

ADVENTIST ECHO

SOUTHERN AFRICA - INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION

Volume 10, August 2012



“Jesus Christ is the one indispensable. He is indeed our sole means of salvation and our only hope of heaven ... it is *His* life, *His* faith, *His* obedience, *His* righteousness, and *His* character that is substituted for and stands for ours.”

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the vision of **GOD**

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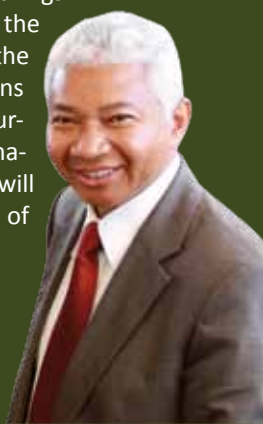
We, as part of the world church, carry a unique message of hope to a dying world around us. At no time should church leaders and members lose sight of the church's mission. Our core values—spirituality, unity, integrity, accountability, and performance—are necessary for the fulfilling of the church's mission in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division of Seventh-day Adventists.

The Bible says, "Where there is no vision people perish ..." (Prov. 29:18). Visionary leadership is critical for the growth of the church in the SID territory. As we draw closer to the end of earth's history, visionary leadership is not optional for the church at home and abroad. In other words, the church needs leaders who can strategically help the church plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate its programs and goals.

The Holy Spirit is available to work alongside those who are engaged in the work of soul winning. Those who participate in any line of God's work need the unction of the Holy Spirit to be effective. To Zerubbabel, the angel of the Lord said, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts" (Zech 4:6). Likewise, the work of making disciples within our region does not depend upon the ingenuity of church leaders. Rather, it depends upon the work of the Holy Spirit in individual hearts of church leaders and church members. Hence, we urge every church leader and every church member to actively participate in the "revival and reformation" program of the world church. It is within the context of this program that the church in this region is invited to participate in "United Prayer" and "Revived by His Word" initiatives.

As we plan and implement our various church programs and projects, let us remember that we cannot accomplish much apart from God (John 15:5b), but that with God all things are possible (Matt 19:26b). Ellen White says, "We have nothing to fear for the future except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us and his teaching in our past history" *Life Sketches*, p. 196. The Lord has great things planned for his church and the closer we are to Him then the more clearer would His plans appear. I pray that as we surrender to Revival and Reformation, our individual visions will be aligned with the vision of God.

Dr Paul Ratsara
President - SID





The pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist Movement came from various Protestant church backgrounds, most of them having considered themselves Bible-believing Christians in the full tradition or concept of the Reformers of the sixteenth century.

The Bible and the Bible only

Dr Paul Ratsara, President of the Southern Africa Indian-ocean Division, said: “every position we take should be critically examined and tested by the Scriptures. Movements are at work to undermine biblical truth. We should never forget that we are in the midst of a “great controversy” and therefore, need to be fortified by the Word of God. Every position of our faith will be searched into, and if we are not thorough Bible students established, strengthened and settled, the wisdom of the world’s philosophy will overwhelm us. Therefore, I encourage every person, young and old, to ‘search the Scriptures’ and join the program “Revived by His Word.”

From the developmental years of the Seventh-day Adventist church the Bible has been accepted as the Sole Rule of Faith and Practice. From that time to this, Seventh-day Adventists have consistently proclaimed to the world that their message is based on the Bible, and that they are in full harmony with the Reformation leaders in insisting on the Bible and the Bible only as the foundation of doctrine and guide for Christian duty and practice.

Speaking of the church history and the reformation, we are reminded by Mrs. White of the Waldenses as those who, in their day, regarded “the Bible as the only rule of faith” (4SP 68, 1885). And she intensifies the description in *The Great Controversy*, that “they held the Bible as the only supreme, infallible authority” (p. 68, 1888). We must return to the protestant principle of the Bible and the bible alone.

In “The Desire of Ages” Mrs. White declares of the Word, “Here alone is truth unmixed with error” (p. 398, 1898). And the climax is reached in this appeal: “In our time ... there is need of a return to the great Protestant principle - the Bible, and the Bible only, as the rule of faith and duty” (GC 204-5, 1888). Back in 1853, we were admonished: “As darkness thickens, and error increases, we should obtain a more thorough knowledge of the truth, and be prepared to maintain from the Scriptures the truth of our position.” (R&H, Aug. II, 1853, p. 53). What the Reformers meant when they said

“the Bible, and the Bible only,” is that they rejected church tradition as having any authority in deciding doctrine or practice for the Christian. The Christian must get his instruction from God, directly from the Bible - without any intervening ecclesiastical interpretation. In other words, each sincere believer could arrive at truth by personal study of the Bible, without the mediation or management of priest and prelate.”

“Is it possible to have a balanced understanding of the Word if God without the Holy Spirit?”

Our church is praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit because no person can have insight into the Word of God without the illumination of the Holy Spirit. “Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit speaks to the mind, and impresses truth upon the heart” (DA 671). After all, it was holy men of God who were moved by the Spirit as they penned the words in the Holy Scriptures.” I am reminded of the statement: “We can attain to an understanding of God’s word only through the illumination of that Spirit by which the word was given.” (Testimonies Vol. 5, p.703.)

“There is an accusation that the doctrines embraced by the Seventh-day Adventist church have their origin in Ellen G White. How much truth is there in this statement?”

“We praise the Lord for the gift of prophecy, and it is one of the identifying marks of God’s remnant church. However, our basic structural doctrines are all Bible based, and were introduced through individual and group Bible study as Bible truths. They definitely did not have their origin, or initial enunciation, in or through Ellen White’s visions. “Where shall we look for light? The answer is in the words of the Psalmist, ‘Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.’ No major doctrinal truth or prophetic interpretation of the Advent Faith was initially introduced among us through the agency of the Spirit of Prophecy - that is, through the instrumentality of Ellen White. That was never the design, or purpose, or sphere, of the operation of the Spirit of Prophecy. That was not God’s method for the introduction of basic doctrinal truth into the Church of the Remnant.

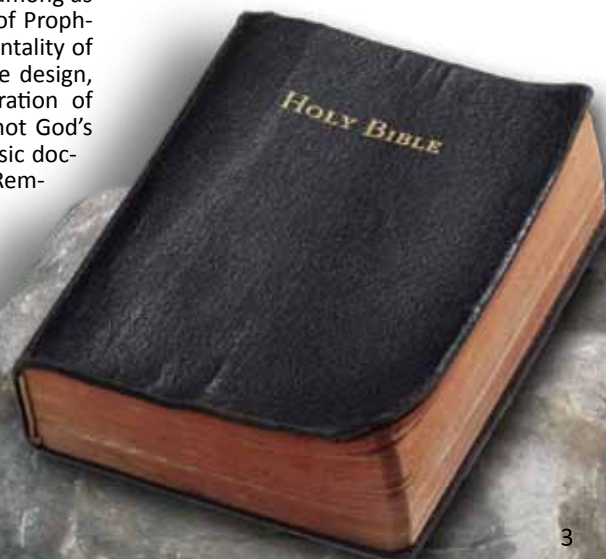
Ellen White admonishes ‘us to “present the Bible, and the Bible alone) as the foundation of our faith” (2SM, p. 85, 1894). She further declared that the Bible and “the Bible only is to be

our refuge” (That I May Know Him, p. 342). Such was her unvarying emphasis. Nothing, upon her part, could be clearer or more emphatic.”

The study of the Bible, rightly understood, will make us “wise unto salvation,” which, after all, is what we want. In reading the Bible, may we find the Man of the book – Jesus Christ. The Bible is still the oldest book on record. A divine hand has preserved it down through the ages. No other book in all the world has been fought against and pulled apart by its critics as the Bible has, yet this book lives on and towers above all its enemies. It is still the most beloved of all literature. It above all else can bring comfort and solace to the lonely, afflicted, desolate and bereaved. It is God’s eternal living Word. The Bible endures forever (1 Peter 1v25; Ps. 119v89). It is good for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness and thereby being perfect (2 Timothy 3v16, 17). It has the power to preserve from sin (Ps. 119v11) and the Lord’s keeping power will be experienced in the life of him who accepts and obeys the Word of God (Revelation 3v10). We cannot approach the Bible as we would any ordinary book. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2v14). The word of God is still the scepter by which Christ rules the church and the food with which He nourishes it!

Let us search the Scriptures. “If God’s Word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose that are rarely seen in these times” (Gospel Workers, p. 249). As more than twenty million people, world-wide, have already committed themselves to daily reading of at least one chapter of the Bible, Seventh-day Adventists affirm their commitment to continue the work of the Reformers in clinging to a faith rooted in the Bible and the Bible alone.

Dr Paul Charles SID Communication – We Connect ...





CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION



SID LEADERSHIP & STRATEGIC PLANNING SUMMIT 7-11 February 2012

The SID Leadership & Strategic Planning Summit was held from February 7-11, 2012, at Saint George Hotel, in Pretoria, South Africa with more than 165 Leaders who participated. This Leadership Summit was unique in many ways. All spouses were also invited. There were special meetings planned for the spouses of Leaders co-ordinated by Mrs. Denise Ratsara. In SID, Leadership development is the responsibility of the President and this Summit was a demonstration of team leadership by example.

A dynamic marriage enrichment seminar was conducted for three days by Dr. Willie Oliver and his wife Elaine. Dr. Oliver and Elaine serve in the Family Ministries department of the General Conference and are founders and Directors of *Journey Toward Intimacy* marriage retreats and *From This Day Forward* marriage conferences. It was indeed appreciated and many praised the SID Presidential team for this inclusion at such a vital Summit.

Dr. G. Mbwana, General Conference, Vice President (speaking of bare-footed leadership), said that he envisions the Lord saying: "take off your sandals, walk humbly before me. I am God and you are my child. I have created you and I am your Creator. I died for you. I redeemed you. You are mine. I have called you. Therefore, let me be God. Allow me to lead through you" Dr. Mbwana, who was the guest speaker, challenged participants by his presentations to commit to a life of sacrifice and total surrender.

Leaders were exposed to presentations by Elder Goodwell Nthani and the treasury team, who clarified financial issues and made a call to serve with integrity and transparency. Dr. Solomon Maphosa and the Secretariat team demonstrated the soft-ware programme used by the church to validate and update current membership statistics. Responses from the various leaders clearly indicated that leadership development is a priority in order to lead God's people. Dr. Gilberto Araujo and Dr. Paminus Machamire, Vice-presidents of the SID agreed that modeling Christ-like leadership should continue to remain characteristic of church leaders.

In his presentations on Team Leadership Dr. Paul Ratsara, SID President said that Team Leadership is a:

1. Byproduct of our relationship with God
2. Byproduct of our relationship with our spouse
3. Byproduct of our relationship with our children
4. Byproduct of our relationship with our family as whole.

To lead into the final consecration service, Dr. Solomon Maphosa encouraged all participants to "Keep on keeping on... soon the Lord will come and what a glorious culmination and reunion that will be when God and His people walk together again..."

SID Communication – We Connect...



Kids In Discipleship Ministry was launched in the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division when more than 110 participants drawn from all corners of the SID territory met in Bloemfontein, South Africa, for five days of intensive training in discipling children. Represented in the meetings were Children and Family Life Directors at Union level, Conference/field directors, front-line pastors, Local church Children Ministries coordinators and laypersons.

They met from February 1 – 5, 2012 at a seminar organized by Mrs. Caroline Chola, Children's Ministries Director of the Division and facilitated by Pastor Don MacLafferty,

dren." Later on, in his charge to the participants, he said that the missing ingredient was commitment and urged the participants to be committed to the training they have received.

The General Conference Children Ministries Director, Dr. Linda Koh emphasized the point that values are caught and not taught, therefore everyone that is involved with children should be a model because where one child reads a book, one hundred read a person.

Pastor Don MacLafferty, the guest speaker, inspired the participants as he presented



KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP

The Children's Ministries department would like to encourage administrators, front line pastors, church elders, parents and the church at large, in the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division to take the Kids In Discipleship Ministry seriously by ensuring that the ministry spreads throughout the territory.

Caroline Chola
Children's Ministries Director – SID

KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP is a ministry that is binding the hearts of families together by equipping parents and other caregivers to be primary spiritual mentors to their children

President, Kids In Discipleship and Dr. Linda Koh, Children Ministries Director of the General Conference.

The seminar's objective was to equip participants to grow parents into spiritual mentors and to disciple children and their parents/mentors with a goal of life transformation. All presentations and discussions held were greatly appreciated by the participants who acknowledged this as the most urgent need of our time.

Dr. Paul Ratsara, President of the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division, in his sermon said, "little things we do to the little ones, good or bad, will shape the lives of the chil-

the lessons through his personal testimonies, which participants could identify with. These were genuine and authentic personal life stories. He also led in the prayer series for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit where each participant experienced revival through 'Time Alone with God'.

