



General Conference Executive Committee Newsletter

An informative publication for members of the General Conference Executive Committee as a service through the office of the

SPECIAL
MEETING
REPORT

MAY/JUNE 2019

“

Bibles, publications
in many languages,
setting forth the
truth for this time
are at our hand and
can be swiftly carried
to all the world. We
are to give the last
warning of God to
men, and what should
be our earnestness
in studying the
Bible, and our zeal in
spreading the light!

Testimonies for the Church,
vol. 6, p. 403.



INSPIRATION IN YOUR POCKET

EGW WRITINGS APP AND WEBSITES EXPERIENCE PHENOMENAL GROWTH

REPORT GIVEN AT SPRING MEETING 2019

Millions of people around the world are accessing the writings of Ellen G. White as never before, according to a report given by Darryl Thompson, assistant director of the Ellen G. White Estate, at this year's Spring Meeting in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Just two years ago, a reported 30,000 users accessed the EGW Writings apps and websites monthly, according to Thompson. But since migrating to a global Cloud Delivery Network (CDN) and adding

Search Engine Optimization (SEO) to books, PDFs, ePub, Kindle, and MP3 files, (a total of 2 million plus pages indexed in Google for 133 languages) the apps and websites are garnering millions of unique users each month. For example, in February 2019, 2,131,280 unique users accessed the Ellen G. White (EGW) Writings apps and websites, making 163,819,392 search and download requests.

The demand was so great, with

—continued, next page

a 50 percent user growth rate every month for ten consecutive months, there was a need to increase cloud server capacity six times during the past 18 months, Thompson reported.

Currently, the EGW Writings app and websites have been averaging between 150,000 to 160,000 unique IP search requests *every day*.

The EGW app offers “inspiration in your pocket,” said Thompson. It’s easy to use and is available for Android, iOS, macOS, and Windows. The websites include egwwritings.org and m.egwwritings.org.

Books by Ellen White are available in 133 languages and may be downloaded in PDF,

eBook, and Kindle formats. Audio books are available for download or streaming. A bookshelf is available for browsing more than 10,000 titles. Searching is possible both on- and off-line. A Study Center in the app and website allows for highlighting, notes, and bookmarks within the text. The app makes it easy to share favorite quotes and passages on social networks. Subscriptions are very popular, said Thompson, and may be delivered via email, Facebook, or Twitter, including an Ellen White thought for the day, daily devotionals, personalized EGW Book Reading Plans, Bible readings, and more.

“We don’t do any marketing on this,” said Thompson. “If you

make the content available, they [people] will come.”

In addition to the app and the websites, EGW Writings is also on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube, engaging tens of thousands of people.

“I hope and implore each of you to tell your constituents that this is available,” urged Thompson. “People are searching. People are looking for answers and God has given Ellen White a lot of those answers. People are searching and they are finding. Spread the good news, because as we spread Ellen White’s writings to the world, we know that people will become more committed Adventists and nurtured to have a better relationship with their Savior.”

During the 2019 Spring Meeting **emphasis was placed on “Christ in His Sanctuary”** with two morning devotional presentations and a reading titled, “The Sanctuary Truth” from *Christ In His Sanctuary* by Ellen White. The Tuesday morning devotional, “End-time Error From Within,” was given by Clifford Goldstein, editor of the *Adult Bible Study Guide*. Wednesday’s devotional, “Following Jesus Now,” was presented by Clinton Wahlen, Biblical Research Institute associate director.



The current **Office of Archives, Statistics and Research (ASTR)** was founded in 1904 as the Office of the Statistical Secretary. The Archives was founded in 1973, with Archives and Statistics coming into existence in 1975. In 2011, the department was renamed the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research. This year, ASTR has been re-configured and revitalized, including a much larger space. The official re-opening was held at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 9, featuring historic displays, photographs, and more.

EXPLAINING HISTORY: Ashlee Chism, research center manager, Archives, Statistics, and Research, speaks with Blasious Ruguri, president, East-Central Africa Division, at the official re-opening of the newly reconfigured space.

Billy Andre, Disaster Response Assistant for ADRA, shared his testimony during the “**Who Are We and Why Are We Here?**” segment of the Spring Meeting.

