

# Adventist

# Journey

INSPIRATION & INFORMATION  
FOR NORTH AMERICA

Special Issue: NAD Year-End Meeting







# Child Impact International has partnered with ASI to complete a new secondary school at Riverside Farm in Zambia.

The school will be a day school, offer grades 8-12, provide lunch, and will be located 300 meters from the current primary school. The new secondary school will create up to 150 new sponsorships for disadvantaged children and allow them to smoothly transition from the primary school to continue their Adventist education.

**There is a strong need for education in Zambia to break the cycle of poverty.**

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*Through this effective partnership, the completed project will allow the missions of Riverside Farm and Child Impact to flourish.*

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# Adventist Journey

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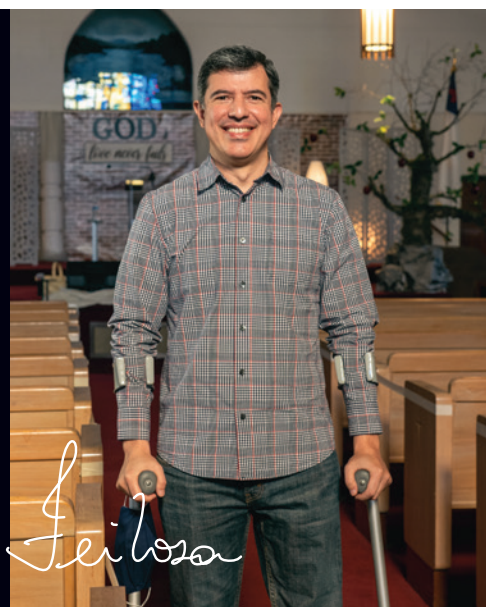
## My Journey

If we are willing and open to see how God is blessing us and how God is helping us, we will be able to see the small yet amazing manifestations of God's power to bless us—and to tell us that everything is going to be OK. We all face detours in life, but everything is going to be OK.

Visit [vimeo.com/nadadventist/ajkleytonfeitosa](https://vimeo.com/nadadventist/ajkleytonfeitosa) for more of Feitosa's story

### KLEYTON FEITOSA,

*cross-cultural missionary, pastor of the Living Word  
Seventh-day Adventist Church in Glen Burnie, Maryland*



Cover photo by Pieter Damsteegt

**Dear Reader:** The publication in your hands represents the collaborative efforts of the North American Division and *Adventist World* magazine, which follows *Adventist Journey* (after page 16). Please enjoy both magazines!

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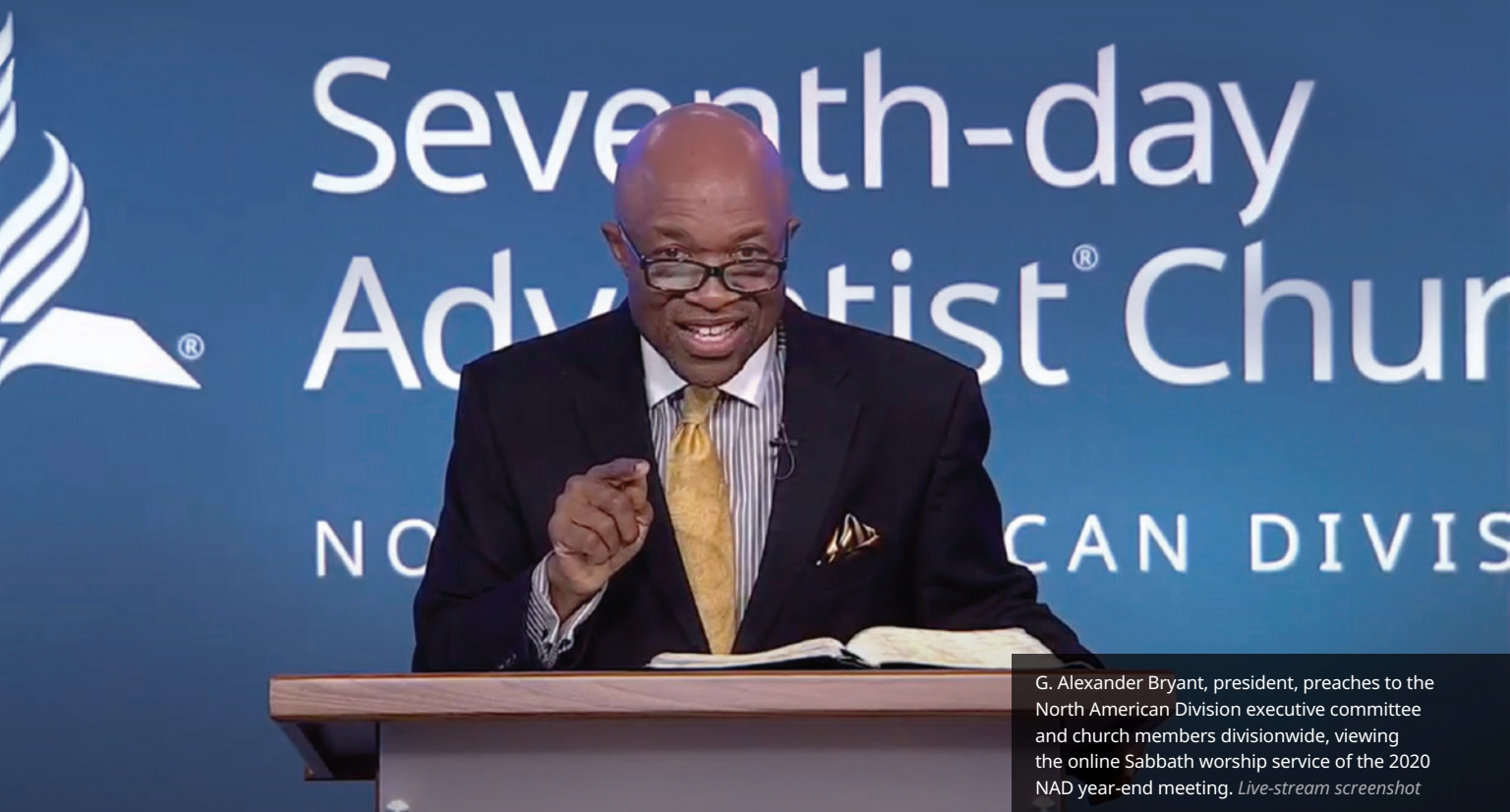
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# Why Don't We Ask?

