a garden and inner courtyard, and there we had our first spiritual convention and delegation session.

In **FRANCE**, there are believers in greater Paris and Grenoble. In 2010 the young people in the French Field had a successful involvement in the Geneva evangelistic program.

In **GERMANY**, twice a year the believers from the North German Field (to which the believers in **DENMARK**, **SWEDEN**, and **HOLLAND** are attached), and the South German Field (to which the members of Switzerland are attached), they all come together in Lindach, where the headquarters of the South Field is located. Here they organize seminars, public meetings, and youth conventions.

The majority of our members in the **ITALIAN FIELD** live and work in the northern half of the territory, being organized in the local churches of Trieste, Turin, Milan, Ponti a Poppi, but there is also an active group in Rome as well as many isolated brethren and sisters spread in the different regions of the country.

In **HUNGARY** there are almost 200 members organized in several local churches and groups all around the country. The members gather for three or even four times a year in Mogyorod, close to Budapest, in the nice chapel which hosts our headquarters in Hungary. Here they conduct medical-missionary seminars, family seminars, youth conventions, nutrition seminars, and spiritual conventions. The young people are very active, helping with their nice brass band and the well-prepared choir to missionary activities in Hungary and even abroad.

Even with the absence of a permanent minister in **PORTUGAL**, the Lord has richly blessed His work there. A group of dedicated members invested their means in advertising two health books, and the Lord returned the money and brought the blessing of people interested in the truth. The new building of the Montijo chapel has been built, they bought a nice chapel in Portimao for the Moldavian brethren and sisters who are organized as a local church there, they prepared the new candidates for baptism, and many people wrote letters of thanks for the books sent. In April 2010, the

chapel in Montijo was dedicated, and the meetings of our local church continue to be held there, as well as seminars, public conferences, and interesting youth conventions. In January 2011, Portugal hosted the first musical congress held in Europe, with very interesting topics.

The brethren and sisters in **SPAIN** are spread all over the country. There are groups and local churches in Madrid, Barcelona, Castellon, and Malaga. The members from Madrid and the surroundings gather at our property in Alcala de Henares. Here they organize seminars, public conferences, and youth conventions.

In **GREAT BRITAIN** there are almost 20 friends who meet each Sabbath in a rented place in London.

In **FINLAND** there is a group of faithful brethren and sisters who live close to Helsinki, and they encourage themselves each Sabbath studying our *Sabbath Bible Lessons*.

In **ALBANIA** there is a group of approximately 20 people interested in the truth. A family has been sent to work in Vlore (on the Eastern shore of the Adriatic Sea). The *Sabbath Bible Lessons*, the book *Steps to Christ*, and various pamphlets have been translated and printed in Albanian and widely distributed. We hope to see some fruits soon of the sacrifices made in Albania.

Throughout most of Europe, Christendom has lost the moral and religious power it had during the time of the Reformers. The countries of Europe must be evangelized again. Non-Christian religions have developed here as a result of the migration to the west of Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus. In this region we need well-prepared missionaries who are able to face these serious challenges. All need to be on guard against the increasing challenges and even against persecution. May the heavenly Father strengthen and sanctify us with the beneficial presence of the Holy Spirit! *R*

Adapted From the Report of Liviu Tudoroiu

THE NORTH AMERICAN REGION



*I*f, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help" (2 Chronicles 20:9).

It would have never crossed anyone's mind that the events of recent years could become a reality.

In the midst of apocalyptic events, the Reform Movement, a relatively small number of people, looks with astonishment at the forces of light and darkness colliding for the last and most apprehensive conflict ever. In this global crisis, we, the brethren and sisters from the North American Region, have survived with the hope that the people of God will stand the test of time.

As CANADA is geographically the second largest country in the world,

the Reform Movement manifests its presence in the three major units: the East Canadian Field, the Quebec Mission, and the West Canadian Field. Our members from this area share their generous support to God's work around the world.

The UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is the country of the Bible. It is the place where the largest amount of translations, printing, and exportation of the Holy Book has been done, in comparison with any other country in the world. It is the

As we reach out to the world by faith, the Lord opens new doors.

country that has offered the world the best version of what freedom was meant to be. Many countries, far and near, have followed in a certain way the pattern of the United States Constitution for a while. The people of God in America have benefited for a long period of time of all the privileges and prosperity of which other countries have never dreamed. At the present time things are changing with an overwhelming rapidity. The global economical collapse, and events without precedent like the "9/11" calamity, have all called for a serious review of what America wants to become, and inevitably as a normal course of action, what the world wants to become. Changes in the educational perspective, culture, mentality, and behavior will redefine the values of religion and faith for what we call in our religious vocabulary—the end of time.

In the United States of America, the Reform Movement has historical roots as well. The organizational structure displays one union (west coast), under the name of the Western North American Union (WNAU), and three other fields: the South East U.S. Field, the East-Central U.S. Field, and the Eastern U.S. Field.

Every servant of the Lord Jesus must have a passion for souls. I fervently believe that administration is not the purpose itself but a means through which we accomplish a professional, well-organized activity in God's vineyard. The church, however, is organized for service—the salvation of souls. That is why the preaching of the gospel must have priority. Beside administration, which is very much needed, our hearts must be on the side of saving souls.

The Lord's work has continued to be carried on in various places in the United States, but here are a few samples of some of the new projects

that have been done in this important country:

An international GC project was held in **LAS VEGAS** (Nevada) where the "Ultimate Collapse Series" was presented. The project continues to be taken care of by the WNAU as an organized church. We have a constant attendance of visitors and interested souls. The goal is that by next year the new Nevada Mission will become a reality.

A series of Revelation studies was presented in **NASHVILLE** (Tennessee) to new souls interested in the Present Truth.

A prophecy seminar called "Exit to the End" was held in **WASHINGTON, DC**. The support of the field was great. A web page was created and over 12,000 hits were noticed accessing the page.

A new project was started in **ROCKLIN** (California), which combines the health and spiritual aspects of the truth for this time. It was entitled "Health Impact 2011," and the outcome was very good. A meeting called "Changing Lifestyle" followed. Today there is a consistent group of over 10 participants continuing to visit.

The same project was held in **OCALA**, (Florida), where the brethren and sisters were very cooperative as well. It was well attended, and a lot of people were interested in a follow-up.

Another "Health Impact 2011" meeting was held in **BEAUMONT** (California) near Loma Linda, a traditional SDA environment. It is worthy to mention that the attendees were a diverse group, and that we also had an Egyptian family attending, who were impressed with the nature of the seminar, and the way we introduced the truth to the people.

May God the Father of all people, the God of the whole universe, be in control of the work and the conclusion of His work. Amen. *R*



Adapted From the Report of John Ciric

THE PACIFIC REGION



*A*rise, 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" (Isaiah 60:1-3).

The Pacific Region has grown since the Lord called me to work in this very vast and diverse part of the world.

There are three organized unions: the Australasian Union, and the North and South Chinese Unions.

We are thankful to the Lord that **AUSTRALIA** has taken a supporting role in the Region. Many countries are looking to Australia for personnel, financial, moral, and spiritual support. The Australasian Union has given much support to the work in the Region and especially in the island missions of the South Pacific. Further, it continues to help as needed in providing training programs and assisting in many situations in these developing missions. Presently, there

is one worker and a trainee-worker in **NEW ZEALAND**. There was recently a baptism, and several visitors are also being prepared for baptism. The main line of work is visiting individuals and groups, Bible studies, Bible correspondence courses, and also going from door to door distributing our literature. Another method used is by giving out or letterboxing with the card offering the book or correspondence course. The method seems to be working fine.

The work in **PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG)** is carried out by the local members. We entered there in 1998, and we thank the Lord that the work is steadily progressing, despite the difficulties that the enemy of souls throws on our

The Lords has precious jewels in this wide and heavily-populated region.

way. The country is developing and our fellow believers there are in need. A number of younger brethren are carrying the burden of the work and are looking to extend the work further from home into new areas of PNG where the message has not yet reached. Of 24 provinces, we have already reached nearly half of them.