“It’s hard to share something you don’t believe in,” he said.

“But when you find Jesus, you want to share Jesus. When you know who you are, and your faith, and how relevant your religion is, you want to share it with everybody.”

Andre told of providing emergency education for children in South Sudan. “What the people want more than anything is hope,” he explained. The South Sudanese wondered why he had come, and expected he must have something that he wanted to share. “I had

peace and joy in a war-torn country, and the reason I had joy was because I knew who I was,” he said.

Andre told of being in a refugee camp when it came under attack one night. “I asked myself, ‘Billy, what are you doing here? If I have to die tonight, is this where God wants me to be?’”

When he realized he was exactly where God wanted him to be, Andre went to sleep and slept through the entire night.

“The best feeling was knowing



Billy Andre shares his testimony.

I did what God wanted me to do,” he said. “Sometimes we get caught up in the cares of life and we forget that God needs us.”

A new program, “**The Ellen G. White and Adventist Studies**” **post-graduate certificate** was announced by Merlin Burt, director of the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University. The program, sponsored by the General Conference, is designed to boost knowledge and expertise in the life and work of Ellen G. White. It will be offered free to all who qualify and are approved by their division, but space is limited to 30 students in each location. The program will receive input from the GC Education Department, the Biblical Research Institute, and the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research.

An engaging new **reading plan for Testimonies for the Church was introduced.** For more information, **visit the Revival Plan website** to sign up for daily readings, download free copies of the reading plan, join a reading group, prayer groups, and more.



WARM WELCOME: (Above) Cami Oetman, Duane McKey, and Karen Glassford; (below) Nancy Costa greets visitors with a warm smile as they visit the new offices of Adventist World Radio.



Adventist World Radio (AWR) held a reception Tuesday evening, April 9 in their newly expanded area on the first floor of the Adventist world headquarters. AWR broadcasts the Advent hope in Christ to the people of the world in their own languages, using shortwave radio, national radio networks, local FM stations, on demand, podcasts, and solar audio players with pre-loaded content. Radio overcomes the barriers of government restrictions, cultural opposition, illiteracy, and geography.



Marcos Bomfim, director of the GC Stewardship Department, introduced a **new video series, “God First,”** created especially for millennials. Tithing, says Bomfim, is an act of worshipping God. The videos address common misperceptions about tithe and encourage young people to “bring their hearts to God.” Available for free download here.

Karen Suvankham, **Mission to the Cities (MTTC)** Communication Director, highlighted how MTTC is keeping this important initiative in the forefront of members’ awareness, and suggesting ways in which everyone may participate in reaching the millions of people living in urban areas for Christ. One way is by using resources developed for community outreach, including several practical classes. These materials are available for free download here.



Adventist Community Services International at the General Conference, and the North American Division have created the **Community Services & Urban Ministry Certification Program**, a free online course offering 2 continuing education units (CEU). For more information, visit AdventistLearningCommunity.com

The World Strategic Plan for 2020-2025 was introduced by David Trim, director of the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research. The new plan, **“I Will Go,”** will be voted on at the **upcoming Annual Council**. Divisions are encouraged to meet and define their unique objectives for the plan. “We want to encourage you to submit those unique objectives and Key Performance Indicators (KPI) that

are unique to your division,” Trim told the Spring Meeting attendees. “Departments and other entities should go through the plan, and identify those KPIs and objectives which they can address,” he added. Handouts were given (see illustration) outlining ten objectives and a few KPIs, using several Scriptural and Spirit of Prophecy references. In addition, “Z Cards”

with an airport map illustrating the strategic plan using the analogy of an airport were given to all attendees. Every terminal or concourse represents one of the objectives in the strategic plan; every gate represents one of the KPIs of that strategic plan. This is a memorable and easy way to distribute it to members and leaders who are not here today, said Trim.



“**Total Member Involvement (TMI)** is not a temporary program,” announced Jim Howard, associate director of the GC Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department, as he introduced “**TMI 2.0.**” It “will continue into the future, becoming deeper and broader.”



“In order to go global, we must go local. The personal ministries council guides the outreach efforts of the [local] church,” he said, quoting *The Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual*, page 100. The Church Board is to “encourage the personal ministries department to enlist all members and children in some form of personal outreach (missionary service)” (*ibid.*, p. 132).