Participants left the meetings committed to support the discipleship ministry in their homes and congregations. They were inspired by topics such as How to own God's vision for children, How to know and experience the call of discipleship, How to equip parents to be mentors of their own children, How to empower children in worship, ministry and mission, et al.



SID Youth Leadership Convention

The Mission Statement of the youth department is:

"To lead our YOUTH into a saving RELATIONSHIP with JESUS CHRIST and help them embrace His call to DISCIPLESHIP."

This is a profound statement that requires those of us who have been entrusted with the responsibility of leading young people to model Christianity to them and to whet their appetite for spiritual things. Since the Master Guide program is the first and crucial leadership model of the youth department through which we train Adventurers and Pathfinders, it is imperative to remind Master Guides and challenge them in training that we should not lose sight of inculcating Salvation and Discipleship in the minds of the youth. The Master Guide program is not the only leadership model of the department. We have other leadership models like the Youth Leadership Award (This leadership Model prepares youth leaders to be specialists in general church leadership and senior youth), The Pathfinder

Leadership Award (this one comes after one has done the Master Guide course and it prepares leaders to be specialists in training Adventurers and Pathfinders) and the Advanced Pathfinder Leadership Award (another specialist course in Adventurers and Pathfinders which comes after the Pathfinder Leadership Award).

Some of the objectives of the SID youth department are:

1. To train youth to be literature evangelists.
2. To help youth combat unemployment, promiscuity and idleness.
3. To train new 100,000 Master Guides by 2015.
4. To challenge youth to engage in evangelism.

It is because of the aforementioned, that the SID youth department decided to invest time and money to convene a Division-wide Youth Leadership Convention. We thought this would be an opportune moment to share the vision of the youth department, with those

who are leading youth. If youth leaders (Master Guides etc) are in the dark, then we will not work in a concerted effort to realize common goals.

We are now reporting with great delight that the SID youth department hosted its first Youth Leadership Convention on 5-9 April 2012 in Pretoria. This was a historical event because we had 500 attendees and all the nine unions sent delegates to the convention. The theme of the convention was "Empowered by His Spirit." The devotional speaker, Ms. Thando Malambo from the Michigan Conference, did justice to this theme and we were all blessed by her timely and spiritual messages. We were also blessed with the presence of the two GC personnel: Ps Claude Richli (Associate Publisher of Adventist World) and Ps Gilbert Canga (the World Youth Director).

Crucial resolutions were taken at the convention. We thank God and everyone who made this event a success. We hope that this convention will continue to serve as an impetus to enhance youth ministries in the SID territory.

Ps Busi Khumalo
Director: Youth Ministries - SID



Every child a DISCIPLE of JESUS



Following the SID Advisories in 2011, Union Children's Ministries Directors went ahead in 2012 to plan according to their specific needs. In January 2012, Margery Herinirina of the Indian Ocean and Ellen Mfumu of the Zimbabwe unions held their advisories in Antananarivo and Bulawayo respectively. In attendance were the field and conference directors. Caroline Chola, SID Children's Ministries Director was present to give support to the planners. The goal of the advisories was to network, share ideas and to plan for the children's programs union-wide.

The theme for the quinquennium: 'Every Child A Disciple of Jesus' was adopted and it was further agreed that:

Kids In Discipleship Centers be established in all local churches

Children with Special needs be ministered to

Children be given an opportunity to participate in daily Bible Study and Spirit of Prophecy readings

Policies which protect children from abuse be formulated and affirmed in all local churches according to the Church manual

Children's Ministries Coordinators be equipped with skills through the leadership certification course levels 1 – 3

When building new churches, provisions be made to include plans for children's Sabbath programs to shelter them from the adverse effects of rain, cold and heat

Children be given an opportunity to train in evangelism, leadership and all relevant aspects of HIV/AIDS

Children be evangelized through the VBS program and many other programs

Healthful living and healthy lifestyle in children be promoted at all levels

Good stewardship practices be taught to children and provision be made for child-friendly tithe envelopes

Both advisories were graced by the presence of the Union Presidents, Pastor Aniel Barbe (Indian Ocean) and Evans Muvuti (Zimbabwe Union) who encouraged the leaders in their planning.

We need to support the plans and programs in order to create an enabling environment for children to be disciples of Jesus.

Source: Caroline Chola – SID



2013 impact South Africa

Jesus in the city

3rd World Conference on Youth and Community Service

Pretoria - South Africa

Service Projects & Evangelism / July 1-5
Congress / July 8-13



www.gcyouthministries.org

The SID Youth Department will be hosting the 3rd World Conference on Youth & Community Service

The 3rd World Conference on Youth and Community Service will be held in South Africa from July 1 to 13, 2013.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

July 1 - 5: Cape Town and Pretoria, as well as neighboring countries to South Africa.

CONGRESS

July 8 - 13: Pretoria, Capital city of South Africa

CONGRESS REGISTRATION IS \$200

Duration: July 8 to 13

INCLUDED IN THE REGISTRATION:

- Two meals per day (lunch and dinner only)
- Registration package
- Round-trip transportation from designated hotel to congress venue
- A one-day tour

A separate costing package for motels/hotels will be made available shortly. These may or may not include breakfast.

NOTE: The \$200 registration fee does not include hotel accommodation. Each person is responsible for making his or her own hotel arrangements. For more information visit: www.impactgcyouth.org.



Be Loyal to the Royal in You

The 10th of March 2012, was a big Sabbath for the youth in Botswana. Botswana's two conferences converged in Gaborone at Botlhole International School for a Youth Rally. Pastor Busi Khumalo, SID Youth Director, was the guest speaker. He encouraged the youth to do their part in the work of the Lord and to stay true to the cause. "Be loyal to the royal in you," he retorted. Pastor Khumalo ignited excitement of the need to belong. A belonging that will give birth to an utmost responsibility of living out the Christian principles. In the afternoon, Dr. Patson Mazonde, BU Health Ministries Director, did a moving presentation on HIV/AIDS. The church cannot shy away from speaking about such because its members are either affected or infected. He admonished the youth not to judge anyone who has contracted the disease but to instead love and appreciate them. The youth signed HIV/AIDS pledges.

They committed themselves to abstaining from behavior or deportment, and attitude that may exacerbate the outcomes of the HIV/AIDS scourge. They further pledged to appropriate their bodies for holy use, to abstain from sex before marriage, to remain committed to their spouses and to show love and care to the infected and affected for Jesus' sake as a response to God's love and participation in the pursuit of the realization of two of

Botswana Government's Vision 2016 (A Healthy Nation and a Caring Nation).

The next day (Sunday) more than 1000 youth took part in a Walk to show support of this initiative and to wage war against the disease and wrong adverse attitudes. The youth were adorned in T-shirts that read, "Jesus is Coming Again!" Everything must be accelerated, harmoniously with zest because, the King is near. Such a lifestyle will shape our behavior, character and hope. Cards that carried messages of hope were delivered to pedestrians and occupants of the cars that passed by. The city center was the culmination point of the walk. The Minister of Health (Dr. Seakgosing), was represented by Mr. Mokgweetsinyane (Director: Ministry of Health). The Minister appreciated the church's support in the fight against HIV/AIDS. He encouraged the youth to make each church a center of hope for the community. 600 pledges were handed over to the Minister's Representative by Botswana Union Youth Director, Pastor Pako Mokgwane. Union and Conference Officers with Pastors were part of the march too. Botswana Youth enjoy good support from their Leaders.

Pastor Pako Mokgwane
Director: communication - Botswana



Adventist World to promote young people in Africa

The Mid-Year Committee of SID voted to endorse a concept presented by Claude Richli, associate publisher of Adventist World and Adventist Review magazines to launch a new edition of the international magazine to empower young people in Africa.

The new edition is to be designed in Africa to better reflect local tastes, and will feature local content and articles for young people in addition to the articles that have made Adventist World into a globally acclaimed publication.

The new magazine will be marketed to the public at large under a neutral banner at a very affordable price to enable young people and Pathfinder clubs to use it as a monthly fundraiser to promote their activities and to earn money for themselves to help with school fees and other necessities. It will first and foremost serve as a missionary magazine, empowering young people to witness to their community about the church's teachings, its educational and humanitarian actions around the world.

A partnership with the Hope Channel and Adventist World Radio will ensure that regular advertising will take place on the airwaves on behalf of the Youth Department and the magazine, thus raising the awareness of the public at large and preparing the ground for effective distribution. In return, the back page of the magazine will be used to advertise Adventist World Radio and the Hope Channel. According to Claude Richli, "we are putting building blocks in place to create powerful media synergies, to establish the name of the Church among the public and to give it a face through our Pathfinders in their uniforms."

Pastor Busi Khumalo, Youth Ministries Director for the SID supports this project for these reasons:

1. Since local content and youth-friendly articles will be incorporated in the envisaged magazine, this will encourage youth to read pertinent articles that will inform them about current events happening around the world in the SDA church.
2. Youth will be challenged to sell the magazines. As they sell the magazines they will earn some money and this will expose them to gaining valuable Literature Evangelism skills, which we so desire for our youth to have. At the moment most of our youth are unemployed and have no money to further their studies. Idleness exposes our youth to diverse deviant behaviors. Thus this initiative will help us to address these maladies.
3. By selling and distributing the magazines, youth will be helping to hasten the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The program is to be implemented step by step in the countries comprising SID beginning in 2013. Adventist World, is the official magazine of the World Church, presently distributed to over 150 countries including into SID, in 8 languages. The magazine's headquarters are in Seoul, South Korea and Silver Spring, Maryland.

SID Communication we connect ...



A Ministry for Every Woman: "Homes of Hope and Healing" is a program developed by the Women's Ministries Department to advance the work of sharing the gospel using the methods that Christ used. This program provides an opportunity for every Seventh-day Adventist woman to become involved in the mission of the church. A primary goal is that of motivating each woman to strengthen relationships—with Jesus, with her family, with other church members, and with the people in her community.

A Ministry for Every Woman: "Homes of Hope and Healing" calls each woman—to invite her friends and their families to fellowship, to introduce her friends to Jesus, and to share the great truths of God's Word. We may each show kindness in practical Christian service to others.

OUR FOUNDATION: CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching people. The Savior mingled with [people] as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'follow Me'" Ministry of Healing, p. 143. (Emphasis supplied.)

This gives us a beautiful summary of Christ's method of reaching hearts. How may we follow His example to draw others to Him?

1. "The Savior mingled with [people] as one who desired their good." In order to mingle, we must go into the community and make friends. As we mingle with people and share Christ's love with them, it may surprise us to see how the Lord will use us to help others.
2. "He showed His sympathy." As Jesus socialized with people, He expressed His sympathy for them; His actions showed that He cared. We can also do this. In demonstrating our sympathy and concern for our friends, we will spend time with them, offering genuine affirmation, encouragement, hope and a listening ear.
3. "He ministered to their needs." It is our kindness motivated by love that reaches them. Ordinary, everyday kindness, shown to real people, facing real challenges—this is what opens hearts.
4. "He won their confidence." Showing respect and honesty helps win a person's confidence. Jesus was real and honest in His dealings with others which built their confidence in Him. We should follow His example. "Then He bade them 'Follow me.'" The good news of the gospel that we share, the invitation we extend to our friends and neighbors, is an invitation to follow the Person—Jesus Christ.

In these perplexing times, when hopelessness abounds, our homes can be places where neighbors, family, and friends gather in fellowship to share HOPE and HEALING for spiritual and emotional nurture. Here friendships among women and their families are formed; hope, healing and encouragement are given; and needs are met.

"Women as well as men can engage in the work of hiding the truth where it can work out and be made manifest. They can take their place in the work at this crisis, and the Lord will work through them." Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 128, 129.

For more information on how to implement 'homes of Hope and Healing' in your local church and home, please contact your local Conference/Union AWM Leaders.



ZAMBIA unites in

Praise

The Zambia Union Conference staged its third music camp-meeting from April 8 – 14 April 2012.

This third national music camp-meeting was held in the Copperbelt province in Ndola at the “Zambia International Trade Fair.” The occasion drew one hundred and fifteen singing groups from the ten provinces of Zambia with more than two thousand six hundred and seventy four participants.

From the one hundred and fifteen countrywide singing units, twenty-three came from the Mighty South Zambia Conference. Among the choirs was Swan Church Choir from Choma Mission District. The proposed venue for the next National Music Camp Meeting in 2014 will be in Lusaka. The theme for this year’s National Music Camp Meeting was ‘Salvation in Song.’ The theme was decided upon based on the words: *“Unbelievers are often converted as they listen to pure words of praise and gratitude to God” Messages to Young people, p. 424.*

The guest speakers who added value to the meeting were Dr. Harrington Akombwa - President of the S.D.A church in Zambia, Pastor J Hamoonge - Personal Ministries Director of Zambia Union, Apology Lecturer, John Mwesa from Zambia Adventist University, Elder Gent Namakobo- Music Camp Meet-

ing Secretary, Pastor Reuben Muyunda-Zambia Union Music Director and Pastor Hambaya from the Choma Mission District.