Thank the Lord our brethren and sisters in **FIJI** are having good experiences in proclaiming this wonderful message. The work started in 1998—six months before PNG. There was some interest here, and we continued to build on that. Work has steadily progressed since that time, and we thank the Lord that most of the believers are well established in the truth.

The mission field in **SAMOA** consists of two islands: Western, and American Samoa. There are members on both islands, organized into one field. A seminar was recently held there as well as a baptism.

The Lord works in many ways that we do not expect. *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 300, was experienced on this group of islands. A brother and sister from Australia spent their vacation in **VANUATU**, where they encountered a keen interest in our message. Studies followed with two groups here—and as a result, many are now part of God's church in this archipelago of little islands and few large islands. There are three full-time Bible workers who are actively working for the Lord in proclaiming this precious message. On these islands both English and French are spoken, and we praise the Lord for some younger people who speak both of these languages so the message is carried strongly throughout the islands.

We have also received a donation of land and a church building from a brother who is now our member. By the grace of the Lord we have been able to register our church. One of our Australian brethren runs a school in Vanuatu, and it is a wonderful witness to the community of the message for this time.

We can be thankful to the Lord for the wonderful work that is going on in **FRENCH POLYNESIA**. The way the brethren are working is by involving all the membership. How do they do that? They grow watermelons to finance the Lord's cause. I have witnessed them in action. One brother gave some land to plant watermelons. Then the believers all come together to prepare the soil, then another day they plant the seeds, and all take turns watering them. Three months later they can easily sell the beautiful crop. That is how they have now been able to carry the message to every island in the archipelago.

In **NEW CALEDONIA** there are two groups, though no Bible worker. The believers are holding to the truth and are sharing with people around them the message of salvation. They have a lovely church building where they are meeting regularly.

Thanks to the Lord, the work in **JAPAN** is steady, and the brethren and sisters are looking to increase their borders. There is new interest in the truth for this time, and it is our hope that some of the interested ones will make their covenant with the Lord. He has been merciful to the members there and protected them in the time of the great natural disaster in this populous country, and we lost none.

The work in **KOREA** continues to grow, and small gains are made. This is a strong Buddhist country, but thanks to the Lord that the work continues to progress steadily from year to year. New souls have been added to the church over time. The brethren and sisters are in good courage and making plans how to carry the work to new places and reach new people. This is a fast developing country and great effort is needed, as people are not used to Christian values.

MONGOLIA is a large landlocked country in Asia, situated between China on the south and Russia on the north. The capital Ulaanbaatar is grow-

ing very fast with capital investments from outside. Since all those that were baptized come from a Buddhist background, they are slow to fully grasp the precious message of Christ. Our way of life—and especially vegetarianism—is hard for the people to understand. The work here is not easy, and to survive one must have a lot of determination and encouragement.

CHINA is the largest country in our Region and the most populous in the world. The message continues to reach new people and places, but still we are really only scratching the surface. Over 1.4 billion people live and work in this country and supply the world's needs in goods of all descriptions. The work is truly great and the laborers are few, but they continue to press on and reach out to new areas. The brethren and sisters are active and continue to look at ways and means to witness.

VIETNAM is the second-to-last country where our message has entered. This is a Communist country, and restrictions are in force. Our Lord has children here also and is calling us to do the work while the day lasts. The membership of Vietnam has grown to be near 90.

Although **NORTH KOREA** is one of the most restricted countries, and we still do not have members there, this wonderful message is nonetheless finding its place in the hearts of a number of people who are studying our *Sabbath Bible Lessons*.

Contact is also being made with believers in **CAMBODIA** and **LAOS**. At present no actual visits are made, but literature is passed on to them. We pray that the Lord will open the way for the message to be shared freely.

SOLOMON ISLANDS is the most recent country in our Region where the message has been taken. By God's grace, we now have members there as well.

