From June 24 to July 11, 116 delegates from around the world, including the first delegate ever from China, met in Johannesburg, South Africa, to decide on important issues facing God’s church. Even though the daily schedule was grueling, time was set aside each day for prayer and worship. Each delegate knew that God’s guidance was vital to every decision. His blessing and counsel were sought continually.

ELECTING NEW OFFICERS TO LEAD THE WORK FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WAS AN ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TASK. THE WORK AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE IS NOT EASY. THE HOURS ARE LONG, AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES ARE HEAVY. AFTER MUCH PRAYER, THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS WERE Nominated and accepted by the delegates in session. We now present to you the 2012-2017 General Conference officers. Please support them with your prayers.

* * * * *

**President:** Idel Suárez, Jr., Ph.D. (USA)
**Vice President/First Secretary:** Pablo Hunger (Austria)
**Second Secretary:** Woonsan Kang, Ph.D. (Korea)
**Treasurer:** Douglas Francis (Sri Lanka)

**Executive Subcommittee**
- President, Vice President, First Secretary, Treasurer, Second Secretary, rotating members from the division leaders (each of the five leaders will serve one year as a member of the Executive Subcommittee)

**Finance Committee**
- Treasurer/Director: Douglas Francis (Sri Lanka)
- Other Members: Hans Rekker (Holland), John Bescec (Canada)

**Auditors:** Timo Martin (Canada), Rachel Austria (Philippines)

**Ministerial Department** (one member per continent)
- **North America (Director):** Tzvetan Petkov (Sweden/USA)
- **Asia:** A. Cortez (Philippines)
- **Central America:** Martin Lagunas (Mexico)
- **Europe:** Antonino Di Franca (Italy)
- **South America:** Alfonso Reito (Peru)
- **Africa:** Parmenas Shirima (Tanzania/England)
- **Oceania:** Henry Andrade (Australia)
The various departments of the General Conference were grouped into three main ministries. While all departments have the common goal of sharing the gospel with the world, their work has been subdivided according to the type of work they are responsible for performing. The Missionary Ministry deals primarily with world evangelization efforts. The Health Ministry seeks to provide assistance for the temporal needs of suffering mankind. The Social Ministry works with specific groups within society, such as the family and youth.

Missionary Ministry
  Publishing Leader (Ministry Director):
    Larry Watts (USA)
  Evangelism Leader: Alfred Ngwenya (Zimbabwe)
  Multimedia Leader: Noe Chappa (Argentina)
  Canvassing Leader: Raquel Orce (Spain)

Health Ministry
  Health Leader (Ministry Director): Rolando de la Paz (Philippines)
  Engineer: Gerhard Köbele (Germany)
  Good Samaritan: Stefano La Corte (Italy)

Social Ministry
  Family Leader (Ministry Director): Raquel Orce (Spain)
  Youth Leader: Joel Barnedo (USA)
  Education Leader: Danilo Monterroso (Guatemala)

Another change implemented during the World Assembly meetings was to upgrade Regions into Divisions. Giving Regional leaders their own secretaries and committees to act as arms of the General Conference will allow the General Conference more time to develop support materials, programs, and training in addition to greater freedom to promote and support the work in new areas. This follows the advice given in Exodus 18:26, “And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves.”

Division Leaders and Committees
  Oceania: Anton Salavyov (Australia)
    Committee Members: Henry Andrade (Australia), Jan Karinda (Indonesia)
  Asia: Dai Chun Kang (Korea)
    Committee Members: Rolando De La Paz (Philippines), Arnolfo Cortes (Philippines)
  Europe: Franco Caputo (Italy/Greece)
    Committee Members: Daniel Garcia (Spain), Anton Tanucsev (Hungary), Hans Rekker (Holland), Daniel Serban (Germany)
  Africa: Parmenas Shirima (Tanzania/England)
    Committee Members: Sevith Moyo (Kenya), Alfred Ngwenya (Zimbabwe), Bright Fue (Tanzania), Lencha Tekle (Ethiopia/Ghana)
  Latin America: Martin Lagunas (Mexico)
    Committee Members: President of Chile (currently Alfredo Fisicaro), President of Peru (currently Cristobal Lozada), President of Brazil (currently Adalicio Fontes), President of Venezuela (currently Julian Guillarte)

May God’s name be honored, and may His work go forward with power and boldness so that soon the whole world will be lighted up with His glory. And may He come soon! Amen.

Pictures appear courtesy of Pastor Henry Dering of Cameron Park, CA. He has also put together a beautiful slide show of the delegates’ sessions. This can be viewed on YouTube at the following link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2my5w_ADCE8&feature=channel&list=UL
Healthbeat: Whooping Cough Warning
Margie Seely, Cedartown, GA

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”
3 John 1:2.

The Chinese call it “the hundred day cough.” Medical doctors diagnose it as pertussis. Many of us know of it simply as whooping cough (named for the sharp intake of breath made when the patient gasps for air after a coughing fit). Whatever the name, it is on the rise here in the United States.

In the United States, whooping cough cycles peak every 3–5 years. However, the CDC has announced that 2012 is rapidly becoming the worst year in over fifty years for the number of whooping cough diagnoses. To date, 9 children have died and over 18,000 cases have been diagnosed, which is twice as many as were diagnosed by this time last year. The number is still rising.