With the Holy Spirit's Power, God's church can rise up and do the work that He has called us to do.

BY G. ALEXANDER BRYANT



G. Alexander Bryant, president, preaches to the North American Division executive committee and church members divisionwide, viewing the online Sabbath worship service of the 2020 NAD year-end meeting. *Live-stream screenshot*

*This article is adapted from the October 31, 2020, NAD year-end meeting sermon entitled "Why Don't We Ask?" Some characteristics of the oral presentation remain.—Editors.*

**J**esus said, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (John 14:16, KJV).

This passage of Scripture is from the closing moments of Jesus' life. He is

speaking to His disciples about His departure. He's telling them that although He won't be with them very long, His Father will send another Comforter to dwell within them.

In another verse Jesus said, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you" (John 16:7).



It's interesting that Jesus spends so much time in the last hours of His life talking about the Spirit. He also began His public ministry talking about the Spirit. In fact, when Jesus was baptized He said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives" (Luke 4:18).

The word "Spirit," in Greek is *pneuma*. In Luke 4:18 He uses *pneuma*. It's the same Greek word in Acts 1:7 and in Luke 11:13. It's the same Spirit, the same *pneuma* that Jesus used the disciples would have had access to. This same Spirit Christ had is the same Spirit we can have today.

### Compelled by the Spirit

If we have the same Spirit, what that Spirit compelled Jesus to do, that same Holy Spirit will compel us to do.

When He was filled with the Spirit, Jesus preached the gospel to the poor, He healed the brokenhearted, He preached deliverance to captives, He looked out for the disenfranchised and the least of these among us. Filled with the Holy Spirit, He wants us to do likewise (see Matt. 25:40).

When Jesus was filled with the Spirit, He declared what He would do and what the Spirit had anointed Him to do. He said, "This same Spirit I will send to you." The *same* Spirit that gave Him compassion for the brokenhearted; the *same* Spirit that gave Him courage to stand up and lift up those who were disenfranchised and those who were left behind; that *same* Spirit is the Spirit that Christ says, "I will send to you." The same work that Jesus did, "You will also do." Jesus added, "They will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father" (John 14:12).

### We Must Ask

The Lord tell us that we must ask for the Spirit. Jesus didn't do the work that He did on earth by His own power. He said, "I can of mine own self do nothing; as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me" (Matt. 5:30). Because He was anointed with the Spirit He was able to do the work. That is the same Spirit He offers

We must be clear in our minds that we don't have the wherewithal, without God, to do God's work.