As each group presented themselves to sing, they experienced great support from the others. The spirit at the Camp-meeting was not of competition but of cooperation and unity of purpose. The purpose of the meeting was to bring praise to God, learn more about music and interact with other singers from all over Zambia.

Praise increases faith, hope and courage. Praise increases our power in prayer, our love for God, power in witnessing, results in greater blessings being bestowed, promotes health and brings us nearer to heaven. The creative genius of Pastor Reuben Muyunda was clearly evident in such a well orchestrated event. Every day from 6 o’clock in the morning to 9 o’ clock at night, melodious music filled the air. The only pause in-between music was for meals and spirit-filled messages by Pastor Paul Charles, also known as the Wheelbarrow Kid and presenter for the program: Hymns that inspire Hope, Courage and Obedience on Hope Channel.

“Let us educate our hearts and lips to speak the praise of God for His matchless life” Ministry of Healing, p. 253.

Robbie Hanshya
Communication Director
Choma Central S.D.A Church



REVIVED BY HIS WORD

first order of 'Business' in SID

Front-line Pastor, Highten Hamweene from Zambia presented the opening devotional message for those attending the Mid-year meetings of the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division (SID) on the 18th of May 2012. His reflection was on Amos 5v21-24.

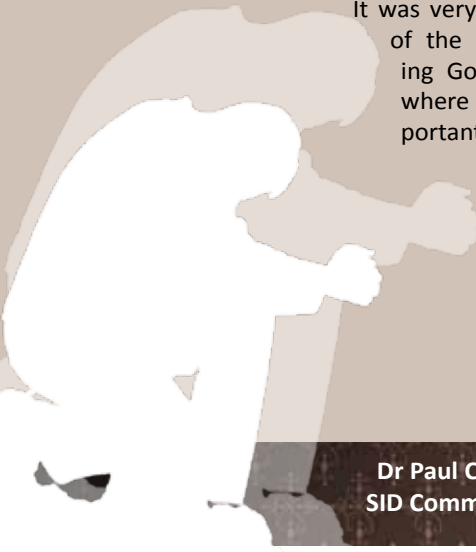
Speaking on the theme: "Revived by His Word," and focusing on the question: "what does God require?" he said that God's Word must become a living fountain in our lives. "In order not to repeat the mistakes we need to learn from the mistakes of the past. He reiterated the question: 'What does God require?' God has one desire that we may live justly and righteously. We need to live according to a 'thus saith the Lord... genuine revival can only come through the word of God.'" Concluding his message, Pastor Hamweene encouraged the leaders gathered to focus only on God's Word and His will.

It was very significant to notice the entire leadership and members of the Executive Committee kneeling together in prayer seeking God's grace and leading in the hours that was to follow where strategic decisions were to be made with regard to important programs and initiatives of the church in the region.

In a special service, co-ordinated by Dr Jongimpi Papu (Ministerial Director – SID), Officers of the Unions formed a circle around the SID Officers seeking God's blessing and outpouring of His Spirit as they are led by His Spirit to give Spiritual leadership to the church in Southern Africa.

Prayer continues to be a distinguishing feature of meetings in SID.

Dr Paul Charles
SID Communication – We Connect



It doesn't matter where we come from



When a piece of metal is being shaped by a lathe, it does not matter what shape it is, or how rusty it has become, or where it has been. Evidence of rust and worthlessness is totally eradicated by the engineer, as the lathe becomes an extension of himself working on the piece of metal secured in the lathe. And then he slowly shapes the piece of metal into the design he has in his mind.

Then, what was once a discarded, rusty piece of metal is transformed into a shape with excellent beauty. The Bible has an inherent power to shape and change lives as it is an extension of God Himself, it is His holy word. As we consistently immerse ourselves in and submit to the Bible, reading it daily, we allow its author, the supreme engineer, God Himself, to shape us into the design He has in His mind. It doesn't matter where we come from or what we've been up to, God can and will recreate us into his image through the reviving power of His word.

In an interview with businessmen Malcolm Houston and Steven Naidoo from Durban, South Africa, it was affirmed that the Bible does not only prepare you for heaven but also offers guidance and practical counsel to be successful on earth. Being committed Seventh-day Adventists, and blessed businessmen; they have agreed that if any person wants to experience the abundance of life and joyful fellowship with Christ, then they should first be: Revived by His Word!

Otieno Mkandawire - SIDmedia

“What a nice surprise!” Shirley said to the two men at her door. She had been baptized the previous Sabbath. Now, here were men from her church wanting to install the Hope Channel for her!

Many of our leading churches around the world have started installing Hope Channel in the homes of newly baptized members. When you think of it, this makes good sense for the following reasons:

- Most churches find it very difficult to provide ongoing spiritual nurture for newly baptized members. Well over 35% soon leave the church.
- Hope Channel is an acknowledged source of excellent material for nurture and study, helping to establish members in the faith.
- For the church, it is an excellent investment. Having members firmly established in the faith results in long-term active membership (and donations) over a long period.
- Hope Channel has been shown to be instrumental in winning spouses and family members.

Many of our pastors and a growing number of members have Hope Channel in their homes. Why not turn your home into a “Home of Hope”. You will be blessed and enriched. You can share it with neighbors and friends.

For the same cost as 2 or 3 tyres, you can have Hope Channel installed in your home. And it will last a lot longer! No monthly costs. Inspiration for your family 24 hours a day!

HOW TO RECEIVE HOPE CHANNEL AT HOME

By Satellite

The recommended method is to have a receiver and small satellite dish installed, which is an excellent investment, as there are no monthly charges and you can watch for many years.

Another method is to try to use your DSTV decoder. Instructions are available on the website: www.hopeafrica.tv

By Internet

As high speed Internet spreads across Africa, an increasing number of viewers watch Hope Channel this way, from homes and offices. If you visit the website on www.hopetv.org you can click on a wide variety of channels, in many different languages.

HOPE CHANNEL VIEWERS WRITE...

Thank God for the gift of Hope Channel. Even though I'm here in Saudi Arabia without a church that I can attend, I'm so blessed with all the lessons I can watch! I share the website with my friends here so that they can be blessed also. Praise the Lord! S.J, Saudi

Wow-wow-wow! I never knew I could get a station like this. It makes me close to God. Even if I am in the office, I feel as if I am missing something when I cannot watch. I pray God will help you to do more better. Tope, Qatar

I always find inspiration, renewal, and hope whenever I watch your programs. Thank you, Lord, for Hope Channel! Umlulama, South Africa

I was a military officer who was faithful and obeyed his leader. But I was converted in 2005 by hearing the gospel. Hope Channel also encouraged me to be a faithful Christian. Kogne, Ethiopia.

It is so nice and wonderful to find you on the Internet. I get blessed every time when I am watching at work. I could love to learn more and more good news from Hope Channel. I am working as a safety officer in Zambia's Kansanshi mine. Preach to every nation then the end shall come. Memory, Zambia

Hope Channel, you are truly restoring hope to many with broken hearts. God bless you. Singo,



If you need advice or cannot find an installer, please contact the Hope Channel (Africa) technical office in South Africa
Email: Info@hopeafrica.tv Website: www.hopeafrica.tv
Phone +27-87-751-9282.

MARANATHA

The Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division (SID) is blessed to be in partnership with Maranatha, a relationship that started seven years ago. Initially, a request was made to build 1001 churches and 8 schools, in Mozambique. A year later, in October 2006, Maranatha visited Mozambique, to assess the needs and see how they could help in SID. The rest of the story is nothing short of divine providence.

More than thirty years of conflict left Mozambique war-torn and hope-depleted. Maranatha began working in Mozambique in 2007. They built 657 One-Day churches, These buildings provide a permanent place for Christian worship in communities across Mozambique. They are also used for government-sponsored literacy programs, and in some places they serve as schools and medical clinics. They have also built 55 brick churches, five schools in Liberdade and Mahotas in Maputo, Beira, Chimoio, Tete, including the Seminary in Beira.

Mozambique's young people have very limited access to education. The new schools are providing a place for thousands to learn to read, write and develop their skills.

About 600 wells have been drilled. By providing a well in each community that receives a church, Maranatha has helped change the lives of both individuals and communities.

In Mozambique, Maranatha also built 100 chapels using hydro-form bricks. After the tremendous help in Mozambique, the SID requested Maranatha to help throughout the Division territory, and from 2009 up to May 2012, they are helping in SID as follows:



Angola ←

We (SID) have requested for about 600 - 1-Day Churches in Angola and 1500 class rooms or 1-Day Schools. Presently we have submitted to ESSO, the oil company a proposal of 1 million dollars to help us build schools in the country. Brother Ron Kedas is living in Luanda and organizing the work to start there very soon.



Zimbabwe ←

In Solusi – 28 One-day School/class rooms has been built and in Victoria Falls, 38 One-day School/classrooms have been built. Two large churches have been built in Bulawayo with one other church and school.

Presently Maranatha is moving to Zimbabwe to build many 1-day Churches and schools in the country.

ATHA

In Namibia, Maranatha already visited the country to assess the needs and have received all the requests.



IOUM

IOUM (Indian Ocean Union Mission): Maranatha has compiled the requests and is seeking for funds to start building schools and at a later date, churches.

The impact of Maranatha's mission is two-fold, ie: they provide desperately needed buildings, and also offer opportunities for ordinary people to make service a part of their lives. The SID praises God for this partnership with Maranatha.

Pastor Gilberto Araujo
Vice-President, SID

Malawi

Maranatha is constructing churches and schools in Malawi, where a rapidly growing Church has created a need for new church structures. Many congregations are finishing their One-Day Churches with fire-brick walls.

Botswana

Maranatha built 70 One-Day Churches and is trying to raise more funds for a One-day School campus in Botswana.



Zambia

32 One day School/class rooms have been built in the Livingstone area and about 200 One-day churches have been built by Riverside.



Southern Africa Union Conference

In Swaziland, Maranatha has already built 11 One-day Churches and more than 9 One-day Churches are ready to be built. Maranatha is waiting on the church to find a plot to build a School in Swaziland.

In Lesotho, 9 One-day Churches have been built and more are ready to be built.



TED WILSON: “For me, what is religious freedom?”

Religious freedom has always been an important subject for me. I recall as a young boy my father’s great interest in this subject. He would spend hours visiting various government leaders sensitizing them to the tremendous need of religious liberty. I drew a lifelong love for this subject from those early years of boyhood. We need to instill in young people the love for preserving religious liberty and freedom of conscience. I see religious freedom as a major value for justice, peace and progress of cultures and society in general.

I am a religious leader, a member of a Church [Seventh-day Adventist church] which has always considered religious freedom as part of its beliefs, of its history and of its mission. I believe that Religious Freedom is in the DNA of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We received it from the Bible. We also feel very close to the believers who stood for it during thousands of years of religious restrictions and persecution.

Why, the Church I represent is so involved in Religious Liberty?

As with many secular thinkers, we believe Religious Freedom is a fundamental freedom, a basic human right. It allows religious openness and it is good for the well-being of societies and countries ... Religious freedom helps to make a country united and strong.

“In support of Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments, and in harmony with its beliefs and its history, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is fully committed to promote, defend, and protect religious freedom for everyone, everywhere.”

But, for the Church I represent, the understanding of religious freedom has, first and foremost, a biblical foundation. We believe

Religious Freedom is the free gift of God, our Creator and Savior. Let me add, that Seventh-day Adventists believe that we were created by God in six literal, consecutive days. We were created in God’s image. God created us with the freedom to choose. It was given without any condition (Genesis 2: 16-17). It is part of our human dignity. It was an expression of God’s great love. There is no love without the freedom to love. Religious Freedom bears the signature of a God of love.

Seventh-day Adventists see Religious Freedom as part of the great conflict between God and Satan, between good and evil. The pioneers of our Church were very passionate about freedom of conscience, which is the work of religious freedom. They saw it as a value which should be protected. Christians have always seen Jesus as the truth. But no one should be forced to follow Him. Jesus never imposed His teachings and His vision by using His power. Even His disciples were free to leave him (John 6:67). Jesus prepared His disciples to face persecution, but he has never encouraged them to persecute others or to take revenge: “When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another.” Mt 10:23. Instead of using violence Jesus asked his disciples to love their enemies. This is also the continual exhortation of the Apostles (1 Cor. 4: 12-14).

The question is: Would a religious state be an acceptable alternative to a secular state?

As believer and member of a religious minority we are very suspicious about religion when it becomes political. History has shown the disastrous effects of the union between Church and State on religious freedom.

For me a religious state is not an alternative. We believe the state in all its various forms is not the kingdom of God. Jesus said: “ My kingdom is not of this world.” At its best it will be an imperfect attempt to establish peace by protecting the freedom and the rights of all. When the state is made sacred,

the roots of persecution are planted. When it becomes “godlike,” it betrays its mission.

My choice goes to a state, which applies the international instruments in which religious freedom is described as a fundamental freedom.

