Technology Supports Revival & Reformation

In October, delegates to the 2010 Annual Council session of the General Conference Executive Committee approved "an urgent call for revival, reformation, discipleship and evangelism." The voted document contained a defining statement, "There is nothing more important than knowing Jesus and seeking His promise of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in latter-rain power for the fulfilling of the gospel commission."

The Revival and Reformation initiative has continued to gain momentum, with increasing focus on technology as a means to accomplishing its goals. TAGnet, a California-based ASI lay ministry that develops Internet technology to spread the gospel, partnered with the General Conference Office of Global Software Technology to create both the Revival and Reformation website and the InPrayer smart phone app.

These developments signify an increasing trend toward large-scale cooperation between church and lay entities. This trend is reflected in the Revival and Reformation Committee, which meets monthly and includes ASI and GYC members. The committee's primary goal is to encourage church members worldwide to examine their own lives, to seek personal revival, and to return to a primitive godliness that prepares them to receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Read More

SCROLL DOWN to read this issue’s announcements and inspiring news stories. ▶

New episodes of ASI Video Magazine

Two new episodes of ASI Video Magazine, filmed on location in Southern Africa, are available for viewing or download on the Multimedia page of the ASI website. These episodes visit Riverside Farm Institute, Kibidula Farm, Eden Valley Foster Care Mission, and the sites of new One-Day Churches and schools in Livingstone, Zambia.
Convention link updates

General session and seminar speakers have been selected, and registration information and links for the 2011 ASI International Convention are updated weekly on the Convention Registration page of the ASI website. Mark your calendars for August 3-6, 2011, and visit the website regularly for convention updates.

ASI membership & information

Share the ASI Update with friends and family and encourage others to subscribe to this bimonthly e-newsletter full of ASI news, announcements and inspirational stories. E-mail your own ministry news and stories to asi@nad.adventist.org. The ASI Update is published on the first and third Fridays of each month.

Visit the Member Events & Announcements page on the ASI website to learn about events, needs, products and services of interest to ASI members. Submit your own ministry announcements to asi@nad.adventist.org. (Announcements must be submitted directly and will not be taken automatically from newsletters and advertisements sent to the ASI office.)

Contact the ASI office at 301-680-6450 to order copies of ASI's brochure and promotional DVD for sharing with friends and potential members. Each promotional DVD includes The ASI Convention Experience video and several episodes of ASI Video Magazine.

Visit the Multimedia page on the ASI website to listen to or download general sessions and seminars from the 2010 ASI Convention in various formats. For Membership Information or to download a Membership Application, visit the ASI website.

Making a difference, one flight at a time

Mission pilot Clint Hanley and his wife, Marilyn, have carved out a medical aviation and evangelism mission in a remote area of Nicaragua where they are making a difference, one flight at a time. Read more

Creation documentary enjoys international release

ASI member Art Humphrey and his wife, Pat, appeared on a recent episode of 3ABN Today to share about the production and distribution of their new documentary, The Creation. Read more

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Technology supports revival & reformation

In October, delegates to the 2010 Annual Council session of the General Conference Executive Committee approved "an urgent call for revival, reformation, discipleship and evangelism." The voted document contained a defining statement, "There is nothing more important than knowing Jesus and seeking His promise of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in latter-rain power for the fulfilling of the gospel commission."

"The Lord wants to finish this work," said Elder Ted Wilson, newly elected General Conference president. "He wants to pour out the Holy Spirit in limitless measure."

The Revival and Reformation initiative has continued to gather momentum, with increasing focus on technology as a means to accomplishing its goals. TAGnet, a California-based ASI lay ministry that develops Internet technology to spread the gospel, partnered with the General Conference Office of Global Software Technology to create both the Revival and Reformation website and the InPrayer smart phone app.

These developments signify an increasing trend of large-scale cooperation between church and lay entities. This trend is reflected in the Revival and Reformation Committee, which meets monthly and includes members of both ASI and GYC. The committee’s primary goal is to encourage church members worldwide to examine their own lives, to seek personal revival, and to return to a primitive godliness that prepares them to receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Ministerial Association secretary Jerry Page has traveled with Elder Wilson to New Zealand, New Guinea, Australia, Fiji and Nigeria to share the Revival and Reformation initiative with church members.

"We have found our believers to be already excited about the 777 prayer movement and other aspects of the Revival and Reformation initiative," said Page. "We are uniting around the globe to pray as Ellen White counseled us to. We need all our ASI friends to be involved, too!"

The website and mobile phone app are seen as important tools designed especially to help people focus on revival and to obtain the resources they need to seek personal reformation. Prayer is regarded as the important first step in that process.

