Managing Debts

He’ll do it again

AUA Trailblazers

The Great Re-union Day
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When He Cometh

The final words of the Bible give the promise of a soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ. “Surely I am coming quickly”. A little child once confided in her mother at bedtime, “MOMMY, I am so lonely for my friend Jesus, When is he coming?” Her desire has been a longing of the ages. Life is so short and before one realizes, an hour has past, a day is gone, a week has elapsed, a month is finished and a year is flying away. As a people we are called to warn the world of the end time. The commission is clear “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached . . . and then the end will come” Matthew 24:14 (NIV).

It is not too long ago when some of us were young and strong. You and I heard these warning messages with clarity from preachers of our day. Hardly did we imagine that we will live to join the band wagon to herald out the same warning. Thank God, technology has made it easy for us to communicate than those who went before us. I fret and shudder when I think of that!

Have you ever reflected about this? How will God judge us? Jeremiah 25:14 (KJV) last part say, “... and I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the works of their own hands.” Regardless of what situation you are in, be sure that God will recompense every person according to their knowledge and action.

No matter what, when the kingdoms of earth are passed away, when Christ establishes His Kingdom, we want to be there. We long to live with our father in all eternity. One day He will come! We shall unite forever with Him who loves us more than we can fathom. To have an end of all earthly suffering like the Song writer puts it:

He will gather, He will gather
The gems for His kingdom,
All the pure ones, all the bright ones,
His loved and His own.

This edition of Adventist Herald is dedicated to the net event: Hope 2010 and Follow the Bible. Hope 2010 was an international evangelistic satellite event with Dr. Pardon Mwansa. It ran from March 6th - 20th, 2010 from Newlife Seventh-day Adventist Church, Nairobi Kenya. “Jesus is Coming Again” was the theme and was aired live on Hope Channel. The coming of the travelling Bible into this region crowned the messages of Hope that we have in Jesus Christ. The impact in every place it passed has left lasting memories and renewed interest in reading God’s word.

Steve Bina
Editor

AUA’s Trailblazing Class

An initiative designed to groom postgraduate students at Seventh-day Adventist universities in Africa saw its first graduation last August 2009 at Advent Hill, Nairobi. Earning master’s degrees in pastoral theology and leadership from the Adventist University of Africa (AUA), the first 166 graduates of the program are seen as products of the Adventist Church’s expansion of higher education in Africa, regional church leaders said.

In 2003, church education officials met in Arusha-Tanzania, first to recommend establishing a postgraduate institution to meet the needs of students seeking Adventist higher education in Africa. They later decided to offer post graduate degrees through three existing church-run campuses across the continent: Babcock University in Nigeria, Solusi University in Zimbabwe and the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton in Kenya.

Speaking during the August 9 commencement services, Matthew Bediako, Adventist World Church Secretary General, thanked the church’s regional administration in Africa for supporting Adventist higher education and urged the graduates to exemplify courageous faith. “The church in Africa needs leaders who will stand for the right,” he said.

Gerry Karst, a world church vice president, told the graduates, he remembered when church leaders first surveyed the land where the Adventist University of Africa’s administrative headquarters are now located, at Ongata Rongai, Nairobi-Kenya. “Seven years later here we are celebrating the first graduation. We are proud to be part of this historic moment.” he said.

Karst told the graduates to embrace the position of a role model, challenging them to display faith that young people can emulate. He said the thought of AUA was born in 2001 when the Executive Committee of General Conference established guidelines for more post-graduate education in Africa. It set up a task to begin the process of establishing a University. Elder Karst told the graduates how seven years ago Dr. Roy Ryan and himself walked through the grass and thorns around Advent Hill surveying and imagining where AUA would be.

The Adventist University of Africa
(AUA) is the church’s first graduate school owned by the three African divisions: East-Central Africa Division, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division and West-Central Africa Division. During his welcome remarks at the graduation ceremony, Professor Brempong Owusu-Antwi, the Vice-Chancellor of the University thanked the General Conference for supporting AUA to the level it is today. He said the purpose of AUA is to provide post-graduate education to develop leaders and professionals for the African continent. Four years ago AUA started with three campuses on the continent of Africa. Babcock University in Nigeria provides facilities for the West-Central Africa Division students; Solusi University in Zimbabwe providing facilities for the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division students and University of Eastern Africa, Baraton serves the East-Central Africa Division students.

As the postgraduate programs in AUA grows, university administration plans to add Masters in Missiology, Religion, Divinity, Education, Health Sciences, IT, Computer Science, MBA, Doctor of Divinity, PhD in Religion and Doctor of Philosophy in Religion.

Teachers are a key element in the education and upbringing of the youth. This was revealed during the inaugural East-Central Africa Division (ECD) Teachers’ Convention held at the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton in August 2008. It was held at a critical moment when the number of non-Adventists seeking Adventist education continues to soar as devout Adventists, ironically, continues to enroll their children in secular or other systems of education.

