In this edition of eSketches:
- Miami Union Academy Competes in Annual Robotics Competition
- Oakwood University Faculty Receive Research Grants
- Powell Sets Vision for Evangelism at Lighthouse
- Bethany Tributes Oakwood University and Message
- La Sierra University granted window to show its faithfulness to Adventist Church's belief on origins
- Recommitment to freedom of belief urged at annual religious liberty event in Washington
- ADRA board studies agency's reorganization
- Adventist leaders stress follow-up in unresolved audit findings, transparency in administration
- Evangelism reports begin Spring Meeting business sessions

-Miami Union Academy Competes in Annual Robotics Competition
By Robert Henley
In their first appearance in the Adventist Robotics League's Annual Southern Union Robotics Challenge Competition, the Miami Union Academy Robotics Team, the Robo-Docs, won second place... Read full article at http://www.secsda.org/sketches/story.cfm?id=967

-Oakwood University Faculty Receive Research Grants
By Lucy A. Cort,
Oakwood University faculty recently received grants to conduct cutting edge research at the university. G. Volkov, Ph.D., professor in the department of chemistry, received two gran... Read full article at http://www.secsda.org/sketches/story.cfm?id=966

-Powell Sets Vision for Evangelism at Lighthouse
By Juliet Dunkley
The Lighthouse Church located in Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. has cast a vision, a vision that is not impossible, or difficult, but one that can be accomplished through the help of Jesus and the... Read full article at http://www.secsda.org/sketches/story.cfm?id=965

-Bethany Tributes Oakwood University and Message
By Sharon R. Lewis
The Miami-Bethany Church celebrated Black History month on February 19, 2011, by paying tribute to two of the oldest Black Institutions in the Adventist faith, Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala... Read full article at http://www.secsda.org/sketches/story.cfm?id=964

-La Sierra University granted window to show its faithfulness to Adventist Church’s belief on origins
By Mark A. Kellner, Adventist Review
La Sierra University (LSU), a Seventh-day Adventist Church-owned school in Riverside, California, will have a year to demonstrate its faithfulness to church teachings on creation, at which time its cu... Read full article at http://www.secsda.org/sketches/story.cfm?id=963

-Recommitment to freedom of belief urged at annual religious liberty event in Washington
By Bettina Krause/IRLA/Adventist News Network
Last month's assassination of Pakistani cabinet minister and religious
**Miami Union Academy Competes in Annual Robotics Competition**

By: Robert Henley  
Date: 04/15/11

In their first appearance in the Adventist Robotics League’s Annual Southern Union Robotics Challenge Competition, the Miami Union Academy Robotics Team, the Robo-Docs, won second place in the research category and second place in the team work category.

The Robo-Docs were one of 14 teams, featuring more than 100 students, that competed in the event, which was held at Southern Adventist University on April 3. The teams competed in five categories: robot design, robot programming, team work, research presentation and the robot challenge.

Union’s appearance in the competition launches Southeastern Robotics, a joint venture between the education and technology departments of the Southeastern Conference. The initiative is designed to improve technology education in the Southeastern Conference School system. Next year every school in Southeastern, a total of 15, will have the opportunity to participate in the competition.

The annual academic challenge is hosted each year by the university’s School of Computing. The Adventist Robotics League is sponsored by the North American Division Office of Education and operates robotics challenges across the country to provide students in Seventh-day Adventist school the opportunity to expand their skill and learn life skills.

You can view more photos at http://www.flickr.com/secsda. For more information about the Adventist Robotics League visit http://www.adventistroboticsleague.net.
Oakwood University Faculty Receive Research Grants

Oakwood University faculty recently received grants to conduct cutting edge research at the university. G. Volkov, Ph.D., professor in the department of chemistry, received two grants. The first grant, totaling $352,198 over 3 years, February 1, 2011- January 31, 2014, from the National Science Foundation is for a research project entitled “Basic Mechanisms of Biological Sensing and Actuation in Plants.”

The second grant, totaling $319,018 over 3 years, March 1, 2011-February 28, 2014, from the Department of Defense is for a research project entitled “Morphing Structures, Mechanosensors, and Osmotic Motors in Plants.”

Darayas, N. Patel, Ph.D., a professor in the department of mathematics and computer science, received a grant totaling $475,873 over 3 years, March 1, 2011-February 28, 2014, from the Department of Defense for a research project entitled “New Nanomaterials for High Power Lasers.”
Powell Sets Vision for Evangelism at Lighthouse

By: Juliet Dunkley
Date: 04/15/11
0 Comment(s) Read/Add Comment
Email this story to a friend.