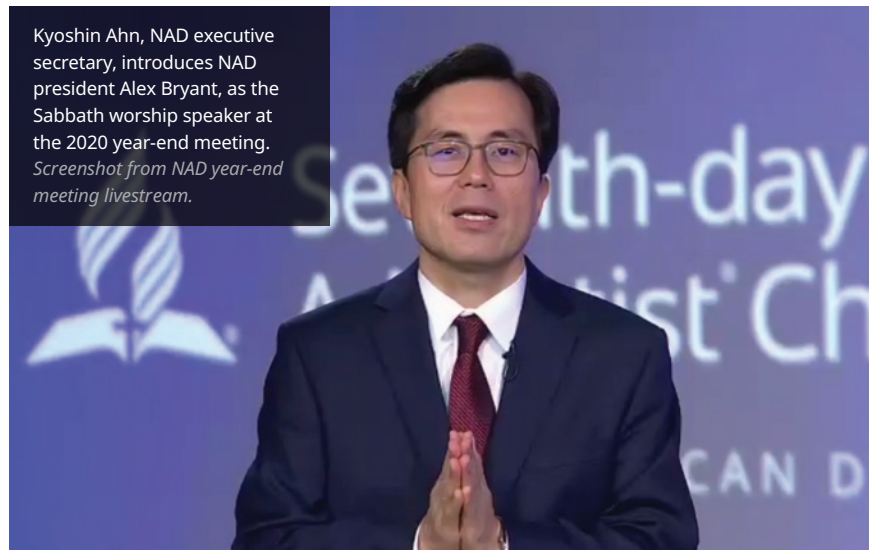
to you and me to do the work He called us to do, and to live the life He's called us to live. We must ask, however.

"And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened" (Luke 11:9,10). Christ is talking about receiving the Holy Spirit.

Here's a story about a friend's 4-year-old son, Emmett, and his popcorn bowl. Courteous, well-mannered Emmett was snacking on some popcorn while his mom was cooking in the kitchen. She walked past Emmett and took some popcorn—without asking first, as she and her husband had taught Emmett. He yelled, "You didn't ask, you didn't ask!"

Little Emmett reminded his mother that if she would have asked, he would've been more than glad to share his popcorn with her.

Kyoshin Ahn, NAD executive secretary, introduces NAD president Alex Bryant, as the Sabbath worship speaker at the 2020 year-end meeting. Screenshot from NAD year-end meeting livestream.





The same Spirit Christ had is the same Spirit we can have today.

Alex Bryant, NAD president, speaks before a panel of monitors during the 2020 year-end meeting. *Pieter Damsteegt*

If we're trying to do things in our own power and find that we are weak and helpless, it's because we didn't ask God for the Holy Spirit.

We are God's children, His sons and daughters. Just as a parent gives bread to a hungry child, He won't forsake us in our times of need. God explains it in terms that we can understand: "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:13).

It's not an extra; it's not an add on, it's not a luxury to the Christian life. Jesus is saying that the gift of the Holy Spirit, the presence of the Holy Spirit, the acquisition of the Holy Spirit is a necessity for living the Christian life.

We must be clear in our minds that we don't have the wherewithal without God to do God's work. Without God, we don't have the wherewithal to even to live the life God wants us to live. The asking reminds us of who we are and whose we are. Trying to live this life without the Holy Spirit is futile.

### His Church, His Spirit

This not our church. This is His church. So when I ask for the Spirit, I'm reminded that this is not mine; it is God's.

This is His ministry, not ours. These are His plans, not ours. So when we go to God and ask, it reminds us that it's not ours. The work will be done because of His power, because we ask for it.

Jesus' followers were to start the church, His church. But they had no building, no money, no resources. He basically said, "The best I can do for you, the best resource I can give you when you have nothing is the Holy Spirit."

He said, "I know you need all these things, and I know you don't



We have much more work to do.  
With the help of the Holy Spirit, we will  
have a lasting impact on this world.

have anything. But when I give you the Holy Spirit, everything you need you have" (see Phil. 4:19).

God says, "I will give you the best gift; and the best gift is the Holy Spirit" (see John 3:34 and John 20:22). In those last moments of His life, Jesus tells the disciples that He has to go so that He can leave them with the wonderful, beautiful, amazing gift in the person of the Holy Spirit.

