This year the annual ASI convention will meet in Orlando, FL from August 7-10 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Conference Center.

Most of you will remember that what is now know as ASI began at Madison back in the early 1900s. I am sure that you remember the annual gathering at Madison when all the "units" and self supporting workers came for the meetings. I have fond memories of many inspiring stories told by those attending and many of us were moved toward mission work because of those reports.

Dr. Sutherland left Madison in 1947 to work at the General Conference to develop the association of self supporting institutions and the current ASI is the outgrowth of that.

The conventions these days are far more advanced programs yet the inspiration is still just as great and I found that I walked the convention exhibit floor, amazed at the size and complexity of ASI and sat in the meetings to hear similar inspirational reports and enjoyed the fellowship of the thousands of attendees.

Madison College Alumni Association will again have a booth in the exhibit hall. This year the booth will be primarily staffed by Noel and Kay Bramble Johnson and assisted by some of the alumni who live in the area. Few people who come by the booth are even aware of Madison and ASI beginning there so they will have opportunity to share the history of the school with a number of folks.

I write this note to encourage any of you who live in the Orlando or will be in the Orlando to make a point to visit the convention. Plan to spend at least half a day visiting the hundreds of booths representing an amazing range of services that ASI members do. The Sabbath service is especially worthwhile as there will be outstanding speakers and great music. If you haven't been familiar with what has happened at ASI over they years, you will be truly amazed.

There will be many seminars which require registration and payment of a fee but the exhibit floor and the general meetings are open to the public. Also, meals are available which must be purchased in advance.

I encourage all who are in the area to make a point to check the schedule and attend. You will not be disappointed! Perhaps some of you who are not in the Orlando area have friends who live there, it would be worth their time to visit the convention and I would encourage you to let them know about it.