A "new time" for South America’s Novo Tempo Adventist Network
New offices, soon-coming TV studios to deliver integrated evangelism

Wilson, South American leaders put footprint on evangelism outreach
Division to raise US$50 million for ‘big city’ outreach; Buenos Aires top target

Adventist world church President Ted Wilson, second from left, prays with church leaders at a May 17 inauguration ceremony for Novo Tempo media ministry expansion in South America. New offices and
In one of the world’s most densely populated and diverse continents, the Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and healing is going forth in an integrated media fashion.

May 17 marked the opening of new offices and a new auditorium and museum for Rede Novo Tempo de Comunicaçao, the South American Division’s radio and television networks. New studios are also under construction and will be ready in about six months, division leaders noted.

After an introductory program in which Brazil’s pioneer Adventist broadcasters, Robert Rebello of the “Voice of Prophecy” radio program and Alcides Campologo, who with his wife Neide, hosted “Faith for Today” television 50 years ago, Antonio Tostes, Novo Tempo president, noted the buildings may be new, but the work is not.

“We are only continuing a work that has begun in the past,” Tostes told a gathering of friends and supporters in the new auditorium, which was named after the late Milton C. Souza, former Novo Tempo president, who passed away in 2007 at age 51. Souza implemented the move of Novo Tempo from a remote location in the state of Rio de Janeiro to the current location near the city of São Paulo.

“Today we are going to dedicate this building, but last week we gathered the employees here with the South American Division leadership to dedicate our lives,” Tostes said.

“Today we honored many people, so they may continue to inspire us,” he continued. “This auditorium will carry the name of Pastor Milton Souza, and the museum will have name of Pastor Roberto Rebello, so that the people who come to visit us may witness the power of God is being realized through the preaching of the Gospel and communications.”

Among those attending the dedication were the Campologos, the Souza family, and retired general vice president of the world church Leo Ranzolin and his wife, who is Roberto Rebello’s daughter.

Erton Köhler, South American Division president, lauded the new surroundings, but reminded his hearers that the real work lay ahead.

Köhler quoted the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:6, “I planted, Apollo watered, but it was God who gave the increase,” and said: “This place, my brothers, is a place of blessings. No one can explain how God has provided these blessings. Today, Novo Tempo is recognized as the best religious network in the country. God gave the growth.”

He then urged his hearers to “complete the work,” saying “it's not building, people, equipment -- the work is salvation. ... Progress, grow, keep the focus through the radio and the Internet; they're not here to entertain, they're here to save.”

Adventist world church President Ted N.C. Wilson, who was joined by his wife Nancy for the dedication events, expressed appreciation for the spacious office and studio space, with areas dedicated for the online Bible School, a journalist's newsroom, Novo Tempo store, and studios for Spanish and Portuguese radio networks, as well as administrative offices.
"Today as we arrived, we saw the results of the last number of months of intensive activity, [of the] 336 people working here, including 43 bible school workers, and 12,000 bible studies monthly," Wilson said.

He also lauded the dedication of a small area to the life and work of Ellen G. White, a pioneering co-founder of the movement. "The Seventh-day Adventist Church would be nothing without the writings of this special lady," Wilson said.

He also told the congregation about another inspirational moment while touring the offices. "As we walked by a picture of Jesus soon coming, Pastor Tostes said 'I walk by this every day, and here I get my inspiration: the reason for this media center, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His soon second coming,'" Wilson said.

He praised the unity of television, radio and Internet evangelism at Novo Tempo, "This is an example of integrated media evangelism. The world church is interested in that; in fact, the world church is interested in what South America does. We see something very important: a focus, a concentration, on involving everyone in evangelism."

He added, "All of these areas (at the media center) represent opportunities of being sent by God. The 336 employees of this media center are being sent by God for a great purpose, for the same purpose we all have, to realize the Seventh-day Adventist Church is sent by God to bring the last warning message to all the world, so that people can believe, so that people can here, so that they can see someone who is sent. And as those programs from radio reach into the ears of people in South America, as the transmissions of television programming reach them homes of millions, as the Internet activity is spread not only in South America but all around the world, people will hear the precious message: Jesus is coming again!"