Ellen White wrote: "Christ has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to His church, and the promise belongs to us as much as to the first disciples. . . . There are many who believe and profess to claim the Lord's promise; they talk about Christ and about the Holy Spirit, yet receive no benefit. They do not surrender the soul to be guided and controlled by the divine agencies. We cannot use the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is to use us. . . . The power of God awaits their demand and reception. This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train. It is given according to the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul according to the capacity to receive."\*

### God's Plan

This is the challenge of leadership: Is it our plan or God's plan? If it's God's plan, God will always lead us in places where we cannot get out in our own strength. He will always lead in places where we cannot see by our own sight. He will always lead us in places where the only way we can accomplish the task is in His name. We're not big enough; we don't have enough resources; we don't have enough breadth, width, or depth to accomplish what God has called us to do without His spirit.

God has put us where the only way we can go through is with His Holy Spirit. The only way we can make it is with His Holy Spirit. When we have the Holy Spirit, He gives us everything; He humbles our heart.

Some people don't like to ask for big things. They're afraid that they'll be embarrassed when the big things don't come to fruition.

But if we connect to God, He will never put us in a place of embarrassment. He will always put us in a place of faith. The Holy Spirit is always with us. He never leaves us or turns His back on us. "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities" (Rom. 8:26).

Sometimes I can get so low in my spirit that I can't even articulate to God what I'm feeling, how things are going on inside me. But the Holy Spirit says, "I know Alex can't belt it out, I know his vocabulary escapes him, but I will take his groanings and his moanings." The Holy Spirit interprets those groanings and moanings to God. Then God takes them and answers my prayer according to the work of the Holy Spirit.

### God's Church Will Rise Up

I am asking God: I want the Holy Spirit. I want the presence of the Holy Spirit, but I have to ask for Him and seek Him out every day. God says if we ask, He'll respond. Often we don't see the Holy Spirit working, but the Holy Spirit is working in places and ways that we will never see.

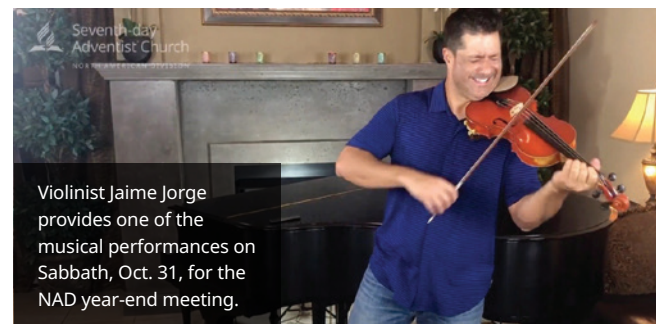
There are no limits to what we can do partnering with the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we shouldn't make our plans based on our restrictions. Let's make our plans based on God's possibilities, not on our limitations.

As an institution, we have much more work to do. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we will have a lasting impact on this world. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in this division will not end in a whimper, but will end with a bang.

God's Church will rise up . . . and do the work God has called it to do. We will see thousands and tens of thousands of people marching to Zion because we have done our work through the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.

\* Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1940), p. 672.

*G. Alexander Bryant is the president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.*





# GOD LEADS, GOD PROVIDES, GOD GROWS

Officers share their annual reports at the North American Division year-end meeting

BY KIMBERLY LUSTE MARAN AND MYLON MEDLEY

**T**he 2020 North American Division (NAD) year-end meeting started at 3 p.m. on Thursday, October 29, at the division's headquarters in Columbia, Maryland. This annual business meeting, which was conducted virtually on Zoom, with livestreaming on the NAD website and various other social media platforms, provided the opportunity for the more than 300 executive committee members to receive reports, elect personnel, amend policies, strategize, and fellowship online with church leaders and lay members who are dedicated sharing Christ's message of hope and wholeness with North America and beyond.

## President's Report

"Our theme for this year-end meeting is 'Come, Holy Spirit,'" said G. Alexander Bryant, president of the North American Division, as he opened his report. "It is a prayer of ours for the Holy Spirit to come in the power that God has promised."

Bryant gave his appreciation for the division's members and leaders, thanking church members, pastors, educators, and leaders of conferences, union conferences, and the division for their dedication during the past five years. Bryant touched on the extraordinary efforts underway during the coronavirus pandemic.

"God has given us so much to give to the world. And that is our mission: 'to reach North America . . . with the distinctive, Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and wholeness,'" he said. "I thank [you] for what you have done and are doing during the COVID-19 pandemic we have found ourselves in."

"And I thank our God," Bryant continued. "How faithful God has been to us and our members! God has been good to us. We thank the Lord for what He is doing, what He has done, and what He will continue to do in our new reality."