The Revival and Reformation website contains a wide variety of resources, including links to sermons, devotionals and videos on the topics of revival, reformation and prayer. The InPrayer mobile phone app is the newest resource to be made available. InPrayer is currently available for the iPhone and will soon be available for the Android.

InPrayer is specifically designed to support the 777 prayer movement that calls Seventh-day Adventists worldwide to pray 7 days a week at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. The app includes configurable daily prayer reminders, a map showing where other members around the globe are interacting with the app, daily devotionals on the topic of prayer, and a prayer request module. It also allows Facebook and Twitter integration. It can be downloaded from the iTunes Store.

Visit the Revival and Reformation website.
Download InPrayer from iTunes.
Read about other Revival and Reformation resources in Adventist World.
Making a difference, one flight at a time

Posted on Feb 04, 2011

The radio crackles to life, and a voice calls urgently for help. Mission pilot Clint Hanley abandons the bike he's riding, turns off his generator, and dashes upstairs to the radio he keeps in his house. The call is coming from the village of Lapan, 40 minutes away by plane. A snake-bite victim needs immediate medical help.

Hanley looks at his watch. It's 5:00 p.m.—too late for a day flight. The runways in this part of the country aren't lighted, and the victim is being carried out from deep in the bush. The caller asks Hanley to meet them at daylight and agrees to confirm a half hour before flight time that the victim is still alive.

It's hard for Hanley to sleep, thinking about the man being carried through the dark in a hammock—across rivers and creeks and down muddy jungle paths. One hour before daylight, he turns the radio back on and is relieved to hear that the man is still alive.

He fires up the plane, which drowns out the cacophony of bird songs, and bumps down the gravel runway, finally lifting off through the patches of early morning mist. Forty minutes later, a small runway comes into view. As he lands, he sees a group of people anxiously waiting by the edge of the runway. When the engine shuts down, they surge toward the plane, carrying a man who is barely conscious. He has been bitten below the knee by a Barba Amarilla, one of the most common venomous snakes in Nicaragua.

Hanley belts the semi-conscious victim into the plane and notices the man's wife peering through the window. One of her arms is wrapped around a toddler, and she uses her other hand to shield her eyes from the light as she presses her face against the glass. Tears run down her cheeks as she gazes at her husband for what may be the very last time. That vision stays in Hanley's mind as loving hands pull her away from the plane and he's finally able to take off down the runway.

He radios ahead to the fire department in Puerto Cabezas and touches down 25 minutes later. It would take a bus nine hours to make the same trip. Lights are flashing on a waiting ambulance, and the patient throws up blood as he is transferred to the ambulance stretcher.

A week later, when Hanley is again in town, he learns that the man has survived. Three weeks later, he hears that the man has returned home to his wife and children.

Hanley, who grew up in Laramie, Wyoming, and attended Tamarack Springs Academy in Polebridge, Montana, has been a mission pilot in Northeast Nicaragua for the past six years. He and his wife, Marilyn, have built a home and carved out an emergency medical evacuation and evangelism mission from the jungle in the remote village of Tronquera. They are raising their children there.

They cleared a runway before they even had a plane, trusting the Lord to provide one when the time was right. Each year, they have expanded their reach to encompass more remote villages, making a difference one flight at a time.

Visit the Wings Over Nicaragua website.
Public memorial held for former GC president Neal Wilson

Posted on Feb 04, 2011

A special memorial service was fittingly held at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters for former General Conference president Neal Wilson.

Wilson died on December 14 in Dayton, Maryland, not far from the headquarters building he helped to construct. According to retired professor of church history George R. Knight, the Adventist Church "truly became a world church" under Wilson's leadership. His son, Ted Wilson, now serves as world church president.

Besides serving as president for 11+ years, Wilson's contributed to the formation of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), the adoption of a revised statement of the church's Fundamental Beliefs in 1980, and the relocation of the church's world headquarters to its current location in Silver Spring, Maryland. He also was the second-longest serving White Estate trustee and helped establish the presence of the Adventist Church in the former Soviet Union before the fall of communism.

Wilson came from a family with a strong legacy of service to the church and was known for his willingness to listen, as well as for his strong leadership skills.

Read more about Neal Wilson in the Adventist Review.
BY MARK A. KELLNER, news editor, with Myrna Tetz,

Author Leadership Lessons From the Life of Neal C. Wilson, Pacific Press, 2011

Pastor Neal C. Wilson, 90, a past president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, known widely for his administrative skill, jovial spirit, and phenomenal memory of people he had met, died December 14, 2010, in Dayton, Maryland, not far from the church headquarters building he helped construct. He was the son of a Seventh-day Adventist leader and the father of another, Pastor Ted N. C. Wilson, who is the current world president of the denomination, active in 203 countries.