Curtis Powell, pastor of the Lighthouse SDA Church located, in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. has cast a vision of evangelism for the church. A vision that is not impossible, or difficult, but one that can be accomplished through the help of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Powell’s plan is to move the church forward by way of evangelism. “Evangelism must be the foundation for our ministry and if we cease to be evangelistic we cease to be on the move for God,” said Powell.

He has declared that his mission is to proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel. Thus, preparing the world for the second coming, while participating in active service, and pointing people to Jesus Christ as their personal savior.

"In so doing we will all experience His power, empower His people and Expand His Kingdom," he said.
Powell is convinced that evangelism must be intentional and relevant to the needs of the people and should be in accordance with the times in which we live.

In a recent sermon, entitled “Raw Material,” he pointed out that as a carpenter, Jesus did not procrastinate, nor waste any time in his labor for souls, but while laboring at the carpenter’s bench, he was preparing himself for His ministry to reach the destitute and those who were dying without a Savior.

Powell has encouraged everyone to take up the task of evangelism. Consequently, the church knocked on doors inviting neighbors to a special week of spiritual emphasis that resulted in the baptism of six precious souls. The church continues to invite neighbors, friends, and relatives to Bible studies and weekly worship services.
Bethany Tributes Oakwood University and Message

The Miami-Bethany Church celebrated Black History month on February 19, 2011, by paying tribute to two of the oldest Black Institutions in the Adventist faith, Oakwood University, located in Huntsville, Ala., and Message Magazine, located in Hagerstown, Maryland, the most widely circulated religious journal addressing ethnic issues in America. Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., president of Oakwood University, and Washington Johnson, D.Min., Editor of Message Magazine were honored for their leadership at their respective institutions.

The worship experience began with a Sabbath School mini concert, moderated by Angela Choate, Ph.D. Sabbath School members were treated to soul stirring music from Bethany’s Praise Team and the Words of Wisdom quartet from Dania Beach.

Bob Wells, Laverne Anderson, Joyce Johnson, Ph.D., did a dynamic job of encapsulating the Sabbath School Lesson. Washington wrapped up Sabbath School with an enlightening perspective on the history and mission of the Message magazine.

Divine worship featured the music of Laverne Anderson, who began the service by the singing of the Negro National Anthem, the South Florida Christian Orchestra, a 40 member group of Christian musicians from Miami, the Bethany Sanctuary Choir, renowned violinist Jose Cruz, and Jerome Symonette, Ph.D., from Florida Memorial University, who made the organ “talk.”

“If this is what heaven is all about, I want to be there,” said Pollard, the divine hour speaker, who blessed the congregation with his sermon “How to meet that giant.” Pollard spoke on what we must do in our Christian experience to conquer the “giant”.

During the afternoon service Pollard shared vision for Oakwood University. Timothy McDonald, Ed.D., vice president for advancement, gave an overview of the university and its accomplishments. Prudence Pollard, Ph.D., assistant vice president for leadership & quality, gave parents and students the bottom line regarding registration and admission and other vital information they would need in planning to attend Oakwood University. Students and parents were asked to consider Oakwood as their university of choice.

“Whatever your career pursuit is, you can find your path of studies at Oakwood University,” said Prudence. The Miami Union Academy senior band and choir, under the direction of Elie Pierre and Renee Hodge., brought the program to an end. You can view more photos from this event at http://www.flickr.com/secsda.
La Sierra University granted window to show its faithfulness to Adventist Church's belief on origins

By: Mark A. Kellner, Adventist Review
Date: 04/15/11
0 Comment(s) Read/Add Comment
Email this story to a friend.

La Sierra University (LSU), a Seventh-day Adventist Church-owned school in Riverside, California, will have a year to demonstrate its faithfulness to church teachings on creation, at which time its current accreditation by the Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA) will be reviewed.

The school's denominational accreditation has been extended to December 31 of next year, with re-accreditation subject to an on-site review by an AAA panel in the second quarter of 2012, and AAA board action in October 2012.

The unusual action follows two years of controversy that has roiled the southeastern California campus and generated extensive comment by Adventist leaders and members across North America and the world church.

The La Sierra decision, during which a wide range of options were debated, came among several actions taken at the regular biennial AAA board meeting held at the General Conference's headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, on April 4.