Bryant gave a brief summary of some successes the NAD has had over the past five years. He shared that more than 150,000 people were baptized into the church, that more than 900 churches were planted, and that for several years tithe surpassed \$1 billion annually. The division also acquired AdventSource, the church and member resource center; moved into its own building; added almost 100 women to pastoral ministry; and successfully navigated plans for tithe parity.

In the current situation, with COVID-19 closures still in effect across the division, Bryant reported that large-scale meetings still happened—in cyberspace. He shared that thousands were reached through the NAD's virtual Vacation Bible School, more than 2,000 attended the Youth and Young Adult Ministries OneTeam Playbook 2020 training convention, and that the Society of Adventist Communicators convention broke records, with more than 650 registered for the abridged, two-day event.

He said that while the division has experienced incremental growth, exponential growth is different. Exponential growth multiplies as it goes each year, said Bryant. "Do you remember the





G. Alexander Bryant gives his president's report on October 29, 2020, day one of the North American Division Year-end Meeting.

exponents [in math], how 10 to the second power went to the third power? It grows as you grow the number. If this number was exponential, we would have more people as we go along, getting baptized because you have more and more people working. Maybe we are baptizing, but are we making disciples?" Bryant asked those watching the Zoom meeting to reimagine the church and its approach in reaching out, recognizing the church's strength of diversity, passion for mission, and creative approach using technology, social media, educational system, networking, and community service.

"God's Spirit will give us what we need," Bryant said near the conclusion of his report. "Let's not ask God for what we see as possible. Let's ask Him for what we see as impossible. . . . Let's not plan based on our limitations. Let us plan based on God's exponential possibilities."

### Secretary's Report

Kyoshin Ahn, NAD executive secretary, delivered his first report in his new role on November 1. "First, a word of appreciation to Elder Bryant," said Ahn. "He brought a lot of progress to the works of secretariat in 12 years. Those of us who work at secretariat express our appreciation for his dedicated service."

Ahn's report centered on membership within the NAD territory. As of December 31, 2019, more than 1.2 million Seventh-day Adventists in the North American Division worshipped in 5,621 churches and 880 companies. There were 28,011 baptisms in 2019. In addition, 6,372 people joined the church through profession of faith.

"One of the joys in presenting the membership report is to show how many new members joined the church each year," said Ahn. "Altogether, 34,383 new members were added to our churches here in North America. In 2019 our acquisition rate was 2.73 percent. This means that we have added 2.73 members for every 100 members. In each of the past eight years we had an acquisition rate of around 3 percent."

"God has given us so much to give to the world."

The figures from 2019 indicate a net increase from 2018 of 5,734 members. While Ahn celebrates the growth, he noted the number of "missing" members from that year reached 7,191. Members are considered missing when their church cannot locate them or when they have not officially transferred from their church.

"My prayer is that we find them and have many of them return to our local churches," said Ahn.

Ahn then pivoted the secretary's report to discuss how COVID-19 has affected local churches in terms of reporting attendance—in-person and virtual—and conducting baptisms. According to preliminary findings, baptisms and additions through professions of faith took a drastic dip in the second quarter of 2020, from 3,658 baptisms to 1,565; and 1,342 members added through profession of faith dropped to 425, which reflects the time line of state and local enforcements of house of worship closures to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. However, figures rose in the third quarter back to consistent patterns exhibited in previous years—3,893 baptisms, and 773 additions through profession of faith.

Ahn said that while the deaths reported for the third quarter of this year are higher than deaths in the similar time frame in years past, there is no clear correlation between the deaths and COVID-19.

After citing data from Barna and Pew Research about people's online church watching and willingness to



On November 1, 2020, Kyoshin Ahn delivers his first report in his new role as executive secretary of the North American Division.

go back to church after restrictions are lifted, Ahn asked, “What then shall we do? Where should we do from here? . . . We may need a new skill set to reach the world in effective ways. Yet one thing remains unchanged: we need to keep loving God and loving our neighbor. We place our future in His hands with absolute confidence that He will lead us home safely. This is the will of our heavenly Father for all of us.”

### Treasurer’s Report

Randy Robinson, NAD treasurer, introduced the 2020 treasury report on November 2 by first providing a framework for the financial state of the division against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, social unrest, and political issues. “We started out 2020 very strong financially, with double-digit tithe increases through January and February,” he started. “But then in March the COVID-19 crisis arrived. Businesses began to close. There was significant and sudden unemployment, as well as extreme marketplace volatility. There was some social isolation and an unprecedented rise in virtual communication. Similarly . . . churches and schools were closing, and tithe and offerings began to decline.”

