



General Conference Executive Committee Newsletter

An informative publication for members of the General Conference Executive Committee as a service through the office of the Chair

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2020

ANNUAL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 6-8, 2020
VIA ZOOM



BREAKING NEWS

2020 GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION POSTPONED AGAIN

During a January 12, 2021 meeting (via Zoom), the GC Executive Committee voted a second postponement of the 2020 General Conference Session due to numerous complications arising from the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. **Read the news story [here](#).** The Session is now scheduled to meet June 6-11, 2020. Watch for an upcoming special issue of the *GC Executive Committee Newsletter* covering this decision and the reasons behind it, and a look at the history of past GC Sessions postponed due to extenuating circumstances.

The first-ever virtual Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee began simultaneously around the world on October 6, 2020. After a dedicated prayer time, meetings started at 7 a.m. in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA, while it was 1 p.m. the following day in Auckland, New Zealand, with members attending virtually in multiple time zones in between!

“What an amazing opportunity to connect the world church,” said Ted N.C. Wilson, president and executive committee chair, as he welcomed members to the virtual meeting. “The Lord’s work is moving ahead around the world, let me assure you, despite the challenges we face,” he said.

Following the opening prayer given by Audrey Andersson, Executive Secretary of the Trans-European Division, G.T. Ng, Executive Secretary of the General Conference, announced that “a letter of invitation to this Annual Council was sent on

August 5, 2020 to all GC Executive Committee members and invitees to attend the 2020 Annual Council to be held via Zoom video conference.” He noted that “Approximately 466 individuals have been notified—344 Executive Committee members and 122 invitees. Of these, approximately 281 have registered to attend, as of 7:05 a.m. (ET) this morning.” Due to time zone logistics, meetings were held each day for five hours (7 a.m. to 12 noon, ET).

After officially opening the Annual Council, Wilson remarked, “God is going to bless us mightily, I believe.”

As is customary following the official opening of Annual Council, the LEAD Conference continued the rest of the morning and two hours on Wednesday, focusing on the *I Will Go* strategic plan. *I Will Go* will be covered in more detail in an upcoming issue of the ECN.

The 2020 Annual Council was held from October 6-14. Following are some highlights.

MORNING DEVOTIONALS (To watch a devotional, click on its title)



"Living by Giving," by Adam Ramdin, Youth Director, North England Conference (Thursday, Oct. 8):

In his devotional Ramdin, called for a higher level of sacrificial love. ". . . maybe what the world is looking for is a church—it's a generation, it's a people—that is willing to

say, 'You come to heaven with me, it's going to be great! But if it came to it, I would be willing to give up going to heaven. . . to give up my mansion, the streets paved with gold, the new fruit on the tree of life every single month. I'll give that up so you can go. I'll sacrifice. I'll lay that down just so that

you can go.' If the world sees a demonstration of the character of God where it's willing to love and intercede like that, I believe that is what the power of the Gospel is going to be. It's not just us preaching it, but it's us demonstrating and living it that the world needs to see today."



"God's Perspective on Race and Racism" by Ganoune H. Diop, director, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL), General Conference (Sunday, October 11)

Ganoune gave an overview of the history and philosophy of racism, focusing on how God's people can help to bring resolution to the problem.

"We are a church . . . a Christian faith that trusts in the revelation of God in Scripture," Diop stated. "The Bible . . . reveals God's perspective on a deeper issue of equality and equity. . . . Seventh-day Adventists, a restorationist movement, have something unique to bring to the issue of equality and equity. . . . Every Sabbath, Seventh-day Adventists

are reminded that equality matters, [that it is] something deeply important to God. Every Sabbath we remember there is no master, no slave, no superior, no inferior. All are loved by God, all equal in God's sight, all destined to everlasting fellowship with God. May this be an antidote, a deterrent to any racism, or tribalism, or casteism."