May the mighty power of our heavenly Father attend this message, and that the name of Jesus may be proclaimed to all the world! *R*

THE SOUTH AMERICAN REGION



Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

"Now is the time for God's people to show themselves true to principle. When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be

our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason."¹

"I saw a company who stood well guarded and firm, giving no countenance to those who would unsettle the established faith of the body."²

The Lord assures us: "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel" (Exodus 19:5, 6).

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodli-

ness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:11–14).

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" (1 Peter 2:11).

"Seventh-day Adventists have been chosen by God as a peculiar people, separate from the world."³

"When the truth we now cherish was first seen to be Bible truth, how very strange it appeared, and how strong was the opposition we had to meet in presenting it to the people for the first time; but how earnest and sincere were

The Lord calls us to a solemn re-consecration and a renewing of our vows to be faithful to our high calling as Reformers.

the obedient, truth-loving laborers! We were indeed a peculiar people. We were few in numbers, without wealth, without worldly wisdom or worldly honors; and yet we believed God and were strong and successful, a terror to evildoers. Our love for one another was steadfast; it was not easily shaken."⁴

"As a people, we are looked upon as peculiar. Our position and faith distinguish us from every other denomination. If we are in life and character no better than worldlings, they will point the finger of scorn at us and say: 'These are Seventh-day Adventists.'"⁵

"It is Satan's work to mingle evil with good, and to remove the distinction between good and evil. Christ would have a church that labors to separate the evil from the good, whose members will not willingly tolerate wrongdoing, but will expel it from the heart and life."⁶

"Those who will be heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ to the immortal inheritance, will be peculiar. Yes, so peculiar that God places a mark upon them as His, wholly His. Think ye that God will receive, honor, and acknowledge a people so mixed up with the world that they differ from them only in name?"⁷

"Jesus is coming; and will He find a people conformed to the world? and will He acknowledge these as His people that He has purified unto Himself? Oh, no. None but the pure and holy will He acknowledge as His. Those who have been purified and made white through suffering, and have kept themselves separate, unspotted from the world, He will own as His."⁸

"Satan has devised a state of things whereby the proclamation of the third angel's message shall be bound about. We must beware of his plans and methods. There must be no toning down of the truth."⁹

"Our only safety is to stand as God's peculiar people. We must not yield one inch to the customs and fashions of this degenerate age, but stand in moral

independence, making no compromise with its corrupt and idolatrous practices. It will require courage and independence to rise above the religious standard of the Christian world."¹⁰

This is a solemn moment for our movement, as almost all of our dear pioneers are resting, and as new workers continue the Lord's work, that the same faith, courage, and zeal for the truth that our pioneers had may also be ours. We feel the mighty hand of God upon His humble people during these 86 years of our existence as the prophesied Reform Movement. May the faith and the holy doctrines that make us a peculiar and separate people from the world be strengthened and confirmed.

Seminars and baptisms are being held, our institutions are carrying out our important mission throughout South America, where our work has already been established in most of the countries in that continent. Here are just a few samples of the newer projects which have occurred recently:

The first boarding school is now in **PERU**, a joint venture of great significance to our work, especially in the sense of preparing the young people to serve in the cause.

The canvassing work is established in almost all the countries, especially in **BRAZIL**, where we experimented with a canvassing school with positive results. By the grace of God we held the first holy convocation of canvassers in Brazil. We concluded with a dinner for the participants, there being approximately 300 people. It was a very uplifting experience for our people, especially for the colporteurs. Our goal is to have a worldwide holy convocation for colporteurs.

In regards to the economy we have been greatly blessed. We have established the biblical teaching found in Romans 13:8, to work without debts, and we have moved forward in this direction.

In almost all the unions and fields, pastors and ministers from their own countries are leading out the Lord's work. This is a great victory for our Region.

In some South American countries the effects of global warming have been felt: For example, floods, earthquakes, and droughts. On the day of the huge Chilean earthquake, we praise God that we were still able to have our Sabbath School. Throughout the whole Sabbath day we felt the earth tremble beneath our feet. Electricity and communications were down. After a few days, along with the pastors of the Union, we went to visit our brethren and sisters who were affected the most. By a miracle from God, not one of our Chilean believers had lost his or her life. For all this may His name be praised. We believe that the mercy of God was and is about His humble people, who by His grace are looking to do His will.