“There was a lot of speculation among the financial leadership in

the church,” Robinson said. “We were talking about the potential of very significant decreases because our churches were closing. We wondered how we were all going to survive. Most of us sent our employees home to comply with social distancing mandates that were provided by our local governments.”

But, said Robinson, the church in North America responded well. “By God’s grace I stand on this side of the process in amazement, and I want to preach a sermon or something because of the awesome response by our God and our people,” he said.

Robinson first talked about the division’s response of implementing virtual functionality with the pandemic shutdown. He highlighted the “tremendous” institutional innovation, citing It Is Written, Vacation Bible School, Youth and Young Adult Ministries, and other ministries, services, and institutions for being able to shift and take advantage of the situation, providing programs, content, and resources virtually.

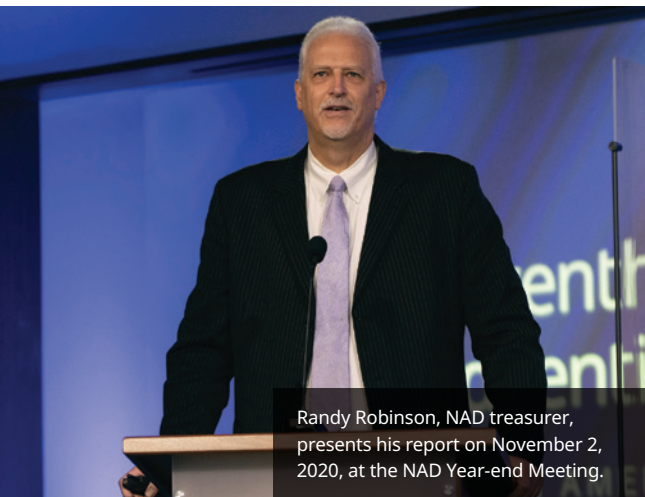
The use of online giving also soared. “Before COVID-19 the percentage of total tithe received through AdventistGiving was about 22 percent,” said Robinson. “Now it is almost 60 percent. My thanks goes to that team for putting it together and keeping it running.” He also thanked “our members, who found a way to continue their tithe and offering giving to the church in North America. What a blessing!”

Robinson shared highlights from the 2019 audited financial statement, including operating and plant fund trends, recommended working capital, and tithe. He also shared the 2021 proposed budget.

Gross tithe in 2019, Robinson reported, was almost \$1.1 billion. Tithe annually from 2016 to 2019 reached \$1 billion and was on trend to do the same in 2020 until COVID-19 hit. Because of the pandemic and subsequent economic downturn, there was speculation that tithe might be down 15 or even 20 percent. But, said Robinson, up through September 2020, “we find ourselves only down by less than 1 percent [.74 percent], year over year. Four of our nine unions actually have gains year over year, and the North Pacific Union Conference up 4.23 percent through September. Our members have continued their faithful giving of tithes and offerings in North America! Praise God!”

He finished by saying, “I would be negligent if I did not recognize the God who provides everything we have. He says in Philippians 4:19, that He will, He shall, supply all our needs. There is no equivocation there: He shall. And He did. He is supplying all our needs.”

*Kimberly Luste Maran is an associate director of communication for the North American Division. Mylon Medley is an assistant director of communication.*



Randy Robinson, NAD treasurer, presents his report on November 2, 2020, at the NAD Year-end Meeting.

### In Depth on Year-end Meeting

To read these reports in full, access links to other news and features from the NAD business sessions, and watch YEM video coverage (including week-end worships and quinquennial department reports), visit [www.nadadventist.org/news/2020-nad-year-end-meeting-video-and-news-coverage](http://www.nadadventist.org/news/2020-nad-year-end-meeting-video-and-news-coverage).



## VIRTUAL BREAKOUT SESSIONS PROMPT PRODUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT AT YEAR-END MEETING

A unique component of the 2020 year-end meeting of the North American Division (NAD) was virtual breakout sessions. Leaders were asked to consider hard questions, reimagine mission, and reflect on the mental health of themselves and their constituents.

### Quinquennium Strategy

The first breakout session served as an extension of the president's report on October 29. G. Alexander Bryant, NAD president, asked executive committee members to reimagine the division's approach to mission in regard to diversity, growth, mission, social media, services and resources, education, public relations, and community services. Special emphasis was placed on asking the Holy Spirit to lead the actions of leaders to help create exponential growth for the church and multiply disciples rather than just adding members.