I agree with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Dr. Heiner Bieleferldt, when he writes:

“Consequently, States must ensure that all individuals can enjoy their freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief on the basis of respect for their inherent human dignity. Respect for freedom of religion or belief as a human right does not depend on administrative registration procedures, as it has the status of a human right, prior to and independent of any acts of State approval.”

Our strong commitment

Let us then be fully engaged in our strong commitment and personal actions to live lives that promote religious liberty and freedom of conscience. Let us speak and advocate our positions in a winsome manner with grace, conviction, and passion. Let us seek wisdom from heaven to accomplish the great task of championing religious freedom and enlisting the support from government and civic leaders as well as the public. Let us especially encourage young people to join in this vitally important pursuit of constant vigilance and action for the religious liberty and freedom of conscience for all. It is a God-given gift and it is our great privilege to receive it and to share it.

May God give each of us the power to do so!

Excerpts from a stirring Speech by Dr. Ted Wilson, presented at the IRLA Congress, Punta Cana April 26, 2012

SID Communication – We Connect...

Look to Christ and Him alone...

The Southern Africa Union Conference (SAU) hosted a Revival and Reformation rally in Johannesburg, South Africa. To a stadium of more than fifteen thousand people seated, Dr. Letseli, SAU President, in his opening remarks said: "Revival cannot be manufactured but has to be received. We are to wait on the Lord and receive the gift of revival that the Lord wants to bless us with."

Dr. Ted Wilson, President of the world Church of Seventh-day Adventists, exclaimed that it was exciting to see such a diverse gathering of people united in Jesus Christ. He said that in Christ we are united regardless of our color, age, language or cultural background. He also called upon the youth to merge their energy and focus with the wisdom of those older, to be a blessing to the world. "The devil wants to divide and conquer... therefore be united in Christ and to the Word. Draw close to Christ and come together. Press together, press together ... don't fight for individual rights but look to Christ, the center and circumference of our faith." Effort Bhebe from South Africa, exclaimed that the emphasis of the President's message was timely and relevant and was glad that he clearly outlined that unity is found only in Christ.

More than fifteen thousand people agreed with Ted Wilson as He openly proclaimed: "Christ is our righteousness and only hope

as we rapidly come to the close of earth's history. I believe that Jesus is coming soon!" They responded with loud Amens and waving of hands. He also urged: "We are coming to the close of the great controversy between Christ and Satan. I urge you to re-read the book, "The Great Controversy." Seventh-day Adventist members around the world will distribute approximately 175 million copies of that book in various versions during 2012 and 2013."

Speaking to the theme for the day he said: "Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart... Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits, and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this they must blend." Quoting from the book "Steps to Christ," and Selected Messages, which beautifully explains our justification and sanctification relationship to Christ and His righteousness, he said: "Our only ground of hope is in the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and in that wrought by His Spirit working in and through us."

Speaking on perfection he also said: "we are not to think of ourselves as perfect except

that we are perfect in Christ's righteousness - what He does for us justifying us and what He does through us sanctifying us. Selected Messages, Book 1, page 259, tells us, "Christ is the center to which all should be attracted; for the nearer we approach the center, the closer we shall come together ... growing into the character and image of Jesus." We are not to have any thoughts that we are righteous in our own right. We are completely dependent on Christ for any changes in our lives as we submit to Him never boasting of being perfect or having attained perfection. We read in "True Revival," page 62, "No one who claims holiness is really holy. So how should we understand the plan of salvation in these last days of earth's history just before Christ's second coming? Cheap grace will not do it. It denies the power of the Holy Spirit to change the life day by day to become more and more like Christ. Legalism will not do it. It blocks the only way to salvation which is total dependence on Jesus Christ, our only way to salvation. An intellectual, higher critical approach will not do it. It destroys the very miracle of conversion and sanctification and strips God's salvation of its power to change lives.

As the entire gathering rose to their feet joining Ted Wilson, to accept Christ and His righteousness to work in their lives, a peaceful calm filled the stadium attributed to the presence of the Spirit of God. The Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division, together with the Southern Africa Union Conference agree and unites with Dr. Ted Wilson that "the call for revival and reformation is not something produced by the General Conference but is the work of the Holy Spirit. This is not some legalistic initiative but is centered in Christ and Him alone."

Dr. Paul Charles
SID Communication – We Connect ...





More than 36 000 Seventh-day Adventist gathered in Harare National Sports stadium to eagerly listen to the message of the World leader of the Seventh-day Adventist church, Dr. Ted Wilson. Young people and pathfinders spoke of the great hope they had in Jesus Christ. The event was also planned for the launch of the Great Hope Project, an initiative of the World church to distribute more than 175 million copies of the abridged version of the book: "The Great Controversy."

Ted Wilson affirmed young people in his message of hope and a call to faithfulness as he expressed that Seventh day Adventists are not legalists. Young and old alike appreciated the message of the President and affirmed their standing in the Seventh-day Adventist church. The Seventh-day Adventist church in Zimbabwe was excited to host the president and his wife Nancy.

GWERU

Ted Wilson, president of world-wide Seventh-day Adventist Church, thanked the government of Zimbabwe for the religious liberty enjoyed in Zimbabwe. He further congratulated the country for a constitution wherein is entrenched the freedom to worship according to one's conscience. In Gweru, on Sabbath, March 10, 2012, more than 12 000 Adventists welcomed Dr. Ted Wilson, flanked by the Officers of the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division and Zimbabwe Union. He was welcomed with a guard of honor by the Pathfinders and Master-guides. Wilson affirmed that our rule of faith should be the Bible. He espoused that the Word of God, the Bible, is our guide as we enter into eternity while we live on this earth.

Referring to many fundamental biblical truths of the Seventh-day Adventist church, he encouraged people to constantly grow in Christ. He encouraged the youth to align their lives with the Word of God as he explained the transformational experience of a person when they accept Christ as their Savior. "Our faith must be an intelligent faith... rooted in the Word of God," he said.

BULAWAYO

Excitement filled the air in Barbourfields Stadium, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe as approximately 38 000 people welcomed the President of the General Conference, Pastor Ted Wilson. While Wilson led the corporate prayer, he also emphasized the need to constantly pray for the latter rain as spiritual rain is also needed on a daily basis. Seventh-day Adventists prayed for a peaceful upcoming elections in Zimbabwe and for the leaders of the country. The honorable minister, Sam Sipepha Nkomo, said: "the new constitution will continue to guarantee freedom of religion" and encouraged the church to continue to pray for the nation of Zimbabwe. Pastor Ted Wilson reminded those gathered that Seventh-day Ad-

ventist believe that we are saved by grace alone.

SOLUSI

Dr. Ted Wilson in his commencement address at the 16th Graduation Ceremony of Solusi University, Zimbabwe where 433 students graduated saluted the University and implored students to embrace Christ as their example and soon coming king.

The honorable Dr. John Landa Nkomo, Vice-President of the Republic of the Zimbabwe, in his welcome address said: "Solusi University is like a 'long bridge' and commended Solusi University for their commitment to the Holy Scriptures. As Dr. Wilson admonished and encouraged the students and parents, those attending were determined to embrace Christ as the pinnacle of success. The Seventh-day Adventist church is indebted to Solusi University for training leaders for the church and teachers in the educational institutions throughout Africa.

FROM ZIMBABWE TO ZAMBIA

"Seventh-day Adventists should be in the forefront of pointing people to the second coming of Jesus Christ," declared Pastor Ted Wilson. The arrival of the president of the Seventh-day Adventist church world-wide has brought people together to focus on the purpose of the existence of the church in the Southern Africa region. Dr. Ted Wilson landed onto Zambian soil on Monday, March 12, 2012.

Dr. Harrington Akombwa, President of the Seventh-day Adventist church in Zambia, welcomed Dr. Ted Wilson as he landed into the country from Zimbabwe, together with many governmental officials, Union and Conference administrators, Pastors and hundreds of members of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Pastor Akombwa shared with everyone that the presence of the leader of the World church is significant and will positively impact evangelism in Zambia.

Before Pastor Ted Wilson addressed those waiting for him, he inspected the pathfinders and master-guides, escorted by a guard of honor by the pathfinders. He spoke to hundreds of Adventist men, women and children. Pastor Wilson highlighted the need for unity. He encouraged the young people who gathered that their activities and everything they do should be contained in the foundation of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He said that Seventh-day Adventists should be in the forefront of pointing people to the second coming of Jesus Christ. Quoting from the book of Joel chapter 2 verse 21, he encouraged the church to "be glad and rejoice for the Lord will do great things."

Zambia has the largest number of Adventists in the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division (SID) with almost a million members. Dr. Ratsara, SID President, who accompanied Dr. Wilson expressed excitement that Dr. Wilson is visiting Zambia. When asked about the impact that the visit will have in Zambia, Pastor Reuben Muyunda, Communications Director, for the Zambia Union Conference said: "for the world leader to take time to visit Zambia reflects the es-

"The Reformation did not end with Luther, it must continue with us."



sense of true humility and leadership. A leader must visit his flock and his visit will strengthen the unity and faith of believers."

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING OPENED AT RUSANGU UNIVERSITY, ZAMBIA

Rusangu University officially opened its new administrative building with Dr. Ted Wilson unveiling the official plaque memorializing the event. Dr. Paul Ratsara boldly exclaimed that if you had to place the Rusangu of today and the Rusangu of 8 or 9 years ago side by side, it is not a comparison but a contrast. He further exclaimed that education is cheaper than ignorance and that Rusangu is indeed a "miracle of God."

Dr. Phiri, the honourable Minister of Education praised the Seventh-day Adventist church and declared that Seventh-day Adventists operate the largest Education system in the Protestant world. He said further that education is the only way to escape poverty, mitigate disease and eradicate ignorance. He said: "Moral failure is at the heart of economic downfall in Zambia." Speaking directly to young people he said: "Rusangu is a unique vessel that God wants to use to reach the young people. Always thank God for His grace he bestowed upon you and be the torch-bearers of truth." Among those appreciated for monumental and foundational contributions was Dr. Mulandano who was affectionately called the "Pathfinder of Rusangu." A common thread in all presentations by different speakers was that Zambia owed a lot to Missionaries who established mission stations and introduced modern education to Zambia and the rest of Africa.

When he stood behind the podium, Dr. Ted Wilson expressed gratitude for Religious Liberty and Freedom of Conscience experienced in Zambia. He spoke against a segmented approach to human existence. He re-affirmed the biblical teaching of creation in 6 literal days and that man was created in the image of God as clearly spelled out in the first book of the Bible. He implored: "the Bible is not just interesting stories. Make it foundational in everything you say and do." He spoke about being vision focused, constantly and consistently. "Never take your eyes off the goal," he said. Finally, he reminded those gathered, of the focus of the Seventh-day Adventist church namely 'the second coming of Christ. He publicly declared to all present: "Jesus is coming soon. I believe it with all my heart."

At an evening meeting on March 13, 2012 in Lusaka, Pastor Ted Wilson, challenged Seventh-day Adventists to a life of primitive godliness, revival and preparation for the latter rain. He implored Seventh-day Adventists to "make a difference wherever you are called to serve." Elder Nchumunya Chitenge said that the President, in his address, made it very clear that there is no place for self and pride in our relationship with Christ. We need to follow Jesus Christ because He is our standard and means of righteousness. Dr. Ted Wilson proclaimed that we need to dream big dreams, pray earnest prayers,

focus on God and God alone, die to self, remain humble and look forward to the second coming of Jesus Christ. Finally he reiterated, "Seventh-day Adventists must hold fast to the Bible as our foundation for belief and practice in this world. The Reformation did not end with Luther ... it must continue with us."

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN ZAMBIA DIVIDES IN ORDER TO MULTIPLY

Zambia has more than 760 000 Adventists and Elder George Brywell Simuzoko, the Chief Financial Officer for the Zambia Union of Seventh-day Adventists said: "in order to accommodate the growth rate of the church, it is important to establish a new administrative office." "In 1998, three territories were divided into six and as a result in 1990, it was announced to be the fastest growth rate in the world. In 2007, the North Zambia field was divided into two because of its membership of more than 30 000. As a result of the division, the North Zambia Field increased to a membership of 47 000 while the other part, Luapula Field of Zambia increased to a membership of 70 000. "In order to manage such growth it is important to set up another Union Administrative office in Ndola." "In order to enhance evangelism we have to divide in order to multiply," he said.

The projected plan of the church in Zambia is to double the church membership by 2020. "The realignment of the Copperbelt Conference in Zambia will also be a form of decentralization in order to bring the leadership closer to the people," said Pastor Daniel Chuunga, President of Copperbelt Zambia Field of Seventh-day Adventists.

Zambia is the fastest growing territory in the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division region.

Dr. Paul Charles
SID Communication – We Connect ...



