Centennial Commemoration Summary
July 30, 2014-August 4, 2014

Well before the official opening of the Centennial Commemoration, visitors from around the world began to arrive at the General Conference headquarters in Cedartown, Georgia. Guests from Asia, Africa, Europe, South America, Central America, Jamaica, Mexico, Canada, and various locations around the United States came together for one main purpose— to remember a historic event that forever changed Adventist history.

During the five-and-a-half days of meetings, selected speakers shared inspired messages of the history and organization of the present IMS Reform Movement, underscoring the courage of faithful Adventists who maintained their allegiance to God’s law despite persecution and even death. Highlights of these messages included the following:

- Details of God’s sovereign protection of the Bible throughout time and the display of a collection of antique Bibles, allowing visitors to see firsthand how God has kept His Word shining as a beacon of light in a world blackened by sin.
- A chronicle of history’s long chain of reform movements and an examination of the hallmarks of a true reformation.
- Reminders of the Biblical reasons why Adventist Reformers refuse to participate in military service.
- Documentation of the meetings held in 1920 in Friedensau between the SDA leadership and representatives of the Adventist members who had been disfellowshiped from the church for upholding pacifism.
A recap of the meetings held at that same location in May of this year concerning the relationship between Adventists and military service, at which the IMS was represented.

A strict time schedule was adhered to, allowing much information to be presented in a short amount of time. Question-and-answer sessions provided opportunities to obtain a more in-depth understanding of the messages presented.

On Friday, our hearts were gladdened to witness Persia Suárez, daughter of Pastor Idel and Linda Suárez, and Prudence Katide from South Africa confirm their commitment to follow God through the ordinance of baptism, thus joining the ranks of God’s church. The sacred ceremony was held in the waters flowing from beautiful Hightower Falls and conducted by Pastor Idel Suárez. The following day, our two newest members were extended the right hand of fellowship during the Sabbath service.

On Sabbath and Sunday, the origin and growth of the IMS in various countries around the world were presented. Beginning with the events surrounding the Great War in Europe and the martyrs betrayed by fellow Advent believers, the history extended to the first union of isolated groups of faithful believers and the subsequent spread of the Reformation message to far corners of the world as the IMS has grown.

Monday was a day of friendship and fellowship as the Centennial Commemoration concluded with an outing to Atlanta. Attendees visited either the Georgia Aquarium or the historical sites of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

IMS Publishing Association is preparing two books–entitled Centennial Highlights in English and Compendio Centenario in Spanish–containing complete write-ups of all the presentations given at the commemoration, stories of Adventists and Reformers who were faithful to God in the two World Wars, pertinent articles, and photos from the Centennial Commemoration. The preprint price for each book is US $20. The retail price will be set after the books are completed. To order, send an email to IMS Publishing Assn., publishing@sda1844.org.

To read the stories of brave pioneers and young people who stood faithfully for truth in the perilous times of World War II, order And Follow Their Faith from the online store of Religious Liberty Publishing Association at www.sda1888.org. Be inspired to keep the faith!
Biography of an IMS Reformer

Margie Seely, Cedartown, GA

Many years ago, God laid upon my heart the desire to write a book describing the events of the lives of my grandparents in Estonia. As a minister of the IMS Reform, my grandfather worked in Estonia, Latvia, and Finland before the madness of World War II closed down the majority of the churches there. At the end of the war, my grandmother fled Estonia with her son (my father) and daughter. Their lives and the lives they touched include many inspiring examples of God’s Providence in the face of danger and bitter disappointment.

It is my earnest desire to share these testimonies of faithfulness as well as some highlights of the Reformation message. Even though the book is written in story form, precious Adventist beliefs are woven into the reading, and a short Bible study guide is included at the end, making this an excellent way to gently introduce the Sabbath, the state of the dead, and other Biblical truths to those who have never heard them. The following is the first part of the fifteen-chapter book.

Stealthily they crept like shadows through the gathering darkness, dodging Nazi soldiers and slipping between trucks bearing the swastika symbol. The rumble of military jeeps filled the air, nearly drowning out the urgent commands barked left and right. The six figures paused in the midst of the commotion to peer through the smoky haze in an anxious search for an available vehicle. They had to get out!

“Over there!” Marie pointed, and the anxious group pressed onward towards the back of a truck carrying ammunition. The young driver gave a grim nod and a quick jerk with his thumb towards the bed, then bent back to his work of duct taping the headlights, allowing only a sliver of light to shine through. Twelve-year-old Ester was ill, and so the young driver allowed her to sit in the cab between him and the other Nazi soldier. Her fourteen-year-old brother, Heinart, clambered over the bed’s rails, then leaned down to help his mother, aunt, and Paula, a young lady escaping with them. “Hurry!” Marie directed as she and her sister, Anne, climbed aboard. Last up was Anne’s husband, Ralf. Marie settled herself onto the cold steel and pulled her coat a little tighter. She would not let herself think of the memories that she was leaving behind. She watched as Heinart observed the buzz of activity unfolding around them. He was the mirror image of her husband. Athletic and strong, Heinart was becoming a man now and needed a future he could look forward to. Marie’s thoughts shifted to her daughter Ester. Quiet and pretty, she loved to read and learn. She needed safety and security to develop her interests. Marie adjusted the small suitcase containing all she could take with her as the truck jerked to a start. Reviewing the dark events of the last few years, Marie reminded herself once again that she was making the right decision.

The Nazi caravan lumbered into motion as vehicle after vehicle fell into line in the direction of Estonia’s southern border. The Nazi occupation of Estonia was over at last, but there would be no victory celebrations on this night. At that moment a new occupier was crossing Estonia’s eastern border. Russia, with its communist fury and vision of a massive Soviet

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The unidentified plane disappeared in the night sky without incident, and the caravan resumed its homeward voyage down through Latvia and into Lithuania. These Baltic countries would soon fall, as Estonia had, into the iron clutches of Soviet control. Reeling from the carnage of Hitler’s rampage, Western Europe was catching its first breath of freedom. Eastern Europe, on the other hand, could feel the cold breath of Soviet oppression breathing down their necks. It would be many years before the fires of freedom would thaw Russia’s icy grip on Estonia and her Baltic neighbors.

Perched atop an ammunition pile on the back of a Nazi truck carrying her far away from her beloved homeland, Marie could not think of Estonia’s future. She could focus only on providing the opportunity of life and freedom for herself and her children. The farther she could distance her family from the evil clutches of communism, the safer she would feel. Looking heavenward, she knew God had led them this far and that He would guide them faithfully through every step hereafter. She would continue to put her trust in Him completely.

Marie: Woman of Beauty, Mother of Courage will be completed and ready for distribution in September 2014. If you wish to reserve a copy (or copies) in advance and take advantage of free shipping as a special pre-order discount, you may visit my website at www.margieseely.wix.com/marieholmstroem or fill out the form below and return it with payment to Margie Seely, PO Box 777, Cedartown, GA 30125-0777.

Yes! I would like to reserve ______ copy/copies of Marie: Woman of Beauty, Mother of Courage for $12 per book. As a special pre-order discount, shipping is free.

Please mail book(s) to:

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Enclosed is: $ ______________ (Make checks payable to Margie Seely)