The executive body voted to adopt the "multiply" initiative, develop strategies for mass media, continuously develop a strategy for mentorship/leadership, and discuss the role and function of the NAD as it relates to union conferences, conferences, and other entities. Leaders will reconvene in February to discuss ways of incorporating specific, practical steps toward reaching these goals.

### Multiply

The second breakout followed a presentation by Ivan Williams, director of the NAD Ministerial Association, and Jose Cortes, Jr., associate director. A voted action in 2019 said the year 2022 would be the year of evangelism, under the term "Multiply." Ministerial produced a book with input from more than 20 evangelism practitioners about how the church can be engaged in "multiplying." The initial goal was to baptize and equip 50,000 people and plant 400 churches in 2022.

NAD president Bryant was one of several leaders eager to get the emphasis started earlier, however, and to have it last longer than a year.

Executive Committee members were invited to breakout groups to discuss how they and their constituents, churches, and members can answer the call to boost discipleship and plant new churches within their spheres of influence.

### Responding to Injustice

Carolyn Forrest, associate secretary of the North American Division and director of NAD human relations, interdivision/international service employee resources, and archives

Carolyn Forrest, NAD associate secretary, introduces the presentation "Biblical Justice and Biblical Ethics in a World of Social Unrest," which took place November 2. Pieter Damsteegt.



and statistics, along with Orlan Johnson, director of the NAD Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, led out the session under the title of "Biblical Justice and Biblical Ethics in a World of Social Unrest."

This third breakout discussion, on November 2, gave executive committee members the opportunity to examine what the Bible says about responding to injustices not only in our communities and nation but against our brothers and sisters in Christ. Before splitting into small groups, delegates listened to a panel of five answering questions related to the theme.

"We hope this lays the foundation for continued dialogue, to listen to each other's stories not from our heads but from our hearts," said Forrest. "We are one family; when one part hurts and feels pain, the whole family hurts and feels pain."

### Mental Health

On November 3 Bonita Shields, NAD vice president for ministries, led in the final breakout of the 2020 NAD year-end meeting. This mental health segment included a survey, a video, and small-group breakout sessions. Angeline Brauer, NAD Health Ministries director, coordinated the poll that executive committee delegates answered through a Zoom pop-up window.

The video, a film titled *The Manic Monologues*, was created by students and faculty of Stanford University and shown to the executive committee by Advent-Health, which purchased the rights to use the film. Thirty-minute small-group breakouts followed.

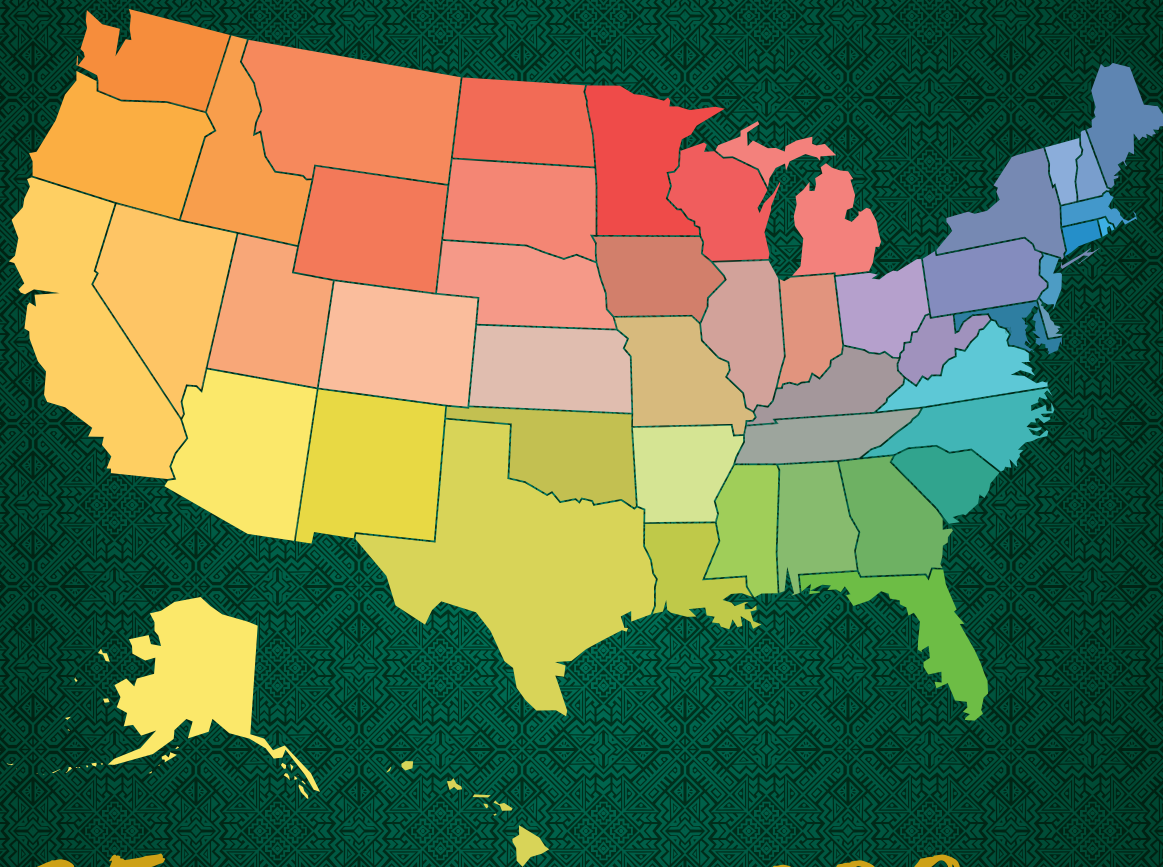
Near the close of the session, Bryant remarked, "Don't you think the [1.2 million Adventists in the NAD] can have an impact on helping to destigmatize and offering a safe place? We can make our brothers and sisters feel like they're a part of our community, that they can share and not have to hide if they have a mental illness."