"Although La Sierra University has deviated from the philosophy and objectives of Seventh-day Adventist education," the voted action reads, "it is moved that the university be granted an extension of accreditation to December 31, 2012 in order for the university to act upon its commitments and implement changes and enhancements involving the teaching of origins at the school. The action extending the university's current term of accreditation did not address the prospect of a new term, up to five years in length.

Accrediting executives' rationale

"This was a challenging and complex decision," said Lisa M. Beardsley, director of the General Conference Education department. "The AAA board took into consideration the report of theAAA team that visited the campus in November 2010, and events that have transpired since, such as the actions of the institutional board, the finding of its special subcommittee, and the open letter published in March by the university. After careful and prayerful consideration, the board expressed its will as a body by means of a written ballot so that all views could be honored."

Ella Simmons, a general vice president of the world church and member of the AAA board, said, "Given the recent acknowledgment made by the La Sierra University board and administration, this action seeks to create a bridge for the university to meet its stated commitments and the accrediting requirements to give priority to the standards of Seventh-day Adventist education in harmony with the Church's official beliefs."

"The AAA Board has attempted to find a balance between punitive and redemptive help to the university in support of the LSU Board's recent statements," added Larry Blackmer, vice president for Education of the North American Division and another AAA board member.

Membership in the Adventist Accrediting Association board includes the director and associate directors of the General Conference Education department; General Conference vice presidential advisers for education; directors of education from each of the church's 13 world divisions; one representative each from a college/university board chair; a college/university president; an academic vice president or dean; a registrar or admissions officer; a finance officer; an academic department chair of education; a union conference education director; and a local conference education director. Also included are three individuals with international Adventist educational experience; two education specialists not employed by the church; and the General Conference officers -- specifically the president, secretary and treasurer.

What lies ahead
In order to retain AAA accreditation, the school administration and board of trustees will, among other steps, have to demonstrate that it is honoring its commitments to "continue to endorse the official Seventh-day Adventist Church statement on creation"; "resource and nurture faculty in an atmosphere in which official Seventh-day Adventist Church positions on creation and origins are taught and honored"; so that the Church's creation position "is presented in instructional contexts" and also is "presented as the university's position on origins."

The university will also have to show it is fulfilling its pledge to develop "specific goals" to assist "LSU students of other faiths to find meaning in and understanding of Seventh-day Adventist values and official beliefs, including those regarding creation and human origins." According to one of the examples set forth in the voted action, "decisions regarding faculty appointments and development [must be] aligned with board and university commitments to ensure the acceptance and teaching of official Seventh-day Adventist beliefs regarding creation and origins within instructional and co-curricular contexts."

The AAA is also requiring that LSU's "board governance structure and function are enhanced to provide fuller participation in its fiduciary responsibility for the university," again, in keeping with a commitment the school has made.

**Decision was a surprise**

Following a protracted discussion that lengthened a scheduled three-hour meeting into four hours, the AAA board voted to extend the school's current church-based accreditation, but did not offer the full new term La Sierra had anticipated. On February 8, La Sierra announced a AAA site visit team's recommendation "that in their opinion, and subject to AAA approval, La Sierra University should receive the maximum accreditation possible under AAA guidelines." The school has since removed that statement from its website.

The accreditation issue -- which includes denominational recognition by the church and qualifies a school for certain appropriations from denominational funds -- arose following a two-year controversy over La Sierra's teachings on human origins. Beginning in 2009, critics, including some church leaders, laypersons and LSU students claimed that the school taught the theory of evolution to biology students as the explanation for the origin of life.

Seventh-day Adventists believe "God is Creator of all things, and has revealed in Scripture the authentic account of His creative activity. In six days the Lord made 'the heaven and the earth' and all living things upon the earth, and rested on the seventh day of that first week," as noted in the church's Fundamental Beliefs.

**La Sierra responds**

In a statement to Adventist Review, La Sierra spokesman Larry Becker said, "Although La Sierra University has taken affirmative steps toward resolution of the controversy regarding how creation and evolution are taught in its classes, the AAA Board believed that it is necessary for more time to transpire in order for the university board, faculty, and administration to demonstrate its determination to put in place the steps that the faculty and administration have agreed with the board to implement."

The LSU statement continued: "University administration appreciates the extension of its current full accreditation as a Seventh-day Adventist university through December 31, 2012. The AAA Board has outlined a specific process moving forward, and we recognize the need for these steps. We look forward to the AAA visit to our campus next year. The board, administration and faculty are already working together to ensure that we provide the outstanding Adventist education desired by our students, our constituents, and our Church."