Howard also outlined the GROW model for enhancing membership growth and discipling for local churches (see green box). Visit GROW.adventist.org for

helpful information and resources. In addition to individual and local church TMI activities, Global TMI evangelistic events will be held simultaneously around the world, involving all departments and the Revival and Reformation, Mission to the Cities, and Comprehensive Health Ministries initiatives. Currently, several options of scheduling these meetings are under discussion, involving a 4-year, 2-year, or 1-year plan. The events would have common elements,

such as title, core topics, advertising graphics, and month being held, but would also allow for flexible elements, including the number of nights for the event, program format, presentation slides, etc.

Howard explained that these global events will create synergy by sharing advertising, resources, training, and focusing on a common mission.

GROW Your Church: 5 Ministry Goals for Every Local Church

1. **CHURCHWIDE** Community Ministries
2. **ACTIVE** Literature & Media Ministry
3. **VIBRANT** Bible Study Ministry
4. **REGULAR** Evangelistic Meetings
5. **SYSTEMATIC** Discipleship Ministry

Mission to the Cities (MTTC) Appeal for Data. “We accomplish Mission to the Cities through TMI,” said E. Douglas Venn, Urban Mission Centers Director. Data collecting leading up to this year’s Annual Council has been taking place during the second quarter, 2019. Divisions should be compiling their reports during the third quarter, 2019. **Division MTTC Reports are due September 1, 2019.** The report will be presented to the GC MTTC Committee September 17, and then to the Annual Council in October, 2019. The Data Use Plan identifies the following purposes: research, review progress, identify challenges, and make data driven decisions for urban mission funding.

“It’s Time” Division Cities eBook series for General Conference Session 2020: All divisions are invited to create an eBook featuring 12 to 15 stories from their division illustrating people following Christ’s method to reach city dwellers within their territory. The eBooks will be shared with the world church. E. Douglas Venn suggested the following timeline:

- 2019, Qtr. 2—Set up team
- 2019, Qtr. 3—Collect stories
- 2019, Qtr. 4—Select stories
- 2020, Qtr. 1—Edit stories
- 2020, Qtr. 2—E-publish
- July 2020—Gen. Conf. Session

The GC will provide \$5,000 assistance per division upon completion of the eBook. The GC will also provide English editorial support to participating divisions. For more information, contact E. Douglas Venn [here](#).

GROW.adventist.org



The Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists (ESDA) online is set to launch at the 2020 GC Session with a minimum of 2,000 articles, announced Audrey Andersson, Secretary of TED. Here are ways to ensure your Division and Unions are well-represented in the ESDA online:

1) *Help Put ESDA on the Administrative Agenda*

- The ESDA needs a voice at decision-making meetings
- Funding
- Access to Division communication channels
- Tell the stories
- Ensure ESDA is featured at major events
- Encourage people to contribute

2) *Help Build Expectations/ Leverage and Networking*

- Think of the people you know who could contribute or knows someone who could
- Give access to archives



Dragoslava Santrac, managing editor, Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists

- Obtain/Grant permissions
- Facilitate Training

3) *Give Encouragement and be a Sounding Board*

- Share the burden
- Facilitate group conversations with questions such as: “What if . . . ?” and “Can we . . . ?”

[For more information about the ESDA and how you can contribute, click here.](#)

Special Needs Ministries (aka “Possibilities Ministries”) is part of TMI, and these people are asking to be involved, Larry Evans, assistant to the president for Special Needs Ministries stated during his report. “Remember these people when planning strategies for your cities,” he told Spring Meeting attendees, pointing out that “15 percent of the world’s population, or 1.1 billion people, have some type of disability. We need to minister to these people, too.”

In his report, Evans mentioned several positive developments in a number of countries:

- In Rwanda, 87 people with special needs were recently baptized.

- In Kenya, 84 special needs people were baptized.

- In Nairobi, Kenya’s capital city, approximately 50 deaf people attended an Adventist seminar for the deaf.

- In the Czech Republic, a new ministry for the deaf is thriving.

- In Romania, Special Needs Ministries is reaching out to many in need.

- In Moldova, orphans are being ministered to through an orphanage run by ADRA.