—Mylon Medley, with Kimberly Luste Maran, *NAD Communication*



ADRA

To serve humanity so  
all may live as God intended



25

The number of U.S. conferences we are assisting.

200

The number of food pantries we are supplying.

2.3 Million 1-You

The dollar amount of medical equipment we provided in the U.S.

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BY TONY ANOBILE

# Fulfilling the Great Commission in the Right Order

**G**o therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen” (Matt. 28:19, 20, NKJV).

We recognize these verses in the Gospel of Matthew; they are the words of Jesus in the passage called “The Great Commission.” Notice that Jesus gave three commands in this Great Commission, after exhorting us to go make disciples, baptize, and teach them to observe all things as Jesus taught/commanded.

When He spoke, Jesus didn’t “wing it.” He gave thought to what He was saying, how He was saying it, and in what order He was saying it. We should not take these imperatives lightly, nor should we ignore the order in which they were given.

First, Jesus said to make disciples. Bible dictionaries and other sources define a disciple as a “devoted follower of a great religious leader or teacher.” When we “bring people into the church” are we preparing “devoted followers of Jesus?” Are we making sure that they are true disciples of Jesus? Sometimes I wonder if we start with the teaching part, baptize individuals when they “know” enough, then hope they become disciples *after* they have joined the church.

That’s not the order that Jesus gave us, is it? I hear much too often that people are leaving through the proverbial “back door” of the church. Could this be happening because we haven’t prepared disciples for baptism?

Please don’t get me wrong, teaching people to observe all the things Jesus has commanded is very important. It is a part of the Great Commission. But it is much more difficult to get someone to accept fundamental beliefs when they aren’t devoted to Jesus first. The important beliefs become rules to follow—a list of do’s and don’ts when we teach first. We are much more motivated to get involved in something when we know the leader, believe in the vision, and feel affirmed.

## Small Groups

That’s where small group ministry comes in. Ellen White wrote: “The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort is a plan that has been presented before me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members, but for unbelievers also.”\* People listen to their friends. People accept counsel and prayers from their friends when they know they genuinely care about them. Healthy small groups (HSG) ministry is designed to accomplish this very thing: establish relationships with friends from the community through love and compassion, allowing the Holy Spirit to produce growth and ultimate surrender to Jesus. HSG fulfill the first crucial goal of the Great Commission—make disciples!

As a former youth pastor, I remember a fundamental principal for teaching the Bible to young people. It went like this: “Tell me, I’ll forget, show me I’ll remember, walk with me and I will understand.” That’s the key to get people to understand the beauty of Jesus, to get them to be devoted to the Savior. Of course, this includes education as we share the Bible with them.

My hunch is that when we follow the Gospel Commission as it has been outlined by Jesus in Matthew, we will have many disciples ready to take on leadership roles in the church as they embrace the Gospel Commission as disciples of Christ, then go, and make new disciples for God’s honor and glory.

\*Ellen G. White, *Australasian Union Record*, Aug. 15, 1902.

*Tony Anobile is vice president for Multilingual Ministries for the North American Division.*

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