"The End of Your Story . . ." by Anil Kanda, Young Adult Director, Central California Conference (Monday, October 12)

Anil Kanda drew parallels between the time of Paul's imprisonment and today as we experience the isolation of the pandemic, pointing out that this can be the most productive time of all. "When you read the New

Testament, you will discover several epistles were actually written during the time that Paul was . . . under house arrest. This is incredible because those epistles for the last two thousand years have been the source of comfort and encouragement and admonition for the church. . . . God was not limited by the prison walls that Paul was in. . . . [or] by the pagan government and society that

Paul was surrounded by. The Holy Spirit was using Paul in remarkable ways, even during that time of loneliness, separation and discouragement. There is no limit to the usefulness of one who sets aside self and makes room in his heart for the Holy Spirit to work and lives a life wholly consecrated to God. Friends, this can be the finest hour of our church."

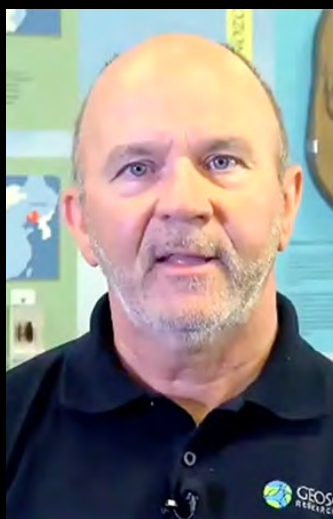
MORNING DEVOTIONALS, CONT. (To watch a devotional, click on its title)



[“Lift Up a Banner Against Babylon: Daniel and the Second Angel’s Message”](#) by **Felix Cortez-Valles, Associate Professor of New Testament Literature, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan (Tuesday, October 13)**

Reflecting on the life and ministry of the prophet Daniel, Felix Cortez-Valles drew parallels with God’s calling to His people today, urging faithfulness under all circumstances. “Our God . . . does not call us to witness for Him when it makes sense in terms of our personal experience, but when He needs it. He does not demand . . . that we are victorious or convincing or

even credible. He only asks that we are faithful. What does not make sense from a human point of view . . . makes perfect sense for God. When our strengths have been overthrown, our wisest arguments silenced, and our confidence has been replaced with self-doubt, when the only thing left is “raw faith,” then God’s “raw power” can be unleashed.



[“We Can Trust the Word of God in Paleontology”](#) by **Raul Esperante, Paleontologist, Geoscience Research Institute, Loma Linda, California (Wednesday, October 14)**

Raul Esperante is a scientist—a paleontologist who believes and trusts the Bible, and also recognizes the importance of science. “I find that maintaining a biblical worldview allows

me to see things others have missed and come up with answers that others don’t consider,” he said in his devotional. Pointing out two attitudes that are common today—one of rejecting science, the other of rejecting the Bible, he continued. “These two attitudes . . . are wrong. They do not lead to better knowledge. I suggest a third way: believe the Bible because it is true and believe science as long as it is true. Investigate both,

the Bible and science. . . . I encourage all students, teachers, and brothers and sisters to take science seriously and do rigorous study of difficult issues. I encourage you to do rigorous study of the Bible. The Bible is essential for your daily life and your salvation. The same Jesus that is our Savior is also our Creator. The study of the Bible illuminates your path to a better understanding of the things of this life.”



ANNUAL COUNCIL SABBATH SERMON HIGHLIGHTS

"God Will Have a People" by Ted N.C. Wilson
(To watch complete sermon, click link above.)



At the end of time, God will have a people. A people who will remain true to pure truth, to a full biblical message, to the mission entrusted to them by God Himself. They will lean on Christ for all their needs. They will be fully accepting of Christ's righteousness and indwelling power in developing their characters through His leading as they hasten His second coming.

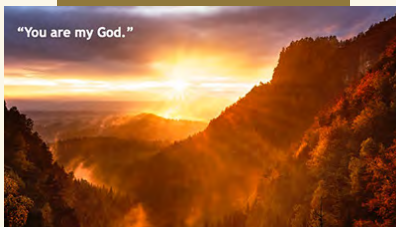
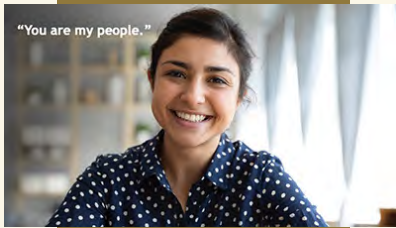
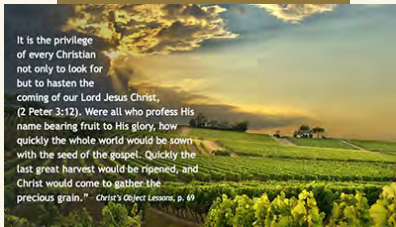
Christ's Object Lessons, page 69, indicates, "'When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle because the harvest has come.' Christ is waiting with a longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own. It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming our Lord Jesus Christ. Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain."