La Sierra President Randal R. Wisbey and Ricardo Graham, Pacific Union Conference president and La Sierra trustee board chairman, admitted La Sierra's shortcomings on the subject in a March 9 open letter.

"We found that only 50 percent of the students surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that our Adventist view of creation was presented, and only 40 percent agreed or strongly agreed that our Adventist view was supported," Wisbey and Graham wrote. "This is not acceptable, and we apologize," they added.
Further, "instruction at the university, while being strong in many areas, has not adequately presented the denomination's position on the subject of creation," according to the document.

And, "there is some evidence that students have not always been respected for their belief in the Biblical creation position," the March 9 La Sierra statement said.

According to the AAA's accreditation handbook, "Accreditation of an institution by AAA signifies that the institution has a purpose appropriate to service the educational needs of those in its constituency and has the resources, programs, and services sufficient to accomplish the institution's goals."

**School's history**

Founded in 1922 as a Seventh-day Adventist academy, La Sierra grew over the years and became a full-fledged college in 1946. In 1967, it merged with Loma Linda University and became that school's liberal arts wing, reorganizing as an independent institution in 1990.

In 2010, the school reported 2,098 students had registered at the start of the current school year. Last year's registration of 440 freshman surpassed 2009's freshman class of 348 by 26.4 percent, La Sierra said in a statement.
Recommitment to freedom of belief urged at annual religious liberty event in Washington

By: Bettina Krause/IRLA/Adventist News Network

Last month's assassination of Pakistani cabinet minister and religious freedom advocate Shahbaz Bhatti added a somber note to the April 5 Religious Liberty Dinner in Washington, D.C.

More than 200 government officials, ambassadors, religious leaders and religious liberty advocates stood for a minute of silence to honor Bhatti and the many others around the world who over the past year have suffered persecution, imprisonment, or death for their faith.

In an emotional address, Knox Thames, a friend and colleague of Shabaz Bhatti, and director of policy and research at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, told the audience they could best remember this man of integrity by "making his death matter" and continuing his work.

Dr. Suzan Johnson Cook, U.S. President Barak Obama's nominee for the position of Religious Freedom Ambassador-at-Large, was the evening's keynote speaker. She praised the work of the IRLA and called on all those present to recommit themselves to the effort of protecting and preserving freedom of conscience worldwide.

Quoting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Cook said the path to living in peace with others involves learning to "listen to and learn from those who think differently from ourselves."

Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, opened the evening, saying that religious liberty is part of the "DNA of the Adventist Church." He reaffirmed the church's longstanding commitment to promote such freedom for all people, no matter their faith tradition.

Three advocates of religious freedom were also honored at the dinner:

- Norway's former Bishop of Oslo Gunnar Stålsett received the Religious Liberty International Award for his lifetime of efforts in promoting peace and reconciliation between people of different faith traditions.

- Kit Bigelow, former external affairs director for the National Spiritual Assembly of Bahá'ís, for her 25 years of human rights advocacy, both at the United Nations and in Washington.

Norway's former Bishop of Oslo, Gunnar Stålsett, was honored for his lifetime work of promoting peace across faith communities. Religious Liberty Association, received this year's A.T. Jones medal for his grassroots activism in building up religious liberty support across Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana.
Adventist world church Treasurer Robert E. Lemon reports that tithe topped $2 billion for the first time in 2010. The announcement came during his report at the denomination's Spring Meeting at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama, United States.

World church Undertreasurer Juan Prestol addresses the chair at Adventist leaders stress follow-up in unresolved audit findings, transparency in administration

By: Mark A. Kellner
Date: 04/15/11
0 Comment(s) Read/Add Comment
Email this story to a friend.

World leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist world church stressed a continuing need for transparency and accountability in financial reporting during an April 10 business session of the denomination's Spring Meeting.

"We need to be united and set the right tone as officers ... we must work together as a team, all the way through the system," said Adventist world church President Ted N.C. Wilson, responding to a report presented by world church Treasurer Robert E. Lemon and General Conference Auditing Services (GCAS) director Paul H. Douglas.

The 12-page document on transparency -- the product of a task force composed of Lemon, Douglas, North American Division Treasurer Tom Evans and GCAS associate director Robyn W. Kajiura -- stressed concerns raised by the GCAS Board and its chairman, Jack L. Krogstad. Krogstad, a layman who holds the Union Pacific Endowed Chair in Accountancy at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, was recently an Academic Fellow in the Office of the Chief Accountant at the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. Those concerns followed a GCAS report "which included the frequency of certain audit findings and the recurring unresolved nature of those findings," as stated in the document.