By the end of 2007, the World Church had a total of 7,442 institutions; 74,631 teachers and 1,479,136 students from elementary school through university. About 56% of the students come from non-Adventist backgrounds. Meanwhile, a significant number of Seventhday Adventist teachers who are not graduates of Adventist institutions are not adequately exposed to the church’s mission and philosophy of education. The big question then is: how would such teachers implement what they may not have understood or embraced?

Needless to reiterate, the essence of Adventist Education is redemption: to restore man to the image made by God. Education is aimed at developing the whole person for this life and the life hereafter. Teachers are obliged to have insight into the link between knowledge and other spheres of life; to integrate faith and learning.

What Africa needs most is character formation and not mere academic progress. Unfortunately, most of our schools emphasize academic performance at the expense of character formation, a scenario attributable to the collapse of the moral fabric that hitherto held the continent together.

As we prepare for the Lord’s return, the Adventist Philosophy of Education has never been more relevant. All learners have an opportunity for redemption; hence, Adventist teachers and parents must give them a chance to meet Jesus and serve Him.

The eye-opening and enriching convention recommended that:

• All teachers in Adventist institutions should be provided with orientation on Adventist philosophy of education.
• Teachers, both by precept and example, unashamedly instruct students in accordance with the teachings of the church.
• Relevant literature be availed to schools and teachers be encouraged to read the Spirit of Prophecy books.
• Adventism should produce redemption-oriented schools of excellence.
• The East-Central Africa Division develops new curriculum to reinforce the dimensions and values of Adventist Philosophy of Education.
• Educators should give learners a chance to meet the Lord and serve Him accordingly.
• The Adventist curriculum should continue to seek God’s Kingdom and faithfulness in all things.
• Adventist personnel should exemplify the institutional ideals and operate our schools based on the faith we espouse.
• Adventist institutions need solid financial support; there must be collaborative effort between communities and schools.
• Tuition in Adventist institutions should be affordable to make it more accessible.
• We must be unapologetic about what we teach and remain steadfast to and passionate about the subject.

By Tom Olang’
Teacher, Advent Hill Primary School
It's my pleasure to send Christian greetings to the believers in the wide territory of East-Central Africa Division. As you read this article, I pray that the anointing of the Holy Spirit will rest upon you.

Over the years, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has developed programs for its members. In the early nineties, there was a program known as “Harvest 90”. This program was meant to blow a trumpet that would awaken Adventists to win souls for Christ our Lord and Savior.

Recently we had the great theme known as “Tell the World”. This was yet another call for all Adventists around the world to share the good news with their neighbors. The Adventists remain committed to the great commission assigned by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Two years ago the Adventist world Church came up with an initiative dubbed “Follow the Bible.” This was an initiative to stimulate a deeper reading of the Bible. The project features a multilingual Bible travelling to countries around the world and large international gatherings held to recommit to the study of the word of God. The travelling Bible arrived in East-Central Africa Division from the city of Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire in West Africa on March 10th 2010 through the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

One may ask: Why would the church want to re-introduce the Holy Bible with a bang! Is there anything observed in the horizons of time, or what is it that modern prophets have deciphered which has broken the regular pattern of things? Why is it that it cannot be business as usual anymore? Are there signs which the gatekeepers have noticed far in the corners of time which call for a change in the lifestyle of God’s people?

The history of Christianity reveals that we often turn God’s dealings into spiritual movements which eventually degenerate into cold religious machinery. Church leaders spend more time maintaining and managing the system than seeking God. Though all great Christian revival movements start with spiritual life, they seem to get caught in a downward spiral which leads to legalism, materialism, liberalism, and eventually idolatry or something very close to it. Christians must experience periodic times of revival and refreshing from the very presence of God.

The “handwriting” on the walls of time does not seem to suggest that we have too long a time in this world! Without any exaggeration these are critical times in which we live. General Omar Bradley said: “Our plight is critical, and with each effort we have made as human race, we have made to relieve it by further scientific advance, we have succeeded only in aggravating our peril. Missiles will bring antimissile and antimissiles will bring anti-antimissiles, but inevitably this whole electronic house of cards will reach a point where it cannot be constructed any higher . . . have we already gone too far in search for peace through the accumulation of peril?”

He concluded: “If we are going to save ourselves from the instruments of our own intellect, we had better soon get ourselves under control and begin making decisions to look out for the coming Savior.”

The tragedy is, as Guy D. Newman, president of Howard Payne College observed, that man’s knowledge has surpassed his wisdom. He is afraid of what he knows. The situation of our world today is so threatening that all human beings now agree that no state or government devised by man without God can flourish forever. It is also true, as Will Durant said: “No great nation has ever been overcome until it has destroyed itself.” Republics and empires all live their lives and die.

This then is the modern international scene with its problems of population, crime, racism, communism, science, and politics. These are complicating modern existence and making the world into which our young men and women are going to where personal liberties are hedged about by all sorts of limiting regulations.

There is only one answer: Dr. Jung has said that “The central neurosis of our time is emptiness.” Putting his words into action, he himself embraced the Christian faith and began preparing for the second coming of King Jesus.