Whooping cough is not a virus. Instead, the disease is extremely infectious and is caused by an airborne bacteria, Bordetella pertussis. It is spread when infected people cough out bacteria-laden droplets, which are then inhaled by others. The disease usually progresses in three stages. The first stage exhibits symptoms that resemble those of the common cold—sneezing, coughing, runny nose, and possibly a low-grade fever. However, after an approximate two-week incubation period, the coughing intensifies. By this time a thick, stringy, whitish mucus has accumulated in the respiratory tract. The mucus is quite difficult to expel. Prolonged coughing spells force air from the lungs, resulting in an immediate need to inhale. But this is not always possible. Sometimes breathing apnea occurs following a coughing attack, and the patient is unable to take that much-needed breath. Coughing can be so intense that it causes vomiting and, in extreme cases, becomes so violent that ribs crack and break. The recovery stage, the time during which symptoms gradually lessen, lasts anywhere from two weeks to two months.

Many people are vaccinated or receive boosters against this disease with the DTaP vaccine. However, studies are showing that in this year’s outbreak, there is no significant difference between the number of affected people who have been vaccinated and those who have not. Scientists aren’t exactly sure why this is so but are supposing that the new DTaP vaccine, although safer, is not as effective as the old one was.

What can you do if you or a family member contracts whooping cough? First, strengthen your immune system by following the basic laws of health: get a lot of rest, fresh air, and sunlight; eat a light, mostly raw, nutritious diet low in fat, with no sugar, and/or processed foods; drink plenty of water or herbal teas to prevent dehydration. Some natural immune boosters and remedies to help your body resist infection are raw garlic (a natural antibiotic and beneficial for many respiratory tract ailments), fresh-squeezed lemon juice added to your drinking water or made into a tea (high in vitamin C), and pine needle tea (contains 5x more vitamin C than lemon juice—see link below for preparation tips) or wild cherry bark tea to help relax the respiratory tract.

Whooping cough can be a frightening disease, especially for the very young and the very old, who are most at risk for complications. Those who get it can expect a long recovery period. The best defense is prevention. Take care of your health always. You never know what disease may be lurking nearby.

http://www.cdc.gov/features/pertussis/
http://children.webmd.com/tc/whooping-cough-pertussis-symptoms
http://children.webmd.com/tc/whooping-cough-pertussis-symptoms
http://hosted2.ap.org/APDEFAULT/3d281c11a96b4ad0d0820d8a0d04305/Article_2012-07-19-US-MED-Whooping-Cough/id-c248701ac344302a38202d57a4015aa
*Pine needle tea: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ir5qva1Y9Bg
*http://www.herbal-supplement-resource.com/whooping-cough-remedies.html
Huntington Park Baptism
Ana Leon, Secretary, Huntington Park, CA

Sunday, June 10, was a very happy day for the church of Huntington Park. Early in the morning, our dear brother Salvador Pineda was immersed in baptism in the beautiful waters of Corona Del Mar, California—a site surrounded by a rock formation and used many times by our church for baptisms.

The morning was cold and foggy; but later on, the Lord, in His great love, sent us warm sunshine. The baptism was conducted by Pastor Oscar Valles. The message taken from the Word of God was very inspiring, and afterwards we sang some hymns. In attendance were several brethren from the Riverside church and the Vista church besides visitors. We celebrated the occasion with a delicious lunch.

The angels were happy, too, because the Bible says, “that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth.” Luke 15:7. May God bless Brother Pineda in his walk with the Lord.

News from the World of Education: Cedar Christian School Celebrates First Graduation
Margie Seely, AU Education Leader, Cedartown, GA

Four nervous graduates stood at the back of the Cedartown Chapel awaiting their cue to march. Damaris Hunger (grade 8), Rocio Zapeta (grade 8), Maya Seely (kindergarten), and Gage MacKinsey (kindergarten) had worked hard to accomplish their academic goals and were now eager to finally receive their diplomas. Pastor Idel Suárez delivered the commencement address. Pastor Pablo Hunger presented the diplomas. Teachers Lisbeth Hunger and Margie Seely presented individual awards to each student of the school highlighting their individual character development. Everyone enjoyed refreshments afterwards in the social hall. We are thankful to God for the completion of Cedar Christian School’s third year. May He continue to guide and provide.

Do YOU have an item of interest for the AUNL?

How is your church sharing the gospel message with others in your community?

What upcoming outreaches or activities are planned in your area?

Let us know at: americanunionnewsletter@yahoo.com

2012 Calendar

August 10-11: Youth Conference, Denver, Colorado: Contact Christian Nelson at 916-212-6468
August 17-19: Youth Camping Trip, Mount Lassen, California: Contact Christian Nelson
August 22-26: Western Field Conference, Camp Alta, California

The American Union Newsletter is the official organ of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement, American Union. It is published monthly, is complimentary for our members and friends, and carries items of interest submitted by church members. We reserve the right to make changes as necessary and to refuse to print certain items. To submit news, write to American Union Newsletter, c/o Margie Seely, Editor, PO Box 777, Cedartown, GA 30125-0777. Phone: 209-256-1138; E-mail: americanunionnewsletter@yahoo.com.