The GCAS document, "Transparency and Accountability in Financial Reporting," suggested a need to improve church leadership culture at all organizational levels, that better controls result from a better culture, that "communication is at the core of effective governance," and that the result would be greater confidence from all church stakeholders, or constituents.

"It's not an auditing issue; it's a character issue," said Juan Prestol, Adventist world church undertreasurer, during discussion of the matter. "An audit is too late," he explained to Adventist Review after his remarks, since audits only discover issues after the fact.

What is needed, he added, are "changes in the DNA of Adventist leadership."

Wilson said board members should be unafraid to question items presented to them. "On committees, ask questions. Don't assume somebody else is going to take care of it," he said.

Added North American Division President Dan Jackson, "There ought not to be friends in boardrooms ... if I sit on that board and respond to issues on that board because I'm a friend, I really have no business being on that board. You need to challenge me and do it with a smile."

Ella Simmons, a world church general vice president, stressed the need for an even higher approach. "I would challenge us to total commitment to holistic stewardship. Of course we focus on financial operations; but how can we operate [with] integrity and [in] ethical ways if we do not value ethical behavior in every area of our work, of our being, our relationships, our quality in..."
Spring Meeting on April 10 during a discussion of auditing issues left unresolved. "It's not an auditing issue; it's a character issue," he said. "It's a performance. It must be holistic," she said.

Wilson promised further discussions on the subject at the 2011 Annual Council, to be held in October in Silver Spring, Maryland.

In an earlier address, Lemon said the church's finances showed improvement in 2010.

"Worldwide tithe passed the US$2 billion mark in 2010," Lemon said. "In spite of the recession and slow recovery of the economy in the U.S., the economies of most of the countries of the world have continued to be strong," he said.

That strength is reflected in tithe and offering figures, he added. Worldwide tithe rose 8.2 percent, totaling U.S. $2.002 billion. Tithe in the North American Division increased 1.1 percent over 2009, totaling U.S. $887 million in 2010 compared to U.S. $877 million the previous year. Tithe from divisions outside of North America rose 14.6 percent and totaled U.S. $1.114 billion compared to U.S. $972 million.

The exchange rate to the U.S. dollar explains some of the increase, but "much of it was from increases in local currencies," Lemon said.

"It is inspiring to see the faithfulness of God's children in returning their tithes and giving offerings for the support of His work even in tough times," Lemon added.

Lemon also noted that costs to the world headquarters for the 2010 General Conference Session in Atlanta, George, though budgeted at US$6.2 million came in under budget at US$5.5 million.

Independent auditors for the General Conference, as well as the various pension plan funds associated with the world headquarters and the North American Division, gave all accounts unqualified positive opinions that generally accepted accounting principles were met across the board.

Undertreasurer Prestol added that the General Conference's balance sheet, for the first three months of 2011, "is $2.6 million to the good," which he said means the organization is "doing very well" so far.

Click here to read the full treasurer's report.
Treasurer’s Comments to the General Conference

Spring Meeting

April 6, 2011

Praise God for His Mercies Endure Forever

“O taste and see that the LORD [is] good; blessed [is] the man [that] trusteth in him” (Psalm 34:24). It is once again a privilege to bring a report of the goodness of the Lord in providing for His children.

2010 Operating Results

In spite of the severe recession and turbulence in the financial markets over the past three years and the continuing slow recovery of the U.S. economy, 2010 was a strong year financially for the world church and for the General Conference. It is inspiring to see the faithfulness of God’s children in returning their tithes and giving offerings for the support of His work even in tough times.

Worldwide tithe passed the US$2 billion mark in 2010. In spite of the recession and slow recovery of the economy in the U.S., the economies of most of the countries of the world have continued to be strong. This is also reflected in the tithe and offering figures. Worldwide tithe was up 8.2%, totaling US$2.002 billion. Tithe in the North American Division was up 1.1% over 2009 and totaled US$887 million in 2010 as compared to US$877 million in 2009. Tithe from divisions other than North American was up 14.6% and totaled US$1.114 billion compared to US$972 million. Some of the increase was due to changes in the exchange rate to the U.S. dollar, but much of it was from increases in the local currencies.
Mission offerings in the North American Division were up 1.4%, from US$23.3 million in 2009 to US$ 23.6 million 2010. Mission offerings from outside North America were up 15.8%, from US$ 40.9 million to US$47.4 million. As in the case of the tithe some of the increase is due to changes in exchange rates to the U.S. dollar, but the majority is from increases in local currency.