There is nothing today or in our contemporary thought that offers an alternative hope that is lasting. Someone has said: “No arrangement of bad eggs will give you a good omelet.” These successive civilizations of the past have been different arrangements of human institutions, but we have never had a lasting, satisfactory, peaceful social order. It is impossible to build a peaceful world on the cracked foundation of human nature.

Isaiah the prophet, looking forward to that day of future peace, said, “His name shall be called . . . the Prince of Peace”. Of the increase of His government and peace, there shall be no end” (Isaiah 9:6, 7).

Scriptures declare that the day of the Lord will come upon the masses as “a thief in the night”. 1 Thes. 5:2; 2 Pet. 3:10. It also says of those standing in the counsel of...
The Great Re-union Day

This was the wedding of the year. The bridal team, the parents, the décor; all set for the day. You could tell the joy. It was expressed by the smiles on the faces. The church ceremony ended well and quickly like all good things in life – always coming in small measures. The bridal procession then slowly headed for the wedding reception. The number plate of bridal car read: “JUST MARRIED “.

It was a joyous moment for the bride’s parents, Dr. Pardon Mwansa narrated the story. “This was one of the happiest moments of their lives. Seeing their girl wedded off to a handsome young man and a Christian.” There are moments in life when we almost hit ideal happiness. The bridal car drove a few meters ahead of the parent’s car towards the anticipated dance, eating and drinks. Then the unexpected happened.

As they say, ‘out of the blue’, to express a sudden un-accounted for occurrence, a gasoline tanker got into the procession. It separated the bridal car from the parent’s car and other vehicles a few meters behind, but the visibility was clear. Like in a movie, the tanker knocked something, rolled and burst into a raging flame, which engulfed every other car around it. The parents watched helplessly as the “JUST MARRIED “plates disappeared into raging fire frenzy. The bride and groom and the best couple all died in the unfortunate accident. How would you have consoled the parents?

Armed with education, money, a happy family and friends, and may be, a pious lifestyle many people have conquered most challenges that life brings. This is largely true for those who have found the peace that Christ offers. Life would be better without interruptions. Humanity has used brain, technology, and skill to master many ills except Death. Without the fear and interruption of the pain of death, some people would live well according to worldly standards.

You have your own fears even as you read this article. Some of them are very great. What gives you hope to go on, when your worst fears come true. This February will go down into history as a great one in many people’s lives. 15 topics on the greatest theme ever, for a whole two weeks was a great event.

Dr Pardon Mwansa, a Pastor and Vice President of the Adventist world Church, was the key speaker in an international satellite event dubbed Hope 2010 – Jesus is coming Again. Night after night, he brought out age old gems from the Bible in a spectacular, yet simple way. As he labored to awaken the viewers to the reality, proximity and hope to be realized in the second advent of Jesus Christ, several stories such as this, laced the truth from the Bible.

Hope 2010! Jesus is coming Again!

So went the slogan for the crew and the volunteers involved in the production of the 2010 Satellite event in Nairobi - Kenya. For as long as I can remember, Adventists have always had a slogan for almost any important event. I recall some of the following with much delight:

Happy Sabbath! Happy Day! The second phrase also begets the first.

As a production manager, I have a level of prior insight into topics of sermon series such as those presented in Hope 2010. Fascinated by the expected International event, the presentations affirmed and challenged my pre-conceived opinions on the second coming. I then sought to understand what would be so good about the second coming. Apart from the seemingly endless wait for the Second Advent, there is always an underlying fear that comes with the thought of the event. Television has replayed it in several films like Armageddon. Most of such have no good news at all. One can not help feeling that the second coming is definitely not about good things. As Adventists we know better and affirm that the destruction is meant for the devil, his agents and sin. Yet we can not help but fear the prospect of standing before God in the judgment throne.

We are glad when we sing and talk about the second coming only in respect of salvation from temporal setbacks. But in case it was true that Jesus was in deed to come in the February 2010, how many of us would have found the Hope rather than fear of judgment for example, over the impending prospect on reading the advertisement of the event. I asked myself the question. Have I been taking this as a slogan instead of a real and soon occurring cosmos event? Or on the contrary, have I reduced the Advent to a myth only fit for a new TV Action thriller series or film? Questions such as these arose from this one thought:

1. Is the second coming of Jesus good news for all?
2. Jesus is coming again! So what is in it for me?
3. Jesus is coming again. Myth or Truth?
Ellen White in testimonies to the church volume 1 writes thus: I saw great distress in the land than we have yet witnessed. I heard groans and cries of distress, and saw large companies in active battle. I heard the booming of cannon, the clash of arms, the hand-to-hand fight, and the groans and prayers of the dying… I saw desolate, despairing families, and pinching want in many dwellings. Even now many families are suffering want, but this will increase. The faces of many looked haggard, pale, and pinched with hunger.

Do you have an answer to this menace called death? Apart from dealing with terrorists who need no reason to kill, there is no other menace that we cannot somehow manage except the fear of death.