God's people in the last days will give up selfish and human devising. His people will be humble people who will be loyal to God and not exhibit a spirit of rebellion or self-centeredness but will submit to the love of Christ.

This people will plead for the falling of the latter rain of the Holy Spirit. This people will lift up the Word of God, and believe every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. This people will proclaim the three angels' messages of Revelation 14 and the fourth angel of Revelation 18 calling people out of confusion and back to the true worship of God recognizing that the seventh-day Sabbath is the special seal of God on His people, in opposition to the mark of the beast which will be the enforcement of Sunday, or any other day, as the day of worship advocated by the beast on which we will touch again later in this message.

This people will not be swayed by cultural deviations from biblical truth. They will not be deterred, deflected, or distracted by anything deemed politically-correct in the social, cultural, religious, economic, or political arenas. This people will be completely aligned with God's biblical plans, His prophetic revelations, His saving power, His Holy Word, His Spirit of Prophecy instructions, His overriding love, His

God's people will preach, live, and witness to others of His eternal love, His graciousness, His grace, His righteousness, His salvation, His three angels' messages, and Christ's soon coming.



commandments, and His plans for His church.

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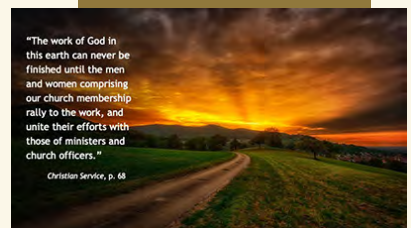
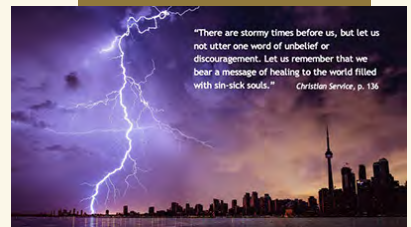
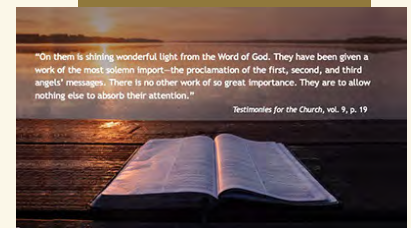
God will have a people of whom He will say "You are My people" and they will respond to the Lord saying, "You are my God."

God speaks to us through Peter in 1 Peter 2:9-12 saying, "you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation."

God will have a people who love Him so much that they connect with Him on a daily basis and their lives speak louder to those around them than any sermon could ever do. Regardless of what is thrown at God's people, they are resilient and make the Lord their refuge and strength. They stand stalwart through the power of the Holy Spirit before the agencies and forces of evil who will never conquer them because God is on the side of His faithful people.

God will have a people. A people in the final days who will allow nothing to absorb their attention from the final mission of sharing the powerful messages of the three angels of Revelation 14.

God is calling us to be part of His last-day people. In line with our new quinquennial strategic plan title that states, "Reach the World---I Will Go," are you willing to say to the Lord, "I want to be part of Your people, completely committed to proclaiming Your three angels' messages as we present the nearness of Your second coming? Will you say: "I Will Go?"



EXECUTIVE REPORT SUMMARIES

SECRETARY'S REPORT G. T. NG, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

To watch [full report, click here](#),
(Wednesday, October 7).
Report begins at 2:32.



Beginning his report, G.T. Ng listed three items for which he was thankful: “God is alive; I am alive after several months of lock-down; the Church is alive.”

As expected, Ng provided statistics regarding the work of the church, such as total world membership: 21, 414,779 (2018), an increase of 687,432 from the previous year. He also reported on accessions for 2018: 1,383,427, and showed the accession distribution by world divisions, with the top five being:

1. ECD (27.49%)
2. SID (19.2%)
3. SAD (15.82%)
4. IAD (14.3%)
5. SSD (9.18%)

But Ng presented far more than statistics. Pointing out that the Adventist Church has entered 213 of the 235 countries recognized by the U.N., Ng asked, “Why? . . . How did it get to be so international?” Citing the biblical mandate of Rev. 10:11, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings,” he declared, “This is the prophetic origin of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We are meant to be a global church.”