Let us always keep in mind God's design that there always be a live testimony in the church, that His people may be one; that they may have the same vision, the same spirit. This cannot be done without a clear, definite, and live testimony within the church.

The Lord calls us to a solemn re-consecration and a renewing of our vows to be faithful to our high calling as Reformers.

"It would be a scene well-pleasing to God and angels, would His professed followers in this generation unite, as did Israel of old [referring especially to the revival in the days of Nehemiah], in a solemn covenant to 'observe and do all the commandments of the Lord our Lord, and his judgments and his statutes' (Nehemiah 10:29)."¹⁰ *R*

References

¹ *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 136.

² *Early Writings*, p. 258.

³ *Christian Service*, p. 147.

⁴ *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 534.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 138.

⁶ *The Review and Herald*, December 4, 1900.

⁷ *Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 287.

⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 133.

⁹ *Evangelism*, p. 230.

¹⁰ *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 78.

¹¹ *The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 3, p. 1139.

"Our Conference meetings, in which business seasons when the heavenly counsels are

HIGHLIGHTS THE D



A number of recommendations from the temporary Medical Committee were considered by the session, including the following:

A Health Correspondence Course consisting of 12 lessons has been prepared, and it was agreed to forward this to the incoming Publications/Review Committee for approval and publishing.

The decision for permanent Regional Health Committees to be established in every region to oversee the medical missionary work was well received.

A decision was also made to provide educational materials on:

- Nutrition (providing information on the proper use of fats and oils, carbohydrates, calorie intake, omega 3 and vitamin B₁₂ intake, and the detrimental effects of consuming soft drinks such as Coca Cola, coffee, and teas containing stimulants).

- Diseases (including information and health instruction regarding modern diseases which affect our church members such as arthritis, diabetes, stress, high cholesterol, and obesity).

- Electronic devices (including information regarding the health risks associated with the use of mobile phones and electronic devices on the body; as well as those associated with the use of TV, the Internet, and computer games).



relating to the cause is transacted, are special made known to those assembled."

The General Conference Bulletin, February 4, 1895.

HTS FROM DECISIONS

• Lifestyle (the health risks involved in practicing poor sleeping habits, lack of regular exercise, living a sedentary lifestyle, and the wearing of high-heeled footwear).

All of our Missionary Schools are now to include some theoretical and practical training in medical missionary work within their compulsory curriculum and in the training of missionaries. This is in harmony with the following counsel: "I wish to tell you that soon there will be no work done in ministerial lines but medical missionary work."¹

It was also decided that suitably trained personnel within each region be selected to run training seminars for the ministers and workers of the region in the area of medical missionary work. "In new fields no work is so successful as medical missionary work. If our ministers would work earnestly to obtain an education in medical missionary lines, they would be far better fitted to do the work Christ did as a medical missionary."²

In addition to the selection of regional trainers, it was decided that every union and General Conference Unit elect local medical missionary department officers to lead out in the medical missionary

work within its units, and that each union/General Conference Unit should send its medical missionary reports regularly to the GC Medical Missionary Department.

The servant of the Lord has told us: "I wish to say that the medical missionary work is God's work. The Lord wants every one of His ministers to come into line. Take hold of the medical missionary work, and it will give you access to the people. Their hearts will be touched as you minister to their necessities. As you relieve their sufferings, you will find opportunity to speak to them of the love of Jesus."³



"[God] has so arranged matters that delegates to our conferences. These men



After considering the successful medical outreach programs conducted in the previous term, it was decided that medical teams continue to be organized to visit needy areas in order to conduct medical missionary outreach programs.

The temporary Medical Committee also presented its recommendations on IVF (in vitro fertilization) treatments and the health issues associated with various birth control methods. These recommendations have been forwarded to the incoming Doctrinal Committee for further consideration from an ethical perspective.

An appeal was also made for the support of the sanatoriums in Brazil and Romania.