What will become of you and your loved ones when you die? Pretty people die – princes Diana did. Wealthy celebrities die – Michael Jackson did. Even religious people die – the Pope did. Even Mother Teresa died – a jewel to the world.

Is there hope after death? What good would exist in such a scene as depicted above apart from the mystery that is death?

Jesus is the answer. Death cannot be explained without the Bible. Adam and Eve transgressed God’s moral law, and that law says ‘the soul that sins shall die’. A resulting consequence is what we have in form of death.

**Reality**

Even for us who believe in Christ, we still face the terror that death brings. Dr. Mwansa illustrated that, in order to travel to the Philippines for their daughters graduation, he booked one flight and his wife in another. We have insurance covers to help our families stay afloat in times of peril. The reality is that death is a great pain to us.

He was in the final year of his bachelors’ degree program, bright and healthy. One late afternoon, Bob and his friends were working out in the college gym when the unfortunate happened. Somehow the weight slipped and knocked him. He died on the spot. Shattered dreams! Our lot in life.

**Good News**

Only God has explained death in the Bible. Man was created Immortal, and by continually eating of the tree of life, was destined to eternal life until he sinned. Then the result was death. Man gave up faith in God and explored the knowledge of good and evil. The wages of sin is death. The first death was experienced in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve painfully lost Abel.

The good news is that God has a plan to redeem man from this menace. When Lazarus of Bethany died, Jesus ceased the opportunity to show that He had power over death. Martha sent word to Jesus before Lazarus died. She knew Jesus was a healer. Did she know more?

Grief stricken Martha exclaimed, “Lord if only you had been here, my brother would not have died”. To Martha, Jesus was just a healer. John 11:25 make all the difference…” I am the resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies” and he who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?

On arriving at the scene and seeing the hired mourners wailing professionally. Jesus wept. He could not have cried for the death of Lazarus, after all he raised him up! His agony was that the people had no faith in Him. Standing in their midst was Life, and they could not comprehend it. Is it any different with us today?

**The Great Reunion**

Jesus raised Lazarus after several days in the grave. When he rose, he had a normal human frame again and his sisters hugged him and rejoiced in the reunion.

1 Thessalonians 4:13- 18 says.

“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive, and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.”

Two points to note here. The dead will rise first. Our loved ones who died in the Lord will rise immortal. Then those of us who will still be alive will be transformed suddenly to immortality. What a re-union that will be! Unlike our earthly wedding which is rudely interrupted by death, the wedding celebration then will be of a different nature. Not to be interrupted by accidents and pain anymore. The bible pictures us as brides adorned, waiting for our Lord.

George, a friend of Dr Mwansa one day received a call. His sister had died. Dr. Mwansa went to console the family. Since the car was small, George remained for a while with Dr. Mwansa, while the rest of George’s family went ahead for the burial. Then the second call came. His wife and brother had an accident.
and died as they travelled in the small car. Dr Mwansa could hardly console George. I would not find it easy, and I guess you too.

In his book,'The day my world caved', George says, “The only thing that gave me the push is John 14:14-15”. Nothing else makes sense then. Many people struggle with simple questions like, where are the dead? The answer—they are in the grave. Dead! Not in some corner waiting to harm us or bless us. Ecclesiastes 9:-6 tells it all. You have many questions about death? Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-54. We will not have a full comprehension here, but one day with the Lord face to face, we will re-unite and we’ll understand it. Mrs. Frank Breck, a hymn writer penned the following words:

What rejoicing in His Presence,  
When are banished grief and pain;  
When the crooked ways are straightened,  
And the dark things shall be plain!

A new Earth and a new Heaven is a theme of great significance in the Bible. God's purpose as seen from Genesis to Revelation has always been to restore the universe to it’s initial glory. All things, animate and inanimate are indeed waiting for this blissful moment. The signs of Christ’s return are so evident. God’s people must take warning and discern the signs of the times.

Before this new paradise can be re-made, Jesus has to come. This is the certainty that Adventists hold. The very name suggests this as one of the key doctrines. This begs another question, Why the indifference the world is showing to such a climatic event?

I find a good answer as penned by inspiration thus: “Satan is now seeking to hold God’s people in a state of inactivity, to keep them from acting their part in spreading the truth, that they at last may be weighed in the balance and found wanting.”

My prayer and the Hope is that Jesus will come again to re-unite us in three main ways:

1. With our loved ones who died in the Lord, and never to part again.
2. With our immortal body and onward eat from tree of life, and have a life everlasting.
3. To re-unite us with our Creator and fulfill the purpose of creation.

May this thought buoy your heart and look forward to the great re-union day, when Jesus comes Again.

GOD of All Creation

Ethnicity is rampant in most societies and Kenya is not an exception. Kenya has over 42 tribes. I’m Luo and my husband is Nandi. We are blessed with two lovely children. I never realized that ethnicity was such an issue until one day whilst visiting the countryside some family friends visited us. It was painful when one of the men referred to his children as pure breed and ours children as half breed second-rate children. I felt hurt, prayed about it and soon I forgot about the incident.