Urging leaders at the Spring Meeting to help spread awareness, Evans stated, “It’s important young pastors understand they have a ministry to these people. We have a cause to carry. No one is too big or too small to be reached with God’s grace. These people are reachable.”



“**Mission Advance** is a program to motivate and encourage us with creative ways to reach out to people, and especially to involve young people,” said Billy Biaggi, GC General Vice President, as he introduced some brief reports “of creative ways to convey this message of hope.”

Gerson Santos, GC Associate Secretary, echoed the importance of training young people as he spoke about the **46 Global Mission Pioneers (GMP)** and 3 leaders working in Kolkata, India. In the metropolitan area of Kolkata, there are approximately 14 million people, with only a few hundred Seventh-day Adventists worshipping in Kolkata. The young GMPs are working hard to plant 50 house churches around the city, and are also providing on-going health clinics in various neighborhoods, following-up with home visitations. So far, they have already planted seven house churches and are having prayer meetings in about 20 homes.

Many young people are involved in **Youth Rush Japan** according to Yutaka Inada, Secretary of NSD. While literature evangelism can be challenging, Pastor Inada explained how one persistent young man continued through an especially difficult day until he visited a home where he was able to sell 21 books!

Pastor Inada also shared how, in just a single day, 50 young people distributed 500,000 pieces of literature in Japan!



Gerson Santos (above) spoke about the work in Kolkata, India; E. Doug Venn (right) listens as Yutaka Inada, speaks of evangelism in Japan.

Cross-Cultural Evangelism

Greg and Amy Whitsett, director and associate director of the Center for East Asian Religions, spoke of the challenges of contextualizing the Adventist message in places where “the idea of

needing a Savior who died for your sins is an extremely foreign concept.” Nevertheless, they urge the use of Christ’s method, citing instruction given in *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4: “In order to lead souls to Jesus there must be a knowledge of human nature and a study of the human mind. Much careful thought and fervent prayer are required to know how to approach men and women upon the great subject of truth” (p. 67).

Through their experiences with a family in Laos, Greg and Amy found one of the best ways to reach Buddhists is by teaching them about the New Earth, “because that is the ultimate

solution to all this suffering.” The Whitsetts created a GLOW tract about the New Earth, titled “A Better Future,” which is available in 12 languages

across Asia. Many people in Laos have been baptized because they found this tract scattered throughout the country.

“The good news is, our message is relevant,” Greg said. “Let’s just become more effective at sharing it with our East Asian friends.”





Neville Neveling used WhatsApp to reach hundreds of thousands of people for Christ.

Cell Phone Evangelism

is growing rapidly across the world using the WhatsApp platform, reported Duane McKey, president of Adventist World Radio (AWR), and Karen Glassford, Director of Centers for Digital Evangelism. Two years ago, after participating in

a TMI event in Romania, Neville Neveling from Namibia came up with the idea of using his cell phone to give Bible studies. He started by sending out the studies to some friends and acquaintances using WhatsApp, and from this small beginning

this cell phone outreach has grown into at least 300,000 people in multiple countries receiving Bible studies each week. Many are contacting AWR asking to be baptized as a result of this digital evangelism. In addition, sermons and studies are available

in Spanish through the dedication of Luis Duran, coordinator of AWR digital evangelism for Latin America. Again, what started small has exponentially grown into 30,000 people receiving Spanish Bible studies and is continuing to grow.

Worldwide Evangelistic Outreach Report

Robert Costa, GC associate ministerial secretary for evangelism and church growth, reported he has noticed at least three things happening in Adventist churches around the world:

1. More and more pastors are transforming their pulpits into evangelistic centers.

This includes more lay evangelism, according to Costa, as more elders are preaching. In the U.K. for example, pastors and elders are preaching evangelistically to their congregations and encouraging members to invite their neighbors to come with them to church on Sabbath.

In Malaysia, a predominantly Muslim country, two simultaneous evangelistic meetings were held, resulting in 162 baptisms. Costa reported that the Adventist pastors' wives were so excited when they saw the results that they, too, wanted to hold a series. Their evangelism resulted in 196 baptisms, and 28 former Adventists reclaimed.



