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During a visit earlier this month, Adventist Church President Ted N. C. Wilson and other church officials supported local leaders in their push for outreach, offered clarification of denominational initiatives and highlighted the biblical base of the Adventist Church's beliefs during discussions on theological unity.

"Germany has a variety of theological issues that are being discussed from different ends of a spectrum," said Mark Finley, assistant to the president for evangelism, who accompanied Wilson in Europe. "I think the [president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church] accepting an invitation to visit was helpful."

Finley said common themes arose during different dialogues, including questions about the denomination's Revival and Reformation initiative.

Of the word "revival," Finley said it's "the renewal of spiritual grace in the soul. Revival is something that every generation needs to look forward to and experience. It's the moving of the Holy Spirit in the heart, life, mind and soul. Because our natures are fallen we constantly need spiritual renewal -- like Lamentations 3:23 says, "His mercies are new every morning."

Finley defined "reformation" as "the reforming of the though patterns to live life in the image of Christ, to think thoughts of Jesus. You have to have reformed thinking before you can have reformed behavior. ... What God is longing for is for people who are committed to Him. For people who have undivided allegiance in their hearts, the spirit of God will take care of their behavior."

Many question-and-answer periods with members, pastors, professors and students over the 10-day visit raised similar discussions held in other countries as members from a variety of perspectives offer support or seek further clarification about the goals of the denomination's officials.

Wilson and other leaders accepting international invitations for special events and ceremonies often include open dialogues in itineraries.

Several members and students also asked about the church's 28 Fundamental Beliefs and the necessity of accepting all of them to be a faithful Adventist.

"We pointed out that they are all biblical teachings and not just determined by an administrative committee at the [church's world headquarters]" Finley said. "The world church has come together and discussed and mutually agreed upon them."

"Also, if you drop one belief, it seriously impacts other beliefs," he said. "They are not a creedal statement, they are inter-related."

"Still, there may be different understandings of these beliefs -- not everyone may understand