Recently I read “In the Shadow of Shekinah” by Roy Gane; I marveled going through the book of Numbers. In Numbers chapter 11, I learnt that ethnicity is as old as human beings, but I also realized that God does not entertain this vice especially towards His children. I read how Miriam and Aaron despised Moses because he married a Midianite (Some think she was either Ethiopian or Sudanese). The bottom-line is that she was despised because of her skin color. God punished Miriam with leprosy until Moses had to plead with God. She was forgiven but she was excluded from the camp for 7 days (Numb: 12:8-10). As I read the story of Miriam and Zipporah, I reflected back and remembered that in my experience the man who called my children half-breed or less important children later got a sickly and disabled child. I don’t know if this would be a punishment but I have chosen, like Moses, to intercede for that family.

God is not a respecter of persons. No ethnic group or race is superior to another; we should respect God’s creation, for no human being is inferior before God. It is worth noting that discriminating others on the basis of what they do, their color or race is an abomination. The various form of discrimination could be on the basis of skin color, language, body height, size, nose shape, diet, culture or intellect. However, we must admit that we are different, God has created all of us and we all have a purpose on earth. Imagine if all animals were cows or all flowers were lilies, or all landscape was a desert and no vegetation anywhere; what a boring scene it would be. Friends, I implore us: God has created one body composed of many body parts. Therefore we are one human race but with many nations, tribes, languages and cultures; yet Our God is one. I can only sum up by saying “Unity in Diversity.”

Teresia Koech
Adventist Media Center
The giant Bible arrives in ECD from West-Central Africa Division.

Above: AUA Students apartments under construction

Below: Almost Done! The East Rwanda Association new office.

The joy of giving & receiving - Kajiado Rehabilitation and Education Centre.


Pathfinders Marching in Nairobi to launch “Follow the Bible” initiative.

Jesus Is Coming Again! Dr. Pardon Mwansa, during Hope 2010, Net Event.

Prof. Eriks Galenieks, PhD. Old Testament Exegesis and his wife Anna Galeniece, Dmin, Applied Theology. Prof. Eriks was a Pastor in Minnesota Conference (USA). They have a son Andrejs Galenieks – 25 years and a daughter Estere Galeniece - 23 years.

AUA APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Kepha Pondi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Finance & Administration. Former East African Union treasurer. He is married to Ruth Pondi and they have a daughter - Ann Pondi (8 years).

Adventist HERALD

PICTORIAL
In November 2009, between the 18th and 20th, the East-Central Africa Division (ECD) Health Ministries in collaboration with Adventist Mission conducted a free medical, eye and dental camp in Zanzibar, Tanzania. The three-day Medical Outreach Program (MOP) took place at the Seventh-day Adventist clinic in the Island of Zanzibar.

The MOP was launched by the Honorable Dr. Sultan Mugheiry, the Minister for Health of the Government of Zanzibar. He applauded the Adventists for services offered in the Island and challenged the church to expand its efforts to offer regular dental, eye and maternity services. Recently Adventist Health Systems signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the local Conferences to manage and resource the Zanzibar clinic. This will improve and expand the services of the clinic for the community.

Over 2,500 patients attended the medical camp. About 1,100 were eye patients, 775 had dental problems and 970 had general medical cases. The MOP also offered free Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) during the camp. Despite the spirited efforts by the medical team for three days, four hundred and fifty-one registered patients could not be seen due to time constraint. The eye and dental public health students in the government-allied school had sent their senior students for hands-on experience. They exclaimed that it was their first time to attend to so many patients in one session. We hope that holding these free medical, dental, and eye camps will have a positive impact on the small Muslim island. It’s our prayer that this health ministries endeavor will open a door for evangelism.

This initiative is a collaborative program between Global Mission and Health Ministries Department at all levels of the church. We last conducted free medical camps in 2007. We had planned to go to Pemba Island but the clinic in Pemba is closed for renovation. Plans are underway to conduct a medical camp in both the Island of Zanzibar and Pemba in October, 2010. Zanzibar is a beautiful island found in the Indian Ocean about 40 km away from Dar es Salaam (the capital city of Tanzania). The church opened a clinic in Zanzibar in 1984 and on Pemba in 1999. The population of Zanzibar is over one million and Pemba has a lesser population. Both are 98% Muslim.

We are very grateful for the support received from East Tanzania Conference, Tanzania Union, East-Central Africa Division, Adventist Mission and above all the volunteering spirit shown by the national doctors who gave freely of their time for this medical camp.

Everywhere we went we had a very gratifying experience. In a special way I want to thank the two eye surgeons from Dar-es-Salaam for their willingness to come and give freely of their talents to serve the community.

**MEDICAL OUTREACH PROGRAM IN ZANZIBAR**

Dr. Fesaha Tsegaye
Director, Health Ministries
East-Central Africa Division
The Seventh-day Adventist Multilingual Bible arrived in East-Central Africa Division from West-Central Africa Division on March 10, 2010. A copy of the special leather bound Bible measuring 12 by 18 inches written in 66 languages, Swahili included landed at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on Wednesday morning. The unique Bible was received by the General Secretary of Bible Society of Kenya, Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki, East-Central Africa Division president Pastor Geoffrey Mbwana, East African Union president Pastor Paul Muasya, Uganda Union president Dr. John Kakembo, Tanzania Union president Pastor Joshua Kajula, Church members and guests.