Robert Costa, associate ministerial secretary for evangelism and church growth

2. More and more people are committed to following Christ's method in their approach.

Costa told of 17 Adventists, including two young people, meeting together in the Bronx, New York. The two young people decided to invite other young people, and in just a few months the group was reorganized into a church with 68 members. A few months later, that church planted two more churches!

A 30-member church in Ukraine invited Costa to come and present an evangelistic series. He agreed to come, if the 30 members would first do their "homework" of following a list Costa sent them containing 250 ideas of how to make friends. They worked hard and when Costa arrived, more than 400 guests attended the meetings. The

church organized a Bible class, with 352 visitors, and a baptismal class with 114 people.

Plans are now in place to do something similar in the city of St. Petersburg, Russia, in "preparing the soil" for upcoming evangelistic meetings.

In Mexico City, a group of Adventist young people did evangelism in a cemetery! Of course not to the dead, but for friends and family who would visit their loved ones' graves on All Saint's Day. The Adventists purchased 5,000 roses and attached a nice card to each rose, with kind words and an invitation to study the Bible. In the early morning of November 1, the young people placed roses and cards on every grave. From that one outreach, they received 352 requests for Bible studies!

3. Amazing results from preaching the "whole message."

"There is power in The Book. Supernatural power!" proclaimed Costa to the Spring Meeting attendees as he held up his Bible.

Costa recounted taping a series of 24 sermons in Mexico. The series contained the "whole message," including *all* of the distinctive Biblical beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, regardless of the presence of a very prominent church in Mexico.

The sermons began airing, and somehow the owner of the second largest broadcasting company in Mexico saw them and was very impressed. The sermons were biblical, and he noticed this was a Protestant talking about the Sabbath. "If these people are talking about Scripture, we will open the doors of this [his] channel!" the owner said.

For nearly two years now, these distinctively Adventist, biblical messages are reaching 58 million homes in Mexico every week, thanks to the owner of this broadcasting company. "Scores and scores of people are coming to the Adventist churches asking for baptism," Costa reported. "Use all outlets to preach the *whole*

message," he urged.

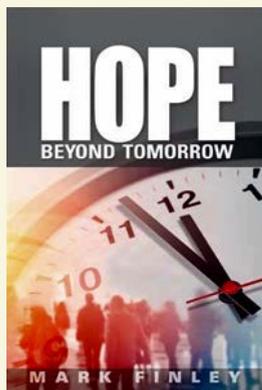
In Verbena, the center of Satanism in northern Italy, a group of Adventist young people tried to do something for God. Costa went to support them, and by God's grace, a group of 20 was organized there and soon they will become a church.

"When we presented the whole message, the location we rented was packed!" Costa exclaimed. "Especially when we presented the subject of the State of the Dead—because they wanted to know what happens when a person dies. Don't be afraid to preach the whole gospel."

Closing his report to the Spring Meeting, Costa made an appeal:

"This is more than a church—this is the last movement. If we don't preach the whole message, who is going to do it? Jesus says, 'Teach them *all* things.' If we don't do it, that's pastoral malpractice. We have the whole truth to present, and Jesus will help us.

"How to do it? There are so many manuals, but let me introduce to you the manuals that are working for me—the book, *Evangelism*, and the book, *Christian Service*. Use them because they come from God, and from the prophet God sent. And it really works."



Missionary Book for 2020 Introduced

Hope Beyond Tomorrow, by Mark Finley, is the missionary book for 2020, announced Billy Biaggi, a GC General Vice President. The 126-page book speaks of the wonderful hope of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, and will be available in all of the major languages of the world.

The missionary book project, explained Stephen Apola, associate director of the GC Publishing Department, began in 2007. Each year, 30 to 40 million missionary books are distributed worldwide, with a distribution total of nearly half a *billion* books in the past 12 years.

This is one of the greatest ways to involve church members, leaders, and children, in Total Member Involvement. The books have been distributed to



all kinds of people in countries around the world, and there are some amazing experiences that have resulted from this, said Apola. And missionary books from previous years are continuing to do a mighty work, he added.

“Papers and books are the Lord’s means of keeping the message for this time continually before the people. In enlightening and confirming souls in the truth, the publications will do a far greater work

than can be accomplished by the ministry of the word alone. The silent messengers that are placed in the homes of the people through the work of the canvasser, will strengthen the gospel ministry in every way; for the Holy Spirit will impress minds as they read the books” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, pp. 315, 316).