Seventh-day Adventist leaders of the church in the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Region (SID) recognized the service of six of its church employees by granting commissioned minister credentials during a special ceremony held at Pretoria on October 29, 2011. The ceremony took place during the year-end executive committee meetings of the SID. More recently, during the mid-year meetings of the SID, Drs Oscar Anibal and Maria Eugenia Giordano were also granted commissioned minister credentials. Dr. Paminus Machamire, in his sermon said that “the call to service is a call to sacrifice and go beyond the call of duty.” Drs Oscar Anibal and Maria Eugenia Giordano service history includes being Literature Evangelists and currently they serve as HIV/AIDS Directors in Africa. Following the commissioning prayer by Dr. Paul Ratsara (President, SID), Dr Claude Richli, Associate publisher of Adventist World and Adventist Review magazines presented the commissioning charge.

“We are communicating and affirming that these leaders, men and women, of the division are committed, consecrated people in active service to the Lord and are worthy of being emulated while they continue to serve under the leadership of the Holy Spirit,” said Paul Ratsara, president of the church in SID. “This is why we have had this commissioning ceremony: to give witness and gratitude to them for the faithful years they have served well.”

“This is the highest recognition the church can give to non-ministerial workers,” said Dr Jongimpi Papu, Ministerial Director, SID.

When asked about the significance of the service, Dr Solomon Maphosa, Executive Secretary, SID stated: “Ac-

ording to the church’s working policy, whenever an employing organization considers it prudent to offer commissioned minister credentials to any of its workers, a ceremony is held to officially confer upon such a worker this high honor of the organization’s approval of the service of the worker. It is also a ceremony that sends the worker forward to continue toward fulfillment of the mission through organizational service.

In order to be considered for the commissioned minister credential, the employee must be in regular standing in the Seventh-day Adventist Church with more than five years of service, and be able to demonstrate proficiency in the assigned responsibilities.”

Commissioned ministers may serve as associates in pastoral care, Bible instructors, treasurers, departmental directors and associate and assistant departmental directors among other offices according to the working policy of the church. “In addition, such commissioned ministers are not normally on the path of ordination,” states the General Conference Working Policy (“Credentials and Licenses,” pp. 191, 192).

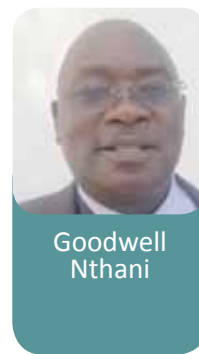
Dr Solomon Maphosa, in his usual endearing style appealed to the six candidates at the year-end meetings to be constantly filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and remain humble as they continue in the service of the mission of the church. He said: “this [commissioning] is for life ... you don’t quit when the going gets tough or when you get tired but instead to continue to willingly avail yourself to the Master’s call.”

The six candidates currently serve in the following capacities in the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division:

- Mrs Caroline Chola : *Director, Women/Children Ministries*
- Dr Ellah Kamwendo : *Education Director*
- Mrs Jean Mabuto : *Financial Officer*
- Elder Goodson Shumba : *Financial Officer*
- Elder Michael Muchula : *Financial Officer*
- Elder Goodwell Nthani : *Chief Financial Officer*

“Preparation for such a solemn service is essentially personal and spiritual and it would be good that this be done in a spirit of dedication and commitment to the Lord.” Hensley Moorooon, Associate Executive Secretary, SID.

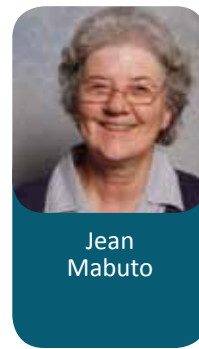
Dr Ellah Kamwendo, SID Education Director responded: “I am honored and yet humbled because this calls for more dedication, responsibility and accountability. By God’s grace I place myself in His Hands to be as an instrument to be used according to His Will



Goodwell Nthani



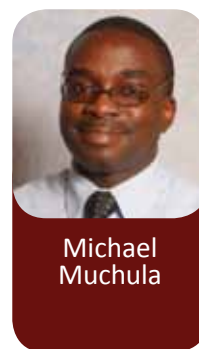
Goodson Shumba



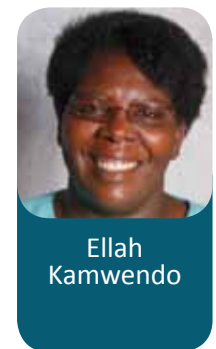
Jean Mabuto



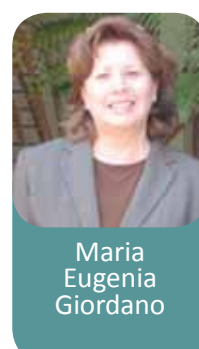
Caroline Chola



Michael Muchula



Ellah Kamwendo



Maria Eugenia Giordano



Oscar Anibal Giordano



to accomplish that which I am commissioned to do. May His Name be praised forever.”

“The Commissioning Service was very special and helped me to realize that God still has a work He wants to finish through me. I want to do more in the way of evangelism for children, so this was a great start into a “new” line of work once retirement comes upon me” responded Mrs Jean Mabuto, Financial Officer, SID.

All candidates agreed that while the credential does not change their responsibilities, it does inspire a renewed commitment to the mission of the church.

SID Communication – We Connect...

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY PROJECT

- Hope Into Every Home -

The book: Great Controversy contains an engaging presentation of the love and ultimate victory of God in the battle between good and evil. Its impact can be powerful and life changing for the modern reader.

In preparation for the soon return of Jesus, our Lord, the GCP challenge is to distribute at least 50 million copies of The Great Controversy division-wide between 2012 and 2013. This plan is coordinated by the Ministerial and the Publishing departments, in collaboration with all other departments of the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division. Each Union in the SID region accepted the challenge and committed to doing everything possible to realize this vision.

In essence, this goal will be realized by distributing at least 50 million copies.

The achievement of this goal will represent the broadest literature distribution, with the intention of sharing the gospel, ever undertaken by the Church. At the Leadership Summit meetings of the SID in February 2012, a special ceremony was conducted to pray over this initiative after a stirring sermon by Pastor Super Moesi, Publishing Director – SID.

Please contact your local Elder/Pastor or Conference for more information.



SID EVANGELISM GOAL REACHED FOR 2011

On May 21, 2012, Dr Gilbert Araujo, on behalf of the presidential team presented the SID Presidential report to the Mid-year committee. He said that in the year 2011, the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division set a visionary goal of reaching one million people and baptizing the same during the five-year term. So far, 210,753 baptisms have been reported for the year 2011.

After serious debate, deliberation and intentional planning the following Baptismal goals for the year 2012 was suggested by the Unions' Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Departments:

- Botswana Union Mission: 3,500
- IOUM: 28,000
- Malawi Union Mission: 102,000
- Mozambique Union Mission: 50,000
- Sao Tome/Principe: 4,000
- North East Angola Union Mission: 25,000
- South West Angola Union Mission: 30,000
- Southern Africa Union Conference: 19,535
- Zambia Union Conference: 148,000
- Zimbabwe Union Conference: 65,200

The goals above suggest that the goal for SID is 475,236 baptisms for the year 2012.

At the end of his presentation, a video presentation was screened of the SID Leadership Summit which clearly emphasized that the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division is committed to and is enthusiastically engaged in the Revival and Reformation program of the church.



MISSION TO THE CITIES

There is a compelling reason to pay special immediate attention to evangelize the cities. For many reasons, in most nations of the world, cities are getting more and more populated; and the cities in the countries which form the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division of the Seventh day Adventists are not an exception.

It is a common fact that there are more people living in urban centers than in rural areas. It is also true that the more people get squeezed up in one place; the quest for survival take a center stage to such a degree that some compromise on many issues of human dignity and consequently no regard to worship God, if at all they ever did.

The Good-news is that God hates sin and loves the sinner. He loves the people living in the cities as much as He loves the people living in rural settings.

The Lord is guiding the Seventh day Adventist Church to respond to the pen of inspiration's clarion call to evangelize the cities.

"When I think of the cities in which so little has been done, in which there are so many thousands to be warned of the soon coming of the Saviour, I feel an intensity of desire to see men and women going forth to work in the power of the Spirit, filled with Christ's love for perishing souls ... We all need to be wide-awake, that as the way opens, we may advance the work in the large cities. We are far behind in following the light given to enter these cities and erect memorials for God. Step by step we are to lead souls into the full light of truth. And we are to continue the work until a church is organized and a humble house of worship built" Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, p. 40.

"The importance of making our way in the cities is still kept before me. For many years the Lord has been urging us this duty, and yet we see but comparatively little accomplished in our great centers of population. If we do not take up this work in a determined manner, Satan will multiply difficulties, which will not be easy to surmount. We are far behind in doing the work that should have been done in these long-neglected cities. The work will now be more difficult than it would have been a few years ago. But if we take up the work in the name of the Lord, barriers will be broken down, and victories will ours." – CME 14

The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, guided by the power of the Holy Spirit, has taken the divine council to evangelize the world cities very seriously. An action to that effect was taken and encouraged all the thirteen Divisions of the world church to act accordingly.

The General Conference chose New York City as its target city to evangelize while each division was challenged to come up with a target city to effectively evangelize during this quinquennium.

New York IMPLEMENTING DIVINE COUNSEL: THE PLAN

This plan envisions comprehensive evangelism initiatives in over 650 of the world's major cities from 2012-2015 beginning in New York City. Why New York? It is one of the most populous and influential centers in the world.

Speaking of New York City, the messenger of the Lord declares, "This work should be continued in the power of the same Spirit that led to its establishment. Those who bear the burden of the work in Greater New York should have the help of the best workers that can be secured. Here let a center for God's work be made, and let all that is done be a symbol of the work the Lord desires to see done in the world" Testimonies, Vol. 7, p. 137

As part of the overall plan for this quinquennium, each of the thirteen World Divisions will choose a city within their Division territory and develop comprehensive strategies to reach the people in their designated city. Division leadership will need to consider strategies, which are applicable and sustainable in their respective Divisions. Master plans to reach these large urban areas, as well as budgets, will need to be put in place.

The target goal is for each Division to conduct their major evangelistic reaping campaigns targeted at one city in their division by early 2014.

As part of the overall plan, each of the nearly 130 Unions, in conjunction with their division leadership, will choose a city within their Union Territory and will develop comprehensive strategies to reach the people in their designated city. Strategies will be formulated and action plans implemented in harmony with the cultural diversity and unique character of each Union. Research and discussion will take place with those who have been engaged in urban evangelism. The goal is for each Union to conduct a major evangelistic reaping series in their target cities during the last quarter of 2014.

Again, as part of the overall plan, each of the over 500 Conferences/Missions/Fields will choose a city within their Conference and will develop comprehensive strategies to reach the people in their designated city. Conference/Mission/Fields administration along with local pastors will develop plans that reach both their chosen city and also their local churches for a comprehensive evangelistic initiative in 2015 just before the General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, USA.

To accomplish an initiative this large will involve

administrators, departmental directors, pastors, and lay people. It will involve churches and institutions, conference and supporting ministries, adults and youth, men, women, and children—all of us. This will be much more than 650 evangelistic meetings in major cities. Although there is a strong reaping component, this initiative is an all-inclusive comprehensive strategy urging every entity of the Church to place priority on mission and reaching lost people, especially in the urban centers of population on a sustained and ongoing basis.

A DIVINE APPEAL AND PERSONAL COMMITMENT

God's heart is broken over lost people in the world's cities and large metropolitan areas. It will take extraordinary vision and faith to put these plans into action but can we do any less than our Lord asks of us? Can we be content when tens of millions in the cities are totally unaware of Jesus and His love? Can we be satisfied with our current growth rates when the majority of earth's population is unaware of God's special truths and three angels' messages in this critical hour of earth's history? May our hearts beat with His in participating with Him in His mission to reach the cities. May the burden of His heart be the burden of our hearts. With eyes divinely anointed may we look beyond what is to what can be and what will be. May we by faith catch the vision and see tens of thousands of Seventh-day Adventists actively involved in witness, mission and making disciples for the Master. May each department be focused on mission. May every church be alive with the spirit of mission and thousands of new churches be planted in the world's major cities and tens of thousands of new believers rejoicing in the glorious hope of the three angels' message. Remember that: "When the cities are worked as God would have them, the result will be the setting in operation of a mighty movement such as we have not yet witnessed." God has promised the mighty movement. He will fulfill His promise as we humbly submit to Him, laying our plans at His feet, following His instruction in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, and plead with the Holy Spirit for the power to accomplish the task entrusted to us by heaven itself. We enthusiastically anticipate Christ's soon second coming when thousands upon thousands of saved people from the large cities and the rural areas will ascend together to meet the Lord in the air and be taken to our homes in the New Jerusalem, the ultimate city and safe haven for God's people throughout eternity. Let us dedicate ourselves to God's comprehensive plans for "Mission to the Cities."

THE CHOSEN CITY OF SID IS LUANDA, ANGOLA





GENERAL CONFERENCE

Sabbath School & Personal Ministries



SABBATH SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY GUEST DAYS EVANGELISM

The primary purpose of the Sabbath School is that of all true education, to restore the image of God in man and to prepare a people, young and old, to meet their returning Lord. Personal work for every member to lead them to Christ, to aid in their spiritual maturity, and to prepare them to work for others is the major objective of Sabbath School activity. The inspired counsel is, "The object of Sabbath School work should be the ingathering of souls. The order of working may be faultless, the facilities all that could be desired; but if the children and youth are not brought to Christ, the school is a failure." – Counsels on Sabbath School work, p.61.