The Kenya Prisons College Brass Band, Karura Adventist Primary Pathfinders, Makongeni Church Choir and Church members escorted by the Kenya Police made their way to Uhuru Park to participate in the arrival program. After a keynote speech, the General Secretary of the Bible Society of Kenya flagged off a procession through Kenyatta Avenue and Milimani Road to Nairobi Central Seventh-day Adventist Church where there was a special worship service.

“The Seventh-day Adventist Church has set an enviable standard which will not be forgotten by the entire world through this initiative” said Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki “I would like to heartily congratulate you for this bold step to reach out to the entire world and make a stand about the word of God” she added.

Publicity and Inauguration Ceremony

The coming of the unique travelling Bible into our territories was eagerly awaited. Prior to the arrival of the Bible, the East African Union in collaboration with the East-Central Africa Division held a special press conference on March 8th 2010 in readiness for this event. Journalists from six media houses were invited to document the reception of this unique Bible and sensitize the public.

On Saturday March 13th 2010, the official inauguration of the travelling itinerary took place at Nyayo Stadium in Nairobi and other unions simultaneously. The East-Central Africa Division president, Pastor Mbwana and Pastor Gilbert Wari of West-Central Africa Division led about 40,000 Adventists in Nairobi City in a procession which culminated with a special worship service at Nyayo Stadium. From March 13th 2010 the travelling Bible continued its itinerary across the ECD territory.

Exit to Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID)

The journey of the travelling Bible continued within ECD until April 28, 2010 when it was officially handed over to the SID president Pastor Paul S. Ratsara, and SID Executive Secretary, Pastor Solomon Maphosa by the ECD president Pastor Geoffrey Mbwana. The send-off ceremony was attended by the ECD fraternity and SID officers. A prayer of dedication was offered by Pastor Blasious Ruguri, the ECD Executive Secretary.

Why “Follow The Bible”?

Follow the Bible is an initiative sponsored by the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists and its world divisions to stimulate a deeper reading of the Bible. During the initiative Bibles were distributed to people and many enrolled for bible study lessons. This program awakened regular Bible study and reignited the desire to study the word. Though the Bible is gone to SID, Let us all endeavour to ‘Follow the Bible’. Read regularly, carefully, prayerfully and rightly. Apply its principles in your daily life. The promise to all who follow the Lord is “….you will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life”. Matthew 19:29, NIV. “Follow the Bible”, it will take us home.
Baptism Mishaps

A pastor might baptize hundreds or thousands of new believers throughout his career by the act of lowering a candidate under water and raising them back up. While most ceremonies are a joyful occasion for the candidate and their church, friends or relatives, a rare few can have glitches, leading a congregation to snicker or sometimes collectively gasp. There are all sorts of stories from baptisms. Stories like contending with snakes during a river baptism, negotiating narrow tanks, muddy ponds, robes floating above swim trunks, some candidates fear water, others flail their arms under water, and some won’t allow one leg or head to submerge. There are large candidates who float or wont submerge and also the challenge of negotiating swift water currents.

In 1995, Pastor Jean-Pierre Molumba Tshimanga had to be rescued from the Congo River after misjudging the swift current. A tall candidate was swept away and hung on to him, holding both of them under water. Fortunately, strong swimmers were positioned downstream. Pastor Blasious Ruguri recalls his first baptism. A large female candidate panicked causing both of them to fall into the water and the elders had to come to their rescue. One time a candidate walked out of the water only to demand that Pastor Kigundu Ndwiga re-baptize him because he still felt the devil had not left.

In Southern Mexico, church leader Raul Lozano was once brought to a rural area to baptize candidates in a pond originally dug for watering cattle. The water grew murkier with each candidate stirring up the pond floor. “The last ones came up with their heads basically stuffed with mud,” Lozano recalled.

One morning at Andrews University, the seminary class of 34 men and 11 women sat in the first few rows of pews in Pioneer Memorial Church. Co-instructor of the class Foundations in Pastoral Ministry, Professor Patterson takes a few days each semester to teach soon-to-be pastors the basics of a baptismal ceremony, and warns against problems that can occur. Many brought towels and wore swim shorts, T-shirts and flip-flops. In 2008, the Adventist Church baptized more than 1 million people, according to the church’s statistical report. Patterson is sure that not all have gone smoothly. He warns his students about some people’s fear of water, candidates who flail their arms under water, large candidates who float and won’t submerge, and how to negotiate swift river currents.

Keep Me Patient

Lord keep me kind and sweet all day,
Give my heart a joyful song.
I know I’m bound to bear some stress,
But keep me patient all day long.

Not every face I meet today,
Will greet me with loving smile
They too are under weight of care,
Keep me patient all the while

Lord tame my thoughts and speech today,
Let me not air things which offend.
Should irritations vex my soul
Still keep me patient till the end.