A private interment was held December 17, 2010. Memorial services were held Wednesday, January 19, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the church’s world headquarters building in Silver Spring, Maryland.

“The Lord calls people for certain times,” Leo Ranzolin, a former general vice president of the world church, said in a telephone interview. “The church needed a leader of [the] stature” of Neal Wilson to handle the challenges his tenure would encounter, Ranzolin added.

Wilson’s son, Ted, told employees of the General Conference on January 4, 2011, of the personal nature of the loss: “He was not only my father, but also my friend,” the current General Conference president said.

During 24 years in leadership of what is now the church’s North American Division and later the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, Neal Wilson led the denomination through a period of dynamic growth. World church membership doubled from 3 million to 6 million in the 11½ years (1979-1990) of his presidency. (In 2010 baptized membership of the church stood at more than 16 million, and 30 million globally attended weekly Adventist worship services.)

Under Neal Wilson, said George R. Knight, a retired professor of church history at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, the movement “truly became a world church.”

As world church president Neal Wilson was involved in the formation of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, or ADRA. His passion for and dedication to the millions of underprivileged and disenfranchised people around the world led to the creation of ADRA in 1984. ADRA has since grown into a worldwide humanitarian agency with more than 120 country offices and an international staff of more than 6,000 employees.
“On behalf of the entire ADRA worldwide family, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the Wilson family during this time of loss,” said Rudi Maier, president of ADRA International. “Elder Wilson has a special place in the heart of all ADRA workers, and his legacy will endure through the millions of lives that are touched by the work that we do.”

Wilson also had a heart for the proclamation of the gospel. Among other initiatives, he was a primary mover behind the establishment of what is today Adventist World Radio (AWR), which reaches out in more than 80 languages worldwide via shortwave radio, terrestrial radio, Internet streams, and podcasts.

He is credited as the chief force behind the drafting and subsequent adoption of a revised statement of the church’s Fundamental Beliefs by delegates to the denomination’s world session in 1980, as well as the relocation of the church’s world headquarters from Takoma Park, Maryland, where it had been for 85 years, to its current location on a main highway in Silver Spring.

Wilson, who had been appointed a “life director” of the Ellen G. White Estate, which is charged with protecting and promoting the work of Adventism’s pioneering cofounder, became a trustee of the organization in 1963 and served in that capacity until his passing. This made him the second-longest serving White Estate trustee, surpassed only by Arthur L. White, a grandson and biographer of Ellen G. White.

Perhaps the greatest evangelistic accomplishment of the Neal Wilson presidency was in creating a stronger presence for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in what is now the former Soviet Union. In 1987, two years before the fall of Communism, Wilson obtained permission to establish an Adventist seminary and church headquarters in Zaoksky, approximately 70 miles southeast of Moscow. In March 1990 permission was granted to start a religious publishing house there. The moves led to two decades of growth in the region: by the end of 2008, membership stood at 137,676, up from 37,388 in 1991.
Wilson’s presidency, as Ranzolin noted, was not without its challenges, however. A financial crisis arose in 1980 with the discovery that some church entities (but not the world headquarters) had unwisely invested assets with a developer; another involved the bankruptcy and liquidation of Harris Pine Mills, a church-owned furniture manufacturer providing employment at many church educational institutions. In 1979 Desmond Ford, a professor at an Adventist college in California, gave a public presentation that signaled a major break with the church’s beliefs. Under Wilson’s guidance these situations were handled by committees of church leaders, and the president’s skill in dealing with such matters was widely appreciated.

Said Ranzolin, “I think of him as a man called at the right time [i.e., 1979] for the crises we were about to face.”

Neal Clayton Wilson was born on July 5, 1920, in Lodi, California. His father was Nathaniel Carter Wilson; his mother was Hannah Myrtle (Wallin) Wilson; he had two brothers, Bruce and Donald Wilson; and two sisters, Clarice Woodward and Ruth Murrill. In 1942, after earning a Bachelor of Arts degree at church-owned Pacific Union College, he married Elinor Esther Neumann, who survives. The couple had two children, Ted N. C. Wilson and Shirley Wilson-Anderson, a professor of health at Walla Walla University in College Place, Washington, both of whom also survive, as do four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Neal Wilson’s parents spent their lives ministering for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Indonesia, North America, Africa, Southern Asia, and the South Pacific. Neal and his four siblings early learned to serve God faithfully as they moved and traveled throughout the world during their childhood and teenage years. The three Wilson ministers, father (Nathaniel), son (Neal), and grandson (Ted), all served on the General Conference Committee, the denomination’s highest decision-making body. Each of the Wilsons also served as officers of the General Conference, and each has been president of a division of the world church—a unique circumstance in Adventist history.
A man of many interests, Neal Wilson particularly savored mountain climbing. One of his dreams for more than 50 years became reality when he and several other church leaders reached the summit of Tanzania’s Mount Kilimanjaro in 1988. At 68 years of age, he was noted as one of the oldest persons to have reached the top.

