



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

MARCH 2018

Years ago while in Russia, my hosts invited me to the Moscow circus. I am not a circus goer, but the Russian circus is world famous, so I agreed to attend. Fascinated by the plate spinner, I watched him put one china plate after another upon slender, spinning poles. Unless he kept the plates spinning, they all would crash to the ground. Imagine this man running breathlessly from pole to pole to keep them spinning.

Have you ever felt like a plate spinner, running from one thing to the next, overwhelmed by the urgent? You have just too much to accomplish.

In light of the tyranny of the urgent, it would be well for us to meditate on the life of Christ, who could easily have been overwhelmed with the task before Him, yet exuded peace wherever He went. There was a calmness, an unrushed presence, a focused purpose in His life.

At the end, Jesus prayed: "I have glorified you on earth. I have finished the work which you have given me to do" (John 17:4).

This is a remarkable statement. What did Jesus mean?

Notice what the text does not say. It does not say that Jesus "finished everything that He wanted to do." He left many useful tasks undone, many urgent requests unmet.

Jesus was focused on God's mission. There were many things He would have liked to do, but Jesus did not live by others' expectations. He was in tune with the Father's will.

Here is an eternal principle: Jesus was absolutely, totally, completely committed to doing the Father's will. The overriding principle that governed Jesus' life was, in every instance, to discover the Father's will and by His grace and through His power do it.

The essence of true leadership is not playing to the crowd, not doing the thing that is most popular or socially acceptable. It is certainly not exhausting ourselves in endless toil. It is seeking God's will in every one of life's situations and following it.

—Mark A. Finley
Assistant to the President

EDITORIAL



DOING THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME

AN INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL CONFERENCE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER, NATASHA DYSINGER

In this interview, Natasha Dysinger, a young adult member of the GC Executive Committee, shares her thoughts on being a committee member, representing young adults, and the importance of keeping the Church on track.

ECN: *Natasha, how long have you been a member of the GC Executive Committee?*

DYSINGER: I was voted in as a lay member at-large by the Annual Council in 2015, so it will be three years this fall.

Please tell us a little bit about yourself.

I had the privilege of being born into a Seventh-day Adventist family,

and grew up in the beautiful mountains of New Mexico. On February 14, 2016, I married Paul Dysinger (who is the most wonderful man in the world!) and moved to Tennessee, where his family owns an organic family farm. From there we moved to Virginia where we are currently working with Pastor Mark and Teenie Finley at their Living Hope School of Evangelism. We do a lot of Bible work, health coaching, and community programs, etc. We also own an online business, teaching various agricultural methods and classes.

You are one of the young adult members of the Executive Committee. Do you mind telling us how old you are?

Well, today (March 13) is actually my birthday. So I am 27.

—continued, next page

Happy Birthday! Although you were born into an Adventist home, there must have come a point where you chose for yourself what path to follow. Why did you choose to be a Seventh-day Adventist?

I love that question. As I tell people who I give Bible studies to, it's not about what my religion teaches versus what another religion teaches; it's about what *the Bible* teaches. I'm a Seventh-day Adventist because the Seventh-day Adventist Church adheres more closely to the Bible than any other denomination. It is a prophetic movement with a prophetic destiny. Besides that though, there are some really beautiful things that come along with the full experience of being part of the worldwide Adventist family, which of course add to my love of being a Seventh-day Adventist.

Describe some of the beauty you find in being Adventist.

One of the biggest things is just the whole experience of the richness and meaning of the Sabbath. Not only the depth of meaning found in a weekly memorial of creation and redemption, but also resting not just yourself but along with a community that is resting and rejoicing just like you are.

Another thing is being part of the worldwide Adventist family. You go to a church on another continent, and it's still the same family. It has their cultural expression and variety, but it's the same family, and I love that.

I also love the community that comes from being an Adventist and having some of our unique Adventist things, "family traditions," so to speak—even little things like haystacks for fellowship meals in North America. It doesn't have sacred value, but it's still like being part of a close family and understanding each other in a way that others don't.

But there's nothing quite as special as being at the GC session and singing "We Have This Hope" with thousands of other voices who share the passion that you have.

What do you see as the purpose of the GC Executive Committee?