The tithe and mission offerings coming to the General Conference for the World Budget were up from US$153.9 in 2009 to US$164.4 in 2010. The graph to the right shows the share of the tithes and offerings received by the General Conference over the past six years. You can see that the portion coming from the divisions outside North America has been increasing rapidly meaning they are beginning to support a greater percentage of the World Budget.

Financial Markets

After having gone through some of the most turbulent times that the financial markets have experienced in the past 75 years, it is encouraging to see the extent of the recovery. But caution must continue to be exercised to be sure that the investment of church funds held to cover retirement obligations, working capital, and major projects that cover multiple years are protected as we can expect
more turbulent times ahead. Interest rates are low compared to recent years, and we need to take that into account and not take unwarranted risks in trying to achieve returns that we may have viewed as normal five or six years ago. The graph below shows the return on GC owned funds from 2005 through 2010 and includes earnings as well as realized and unrealized gains and losses for those years. We can see that much of the decrease in 2008 was recovered in 2009 and 2010. We praise the Lord for having watched over His funds.

![Net Return on Investments General Conference Funds](image)

**General Conference Operating Expenses**

In a General Conference Session year there are additional expenses relative to the cost of the session as well as the extra costs of duplicate salaries and expenses incurred in moving new individuals elected at session time and the costs associated with those retiring or not reelected. Although we set aside funds in an allocated function each year during the quinquennium to cover these additional costs, they show up as operating expenses in the year they are expended. We pray the Lord that in spite of those additional costs we had a strong financial year with an increase of US$21.2 million in the combined restricted and unrestricted fund balances of the General Conference. Our Working Policy calls for a certain level of working capital to allow for the smooth operation of the General Conference. We have the practice of voting at Spring Meeting time the allocation of any funds in excess of the recommended working capital so that the funds can be put to work in spreading the good news of Christ’s soon return. The amount available for Supplemental Appropriations from the excess working capital in 2010 is US$13.3 million.
Accounting for not-for-profit organizations is different than for commercial organizations. In a commercial setting there is normally a single bottom line number that gives you a picture of the operations for the year. Additional information on onetime items and revenue trends and expenses help to better understand that figure, but the bottom line is the most meaningful number. In not-for-profit accounting the objective is to be sure the funds have been spent in accordance with any restrictions put on them by the donor or allocated by the governing body. We use fund accounting to help us accomplish this. The unrestricted regular operating funds are the basis of the General Conference World Budget and are available to the Executive Committee to provide appropriations to the world field, support our interdivision missionaries, fund programs, and cover the operating costs of the General Conference headquarters. The other funds benefit the work but are not part of the regular operating budget because of their restrictions. The following breakdown helps to understand the components of the US$21.2 million increase in fund balances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase/Decrease 2010 Fund Balance In Millions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Operating Fund                           US$12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donor Advised Fund                               11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extraordinary Tithe                             (6.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Fund                                       3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable Gift Annuity and Endowment Funds      .9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Increase in Fund Balances for the GC in 2010 US$21.2

*Donor Advised Funds*—When a donor provides funds for a specific purpose they are recorded as restricted funds and are used in accordance with the restriction. But sometimes individuals wish to make donations in a particular tax year for tax planning purposes but have not yet determined which projects they wish to support. If accepted by the General Conference these funds are placed in a donor advised fund and the General Conference works with the donor to understand his or her wishes, but before this happens they appear in our accounting records as unrestricted.
**Extraordinary Tithe Fund**—This fund has the extraordinary tithe received by the General Conference that was voted to be used over a five- to seven-year period. The fund balance should decrease each year as the funds are used to support the approved initiatives.

**Plant Fund**—This is the fund where we maintain the accounting for the land, buildings, and equipment belonging to the General Conference and includes the funded depreciation.

**Charitable Gift Annuity Fund**—This fund is used to account for gift annuities where the General Conference is a beneficiary.

**Endowment Funds**—These are funds where the principal is to be maintained but the income is available for specific purposes.