As a

result of the **Plans Committee** report, the following decisions were made:

- A Music subcommittee, functioning under the Youth Department, is to be created and charged with the task of preparing guideline materials that will be sent to all units of the General Conference.
- The Missionary Department should consider expanding evangelistic missionary projects in developing countries, as well as to focus missionary efforts in unreached areas for the salvation of souls.
- The preparation of suitable evangelistic materials, including Bible Study Guides, PowerPoint Presentations, and video materials such as "Treasures of Truth," was given to the incoming Missionary Department Committee to implement them.
- It was agreed that in order to involve and empower lay members to do missionary work, every local church should organize small missionary teams.

The delegates considered further recommendations from the Finance Committee and Plans Committee. The main decisions included the following:

- It was clarified that a "new mission" should be self-supporting within a six-year period from the time of its initial development. In an effort to encourage the financial independence of new missions, the General Conference administration will assist these missions with the design and imple-



*chosen men shall go as
are to be tried and proved."*

Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 262.

mentation of income-generating projects. The Stewardship Department will be responsible to raise welfare seed funds for these projects.

- The Sabbath School Department was urged to dedicate at least one quarterly during each four-year term of the *Sabbath Bible Lessons* to the subject of missionary work.

- The four-year cycles of Sabbath School lessons for teenagers (13–16) and juniors (9–12), which have some lessons still to be published for each cycle, are to be completed as soon as possible.

- The importance of the welfare work was recognized by the delegates, and a decision was taken that in order for the welfare work to function more efficiently and to be better organized, the GC Stewardship/Welfare Department will provide the necessary orientation and support to each unit in order to have this work registered wherever this department is not yet recognized by the government.

Porumbacu Declaration

It was resolved that the ministry of the church take a firm position regarding the various aspects of worldliness in the areas of health, dress, and Sabbath reform as stated in our existing resolutions. We



“Raise the standard of piety and truth and holiness Compare scripture with scripture. Encourage



need to clearly implement the disciplinary process as found in Matthew 18:15–18 with the purpose of rescuing these souls from peril. This work is to begin with the ministers (Hosea 4:9; Proverbs 27:23; *Evangelism*, p. 272:1). We need to understand that personal ideas that are not clearly stated in

the existing resolutions are not to be promoted by any worker.

The following work needs to be done:

- The most important work is that of self-examination, first for the ministry and then of the membership at large (2 Corinthians 13:5).

- Each minister needs to understand the principles found in Matthew 18 regarding the personal labor for souls in sacrificing his own self-dignity and even laying down his life for the salvation of the souls he is working with (*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 128, 129). Individual ministers should not contact those in leadership roles for assistance until they have done their personal labor.

- There is further need to educate the churches at large to understand the clear biblical reasons underlying the principles of our church regarding the beliefs as found in the existing resolutions. The work of educating the churches must be combined with the presentation of the messages from the book of Revelation in connection with Christ as our personal Savior. “If our people were half awake, if they realized the nearness of the events portrayed in the Revelation, a reformation would be wrought in our churches, and many more would believe the message. . . . But whatever phase of the subject is presented, uplift Jesus as the center of all hope, ‘the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright and morning Star’ (Revelation 22:16).”⁴

- The only way to succeed in the work of reformation is that each member must understand his or her need of a Saviour. “Before there could be any permanent reformation the people must be led to feel their utter inability in themselves to render obedience to God. They had broken His law, it condemned them as transgressors, and it provided no way of escape. While they trusted in their own strength and righteousness, it was impossible for them to secure the pardon of their sins; they could not meet the claims of God’s perfect law, and it was in vain that they pledged themselves to serve God. It was only



higher, still higher.
the people to study their Bibles."⁵

Manuscript Releases, vol. 20, pp. 170, 171.

by faith in Christ that they could secure pardon of sin and receive strength to obey God's law. They must cease to rely upon their own efforts for salvation, they must trust wholly in the merits of the promised Saviour, if they would be accepted of God."⁵

- After working with souls for a sufficient time, "All exhibitions of pride in dress, which is forbidden in the word of God, should be sufficient reason for church discipline."⁶ This applies to all areas of worldliness, including intemperance in working, eating, drinking, dressing, and sleeping.⁷

