

HIGHLIGHTS FROM  
**59<sup>th</sup> General**  
**Conference Session**  
**of the Seventh-day**  
**Adventist World Church**



Atlanta, GA | June 24 – July 3, 2010

Theme: *“Proclaiming God’s Grace”*

2010-15 OFFICERS

GENERAL CONFERENCE

**President:** Ted N.C. Wilson

**General Vice Presidents**

Lowell C. Cooper, Delbert Baker,\* Geoffrey Mbwana,\* Michael Ryan, Armando Miranda, Benjamin Schoun, Mardon Mwansa,\* Ella Simmons,\* Artur Stele

**Secretary:** G.N. Ing

**Treasurer:** Robert E. Lemon

**Education Department**

Dr. Lisa M. Beardsley, *first woman elected*

**Family Life Ministries**

Dr. Willie & Elaine Oliver\*

**NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION (NAD)**

**President:** Daniel R. Jackson

**Secretary:** G. Alexander Bryant\*

\*African/African-American

NOTABLE CHURCH & GC FACTOIDS

**World Church Membership:** 16M—up 2M from last GC session. Add church attending/unbaptized family members : 20M

**NAD Membership:** 1.1 M—reached 1M mark in 2006, a ratio of 1 SDA for every 312 people in NAD. 150 congregations added since last GC.

**NAD considered “sleeping giant”** in terms of evangelism and baptisms—high wealth, slow growth. Resurgence underway to proclaim gospel, evident by 50,000 members added in one year (2009)—highest percentage of baptisms in over 50 years. **Fastest-growing congregation is Berean-Atlanta with 3,800 members.**

**Bible Study:** Only 50% of SDAs actively study the Bible.

**Tithe:** \$1.9 B collected in 2009; a little more than half of Adventists return tithe systematically.

**59<sup>th</sup> GC session delegates worldwide:** 2,400

**Est. attendance:** 70,000 | **Est. GC session cost:** \$12M

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Sunset Today: 8:08 p.m.



Next Week: 8:06 p.m.



**Grace** to you on the eve of our nation’s 234<sup>th</sup> birthday! *We ask all guests to please complete the blue Visitor Card found in the pew rack, and place it in the offering plate. Thank you. Welcome to Breath of Life!*

**Need a Sabbath Meal?** Anyone who needs a home-cooked meal today is invited to the home of **Gloria Hope**, 2514 Palm Grove in L.A. Today’s menu: *BBQ chicken and vegeburgers, steamed rice, green beans, collard greens, macaroni salad, potato salad, green salad, punch and ice cream.*

**Assistants Needed:** Bible Instructor **Patricia Harris** would like to meet after worship **today** with those who expressed interest in assisting her in giving Bible studies. Please meet in her office at the rear of the sanctuary. Elders are encouraged to participate.

**Pathfinder Day:** Next Sabbath is the big day when our Pafs take over the worship service and honor God in their own way. They will also conduct an investiture ceremony during AY. Theme for the day: *“Forging New Paths: Elements of Leadership.”*

**Get the Message:** Don’t forget to renew your subscriptions to *Message* magazine today. The campaign is winding down, so see **Kathy Westfield** for order forms.

**Work Bee Warriors:** **Brent Hart** thanks those few warriors—particularly **John Perry**, a new, senior member—who came out on Sunday for our first work bee. Much more work remains to be done. A follow-up session will be scheduled in the near future.

get**FIT is baaaaack!**—**Couch potatoes beware:** Adaire is pushing the limits again. Get moving and come row with her at Sunset (Beach) Kayaks, 16910 Pacific Coast Hwy., on **Monday at 9 a.m.** Free rental for first 10 people who show up on time!

MORE GENERAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS . . .

GC & NAD OFFICER PHOTOS



GC President Wilson | VPs Mwansa, Baker, Simmons, Mbwana | NAD President Jackson  
 GC Family Ministries: Olivers

POSITION STATEMENTS & RESOLUTIONS

► RECOMMITMENT TO HEALTH & DIET MESSAGE



The church took a formal position to advance its health message even more vigorously as an integral part of proclaiming the full gospel—emphasizing diet reform, exercise, stress reduction, and balanced lifestyles. In support of that resolution, Vice Admiral **Regina M. Benjamin**, MD, 18<sup>th</sup> U.S. Surgeon General, praised Adventists for their commitment to healthy living: *“[This church promotes] health as something you live, and not just something that happens to you . . . that mind and character are essential to God’s plan.”*

► REAFFIRMATION OF CREATION ~ FREE SPEECH ~ SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY

The church reaffirmed its support of the **biblical account of creation** as a foundational SDA understanding (which has become a doctrinal flash point at La Sierra University); its call to end **abuse and violence against women and children**; the importance of **scripture** and the **Spirit of Prophecy**; and the importance of being able to **speak about religion freely**, with government restrictions in only limited situations.

► RENEWED COMMITMENT TO SOUL WINNING AS NEVER BEFORE



The church adopted a resolution to awaken the “sleeping giant” and redouble its efforts to proclaim the message of a soon-returning Lord. Citing divine counsel from the Spirit of Prophecy: *“The mission of the church of Christ is to save the perishing sinners. It is to make known the love of God to men and to win them to Christ. As never before, we need to press together.”* In alignment with this urgent worldwide initiative, **BOL will conduct a Bible revival and soul-winning campaign in the fall.** More details to come.