Because the Seventh-day Adventist Church is a prophetic movement of destiny, we are not our own. We aren't just a denomination that some people thought up. As a prophetic movement, our very purpose is to fulfill our prophetic calling.

It's similar to what Jesus said in the Gospel of John. He had a prophetic calling, and in John 6:38 He says, "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me." And in John 4:34 He says, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."

The whole purpose of the GC Executive Committee is to keep the movement true to the prophetic destiny that we have, by adhering to the purpose for which we were brought into existence. That purpose is the proclamation of the Three Angels' Messages. We are not here to do what *we* want, or to get sidetracked on any side issue of interest to us; but to do the will and work of *Him who sent us*, as a church in this world.

The purpose of the Executive Committee is so weighty. We are not here to do what *we* want, but to do the work of Him who sent us.

And how does the Executive Committee do this?

Our first and foremost concern as Executive Committee members is keeping our voting (and hence, the decisions of the world church) in line with the Word of God and the Spirit of Prophecy. We have a lot of light given to us in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy

as to what we should be focusing on as a church, as well as what we should be careful about. We have no shortage of light, though we often need great discernment on how to apply it. It can be very challenging at times, but the principle is not complicated.

What do you see as your role, personally, as a member of the GC EXCOM?

I see my role as three-fold. First, as a member of the Executive Committee, my role is to be sure that when I am participating in these important decisions, that I'm not bringing my own will to the table—I'm laying aside my own will and seeking to be under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, following the guidance that we have from the Word of God as closely as possible in my voting and decision making.



“

The purpose of the Executive Committee is so weighty. We are not here to do what we want, but to do the work of Him who sent us.

Secondly, as a committee member who is also a young adult, I feel that it is incredibly important for young people to have their voice heard at the Executive Committee.

And lastly, I believe that I have the responsibility of making sure that the decisions of the Executive Committee are understandable to young people, and to ensure to the best of my ability that they understand the church and its processes.

That is one of the greatest burdens I have; that while we, as Executive Committee members, do our best to represent our constituencies to the world church, we also do our very best to represent the world church to our constituencies. We have the duty to create as much understanding with the world church family as possible.

Tell us more about your role representing young adults.

One of the most frequent mistakes I hear when listening to things pertaining to young people is the overgeneralization of young adults. It is important to recognize that young adults don't think

uniformly on *any* issue—Millennials are all over the map when it comes to many of the things we are dealing with as a church. Often, I hear young adults being portrayed as being much more uniform in opinion than they actually are, and that one perceived side gets expressed as if it is the entire will of young adults in the church; and it is *simply not accurate*.

With women's ordination (WO) for example, there are many, many young adults on both sides of the debate; not just for, not just against. The one area in which they are more unified is that they are very tired of the discussion and often wish that the Baby Boomer generation would find another subject to discuss. Frankly, my impression from talking with young people from both sides is that WO is far more of a Baby Boomer issue, and Millennials are very weary of it, whether they are themselves for or against it.

I represent a fairly large group of young adults who don't feel heard or represented at church administrative levels. During this past Annual Council, young people were watching the live stream and texting me, asking "Would you please express our thoughts?!"

I carry that close to my heart. Sometimes I feel I'm able to truly give them a voice and sometimes I leave feeling like I was not able to truly express their perspectives, depending on what happens in the whole process, the discussion, voting, etc. But it is something I always think about.

Ultimately though, our point as a movement is not to have the church doing what I, or even young adults as a whole, think it should be doing. We do need to be sensitive to young adults, definitely; but church actions need to be first and foremost sensitive to and in accordance with God's Word and the Spirit of Prophecy.

And what to do if leaders don't agree?

That's a difficult question. I think it's incredibly important that we all seek to be sure that our hearts are in submission to the Word of God; that we come, not to push our own ideas but to follow His will. But if, at the end of the day, everyone is as submitted to God as they know how to be, and yet we disagree on certain points, one thing we will know is what we should be focusing on and majoring in—fulfilling our prophetic role as God's last-day movement.

Nowhere in the Word of God or the Spirit of Prophecy can I find that this current debate should be our central meditation. Nowhere do I see that this should be our family obsession and

“

I represent
a fairly large
group of young
adults who
don't feel heard
or represented
at church
administrative
levels.

discussion point. Whatever we find God is majoring in, that's where we need to be putting our time.