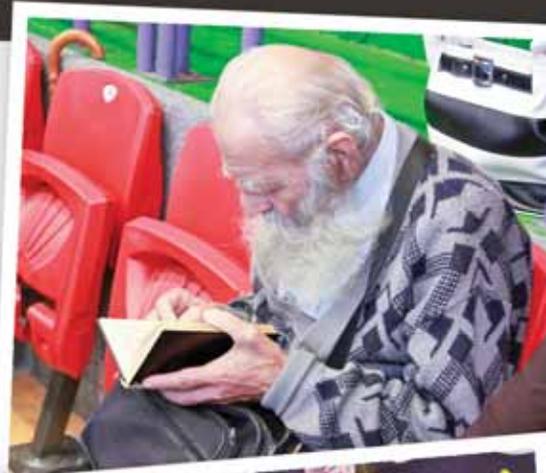
- The workers and ministers who do not produce the fruit of their labors within twelve months need to evaluate their calling. "To those whom He calls to the work of the ministry, the Lord will give tact and skill and understanding. If after laboring for twelve months in evangelistic work, a man has no fruit to show for his efforts, if the people for whom he has labored are not benefited, if he has not lifted the standard in new places, and no souls are converted by his labors, that man should humble his heart before God, and endeavor to know if he has not mistaken his calling. The wages paid by the conference should be given to those who show fruit for their labor."⁸

- "Jesus is coming; and will He find a people conformed to the world? and will He acknowledge these as His people that He has purified unto Himself?"

Oh, no. None but the pure and holy will He acknowledge as His. Those who have been purified and made white through suffering, and have kept themselves separate, unspotted from the world, He will own as His."⁹ "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). *R*

References

- ¹ *Evangelism*, p. 523.
- ² *Medical Ministry*, p. 239.
- ³ *Evangelism*, pp. 523, 524.
- ⁴ *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 118.
- ⁵ *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 524.
- ⁶ *Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 647.
- ⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 6, p. 374.
- ⁸ *Evangelism*, pp. 686, 687.
- ⁹ *Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 133.



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Building in Harmony

"We are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building" (1 Corinthians 3:9).

By B. Montrose

When Jesus lived as the Son of Man on earth, He was a carpenter who built things. It's amazing to think how the same One who designed and built the whole universe also came to our little world to build! He who had been the exalted commander in heaven laid aside His kingly crown to live and labor among us. He started His career on earth by working together with Joseph in the carpenter's shop. There He gave a simple example to us of how to cooperate cheerfully with others to achieve something good.

In order for any project to succeed, the people working on it must be willing to help each other and work together. Remember what happened at the tower of Babel: When the languages were confused, those laying the brick at the top could no longer work with those at the base. Men were posted at different points, each to receive and report to the next below him the orders for needed material, or other directions regarding the work.

But the messages got mixed up, so the wrong materials were sent. Confusion and dismay followed. All the work came to a stop; there was no more harmony or cooperation. The builders became an-

gry and blamed each other. The whole plan fell apart in strife and bloodshed. The project ended up a disaster! That is where the name "Babylon" comes from—it means "confusion."

The opposite is found among the children of God. We are called to leave the Babylon of this world. We are called to cooperate in obeying God, not in rebelling to do our own will and way. When the church comes together for worship or business, we work together. Sweet harmony and order are to prevail. Each person has his or her assigned task or duty. If we do not keep in mind what we are trying to accomplish, and who is to do what, the result will be off balance—and confusion will result.

That is why the church holds big worldwide meetings every four years. There we can remind ourselves of the wonderful faith we share and the truths we believe. We can decide the plans we have to promote the upholding and spreading of the everlasting gospel in this earth. We can figure out in a fair and intelligent way who should do what, and where they should do it. Then the project that Christ has assigned to us—His great commission of going to all the world to preach the gospel to every creature—will bring glory and honor to His name. And we will have the delightful joy of getting to help!

The apostle Paul explains: "Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. . . . I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:8-11). *R*