Those who take part in soul winning in Sabbath School grow spiritually. "No one can labor in the Sabbath School ... work without reaping a bountiful harvest, not only in the end of the world, but in the present life. In the very effort to enlighten and bless others, his own views will become clearer and broader." – Counsels on Sabbath School Work, pp.13, 14.

Among avenues of soul winning open to the Sabbath School, child evangelism ranks among the foremost. The average child is more susceptible to the gospel than is the average adult. About three-fourths of all conversions come before the age of 20. More than one-third of Sabbath School members are in the children's divisions. They are the greatest asset of the church. To win and hold them in a faith relationship to Jesus is a sacred Sabbath School responsibility. Bible stories, Bible doctrines, lessons from nature, songs, exercises, personal appeal, and personal example all combine to enable the Sabbath School to win, hold, and train children and youth for God. Special Decision Day consecration services are designed to climax periods of consistent spiritual leadership and teaching.

The Sabbath School Council should devise plans to reach and reclaim each non-attending member or prospective member. Officers, teachers, and class members are to be involved, each being given his specific assignment. Each should be encouraged to show Christ-like love and concern, tactfully inviting the inactive member to return to the Sabbath School. Many of these persons are ready and willing to renew lost relationships, but are fearful to take the first step back. To show genuine, loving concern for these is true evangelism, the supreme objective of the Sabbath School.

Community Guest Days

Community Guest Days are scheduled in the first and fourth quarters of each year. The purpose of these special Sabbath School days is to introduce the community to the truth of God and the work of the Church. Community Guest Day provides the Sabbath School member an opportunity to win and influence friends in the community, and to participate in soul winning.

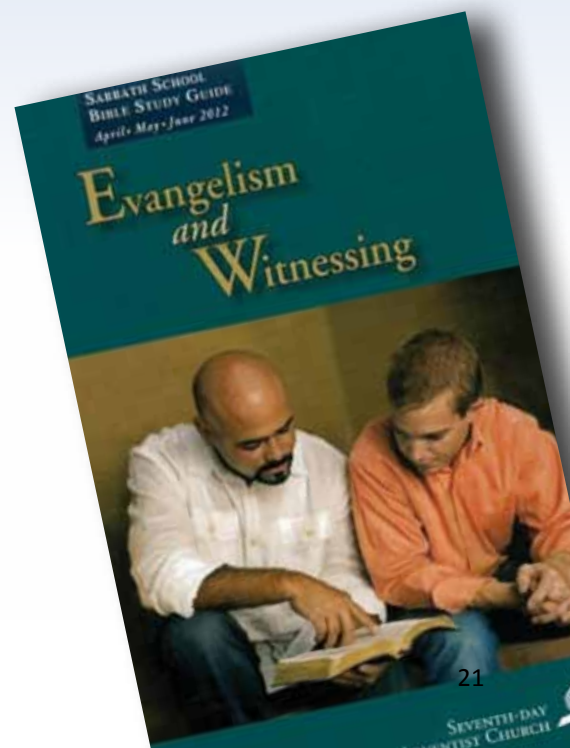
Especially in these times of doctrinal uncertainty and testing "We need to search the Scriptures daily, that we may know the way of the Lord, and that we be not deceived by religious fallacies. The world is full of false theories and seductive spiritualistic ideas, which tend to destroy clear spiritual perception, and to lead away from truth and holiness. Especially at this time do we need to heed the warning, 'Let no man deceive you with vain words' (Eph.5:6)." –Selected Messages, bk.1, p.170.

The prayer of Christ for His disciples was, 'Sanctify them through thy truth: Thy word is truth.' If we are to be sanctified through knowledge found in the word of

God, we must have an intelligent knowledge of His will therein revealed. We must search the Scriptures, not merely rush through a chapter and repeat it, taking no pains to understand it, but we must dig for the jewel of truth which will enrich the mind, and fortify the soul against the wiles and temptations of the archdeceiver."-Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 19.

If they apply themselves to faithful, careful study Sabbath School members can expect the fulfilment of the promise that "He who opens the Scriptures, and feeds upon the heavenly manna, becomes a partaker of the divine nature." –Ellen White, Review and Herald, June 28, 1892.

For a copy of the complete, unabridged document of SABBATH SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY GUEST DAYS EVANGELISM contact Pastor Passmore Mulambo, Sabbath School Director, SID. mulambop@sid.adventist.org





Pastors and Elders team up in *Botswana*

As part of her fulfillment of the goal of having an informed, equipped and inspired leadership, Botswana Union Ministerial Association conducted a Union-wide Bible Conference for more than one hundred Pastors and Elders from March 21 – 25, 2012.

Facilitators at this Conference included;
Dr. Artur Stele, Director:
Biblical Research Institute (BRI)
Dr. Ekkehardt Muller,
Associate Director of BRI,
Dr. Kwabena Donkor,
Associate Director of BRI
Dr. Gordon Doss,
Professor and Head of the faculty of Missions at Andrews University.

In his opening remarks, Pastor Strike Ben (Botswana Union President), encouraged the pastors and elders to continue to be united for it is only in unity that they will be able to accomplish their God given mandate of leading the church, even amidst the current challenges that the

church is facing. He urged the leaders to use this rare opportunity not only as a learning and growth opportunity but also as a team- building exercise for the Pastors and Elders.

Dr. Donkor stirred the audience through his presentation of the role of African culture even among African Adventist Believers. He challenged the church leaders to acknowledge the existence of evil forces, the deep-rooted beliefs of spiritualism, and the need to address such issues as opposed to denying or simply wishing such beliefs away. He noted that “True Conversion in an African setting is more than just eloquently proving that the true Sabbath is Saturday not Sunday.” It is being able to address issues that include behavior change, but not limited to it. We need to address beliefs systems and how it impacts, in a positive way, the worldview of an Individual.

Dr. Gordon Doss, in his presentation: “The challenges of Mission in the 21st century,” urged the participants to come up with other methods to reach other people groups who cannot be reached through Conventional ‘Adventist’ Methods.”

Other topics that were addressed included Biblical hermeneutics, interpreting Ellen White, Adventism and the remnant concepts, and the challenge of off-shoot movements in the Church and how to identify them and counter their negative influence among a few members, who are not well-informed.

In closing the meeting Dr. Paminus Machamire thanked BRI for their support and commitment in guiding the church in SID and Botswana, in particular, so that the church may continue to grow in harmony with what the church believes according to the Bible.

“It is one of the core objectives of the ministerial department to have Elders work closely with their Pastors, recognizing the important role that elders play in the administration and general overseeing of the church,” said Dr. J. Papu, SID Ministerial Secretary, in his closing remarks of appreciation.

By Dr. Boitirelo Kabo
Ministerial Secretary - Botswana Union

LITERATURE evangelism

2011 ZBUC-LE Institute - inspiring

Publishing Congress Malawi 13 - 18 December 2011

"Revived by His word," was the THEME of the Publishing Congress held at Malamulo Mission from 13th to 18th December 2011 in Malawi, a country inhabited by about 14 million people of which 400 are literature evangelists. 183 Literature Evangelists and Publishing Leaders attended this Publishing Congress.

The purpose was not to give LE's sales training, but motivational talks for the coming year. We had three facilitators: Pastor Paul Moyo from Zimbabwe Union Conference; Pastor Super Moesi, the Publishing director from Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division (SID); with the assistance of the local Union Publishing director of Malawi, Pastor Wesley Morton Banda. A former publishing leader going into retirement gave reviving messages during the morning devotions. LE's also had time to give their testimonies about the work, on baptisms, church branch organization, as well as experiences on how they joined the workforce.

With the motivation received from the Congress, our literature evangelists and leaders in Malawi, positively view 2012/3 as years of great success compared to previous years.

By Wesley Morton Banda
Publishing director, Malawi Union Mission

One of the paradoxical phenomena at the Malawi institute is that about 90% of the literature evangelists are fluent, mainly in their mother tongue compared to the English language. Yet 99% of the books they sell are in English. In my interview with them, I learnt that the Lord works with them in a very special way. One Literature Evangelist related an episode where she visited a place where she found about 20 men of another religion who could not speak English or the local language. She could not speak English either yet books she had were in English.

She started a conversation in the local language that the clients did not know, to her surprise one of the men stood up and started communicating in sign language to the rest of his colleagues. Interestingly, the translator did not know English, neither had he been to sign-language school or training. What left the literature evangelist spell-bound is when the men bought all

the books she had and walked away with an empty bag and loaded pocket. Indeed all things are possible with God, especially when the salvation of his children is at stake.

M.S. Moesi
Publishing Director, SID

Unschooler wins a School Teacher

At the LE Institute in Zambia, I had the privilege of meeting a literature evangelist with a unique experience with the Lord in the literature ministry. This literature evangelist cannot read or write but has been qualifying to attend LE institutes, including the Division congress that took place 3 years ago. I was curious to know how she sold books written in English even though she cannot read, even her own language.

She prays to the Lord to help her sell at least one book to any prospect. Once a particular title is sold she takes two weeks trying other titles on different prospects. After about two weeks she goes back to the first customer she sold the book to. She then requests the client to share with her what they gleaned from the book. Once she has the information she commits it to memory and uses the information to multiply her sales of the same title.

In response to how she fills in the contract pad since she cannot write, she said that she gives the contract pad or receipt book to the customer to fill in their details and enter the down payment for the order. She then instructs the customer to tear off their copy, which she identifies by its color. She recalled only one instance where she could not get her balance because the customer gave wrong names. She was quick to say that almost all of her clients are faithful in paying and honoring their orders hence she qualifies to attend every LE institute. The 64 year old Literature Evangelist says that when she do decide to stay home on any day, she feels something like fire in her bones, so the only day she rests is the Sabbath. Otherwise she literally works six days a week according to the master's command.

Many have been converted since she started this ministry. The most recent person, she recalls, was of a schoolteacher who bought a book she could not remember. At the time of the interview the teacher had accepted Christ as Savior. It is true that the Knowledge of God is the beginning of wisdom.

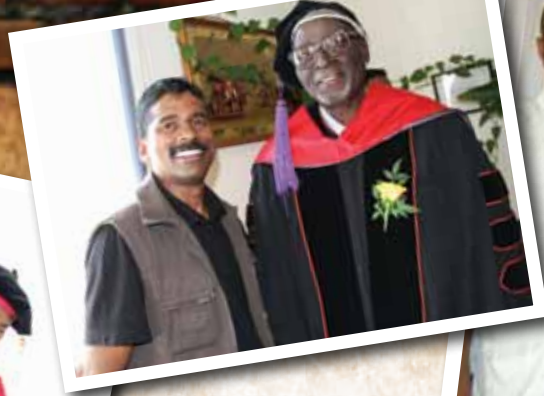
More than 250 Literature Evangelists (LE) attended the 2011 Zambia Union Conference (ZBUC) LE Institute. ZBUC has a total number of 993 LE's with 19 Publishing leaders. The 2011 ZBUC LE Institute was successfully held in Ndola, Zambia from December 20 to 24, 2011 under the theme, "Bringing Hope Into Every Home". This LE Institute was special, unique, and simply the best with expensive and exciting incentives.

"Congratulations to Pastor Nelson Simweemba, ZBUC Publishing Director, on his unique leadership," said Zambia Union Conference President, Dr. Harrington Akombwa. Pastor Akombwa was converted from Roman Catholicism when he read a book, became a Literature Evangelist and later Union Publishing Director. Dr. Akombwa declared that a time is soon coming when all the leaders shall leave their offices and they will scatter our truth-filled literature like leaves of autumn. "Our offices will soon close and we shall all pick our briefcases to distribute books", said Dr. Akombwa. He reminded all the delegates to take the publishing ministries as both a calling and ordained of God, therefore, the need for Career Literature Evangelists. We appreciate our facilitators: Dr. Pardon Mwansa, GC Vice President, Dr. Akombwa, ZBUC President, Pastor Moesi, SID Publishing Director, Pastor Dale Thomas, "The Founding Father of the publishing ministries in Zambia", and Pastor Kwalela Mutemwa, Career LE, former PD, Mentor in the publishing ministry and Zambian missionary to South Africa.

Pastor Moesi shared the sure promises of God for the LE's from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. He reminded all the delegates that none is a victim but all are victors. On Friday, December 23, all the delegates, both LE's and leaders distributed almost 2000 copies of "When God said Remember" to the residents of Ndola. Books were distributed on the streets, guest houses, hospital and the market. It was a revival for mission and preparation for the Great Controversy Project (The Great Hope) of 2012/3.

Sabbath evening was the climax of the Celebration with 60 Literature Evangelists going home with a present from the Publishing Ministries Department. The top two went home with a car each. God is blessing the publishing work in Zambia.