### GC Session Costs

There are many different costs associated with the holding of a General Conference Session and we do not attempt to quantify and track all of them. The items paid directly by the General Conference are charged to the General Conference Session expense and had a budget for the 2010 session of US$6.2 million. Thanks to good management by the team of individuals involved in the planning and execution of the session, the costs came in under budget at US$5.5 million. We want to express appreciation to our associate treasurer, George Egwakhe, as well as Sheri Clemmer and Danny Orillosa who worked closely with him, and Pardon Mwansa who chaired the Session Planning Committee, and the hundreds of others who worked on the session.

Some have asked what the total cost is for putting on a session, and my estimate would be US$15–20 million. That would include all the General Conference’s costs, the costs to the divisions and other organizations for the delegate travel and accommodations, and all the other associated costs. It is a large sum of money, but we feel that it is important to the unity of the church. We do not often think of the cost of maintaining unity where we have a chance to discuss major issues and come together on where and how to move together as a church. Jesus in His prayer in John 17.21 prayed, “that they all may be one.”
Telling the World

The Gospel Commission seems overwhelming as we look at the great un-entered areas of the world. When I look back at the pioneers and think of the vision they had of a finished work, but realize the very limited resources and means they had and of the difficulty of travel and communications they experienced, I marvel. We know that the work will be finished by the power of the Holy Spirit but are glad to be allowed to have a little part by sharing the Good News. The Lord has inspired individuals over the years to have a vision of using modern technology to help in telling the world. We have watched as radio, local television, satellite television, and the internet have become major instruments in helping finish the work.

One of the most remarkable things to me has been to watch the rapidity of change in the last year or two. We have not only seen what the internet can do in helping reach places where we cannot go on the ground, but have the emergence of a whole new phenomenon in the internet social networking sites. News that used to come from reports through news broadcast now circles the globe in a matter of hours through individuals sharing it with their friends over Face Book, Twitter, and E-Mail. It is credited with bringing down governments. As things really come down to the end and people are looking for answers, it is incredible to think that just a few individuals sharing the answer—“Jesus is Coming, you need to get ready”—can circle the earth in hours. Receiving it from friends will have an impact that no broadcast can match. People can then share with their friends instantly all the promises from the Bible and the true behind-the-scenes picture of the great controversy between good and evil. We can now download all of Ellen White’s books free of charge over the internet. As people start to look for hope they will turn to anyone who has the answer. To realize that can now happen so rapidly thrills my soul.

Through personal revival and reformation let us all pray that we may “[be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15).
Evangelism reports begin Spring Meeting business sessions

Top regional leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist world church shared reports on evangelism efforts in their territories during the Council on Evangelism and Witness, which lasted throughout the first morning of business at Spring Meeting on April 10.

One president shared the results of a public perception survey in his region. "That's risky if you're not secure," said Mark Finley, assistant to the president for evangelism.

Finley led the presentations at McKee auditorium at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama, United States, where some 130 members of the world church's Executive Committee met for two days of business meetings.

Finley reiterated the concept that evangelism should be a "process, not an event," a point he and other leaders have repeated in recent years. Indeed, most presentations highlighted month's-long small-group ministry leading up to public evangelism or large-scale meetings instead of a one-time public event. Leaders have said a "process" system of evangelism leads to greater retention of new members.

Israel Leito, president of the church's Inter-American Division, shared how a recent division-wide program lead to 15,000 baptisms in one day last month. More than 60,000 people have joined the Adventist Church in the division so far this year, he said.

Finley said slower-growth areas are also seeing renewed support for evangelism.

Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division, said a recent initiative comprising 130 small groups in the city of Houston in Texas led to 400 baptisms there in February. A similar meeting series will launch in New York soon and will include some 400 small groups leading up to a September decision invitation meeting.

"We're hoping to generate a huge blessing, a huge reaping for God," Jackson said.

He added that having more lay members supporting pastors in evangelism yields greater success.

Because of that, the Sabbath School/Personal Ministries department announced the launch of "Go 7 Million," a name reminiscent of the discontinued initiative "Go One Million." The initiative encourages the denomination to identify 7 million lay members to get involved in local outreach programs.

Leaders of the Miami-based Inter-American Division hope to reach a target of 1 million people for Go 7 Million. The division's Sabbath School/Personal Ministries associate director Samuel Telemaque even led the committee in chanting "Go seven million for Christ," the third time telling the group, "shout it so loud they can hear you in Papua New Guinea in the South Pacific Division."
Telemaque said the division has set a target of 1 million new members by 2014 through Go 7 Million.

It was undetermined how many other divisions will join in the initiative.

Committee delegates also received reports on outreach in large cities, where most initiatives are conducted through media.