Pointing out the diversity of the global church, Ng asked, “How do we get along as a Church?” and then reviewed the history of Christ’s disciples and the change they experienced at Pentecost.

“One interest prevailed,” he quoted from *Christ’s Object Lessons*. “One object swallowed up all others.



All hearts beat in harmony. The only ambition of the believers was to reveal the likeness of Christ’s character, and to labor for the enlargement of His kingdom” (p. 120).

“On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit changed the disciples and united them for mission,” said Ng, and “the coming Latter Rain will unite God’s people for mission.”

Looking forward to that time,

Ng cited *The Great Controversy*, p. 612: “Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers.”

“When the latter rain is poured out,” said Ng, “thousands will respond and say ‘I Will Go!’ . . . The Three Angels’ Messages will penetrate hearts, unimpeded, unrestricted, and unobstructed.”

Noting that “heaven is at hand,” Ng declared, “I will go. You will go. All will go. We will go today. We will go tomorrow. We will go until Jesus comes.”

Following Ng’s report, other aspects of the Secretariat’s work were presented, including a report from David Trim, director of the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research (see summary on p. 12) and others. More details of the Secretary’s report are available from the *Adventist Review*.

“Mission Challenges/Statistical Report by David Trim, Director of the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research (ASTR)”

Trim described two mission challenges for the Church—1) attrition and loss; 2) growth and a leveling-off of growth rates.

Presenting data from the past 55 years, Trim compared yearly accessions to losses, noting “Since 1965, 40,421,554 people have been members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. . . . Tragically, the number who have left since then has now passed 16 million, and our net loss rate has now ticked over above 40 percent.”

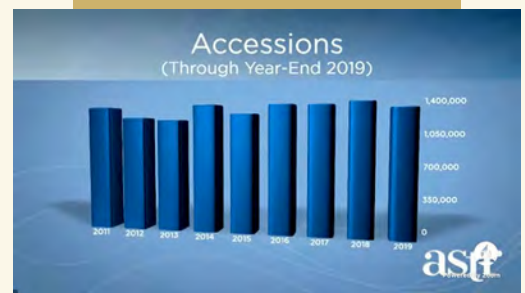
The second challenging trend reveals “we are not having the evangelistic success that might be expected,” said Trim. He pointed out the most reliable metric currently available for measuring this aspect of mission is accessions, “because we have confidence that baptisms, rebaptisms, and professions of faith are being pretty accurately reported.”

Reviewing data from the past 20 years, Trim revealed, “There is no trend of consistently increasing growth in the number of accessions. But the church is growing, increasing every year, and we might reasonably expect that net accessions would regularly be increasing, too. Yet they are not . . . We have more members than ever, [but]

they are not winning noticeably more souls for Christ.”

Trim highlighted the role of church planting in powering church growth, indicating congregations need to become more effective in outreach. “Are we giving our local church members effective training in wholistic disciple-making?” he asked. “And second, is it possible that we, as church leaders, have simply come to take growth for granted — have we become complacent? These data tell us that there is no room for complacency.”

Concluding his presentation, Trim affirmed that “as a historian, I cannot but say, in 166 years there has been *no change* in our mission,” suggesting that “wholistic discipleship and disciple-making will help us resolve both problematic areas because it includes nurturing and retaining members and motivating them to reach out to others — to share with them the prophetic truths that point to Jesus Christ and that are epitomized in Revelation chapter 14. That is our mission.”