Do you believe it is important that Church entities follow what is voted by GC Session and the GC Executive Committee? If so, why? If not, why not?

I do feel it's important. Why? Going back to what I say to our Bible study contacts—"it doesn't matter what our religion says, or what our opinion is, it's what the Bible says."

We know that God brought this movement into existence for a prophetic destiny. We know very clearly that He led in our structure. As a part of the leadership body of this movement, we need to respect the structure that God has put in place.

Just yesterday I was reading in Deuteronomy 12 where God told the children of Israel: "You shall not at all do as we are doing here today—every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes . . . but when you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land which the Lord your God is giving you . . . then there will be the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide. There you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes . . ." (Deut. 12:8, 10, 11, NKJV).

God was saying, "Look, I'm going to choose to put my name in a certain place. When you come into what has been prophetically promised, I want you

to respect that—take your offerings to Jerusalem, not just wherever you want to put them." In the same way, God has put His name on our church, and on what He has organized in our structure; and He wants us to respect that.

Has the Church made votes/decisions in the past that I didn't agree with? Definitely. But it is still for me to respect the structure God has put in place. At some point the church is going to make a decision that you or I will not like. But I can honor Him by respecting the decision and seeking to work within it as best I can, not just doing whatever is right in my own eyes. I do want to study the Word for myself and His will for me as an individual, but I still respect the church structure, the organization, the system, that He has set up. That's one of the principles we can learn from Deuteronomy 12.

How are you so convinced that God set up the structure of the Seventh-day Adventist Church?

It boils down to the prophetic nature of the church. Again, the Adventist church wasn't just someone's bright idea - it is a prophetic movement with a prophetic destiny. This movement is under the control of God, because prophecy will always be fulfilled.

The reorganization of the church in 1901 was God's doing. And as such, I am to respect it, even if or when it goes against whatever is right in my own eyes.

We may be in very challenging situations now, but we can be sure that God is going to take this movement through. Do I know fully how God is going to bring deep unity into our church? No; but I do know He will.

One of my favorite parables is that of Ezekiel's dry bones in Ezekiel 37. God asks, "Can these dry bones live?" And Ezekiel answers, "Oh Lord God, you know" (vs. 3). So, God says to the dry bones, "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. . . Then you shall know that I am the Lord" (vs. 3,5).

Some of the things we're dealing with as a church the Spirit of God is going to have to correct. It doesn't matter even if we were to become dry bones. God will say, "Live!" and we will be the exceedingly great army He designed us to be.

Prophecy *will* be fulfilled. We are in the closing hours of Earth's history, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church will do what it was called into existence to do. We live in exciting times! God will accomplish His purpose, for His own glory.

CHECKUP



HEALTH, VIGOR, AND ENDURANCE FOR LEADERS

Are you looking for more vigor and endurance?

"Ministers, teachers, students, and other brain workers often suffer from illness as the result of severe mental taxation, unrelieved by physical exercise. What these persons need is a more active life. Strictly temperate habits, combined with proper exercise, would ensure both mental and physical vigor, and would give power of endurance to all brain workers" (*Ministry of Healing*, p. 238).

Some of the many evidence-based benefits of exercise include:*



1

STRESS MANAGEMENT

Exercise can cause the release of endorphins. These chemicals give a feeling of happiness and positively affect your overall sense of well-being.

2

BONE STRENGTH

An active lifestyle benefits bone density. Regular weight-bearing exercise promotes bone formation, delays bone loss and may protect against osteoporosis.

3

STRONGER IMMUNE SYSTEM

Regular moderate exercise may have a beneficial effect on the immune function. Findings from some studies support the possibility that exercise may delay the effects of an aging immune system.

4

BACK PAIN REMEDY

By increasing muscle strength and endurance and improving flexibility and posture, regular exercise helps to prevent back pain.

5

IMPROVED MEMORY AND LEARNING ABILITIES

Exercise stimulates the formation of new brain cells (neurons) and strengthens connections between those cells. The areas of the brain that are stimulated through exercise are associated with memory and learning.