ADMINiSTRATOR: Wilson at the retirement of his predecessor, General Conference president Robert H. Pierson (left); and with his successor, Robert S. Folkenberg, Sr. [Photo: GC Archives]

Many Wilson associates valued both his skill in working with people and his concentration on the task at hand. Wilson’s aptitude for remembering the names and pertinent details of the people he met, often surprising those same people in later encounters, was widely known. C. D. Brooks, longtime speaker/director of the Breath of Life telecast, said Wilson had made it a particular point to work on such memorization: “‘Everybody likes to be recognized,’” Brooks recalled Wilson as saying.

Another pastor, Nikolaus Satelmajer, who recently retired as editor of Ministry magazine, testified to Wilson’s willingness to listen carefully to those who wished to speak to him. “Whenever I had a personal meeting with him, I felt that he was focused on the discussion and that he heard my points and responded honestly to me.”

Wilson left the role of GC president in 1990 and retired following the Indianapolis General Conference session. He remained a consultant to the Euro-Asia Division, however, and was a valued guest at church leadership events, taking to a microphone on the floor to offer comments and guidance based on his experiences.

“I admired him for his leadership,” Ranzolin said of Neal Wilson. “He knew how to handle a committee.” Both of Wilson’s immediate successors, Robert Folkenberg, Sr., and Jan Paulsen, often acknowledged Wilson’s expertise and helpful comments in such settings.

In lieu of flowers, the family said memorial gifts may be sent to ADRA, Adventist Heritage Ministry, Adventist World Radio, or Christian Record Services for the Blind.
Art Humphrey, producer of a newly-released documentary, *The Creation*, appeared with his wife, Pat, on the January 22 episode of 3ABN Today. They reminisced with Danny Shelton about their experiences in the mid-1980s when Art served as 3ABN's first television director, and shared how they were led by an angel to 3ABN.

The program highlighted the process of making *The Creation*.

"At one point, I realized how big a task it was and that I couldn't do it on my own," Art recalled. "I was almost ready to quit. So I bowed my head and asked God to help me pull it all together. I didn't have a budget to travel around to get interviews, so the Lord sent the people to me."

*The Creation* is a 72-minute documentary that weaves together narration from Ellen White's *Patriarch's and Prophets*, interviews with a variety of experts, and beautiful landscape and wildlife footage to present evidence for the creation account. Contributors included experts in astrophysics, theology, microbiology, geology, education, and art.

Doors have been opened for worldwide distribution of *The Creation* through media companies in both South Africa and the United States. Art owns On Site Video in Keene, Texas, and has been a member of ASI since 1996. He currently serves as vice president for recruitment for the ASI Southwest chapter.

Visit *The Creation* website.
Maranatha volunteers build church for Arizona group

Posted on Feb 04, 2011

Each year, Maranatha Volunteers International hosts church-building volunteer groups in remote locations around the world. In December, Maranatha stayed closer to home, sending a 75-member group of volunteers to help construct a church building for the Gila Mountain Seventh-day Adventist congregation in Yuma, Arizona.

The Gila Mountain group’s 70 members have been meeting for 15 years in three 60-foot trailers in a town where the summer population explodes each year to 90,000. The new building will allow the church to more effectively reach out to the community, which is situated near the United States-Mexico border.

"We want to help the public," says Pastor Mel Phillips. "Our hearts go out to people who are hurting."

Maranatha Volunteers International began in 1969 when John Freeman, of Berrien Springs, Michigan, took 28 volunteers to build a church in Freeport, Grand Bahamas. For the next 20 years, Maranatha helped build several projects a year, according to Kyle Fiess, Maranatha vice president for marketing and projects. Today, Maranatha hosts literally hundreds of construction projects each year. More than 70,000 Maranatha volunteers have built churches in more than 65 countries around the world. Maranatha partners with ASI to sponsor the One-Day Church project.

Visit the Maranatha Volunteers International website.