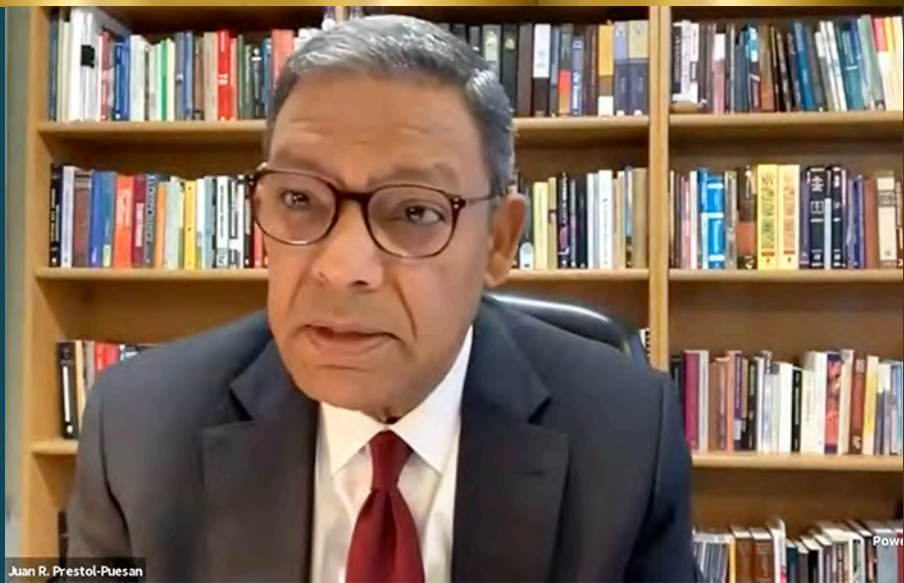


TREASURER'S REPORT*

JUAN PRESTOL-PUESÁN
TREASURER/CFO,
GENERAL CONFERENCE

RAY WAHLEN, UNDERTREASURER,
GENERAL CONFERENCE

To watch [full report, click here.](#)
(Thursday, October 8)
Report begins at 54:23.



In a time of worldwide challenges to the Church's financial operation, GC treasurer Juan Prestol-Puesán called on leaders to redouble their dependency on God's guidance and protection. "This continues to be more relevant than before," he said, "as our new realities have changed our expectations for 2020."

Prestol-Puesán acknowledged that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has affected church operations around the world. Between March and June 2020, he said, all major church regions reported a declining rate of tithe and mission offerings.

"We are in the middle of an extended worldwide economic slowdown; the US dollar shows itself strong in relationship to other currencies, and unemployment remains high in the United States," he said. He also stated that many congregations are unable to meet other than digitally, church executives' travel has stopped, and adjustments to the operations have been introduced, including remuneration levels at headquarters.

Adventist institutions and programs have implemented

significant budgetary adjustments in order to survive 2020, Prestol-Puesán said, expressing his appreciation to institutional leaders for their proactive approach and "innovative spirit."

Prestol-Puesán reported that the operating statement through September 2020 shows a decrease in Net Assets of almost US\$5.9 million. The church's working capital level is 86.04 percent, and liquidity stands at 102.26 percent.

The world headquarters is expecting a negative financial impact on tithe and offerings estimated in the amount of US\$26 million. In view of that estimate, Prestol-Puesán reminded Executive Committee members of steps implemented **according to an action from July 9, 2020**, including suspension of allocations to selected functions; introduction of budget reductions for departments and programs; and reduction, reallocation, and redirection of personnel. Remedial steps also included adjustments to remuneration, area travel, and travel budgets; planning of additional reductions as needed; and redirecting the application of

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GC Treasurer

Juan Prestol-

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funding from existing allocations to other areas of need as the circumstances require it.

The 2021 Budget will be significantly impacted by the current situation, GC undertreasurer Ray Wahlen

Wahlen explained that budgeting under the new method automatically implies reductions to budgets of several GC departments, reminding the executive committee that the GC operates on a capped 2 percent of gross worldwide tithe. If tithes decrease, the same decrease happens to Office Operating Expenses. In this case, it implies a reduction of US\$7.6 million, or

resulting from COVID-19.”

Concluding the Treasurer’s report, Prestol-Puesán expressed his gratitude to God for providing resources during the first nine months of 2020, and for making church programs still viable despite the circumstances. He also thanked the many volunteer local church treasurers, the treasury personnel who serve in multiple entities around the world, and the dedicated and efficient treasury and accounting staff of the General Conference.

He closed with words from Psalm 121: “[Our] help comes from the Lord,” Prestol-Puesán reminded the committee. “He does not slumber.” And, he added, “He is our keeper; He is our shade; and shall preserve our going out and our coming in now—during the days of COVID-19—and forever more.”