"This is almost impossible to do without communication," said Erton Kohler, president of the South American Division.

Church officials in South America are conducting outreach in Sao Paulo, Brazil -- at 20 million people, the world's 3rd largest city.

There, the denomination has set up a media center in a rented facility on Paulista Avenue, one of the wealthiest commercial areas of the city, similar to New York's Times Square. A small congregation has also been established. Still, about U.S. $40 million is still needed to purchase the property, Kohler said.

The church in Brazil has some 400 broadcast television channels in cites throughout the country, as well as channels on a major cable delivery system. The Adventist Church will soon launch a television channel in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Kohler said.

Finley said the church has grown through deliberate planning in Chennai, India, the world's 4th largest city. There are now 23,000 members worshipping in 166 churches there, up from 750 members in 12 churches 10 years ago, he said. Tithe in that region has also increased, nearly U.S. $30,000 a month, up from $1,000 a month.

A media center in Chennai is producing programming, mainly sermons, which match programming commonly found on network television, said Kandus Thorpe, a vice president for Hope Channel. The Adventist Church has taken this approach because of the abundance of television in homes. The government distributes small televisions in the region, Thorpe said.

Hope Channel is also expanding its operations in Asia, with increased programming in local languages.

In Australia and New Zealand, a public survey of perceptions of the Adventist Church revealed how traditional methods of outreach may need further re-adjustment.

The survey, coordinated by the South Pacific Division Communication department, reported that Adventists were seen as the "go-to people for health and well-being" and those who promoted Sabbath rest. The majority of survey respondents, however, had no perception of the church. Division President Barry Oliver said leaders are expected to follow up with plans based on the survey later this year.

Committee delegates also received a report on the church's Great Controversy Project, designed to distribute copies of the book beginning in 2012.

Versions of The Great Controversy will be printed for less than one U.S. dollar, and leaders hope that some members will sponsor distribution in certain world regions.

"The world is desperate for answers now. ... Years from now these books will do the work we cannot do," said Delbert Baker, a world church general vice president.

Baker said project leaders were "sensitive" to concerns in some regions; two cover options will be available -- one cover features a portrayal of the Second Coming of Christ, while another is designed for those less familiar with religion.

The South American Division is already running with the project. Already, 30 million copies of the book have been committed and 1 million copies were distributed in Sao Paulo the previous day, Kohler said.
Capping a morning of joyous singing, scripture contemplation and heartfelt prayer, Pastor Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church, delivered a call to seek Christ's "all-encompassing righteousness" at the Oakwood University Seventh-day Adventist Church in Huntsville, Alabama, United States today.

The message came during Sabbath worship at the start of the Adventist world church's spring leadership meetings, being held at the Oakwood campus this year, instead of its usual location at the church's Silver Spring, Maryland, headquarters.

"Christ's all-encompassing righteousness is our only hope as we rapidly come to the close of earth's history," Wilson said to an onsite congregation of approximately 2,100 as well as a live global television and Internet audience. "Seventh-day Adventists have been called to proclaim the truth as it is in Jesus. He and He alone is our salvation," he added.

Wilson said Christ "calls us to accept His righteousness and to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to accomplish the last great work of proclaiming Christ, His righteousness, and His soon coming. This is the message that has been entrusted to the Seventh-day Adventist Church as His last-day remnant people."

He added, "At this critical moment in earth's history, with the world collapsing around us, let us humble ourselves before the Lord realizing that our only hope is in Christ and His righteousness."

Wilson quoted Ellen G. White, a pioneering co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist movement and the founding influence behind the establishment of what is now Oakwood University, who wrote, "A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work." (Selected Messages, Book 1, page 121)

Referring to the Church's current theme, Wilson said, "This call for revival and reformation is not some legalistic, 'pull-yourself-up-by-your-bootstraps' kind of religion. It is centered in Christ and Him alone."

He added, "The voices of Seventh-day Adventists should be the foremost in proclaiming that salvation is through Christ and Christ alone! The two great provisions of salvation -- justification and sanctification -- cannot be separated for they constitute the fullness of Christ's all-encompassing righteousness."

The message followed a service that highlighted the musical talents of many Oakwood University students and staff, particularly its orchestra and the Aeolians, the school's renowned choral group. Following a scripture reading in English and Koine Greek, the latter by a student, the Aeolians presented a praise number, "It Pays to Serve Jesus," which brought many in the congregation to their feet praising God at its conclusion.