During the ceremonies, tribute was also paid to Dr. Milton Afonso, a noted Brazilian executive and a Seventh-day Adventist who has generously donated for many church projects, including the soon-coming television studios, which will be named in his honor. Afonso received special recognition from Tostes and Wilson, as well as Adventist World Radio, whose president, Dowell Chow, gave Afonso a memento in recognition of his support for AWR.

Also in attendance were Brad and Kandus Thorp from Hope Channel, Warren Judd from the Adventist Media Center, and Williams Costa Jr., Communication director for the world church.

Wilson, South American leaders put footprint on evangelism outreach
May. 17, 2012
São Paulo, Brazil
Mark Kellner/Adventist Review

Concluding a spring meeting for the South American Division, Seventh-day Adventist world church President Ted N. C. Wilson put his foot down, literally.

First, however, the sole of Wilson's foot was dabbed with rubber-stamp pad ink. Then, joined by division and union leaders here, each similarly "inked," he stepped down on a map of South America. Each leader repeated the process.

This visual demonstration had a scriptural basis, declared SAD President Erton Köhler: Just as God promised to Joshua and the children of Israel the land wherever Moses' successor trod (Joshua 1:3), Adventists were claiming the division for Jesus. Each of the 17 unions had its own map, all bearing the footprint of a leader.

Backing up the dramatic display was an even more dramatic commitment: the South American Division expects to raise US$50 million to fund outreach in dozens of locations in 2013. Buenos Aires, the heart of a 13-million population metropolitan area, will be the chief priority, but every other union has identified a big city as an outreach target.

The Argentinian capital is of special interest, for the city is one where only 9.1 percent of the population consider themselves "evangelicals," while 18 percent aren't interested in any religion at all. Ten challenges have been outlined by the Argentine Union, including the establishment of a clinic, a vegetarian restaurant, Adventist schools and churches in the federal capital, or central city. "Mission Caleb," a youth outreach program, hopes to enlist 3,000 young people, and the church plans to distribute 300,000 DVDs titled "The Last Hope."

These efforts, along with outreach to former Adventists, a special project at Radio Novo Tempo (New Times), and 167 small evangelism campaigns, culminating in a satellite series by Pastor Luis Gonçalves in September 2013, are expected to lead at least 3,000 people to baptism in the city, along with the establishment of four new congregations.

Similar goals are planned for many other cities, including Porto Alegre, Rio de Janeiro and Manaus in Brazil; Asunción in Paraguay; Cochabamba and La Paz in Bolivia; Santiago and Valparaiso in Chile; Montevideo, Uruguay; Quito and Guayaquil in Ecuador; and Lima and Trujillo in Peru, among others.

In an impassioned message to division leaders, Wilson recalled Jesus looking out over Jerusalem and weeping – not for the buildings, but for its people.

Wilson asked, "Are you weeping for the cities of the South American Division? [Jesus] wasn't weeping for the city itself, He was weeping for the people of the city. Because you see, the city is made up of thousands and thousands of people."
During a day of stirring reports about evangelistic outreach and literature distribution – South American church members placed 25 million copies of "The Great Hope" in the hands of residents in nine countries on March 24 – Wilson recalled his own effort that day in São Paulo, and said he’s advertising the success in many places.

"Let me tell you, the world is amazed at what South America has done," Wilson declared.

He added, "But these big cities, many of them have no idea about Jesus. So the General Conference and the world divisions have focused on mission to the cities, bringing hope to the cities. The hope of Jesus' soon coming."

At the same time, Wilson said, evangelism must be grounded in our own personal connection to the One we're seeking to introduce to others.

"All of these plans, slogans and visuals ... will mean nothing if you and I do not know personally that person [Jesus], the One who saved us. The One who will come to take us home. The main reason we do this for all of the cities of the world is to introduce them to Him."

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