*This summary adapted from [an article by Marcos Paseggi in the Adventist Review.](#)

Major Factors

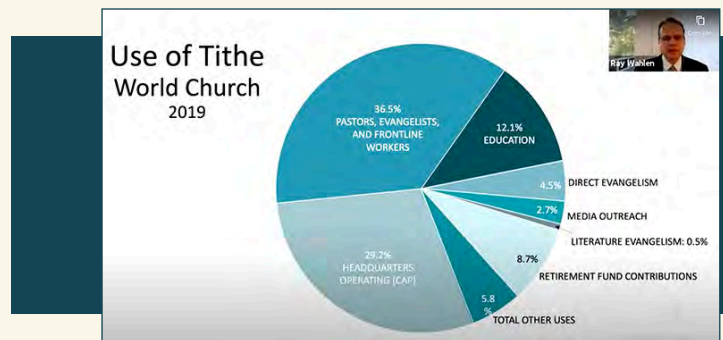
- Tithe Parity - Year 1
- Currency Volatility
- Financial Impact of Covid-19 Shutdowns

explained. According to Wahlen, budgeting for the next year assumes that the COVID-19-related slowdown will cause a reduction of US\$18.8 million. Also, a **Tithe Parity plan voted in 2019** suggests a reduction of US\$4.3 million, and income is expected to be negatively affected by the ongoing strength of the US dollar against other world currencies to the amount of US\$2.9 million. Accordingly, it is expected that the net impact on income in 2020 will reach US\$26 million (or 15 percent of 2020 budgeted expense).

Church financial officers have opted to base the 2021 income on 100 percent of the projected income for 2020, following current data and estimations. Following that procedure, the tithe budget has been reduced from 2020 by US\$9.9 million (an 11.4 percent decrease), and the World Mission Offering budget has been reduced by US\$16.1 million (a 22.8 percent decrease).

15.1 percent less than in 2020. “This major reduction has been accomplished by personnel reductions, maintaining the 50 percent reduction of travel budgets implemented in mid-2020, decreased depreciation funding, and elimination of the contingency budget,” Wahlen said.

Wahlen made clear that despite more than US\$20 million in reductions, the amount is not enough to offset the US\$26 million in lost income. For years, however, the GC has allocated reserves in the event it experiences a loss at the end of the year. “We praise the Lord that this allocated reserve has not been tapped,” Wahlen said. “It is anticipated that in 2020 we will need to do so for the first time due to losses





Links to Other Reports



Adventist Mission:

Gary Krause, director of the Office of Adventist Mission
[Mission Report](#)
[video](#)



Hope Channel International:

Derek Morris, President
["Offering God's good news for a better life today and for eternity"](#) video



Adventist Volunteers Service (AVS):

Elbert Kuhn, Associate Secretary, GC
[Service Report video](#)

International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA):

Ganoune Diop, General Secretary
[Constituency Meeting Report](#)



ASI Reports:

Elbert Kuhn, Associate Secretary, GC
[Episode 1](#)
[Episode 2](#)
[Episode 3](#)
[Episode 4](#)

Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL):

Ganoune Diop, Director
["I Will Go" Strategic Plan: Reaching People of Influence"](#)



GCAS:

Paul Douglas, Director
["Roadmap to Resilience" Annual Report 2019](#)

Three Angels' Messages Special Project and Promotion:

Artur Stele, Vice President, GC, and Mike Ryan, special assistant to the president, GC
[Project and Promotion video report](#)



ADRA:

Michael Kruger, President
[ADRA: "Every Child. Everywhere. In School." video report](#)
[Global Education Report — "Every Child. Everywhere. In School." ADRA Annual Report](#)
[ADRA COVID-19 Global Report](#)

VividFaith:

Fylvia Fowler Kline, Manager
["VividFaith Report AC 2020"](#)