6

IMPROVED MENTAL FUNCTION FOR ALL AGE GROUPS

Physical activity improves cognitive performance and information processing in all age groups and may delay cognitive impairment and dementia in older adults.

*From "Powerful Reasons To Exercise," www.emedexpert.com/tips/exercise.shtml

PERSECUTOR BECOMES CHURCH PLANTER

BY ANDREW MCCHESNEY
WWW.ADVENTISTMISSION.ORG



Farmer Petrus Tobolu was furious when his 19-year-old daughter, Monika, was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He had served as the lay pastor of the Soahukum village church on the Indonesian island of Halmahera for years.

He didn't understand how the Adventist pastor could baptize his daughter without seeking his permission, and he worried that the Adventist teachings were satanic.

He raised a big stick and beat Monika.

"Denounce your convictions!" he yelled.

Monika wept but didn't say a word. This confused her father, and he wondered why she wasn't returning his anger.

Monika was one of four young people who were baptized after Bible studies and an evangelistic series on Halmahera island. They were the island's first four Adventists, the result of the work of two student missionaries.

One day, Monika came home with a box of Adventist books. Enraged, Petrus seized the box and threw it into the garbage hole in their backyard. But as the box crashed to the ground, it burst open, spilling out its contents. A book caught Petrus' eye: *The Almost Forgotten Day* by evangelist Mark Finley. He secretly fished the book and two *Adventist World* magazines out of the garbage.

The next morning, he took the literature with him to the field, and

couldn't concentrate on his work. He worked until 10 a.m. and then studied the book and magazines for the rest of the day. The same thing happened the next day. He compared the Bible verses in the publications with the verses in his Bible. He wanted to see if the books were true. He studied the materials for eight months.

"I noticed that what was written there was actually also in the Bible," Petrus said. "I kept studying and I was impressed with what I learned about the Sabbath."

After he understood that Saturday was the biblical Sabbath, he began to preach about the Sabbath in his church.

"Why don't we worship on Saturday?" he asked. "If we don't follow what the Bible says, then why do we have the Bible?"

After the sermon, startled church members approached him.

"No one has preached like this in a long time," said one.

"Maybe you want to bring us a new doctrine?" said another.

Petrus hadn't thought that he was introducing Adventist teachings to the church. He understood the biblical truth, and he was only trying to preach the truth.

Sometime later, several Adventist pastors visited Petrus' island, and he invited them to worship at his church. The group of church members, however, attacked the church with stones while the pastors were inside, and Petrus had to whisk them out of the village to safety. The villagers were waiting with

sticks when he returned, but he somehow managed to evade them and leave the village. He wanted to be baptized into the Adventist Church.

Petrus took his family to Manado, a city with many Adventists and attended an evangelistic series there. He was baptized.

When he and his family returned home, they found their house occupied by other people. They moved to a small hut in their field and lived there for two months. Petrus' two other children, boys aged 13 and 17, were baptized.

"The villagers still forbade us from worshipping on Sabbath, so we moved to Manado to deepen our understanding of the Bible," Petrus said.

Two years later, they returned home and started making friends again with the villagers.

"We mingled in the community and shared," Petrus said. "We started with my relatives. In three years, we had 27 baptized members and organized a Seventh-day Adventist church."

Today, Petrus is 50 and serves as church elder. He led the first evangelistic series in the village in September 2017, and three people were baptized.

"The villagers, starting with me, persecuted Adventists at first," he said. "But today eight families worship together every Sabbath."

“

If we don't follow what the Bible says, then why do we have the Bible?

The Spiritual Necessity of Church Unity and Biblical Authority to Accomplish God's Mission

PART I

BY TED N. C. WILSON, PH.D.
PRESIDENT, SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

The following is the first part of the keynote speech that Ted N.C. Wilson gave at the 11th annual Global Leadership Summit on Feb. 6, 2018, in Lisbon, Portugal.

What a privilege for us, in this Global Leadership Summit, to be focusing on the one thing that Jesus longed for, recorded in John 17—unity in His church to accomplish His mission.

The theme that has been chosen, “The Spiritual Necessity of Church Unity and Biblical Authority to Accomplish God’s Mission,” is a strong reminder of Christ’s desire that His church might be one just as He and His Father are one.