Ephraim Mutoya
Local Conference Publishing Director
Zambia



INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS LIBERTY CONGRESS

24 April 2012, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic marked a historic beginning for many. Addressing nearly 900 delegates and guests at the Seventh World Congress of the International Religious Liberty Association, Denton Lotz, a noted Baptist minister and IRLA president, summarised the purpose of this three-day event: “We’re here today because we believe that freedom of religion is basic to all human rights.”

“It’s incumbent upon us to work together that we live together in harmony and concord,” Lotz said to an audience of leaders from Christian, Muslim, Jewish and other communities. “We don’t need religious wars.”

Speaking to an audience that included Seventh-day Adventists, Mennonites, Roman Catholics, Baptists, Mormons and Scientologists, among others, IRLA secretary-general, John Graz noted that the world congress is a multifaceted event.

“This congress is about religious freedom, but it is not a religious event,” Graz said. “We are all here together. We represent different faiths, different religions and different churches. We are different, but we are respectful of each other.” Participants at the Congress included delegates from the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division.

Back home, in an attempt to foster good relations with governments and the general public, the SID, through its leadership in the different Union territories, has already begun a process of engaging political leaders and men and women of influence in the secular and political arena. Church Leaders are being sensitized and trained in the area of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty.

Dr. Paul Charles
Director: Public Affairs and Religious Liberty – SID





Integrity, Quality and Transparency

The SID is committed to Integrity, Quality and Transparency. We are committed to work with Quality software and believe in continuous improvements and lifelong learning. When it comes to our work, we will choose Quality over quantity. Our Vision is to continually scan the intersection where finance meets software to determine trends and issues that may affect the financial system of the Church. While working with today's software, we're constantly looking for tomorrow's innovative opportunities.

We are committed to work with accounting software that increases financial transparency for our Church. Our team will be open about expenditures, with a focus on cost-savings.

This has been our focus as the SID team visited the Unions and institutions to implement the SUNPLUS system.

Goodson Shumba
Sunplus Co-ordinator, SID

Oldest retired Minister reveals Secrets ...

Pastor Mangwende Senior

Pastor Mangwende was born in 1901 and married in 1925. As "four young people" visited him in his home in Zimbabwe, they were amazed at his health and dedication. Clutching onto a special hat that identified him as a Pastor back in the day, together with his son, who is also a retired minister shared secrets that seminars are built on and books are written about.

When asked by Elder Nkosilathi Khumalo about the secret to his long and happy marriage, he replied with his son that it is "helping my wife to cook and spending time in the kitchen." Throughout the interview, there was laughter and humor to which he and his son were quick to add that a sense of humor would strengthen a marriage and keep a couple together.

Both father and son had a word to say about the current emphasis of the world church on "Revival and Reformation." They emphasized on spending time with God in prayer and diligent study of the Word of God as hallmarks of good Pastors. As they

reminisced and recounted his years of labor in the vineyard of the Lord, tears of joy filled his eyes in gratitude for the faithfulness of God.

Here are a few lessons, among others, gathered at the feet of this blessed retired man of God:

1. Be careful when interacting with the opposite sex. An unusual lingering handshake may lead into temptation.
2. Plan for retirement if you want to enjoy your remaining years on earth.
3. Be faithful in small things.
4. Leaders fall because of lust, money and power. Therefore beware.
5. Bible study and prayer should not be taken for granted as a minister of the Gospel.
6. Treasure your spouse as God's gift to you.
7. Never give up manual labor, even if it just gardening.
8. Never underestimate the call of God through the church. Never say 'no' when the church re-assigns you in another district.

Pastor Mangwende attended Solusi University for training and began working at Gwasira in Makoni District, but went to build churches in Mutare in the same year and would stay at Mr. Mohammed's House

while in Mutare. In 1949 he went to work in Marange and while living at Chikwariro, helped with the roofing of the school. From Marange he went to Gunde in Kwekwe. From 1955, he stayed in Kwekwe for six years and was then transferred to Mt Darwin in 1961.

He went to his farm in Zhou, Chegutu to work from 1968 and he retired in the same year. His wife passed away in the year 1998, and together they had seven children, five boys and two girls. Three sons and one daughter is still alive.

By the grace of God, Pastor Mangwende Senior still walks around the house at the age of one hundred and eleven (111).

Michelo Mulambo
Pretoria



Seventh-day Adventist Church in Malawi speaks out against violence against Women and Children

Malawi Union Advisory on Communication and Public Affairs Religious Liberty was conducted in Lilongwe at Kumtsinje Premier Lodge from 23rd to 25 January 2012.

Dr. Paul Charles, who is the current Director for Communication and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL), was the main facilitator of this seminar and was assisted by Mr. Mozecie Kadyakapita, the Malawi Union Director of these two departments.

Among the delegates were leaders from two fields and the Central Conference. Two Leaders were from South Malawi, namely Pastor Wyson Eliya and Pastor Luke Limbithu; two leaders were from North Malawi Field, namely Pastor McJoe Chavula and Pastor Stanley Chipeta and the two leaders who attended from the Central Malawi Conference were Pastor Goodwell Nakawole and Pastor Earnest Khonje.

During our Communication/PARL Advisory in Malawi we had the privilege of addressing more than 70 local leaders on the importance of PARL/IRLA. There are a lot of misconceptions with regards to the church engagement with the State, so it was a good opportunity for us to clarify the issues. In our meetings, we covered the vital areas of PARL and we made available the PARL handbook and all other resources available to all Conference leaders.

Further, an official statement was formulated and issued to the government and public. This statement was a response to a recent spate of literally undressing women in public and leaving them mercilessly beaten because some thought it was indecent for women to wear trousers/pants.

An excerpt from the Statement:

“We, the members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, speak up and join with others to bring an end to violence against women and children. Global statistics indicate that in all societies women and children are more frequently the victims of violence. Actions or threats likely to re-

sult in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering are incompatible with biblical ethics and Christian morality. Such actions include, but are not limited to, domestic violence, rape, dowry violence and any other violation of human dignity. Manipulation, denial of personal liberty, freedom of movement and coercion are also acts of abuse and violence. To such behaviors the Seventh-day Adventist Church says, ‘Let’s **end it now!**’”

Further, we had a visit by the honorable Chief of Staff to the State President. We briefly outlined the goals of IRLA/PARL to him. He said that this was the first time that he heard about it and was so pleased and excited about our initiative. He publicly pledged support to our Departments. He was so impressed that our desire to pray for the nation was to include all leaders including Catholics, Presbyterians, etc. The State President sent us word that he appreciates the position of the SDA church with regards to separation of state and church.

**By Dr. Earnest Khonje
- Malawi -**



Christ our Hope and Healer

First ZAAM Convention in Bulawayo



First ever Zimbabwe Adventist Aids Ministry (ZAAM) convention took place on the 10th - 14th May 2012 in Bulawayo. This Conference attracted church members from all over the beautiful country of Zimbabwe as well as from outside the country. The occasion was graced by the General Conference Health Ministries team, GC AAIM team, SID health ministries team, Health Ministries Directors from the other SID unions including the Zimbabwe Union Conference Officers and Departmental Directors Team.

The guest of honor was Dr. E. Mombeshora, the Deputy Minister of Health and Child Welfare for the country. The Theme of the convention was: *Christ our Hope and Healer.*

Highlights of the convention included

1. Sharing of up-to-date information on HIV/AIDS by the GC Directors
2. A big Sabbath for the Harare churches

3. A gift presentation to friends living positively with the virus highlighted by a blanket wrapping ceremony of each person living positively to signify the church's warmth, acceptance and support for them
4. A Health Expo organised in collaboration with a local church which attracted several hundreds of people from the city of Bulawayo
5. Honouring those people who were instrumental in promoting the HIV/AIDS work while it was in its infancy stage in Zimbabwe. Among those recognized were Pastor Denias Chiwhai, Brother Dumisani Nkomo - the first Adventist to openly declare his HIV positive,
6. Pastor Paminus Machamire and Pastor Solomon Maphosa received their certificates at the mid-year meetings of the SID in Pretoria.

In May 2012, the HIV Aids Ministry Board in SID voted a constitution which would regulate the ASSOCIATION OF ADVENTIST PEOPLE LIVING WITH THE HIV. For more information on how to be part of the Association, please contact your local conference HIV/AIDS Co-ordinator.



Rhoda Nthani
HIV/AIDS Coordinator/
Nursing Director - SID

News

Seventh-day Adventist Church welcomes His excellency, Mr Kapinga

The Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division was visited by his excellency, Mr. Kenny Kapinga, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Botswana in South Africa on Tuesday, February 20th, 2012. Pastor Machamire, vice-president –SID, introduced him to the Officers and directors of the SID.

During the meeting with the Officers and Directors, SID President, Pastor Paul Ratsara expressed great appreciation to Mr. Kapinga and assured him of the constant support and prayer of the Seventh-day Adventist church on his behalf. The words of James 1v5 were elaborated upon as the high commissioner received words of wisdom from the leadership of the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division.

In his response, the High commissioner said that he valued the efforts of the Seventh-day Adventist church and mentioned, in particular, Ps Moesi who has been instrumental in helping him adjust in South Africa. Pastor Solomon Maphosa, the Executive Secretary – SID, offered a parting prayer after the prayer-request of the high commissioner was received.

The Department of Public Affairs & Religious Liberty (PARL) of the SID is charged with representing the Seventh-day Adventist Church to national leaders within its territory and to other faith communities. Further, it supports and helps to coordinate the work of the PARL departments in each of the unions and their constituent bodies.

The PARL Department focuses primarily on ensuring the God-given universal human right of religious freedom becomes a universal reality. It also works in co-operation with other church departments to advocate public policy positions on issues in areas as diverse as health, education, peace issues, environmental protection, women's' issues, children's' issues, the rights of prisoners, and aid and development.

By Paul Charles
Communication – Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division

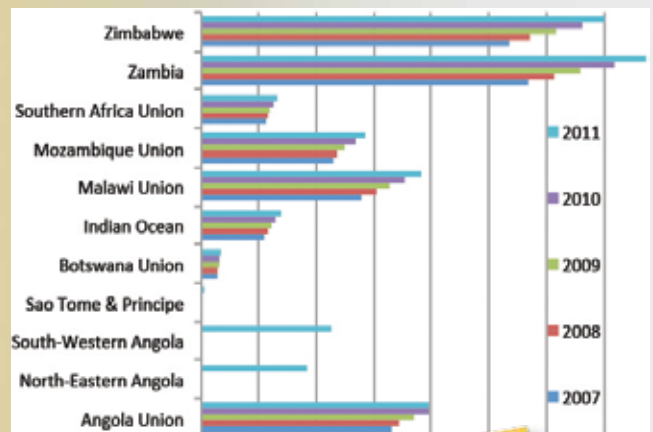


From top, left to right: Pastor Hensley Mooraoven (SID), Lindiwe Mbinga (SID), Pastor Justino Paulo (SID), Cherry Negre (SAU), Perseverance Ndlovu (ZUC), Savie Maphosa (SID), Nomathemba Nhoru (ZUC), Evodia Khumalo (SID), Marlyse Tabac (SID), Chapiwa Nkosi (MUM), Maised Ziela (ZBU), Frankie Africa (SID) and Ntomthandazo Papu (SID).

SID Secretariat

The vision of the Secretariat office is to create an environment for effective, efficient, empowered and high-achieving executive secretaries, church elders and church clerks. In line with this vision and in response to the request formulated by some of our Unions, a Secretariat Orientation was organized by the SID Secretariat.

During this training session, Secretariat Administrative Assistants, most of whom were new to this office at the Union level, were exposed to and work-shopped through the different duties and responsibilities of this very demanding position. The Secretariat Orientation was held on March 26-27, 2012 at the SID Head Office in Pretoria. The plan is to have a Secretariat Orientation for ALL the Administrative Assistants in 2013.



Statistics is a very crucial part of the Secretariat.

BUM	32 827
IOUM	139 494
MUM	381 784
MZU	234 807
NEAU	184 029
SAU	131 595
SWAU	225 108
ZBU	772 929
ZUC	700 779
ST&P Field	4 050
Total for SID	2 857 402

Southern Africa Union 'Delighted' to Train Leaders

149 Children Ministries leaders from Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland, and South Africa participated in a Leaders' Convention, organized by Zodwa Kunene, Southern Africa Union Director from 16th to 18th March 2012. The highlight of the convention was that the children were the ones ministering to their leaders during the devotions and song. 12 year- old Thando Dyasi, was the guest devotional speaker and 8 year-old Zuzu Munez was the guest singer. Caroline Chola, Southern Africa Indian Ocean (SID) Children's Ministries Director spoke on the topics 'Raising Spiritual Giants', 'Ministering to Children with Special Needs', Partnering with Parents', and 'Casting the vision for Kids In Discipleship'. Other topics were facilitated by Local Conference Children's Ministries Directors as follows: Lynn Rosouw – Practical GraceLink, Lynette - VBS, Henry Ngwira - Stewardship for children, Bulelani Bomela - Organizing children's congresses, Mark Solomon - Safety Procedures for Children and Mandla Lupondwana - Organizing children's evangelistic campaigns. At the end of the convention everybody went home 'Delighted'.