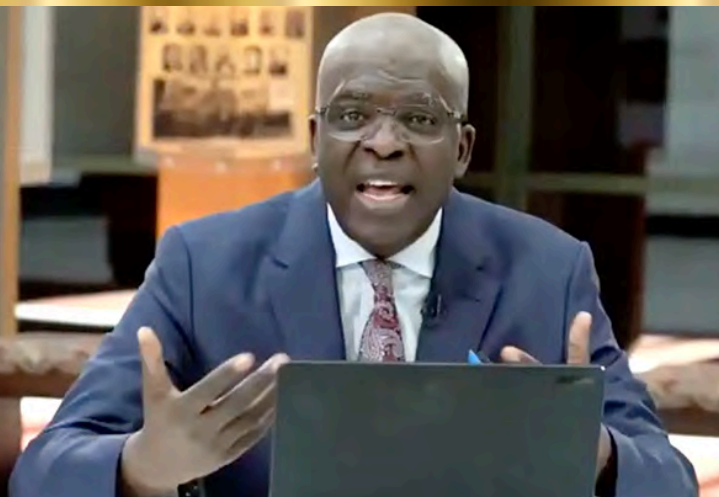
Health Ministries:

Dr. Peter Landless, Director
["COVID-19 Mental Health Initiative" \(English\)](#), by Dr. Torben Bergland, Assoc. Director
["COVID-19 Mental Health Initiative" \(Spanish subtitles\)](#)

Women's Ministries:

Heather-Dawn Small, Director
["Enditnow: Effectively Confronting the Challenge of Domestic Violence,"](#) presented by Dr. David Williams, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Div., professor, Harvard University





SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

JAMES NIX ELLEN G. WHITE ESTATE, DIRECTOR (RETIRED)

On Sunday, October 11, Jim Nix, recently retired White Estate director James (Jim) Nix was honored for his many decades of service to the Church, and specifically for his ministry at the Ellen G. White Estate.

“Dr. Nix has a longtime passion for preserving and sharing the precious heritage of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including the Spirit of Prophecy,” said G.T. Ng, chair of the Ellen G. White Estate Board. “He started working for the White Estate in 1972 at the Ellen G. White Research Center at Loma Linda University. And as a White Estate Director, Dr. Nix assisted with the opening of 11 research centers around the world.”

Ng explained how Nix helped establish the Adventist Heritage Ministry in 1981 and was involved with the acquisition and restoration of Joseph Bates’ boyhood home in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, the William Miller and Hiram Edson farms in New York state, and the Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Nix was also instrumental in the development of the Ellen White Visitor’s Center located at the General Conference headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland.

In addition, Nix has a legacy of leading highly engaging Adventist Heritage Tours, filled with robust singing of early Advent hymns, as well as giving captivating presentations, seminars, classes and more around the world.

He is the author of several books, including *Advent*

Special Presentation and Statement

Statement: [“One Humanity: A Human Relations Statement Addressing Racism, Casteism, Tribalism, and Ethnocentrism”](#)

Presentation: [“Human Relations, Three Angels’ Messages, and Seventh-day Adventists”](#)

On Sunday, October 11, two hours were devoted to a special presentation coordinated by Ganoune Diop, Director of the GC Public Affairs And Religious Liberty (PARL) department. “This is not an item we’ll be voting on,” said Ted N.C. Wilson in introductory remarks. “It is an item for our very personal reflection. And eventually, we are hoping that divisions will look at this particular subject on interpersonal human relations and will discuss it within their context and how people will be able to, through the power of the Holy Spirit, surmount the intense challenges that are faced around the world.

Following Diop’s devotional message, representatives of various ethnic groups from

around the world gave brief presentations on ethnic challenges faced in their part of the world, followed by a closing message by Mark Finley, urging people to look to Christ, who is the only One who can transform human hearts.

In closing, Wilson urged divisions, unions, and local fields to use the “One Humanity” statement (voted by the GC Administrative Committee on Sept. 15, 2020), within their local context as an aid for bringing understanding and unity so “that the Seventh-day Adventist Church can proclaim the amazing message that we have for the end-time—not just to certain people groups, not just to the ones we feel most comfortable, but everyone, everywhere.”



Singing, Laughter and Tears of the Pioneers, In The Footsteps of The Pioneers, Glimpses Into the Life of Ellen White, and Lessons From Battle Creek (co-authored with Alberto Timm).

During the recognition service, Reuel Almocera, Director of the White Estate Branch Office on the campus of AIIAS in the Philippines

and longtime colleague spoke heartfelt words of appreciation in a specially prepared video recognizing the work of Jim Nix.

Also expressing words of appreciation were Ted N.C. Wilson, President of the General Conference, and Merlin Burt, the incoming Director of the White Estate.