Adopted from Dreams and meditations
Managing your Debts

Most homes today are languishing in debts. Debts bring panic and despair. They don’t give peace of mind, disturb family plans and ultimately do not give confidence to face the future. Some individuals in trying to come out of debts end up increasing their debts. Mrs. E. G. White Explains: “Many, very many have not so educated themselves that they can keep their expenditures within the limit of their income. They do not learn to adapt themselves to circumstances, and they borrow and borrow again and again and become overwhelmed in debt, and consequently they become discouraged and disheartened.”

It does not mean that when one is in debts then he or she has to perpetually owe. It is possible to live a debt-free life. It is a matter of self-discipline that one can be out of debt. Here are a few suggestions of debt management:

Develop a financial plan: To get real satisfaction from money, one must have ability not only to earn it but also to manage it wisely. Most people have good ways of acquiring money than managing it. Financial planning is vital in order to stay out of debt. A financial plan must indicate your available income and estimate expenditure. This financial plan should set priority areas straight. A financial plan should be a written document and should be followed. It does not help to have a plan and yet fail to honor the plan. A financial plan is simply a probable estimate of your income and expenditure. It is a written plan that allocates expected income to anticipated expenses during a certain period. Crockers believes that: “A spending plan is the guiding force behind good money management.”

Plan for bigger expenditures: One reason people fall in debt is that they buy big items that offset family income. Some items need constant saving. Do not buy big items like a car without proper and long term financial plan. It is prudent to save in order to buy big items without inconveniencing family income. This kind of approach will help you to buy big items without falling into debt.

Save consistently: Saving is putting some resources aside for future use other than settling for instant gratification. Strive to save consistently at least ten percent of your income. Do not live hand to mouth. Saving will help you not to fall in debt when you have a financial problem. Most people who owe have a background of not saving part of their income. Life has detours and so savings will bail you from hard times. The Bible reveals: “In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has.” Savings will help you not to get into debt because you have some buffer in case of emergency. Save regularly and it will help you not to fall in debt unnecessarily.

Increase your income: If your needs are increasing then you ought to increase your income as well. If your liabilities increase, then increase your asset base. If your family is growing it is also automatic that your needs will increase. Your children are growing and their needs also are growing. If you discover that your employment is not giving you the basic needs of life, then you have to think twice. However, if spending habits are not good even if your income increases you will still be in want.

Do not spend before you earn: Some people spend even before the end of month. When pay day comes, they are miserable because they already spent their wages. Shun the habit of getting items on credit and try to operate on cash basis. You may get a loan if you know that your business will benefit from it.

Adjust your lifestyle: Debts are accumulated sometimes because of lifestyle behavior. If you live on beer, polygamy, concubines or fond of hiring taxis for unnecessary trips then adjust your life. Some of the activities in your life may be expensive. How is your diet? What kind of dress do you have? Such questions if pursued with honest motive will help you live a better debt-free life. Determine what you can live without. If you can’t make it to having three meals a day, then reduce to two. If your children are in schools that are expensive then think of changing to schools you can afford. The type of a car you drive may drain your income. Some have huge expenses due to social lifestyle. Some spend money in repairing an asset that is no longer viable in order to maintain their status. If you no longer have a good paying job, you may decide to change your residence from low density to high density area. We
The General Conference Session is the forum for electing world church officers and voting changes to the church’s Constitution. Delegates also hear reports from each of the 13 administrative regions of the church. The Constitution states that at least 50 percent of delegates shall be laypersons, pastors, teachers, and non-administrative employees, of both genders and representing a range of age groups and nationalities. Church members also have the opportunity to reconnect with friends from around the world. They carry the hopes, dreams and prayers of millions with them as they plan, pray and worship.

The worldwide Adventist family is gathering during the General Conference Session from the 24th June to July 3rd, 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia (USA). Atlanta will be the 59th Session. Let’s pray for what God will do in Atlanta.

Battle Creek was the site of 26 of the first 31 GC Sessions. The first Session held west of the Mississippi River was in November of 1887 in Oakland, California. Session has been held outside the U.S. three times: in Austria in 1975, the Netherlands in 1995 and in Canada in 2000. Delegates for the General Conference are selected by the General Conference, divisions, division institutions, Union Conferences and Conferences church employees and lay members. This year’s session in Atlanta will carry the following number of delegates from the divisions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIVISION</th>
<th>INITIAL</th>
<th>NO. OF. DELEGATES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East-Central Africa</td>
<td>ECD</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euro-Africa</td>
<td>EUD</td>
<td>137</td>
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<tr>
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<td>133</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>SAD</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Africa-Indian Ocean</td>
<td>SID</td>
<td>216</td>
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<td>Southern Asia</td>
<td>SUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Asia – Pacific</td>
<td>SSD</td>
<td>174</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trans-European</td>
<td>TED</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West-Central Africa</td>
<td>WAD</td>
<td>149</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2,488</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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1 Ellen G. White, Adventist Home. Hagerstown, (Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1980), 374
3 Ibid. Proverbs 21:20
5 Ibid. NIV” Proverbs 22:7.
He lifted up his hand as in a solemn vow and with a firm voice cried out, “Choose for yourselves this day…” (Joshua 24:15). Advanced in years now, Joshua summoned Israel to give them his last word. And that word was “Serve God,” nothing was more important. Looking back into his life and service, the wilderness experience, wanderings, and the conquest of Canaan, Joshua had a burden: that his people may consecrate themselves fully to God. Why? Reviewing his past, Joshua is left with no other alternative but to unreservedly serve God. He reveals some reasons for consecration to God, some wonderful gems from the word of God:

**The Word of God is Trustworthy:** The book of Joshua begins with a promise and ends with a fulfillment. At the beginning of his ministry God promised “I will give you every place where you set your foot…I will be with you, I will never leave you or forsake you” (Joshua 1:3, 5). About forty years later Joshua looking back at God’s promise he could say: “Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed” (Joshua 23:14). The land is conquered, subdivided, and people settled. God has kept His word. This story illustrates the trustworthiness of God’s word. In the ever changing unreliable world we have something to anchor on, the circumstances maybe uncertain, family and friends may betray us, the stocks may plunge and finances dwindle but the word of God is sure. He promised, He fulfilled; He did it!

**The Word of God is Powerful:** Several incidences in the book of Joshua demonstrate the power of God’s word. First; the fall of Jericho, secondly, the day the sun stood still (Josh 6, 10). At the end of his life Joshua may be looking back at these incidences and many others, and he said to himself, ‘what is impossible with man is possible with God’. By His word the Israelites marched around the wall Jericho and it fell, by His word the sun was commanded to stand still and it obeyed. His word is powerful. It creates, sustains, and by it miracles are performed. With the insurmountable “Jerichos” around us and the enormous tasks ahead of us we have the word of God. “The life of Christ that gives life to the world is in His word. It was by His word that Jesus healed diseases and cast out demons. By His word He silenced the sea and raised the dead; and the people bore witness that His word was with power.” God’s word is powerful trust it. Joshua says we could not but He did it!

**The Word of God Teaches:** God is Gracious: Just before the call: ‘choose to serve God’, Joshua reminds the Israelites of what God had done. “I sent the hornet ahead of you, which drove them out before you - also the two Amorite kings. You did not do it with your own sword and bow. So I gave you the land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from the vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant” (Josh 24:12-13). They did not do it, God did it. This story reveals a gracious God who does things for us in spite of who we are. The Israelites settled in Canaan not because of what they did but what God did. That is Grace. The word of God reveals a gracious God who does things to us freely because He loves us. Our salvation, our daily walk with him, our provisions, anything he longs to do it for us. Yes “He did it”. He did it for the Israelites, he will do it again to us if we choose him. This story shows that God’s word is truthful, powerful, and wonderful. Yes He did it, His word is true!

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**Ingredients**
- 2kg All purpose flour
- Onions – 2 bulbs
- I Green pepper
- Coriander leaves
- Black pepper (optional)
- Dark Soy Sauce 330mls
- Curry powder 1 tablespoon
- Garam Masala ½ tablespoon
- Celery
- Leek
- 2 Carrots
- Aromat (optional)
- Salt
- Rosemary leaves.
- 3 Tomatoes

**Procedure**
1. Mix the flour with one litre of water, then knead the dough for 10 minutes, it will be hard.
2. Soak the dough in water for 2 hours; wash the dough in a deep container with running tap water carefully till the water is clear.
3. Cut the already made gluten in medium sizes of smaller units and immerse in the spices, which are boiling in 3 litres of water till it's ready.
4. Drain the excess water then shallow fry the gluten or dry it in the oven.
5. Fry onions, tomatoes, green pepper, coriander leaves then add gluten, add a little salt and aromat to taste.

*Serve with Ugali, Rice, Matoke, Chapati or Fufu. Can serve 6-10 people.*

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Odek Rabach
PhD (Biblical Studies) student at AIIAS, Philippines
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FM RADIO MINISTRY IN ECD

The Adventist FM Radio Station in Dar-es-Salaam, Morning Star, went on satellite in April, 2010. You can now listen to Morning Star using a C-band satellite dish tuned to Intelsat 7/10, Frequency 04070, Symbol rate 03003 on Vertical polarity. The Indian-Trans Atlantic Ocean Submarine Optic Fibre Cable links Morning Star FM Radio to the Adventist Media Center in California for uplink.

With this signal on satellite it is intended that all the 18 FM stations and the proposed 65 FM stations in ECD will downlink Morning Star for rebroadcast in the Swahili territories and later other languages. It is estimated that by the end of this year the FM radio ministry shall have reached more than 200 million people in East Central African region.

For more information contact brother Enoch Mogusu; +254 722 508 899, mogusu@gmail.com

The Media Center is the technical operations center for the church in East-Central Africa Division in the areas of Multimedia and Technology evangelism

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