Zodwa Kunene
Children's Ministries Director - SAU



Special offering to reach the Unreached

One of the biggest plans of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to reach millions of people in the Big Cities with the Gospel. A lot of resources are being prepared for such events. At the same time we remember the small people-groups and tribes whom Jesus died for, as well.

It is in the context of Revelation 14:6 that the Adventist Mission team identified the Himba/Herero tribe in Opuwo, North of Namibia as their focus. Consequently, part of the 13th Sabbath School Offering for the 3rd Quarter 2012, will be used to reach the Himba/Herero people in the North of Namibia. We encourage all Church members to plan on making a significant contribution, so that most of the resources of our Church, may not only be consumed by already members, as pointed out by our GC Executive Secretary, Pastor GT Ng, but also to be used to instill greater Hope to the unreached peoples.

A Special Offering will be taken up for this project on Sabbath, 29 September 2012. One of the goals is to translate the Bible into the Herero language, upload and give the audio version on the God-Pod (as shown in picture on right) to each Himba family in this area. "Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy. Blessed are those who hear it and think everything it says is important. The time when these things will come true is near." Rev. 1:3 (NIV)

Adventist Mission - Reaching the Unreached!

Pastor Justino Paulo
Director – Adventist Mission





Waiting for something Good

Lindokuhle

A sacred pause punctuated the Sabbath (May 19, 2012), during Mid-year meetings of the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division. Thembinkosi and Sithokozile Moyo, blessed and excited parents of a beautiful baby girl, presented their baby, Lindokuhle, to the Lord during a special baby dedication service conducted by Dr. Paul Ratsara (SID President), Sr Caroline Chola (Children's Ministries Director, SID) and Dr. Jongimpi Papu (Ministerial Director, SID). The local church members of Tswane East SDA church were present and with their permission, a special dedicatory service was conducted. "In a tangible and visual demonstration of it's commitment to families, and children in particular, we are glad to include this special dedication service in our Mid-year meetings," said Ps Jongimpi Papu.

The inclusion of this important service during the SID Meetings has significantly raised the profile of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a child and family friendly body of Christ. The SID has embraced the idea to make its churches warm, friendly and relevant so that families may be at home in our churches as an evangelism and nurture environment to reach out at all times.

Christian parents who dedicate a child are making a promise to the Lord to do everything within their power to raise the child in a godly way, prayerfully until he or she can make a decision on his or her own to follow God. Parents who make this vow of commitment are instructed to raise the child in the ways of God, and not according to their own ways. Some of the responsibilities include teaching and training the child in God's Word, demonstrating an example of godliness, disciplining according to God's ways, and praying earnestly for the child.

Thembinkosi and Sithokozile Moyo, blessed and excited parents of Lindokuhle said that it was a joy to follow the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy and practice of the Bible in bringing children to the Lord in recognition that children are indeed a gift of the Lord. "The SID is serious and committed to incorporating children in worship and evangelism," said Caroline Chola, SID Children's Ministries Director.

Child Dedication is an opportunity for the parents to:

- Gratefully recognize and affirm that their child ultimately comes from and belongs to

God, and is a gift entrusted to their care for just a time (Psalm 127:3, Proverb 22:6)

- Surrender their child to God's will for his or her life above the parent's own plans (1 Samuel 1:27-28)
- Dedicate themselves as parents to model godliness and raise their child in accordance with God's instructions found in His Word (Psalm 78:4-7 and Ephesians 6:1-4).

As the dedicatory prayer was offered by Dr. Paul Ratsara, SID President, a special peace filled the meeting hall as it was affirmed with confidence that our children are safe in the nurturing environments of our local churches. Lindokuhle means "waiting for something good," an appropriate name which identifies the Seventh-day Adventist church as we wait for the second coming of Jesus Christ – the culmination of good news!

Proverbs 22:6

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

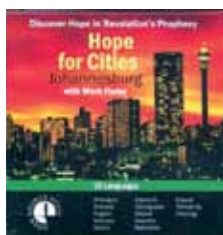
Dr. Paul Charles

SID Communication - We Connect ...



Die Evangelie van...

An Afrikaans collection of Sermons by Ps. Hein von Hörsten. Set of 4 DVDs with 13 sermons. As seen on HopeTV. R135



Hope for Cities

Discover Hope in Revelation's Prophecies with Mark Finley. Set of 17 DVDs in 14 local languages. Excellent product for outreach. R120

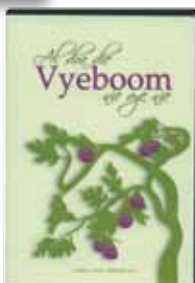


Hymns that Inspire

A Series of messages, tracing the origin, intent and message of loved hymns that has shaped Christian theology and faith. R90

Al dra die vyeboom nie vye nie

A 2nd season of Afrikaans sermons by Ps. Hein von Hörsten. Set of 4 DVDs with 13 sermons. As seen on HopeTV. R135



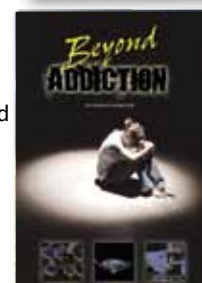
Lighthouse Adventures Music DVD for Kids

A compilation of the music from Lighthouse Adventures. A must have for the Kids. R90



Beyond Addiction

A Seminar on the different legal and illegal drugs and how to overcome these addictions. Presented by Ps. Adrian Webster. R95



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You can call us on +27218553274, fax us on +27 21 8550362, or write to us at SIDMedia, P.O. Box 22, Somerset West, 7129

SIDMEDIA

*embrace new
Leadership*

At the recent SIDMEDIA board, it was unanimously voted to appoint Noel Sibanda, to lead SIDMEDIA, as its new director.

He is blessed with extensive international experience in television, and every aspect of media production. This, with his endearing personality and deep commitment to the gospel commission, makes him a valuable instrument in God's hand. We believe that he is the man for this office for this time.

SIDMEDIA was founded in 2004, fulfilling a need to join the rapid global expansion of the Hope Channel. The Studio started in a small classroom on the campus of Helderberg College near Cape Town in South Africa. It was then known as the Adventist Media Centre, later named SIDMEDIA. Later it was recognized that it needed to be formalized into an institution, to fully function, as it should.

SIDMEDIA has been part of a major evangelistic campaign and has been instrumental in broadcasting these messages live on the Hope Channel. Speakers covered in the past include Mark Finley, among others. SIDMEDIA is also a platform for DVD distribution around the Southern Africa region. Its concentration is not only TV but also radio and Internet producing 30 minutes worth of programming daily for Adventist World Radio – keeping in line with the station's goal, to reach people in hard-to-reach places. SIDMEDIA has consistently produced TV programs for the Hope Channel and it has been a blessing to see people embrace media as



an effective way of evangelism. The past year saw SIDMEDIA producing over 200 hours of programming for broadcast, and viewers have been highly receptive of the programs.

SIDMEDIA is intentional about developing creative content in areas of Adventist music, children and youth, health, family and preaching which will excite viewers about Bible Truth, and that will create a curiosity to study scripture and introduce them to the saving grace of the Savior.

Andre Brink was the first director at SIDMEDIA when it was Adventist Media Centre, (AMC). Supported by his wife Penny, the media centre grew to such an extent that it had to be moved from its previous location at Helderberg College classroom to its present location. In 2010, the Board voted that SIDMEDIA should be formalized into an institution to meet the growing demands for relevant programs.

When Andre Brink was elected as the Associate Communications Director of the General Conference, the late Mrs. Nolleen Johnson was appointed to fill in his shoes.

Unfortunately, Nolleen passed away sadly in November 2011 and SIDMEDIA was left in the care of the Associate Director, Mr. Noel Sibanda.

On the 6th of February 2012, the SIDMEDIA board unanimously voted that the acting Director be appointed as the new Director. SIDMEDIA employs about ten multi-skilled persons who, through God's grace, are continuing with their mandate of spreading the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division is excited that the Lord has called Noel Sibanda to lead SIDMEDIA. In his introductory remarks, Noel said: "I am deeply humbled at the confidence that this Board places in me but am aware we are only useful to the extent that we submit to the Porter's hand. Please pray for me and together, let us accept the invitation to work with Christ for the souls He died.

Together, with the communication department of the Division, we hope to continue producing content that will fulfill the mission of the church and take the gospel to every corner of the globe."

By Dr. Paul Charles
SID Communication - we connect ...



f.l.t.r (Standing)
Dawid Tiemie (Maintenance);
Jacques Erasmus (Production);
Noel Sibanda (Director); Enrico
Adonis (Production); Otieno
Mkandawire (Production);
Dumisani Mfune (AWR RADIO
Producer); Bulumko Papu
(Production)

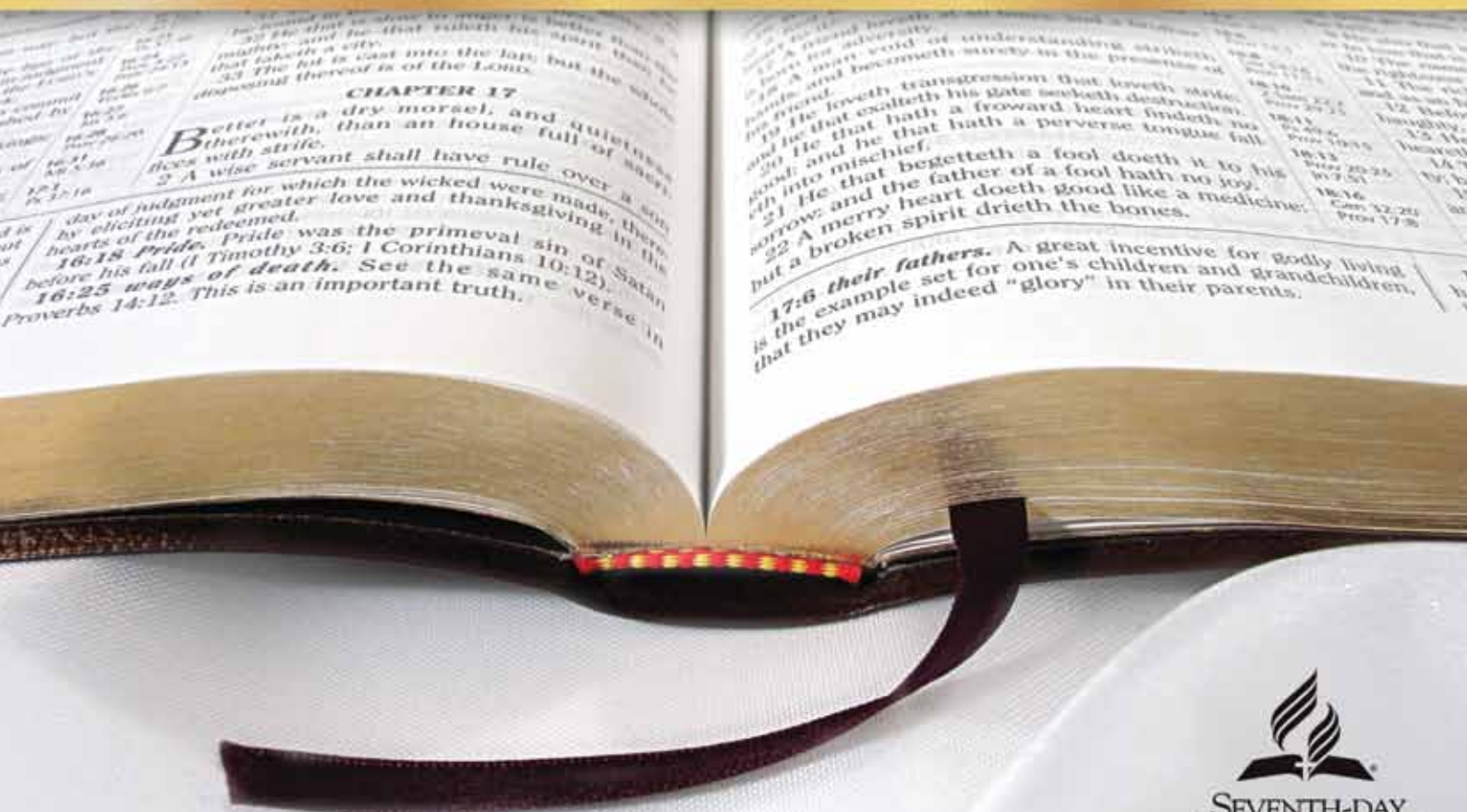
f.l.t.r (Seated) Thabo Sukali
(Domestic Worker), Adele Prinsloo
(Graphics/Marketing); Janine Dahl
(PA to the Director); Janine Erasmus
(Assistant Director Finance); Cassila
Carvalho (Production); Caly Sibanda
(Receptionist)

SPRING COUNCIL
APRIL 17, 2012

GENERAL CONFERENCE
SESSION, JULY 2015

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