During the special recognition

service, Nix was presented with two awards—a letter of appreciation engraved in glass from the executive officers of the General Conference, and a lifetime achievement award from the White Estate and White Estate Board.

The video of Nix’s special recognition service [is available here](#). Scroll to Sunday, October 11. The service begins at 2:49:45.

ROWENA J. MOORE-ADAMS, ASTR, YEARBOOK EDITOR (RETIRED)

On Tuesday, October 13, Rowena Moore-Adams was recognized for her nearly 50 years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, nearly 40 of which were at the General Conference headquarters, where for the past 18 years she served as the SDA *Yearbook* editor.

Calling her “the informational gatekeeper for the world Church,” David Trim, Director of the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research (ASTR), noted Rowena’s careful work in “ensuring that vital organizational information is collected and then is authoritative, accurate, complies with church policies, and is widely accessible.

“She never compromised standards,” Trim stated, a sentiment noted by numerous other individuals for whom Rowena has worked with over the years. Many also mentioned her reliability, pleasant, caring personality, and attention to detail.

“What an amazing servant of the Lord Rowena Moore-Adams is,” said Ted N.C. Wilson, GC President. “Thank you for being a blessing to the entire world church.”

As noted in a special tribute page to Rowena Moore in the 2020 *Yearbook*, Rowena began her denominational career as an administrative assistant at Hinsdale Hospital (Illinois) in 1973.



From there she was called to serve as a missionary at the South American Division headquarters, until her service there was cut short by a serious car accident in 1976.

Needing to return to the U.S. due to the nature of her injuries, Rowena continued to faithfully serve the Lord for nearly 25 years in the General Conference Secretariat in various secretarial capacities and as recording secretary to high-level committees. She also was instrumental in setting up the new office of the Euro-Asia Division in Moscow.

In 2002 she began working in the Office of Archives and Statistics as editor of the *Yearbook*, and since 2013 also oversaw the production of the *Annual Statistical Report*.

“You never sought recognition, and

have worked very humbly,” said Trim. “You made the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church *your* mission.”

As part of the recognition service, a 10-minute video was shared, detailing Rowena’s service over the years and featuring greetings and words of appreciation from various people for whom Rowena served.

In closing, G.T. Ng, current GC Executive Secretary said of Rowena, “I have always been impressed by your incredible memory, and your incredible attention to details. . . . Your support has been most invaluable. Rowena, you are one of a kind. There is only one Rowena in the universe. We value you greatly as a colleague, and as a friend.”

The tribute video is available here: [Recognition of Service: Rowena J. Moore-Adams](#)



RESOURCES

Following are resources presented during the 2020 Annual Council.

1 **Missionary Book for 2021**
Hope for Troubled Times: How to Thrive in a Shattered World
by Mark A. Finley
The book and accompanying videos are available at the link above.

2 **Three Cosmic Messages: Earth's Final Conflict**
Free on-line series focused on the Three Angels' Messages
by Mark Finley
Includes 13 video presentations and study guides.

3 **Dynamic Steward: Offerings Holy to the Lord**
An entire issue examining what the Bible says regarding the importance of offerings. Produced by the GC Stewardship Department.

4 **Free Online Mission Training Courses from the Institute of World Mission**

Courses include:

- How to Be Prepared
- Sharing Christ in a Different Culture
- Living in a Different Culture
- Dealing with Cultural Differences
- Getting Charged Up for Mission
- How to Learn a Foreign Language
- Fundraising for Mission
- Why You Are Needed
- Storytelling for Discipleship
- Witnessing 101—Missionary Witness You Will Actually Love Doing

5 **Special e-Publication: "Seventh-day Adventists COVID-19 Global Pandemic Worldwide Initiatives"**
Prepared by the GC Communication Department, this e-magazine gathers together the many outstanding messages and resources (with links) prepared by the world church and its divisions, and entities including AWR, Hope Channel, Adventist Review, and ADRA.

6 **Youth Alive: COVID-19 Mental Health Initiative**
This initiative, supporting mental health among youth and young adults during and after the pandemic is sponsored by Adventist Health Ministries, GC Youth Department, GC Education Department, Global Mission, and Adventist Family Ministries. Numerous resources including videos, ready-made social media posts, books, articles and more are available free at the link above.