The sense of unity emanating from the Godhead is overwhelming. God, the Father; God, the Son; and God, the Holy Spirit, are always in unity and accomplish their work together without any difference of opinion—they are One. They were in unity at creation (Genesis 1:26); at Christ’s baptism (Matthew 3:16-17); at the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:5); at the cross (Matthew 27:50-54); and on and on. The three persons of the Godhead are always in unity on all decisions they make.

That is why God intends for His church to be in harmony with His will and directions. Psalm 133 shares this hope for God’s people: “Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard. The beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing—life forevermore.”

Obviously, God, speaking through David, expressed His enormous desire that His people be in unity. This unity was not some symbolic manifestation of “togetherness” but rather a truly merging of purpose, mission, and duty which comes only from focusing on

God’s will. Whenever we depart from this formula, our “unity” will be incomplete and will become disunity.

TRUE UNITY

Our true heavenly unity can be accomplished only as we humbly submit to the instruction of God through the Holy Spirit’s promptings and our understanding of His will through the Holy

Writings of the Bible, and the inspired counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy. Through prayer and study, God opens the doors for prayerful discussion and heavenly direction, helping His church to know how to move ahead in the greatest task ever entrusted to humans living at the end of time—proclaiming Christ and His three angels’ messages, thus uniting us in heaven’s mandate for the Lord’s church on earth.

We read that “In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light

bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the Word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention.”¹

Our greatest need is to be still and know our God and His wishes. Many times, in our attempts to accomplish our concepts of what God’s wishes are for us, we fail to “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). By attempting to find our own way to unity without being still and listening to God’s leading, we end up in disarray and dysfunction. In the process of listening to God’s will, we must have great respect for Him and His Word, respect for the



church organization He has established, and humility to be still and know God's instructions. Humility is a huge key to unity.

God's Holy Word in II Corinthians 13:11 reminds us, "Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace: and the God of love and peace will be with you." How important it is to "be of one mind."

This is also reflected in Philippians 2:1-4, "Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests but also for the interests of others."

This "like-mindedness" or "being in one accord" is predicated on the "lowliness of mind" and humility that is so necessary for unity, a submission to the entire church as it makes decisions. Of course, that humility can only come about when we accept Christ's spirit in us fulfilling the injunction of Philippians 2:5 which urges us, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

“

*Humility
is a huge
key to
unity.*

"With One Accord"

The early Christian church took all of this with complete seriousness and humility of spirit, allowing the Holy Spirit to take full control. The result was found in Acts 2:46 which describes the setting in this way, "So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart." Because of their dedication to God and their humility and simplicity of heart, they were in one accord. This is the result of true submission to God and it is what His church will possess as it finishes His great proclamation of the three angels' messages.

The *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual* has some marvelous counsel for each of us about unity (see pages 23, 59, 71, 120, 127, and 167).

A wonderful statement is made on page 59: "Christians should make every effort to avoid tendencies that would divide them and bring dishonor to their cause. 'It is the purpose of God that His children shall blend in unity. Do they not expect to live together in the same heaven? . . . Those who refuse to work in harmony greatly dishonor God.'" ² The church should discourage actions that threaten harmony among its members and should consistently encourage unity."³

When the Word of God is held paramount and the humility described in the early Christian church is found in our hearts today through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the result will be real unity.

To be continued in the April 2018 issue of the GC Executive Committee Newsletter.

¹ Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 19.

² Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 240

³ *The Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual*, p. 59.



FOURTH INTERNATIONAL BIBLE CONFERENCE • JUNE 11-21, 2018 • ROME, ITALY

The Fourth International Bible Conference for Bible teachers and theologians will be held June 11-21, 2018 in Rome, Italy. The conference is sponsored by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the Biblical Research Institute (BRI), and the North American Division. The general theme of the conference is "Biblical Eschatology from an Adventist Perspective."

"The purpose of the conference is to promote biblical and theolog-

ical studies from an Adventist perspective and to foster theological unity and fellowship among Bible teachers, theologians, and administrators from around the world," says Elias Brasil de Souza, BRI director.

Twenty plenary sessions are planned during the conference, addressing topics such as final events, the role of Israel in last day events, the perceived delay of the Second Coming, Ellen White and eschatology, hermeneutical foundations and eschatology, theistic evolution and its implications for eschatology, his-

toricism and prophetic interpretation and eschatology, and current trends in evangelical eschatology, missions and eschatology, and challenges facing the Seventh-day Adventist Church in some issues dealing with our understanding of eschatology.

In addition to the plenary presentations, more than forty papers in eight parallel sessions will be presented. Conference participants will also have opportunity to take a guided tour of major biblical and early Christian sites in Rome and its environs.

"The goal of the International Bible Conference is to encourage deeper study of the biblical understanding of eschatology and the challenges we face from contemporary cultures, philosophies, and religions," according to Brasil de Souza. "We plan to examine ways to reaffirm our faith commitment in the biblical understanding of last-day events and explore strategies of sharing this biblical view with others."

Divisions and General Conference institutions were responsible for appointing their participants.



THE BACK PAGE

NEW PLACES NEW FACES

Several personnel transfers at the General Conference are currently underway.

Myron Isingmer, GC Undersecretary is the new president of the **Egypt-Sudan Field**.

Delbert Pearman, GC associate treasurer, is the new president of the **Sri Lanka Mission in Colombo, Sri Lanka**.

John Wesley Taylor, associate director, GC education, is the new president of **Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies**.

Mack Tennyson, GC Director of Accounting Software and Assistant to the Treasurer, is going to **TED in St. Albans, U.K.**, where he will serve as associate treasurer.

Brent Burdick, ESD treasurer in **Moscow, Russia** will take up Tennyson's former responsibilities at the GC.

Vladimir Tkachuk, education director for ESD, is the new treasurer for the division in **Moscow**.

1 During church services on Sabbath, March 10, lightning struck the Gihemvu Seventh-day Adventist church in southern **Rwanda**, killing 11 people instantly. Four more died soon afterward, and 140 were rushed to the hospital to be treated for injuries. [Read story here.](#)

2 Through 60-second videos, a rural pastor in **Bishop, California**, is sharing Adventist beliefs with the world. Learn more about the video series, "[Seventh-day Adventists in 60](#)" [here.](#)

3 A new Adventist church building has opened in **Erbil, Iraq**, after years of war forced churches to close. At the opening, leaders encouraged members to share God's hope and love with the community in spite of the sufferings they endured. [Read the full story here.](#)

4 During the Winter Olympics held in **Pyeongchang,**

Korea, Adventist members shared 5,000 copies of *Steps to Christ* in English with Korean and foreign Olympics visitors. Foot massages were provided to Olympic athletes and coaches by the Adventist HisHands Mission Movement missionaries. [For more click here.](#)

5 ADRA Brazil has begun its food distribution in the **Santos Basin of Brazil** to three child development centers. The meals, packaged by "Rise Against Hunger," were distributed by ADRA Brazil and contained enriched rice, soy protein, dried vegetables and 23 essential vitamins and nutrients.

6 The Lotkino Seventh-day Adventist Church in **Tbilisi, Georgia**, is reaching their community through a very successful children's program. They invited children to listen to Bible stories, learn songs and poems, play games, and memorize Bible verses. One of the

participants, **Devi, 6**, said, "I was told that this is not a good church, but I like it here. I feel that they love me here. Other children agreed. [Click here to read more.](#)

2018 SPRING MEETING REGISTRATION

NOW OPEN

Click [here](#) to register by March 22.

March 2018

REPORT FROM THE UNITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The Unity Oversight Committee reports that 100 percent of the surveys sent to division and union presidents and the attached field have been received by the world church's Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research (ASTR). The 151 surveys were all returned ahead of schedule.

The Committee will meet again on March 20. At that time, they will consider the quantitative data (surveys), as well as the qualitative data that have come from dialogue meetings held with division and union leadership.

Dialogue meetings have now taken place with five world divisions, in-

cluding ECD, ESD, IAD, SID, and SUD, and others are scheduled to soon take place.

During the dialogue meetings, division leaders are asked to offer written suggestions on how to address the issue of compliance with voted actions of General Conference Sessions and of the General Conference Executive Committee. In addition, the Division leaders are invited to submit any other suggestions or comments they might have.

The quantitative and qualitative data gathered from the world field will be used in helping to craft a document that will be brought to the 2018 Annual Council for approval.