“Be part of this great movement that is distributing millions and millions of books,” Apola appealed.

How to Fund Mission to the Cities: In introducing the final report of the Spring Meeting, E. Douglas Venn stated, “Many of you ask the question, ‘How do we fund our Mission to the Cities?’ I’m so happy to invite Dennis Carlson, Director of GC Planned Giving and Trust Services, to help us wrestle with that question.”

During his report, Carlson pointed out some interesting statistics:

- Currently in NAD, 80 percent of Adventist

Churches are located where only 20 percent of the population lives.

- The average age of NAD Adventists in 2008 was 51, while the average age of NAD Adventists in 2018 was 61.
- Worldwide, the younger generation is waiting longer to get married and have children.
- Among the Millennial Generation (born 1981-1996) there is something called the FIRE

movement: Financial (No debt) Independence (No need of paychecks) Retire (Available to God), Early (City Ready).

Carlson pointed out in Joel 2:28 that God promises in the last days to pour out His Spirit “on all flesh.” More people are now available to reach the cities for Jesus—older members with no children at home, the younger ones waiting longer to have children—both could be available for mission. Carlson gave examples of two

organizations—GYC (ages 35 and under) and SAGE (55 and Better), going around the world together in mission.

Explaining how this works together with his department, Carlson outlined the two components of Planned Giving: 1) providing for the needs of family; 2) protecting God’s assets. Trust Services, he said, “is the process of receiving gifts from Seventh-day Adventist members or other friends of the church to support the mission of reaching the world for Jesus.”

“God’s work is now to advance rapidly, and if His people will respond to His call, He will make the possessors of property willing to donate of their means and thus make it possible for His work to be accomplished in the earth. ‘Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.’ Hebrews 11:1. Faith in the word of God will place His people in the possession of property which will enable them to work the large cities that are waiting for the message of truth” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9 pp. 272, 273).

“Is this support happening?” asked Carlson. The answer is yes. From the 2018 Maturities Report, including figures from nine world divisions, institutions, and the General Conference, a grand total of \$67.8 million came in to support God’s work just in 2018.

Furthermore, contributions to the advancement of the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church through Planned Giving and Trust Services (since 1968) total more than \$2 billion.

“If you would like to see your area of the world be more involved in Planned Giving, please give us a call,” invited Carlson. “If you would like to be a part of Planned Giving, contact your local conference, they can help you in planning and preserving God’s assets for ministry.

THE 2018 FINANCIAL STORY

A REPORT TO 2019 SPRING MEETING

BY JUAN PRESTOL-PUESÁN, GC TREASURER
WITH RAY WAHLEN, GC UNDERTREASURER



We are pleased to report the financial results of the operation for the year 2018. The audited financial statement indicates the blessings we received, and the guidance of the Lord.

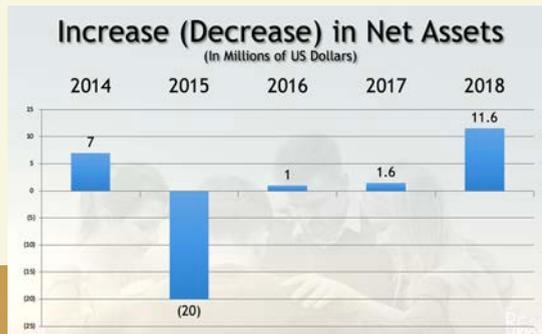
Last October we remarked that our financial picture pointed to a break-even operating result, or better. Five variables affecting our financial case needed to align themselves to give us a positive result.

These were 1) the US market; 2) the gross tithe reported by the world; 3) the exchange fluctuation of key overseas currencies; 4) fiscal discipline holding expenditures and allocations down for the fiscal 2018 exercise; and 5) maintaining an adequate liquidity level.

I am glad to report that three of these five variables remained aligned allowing us to report positive results for the year 2018.

The Results of the Operation for the Year 2018

The Unrestricted and Restricted Net Assets (Operating Fund Statement page 3, 3rd line from the bottom) show an Increase to Net Assets of \$11.6 million as of December 31, 2018.



U.S. Financial Markets

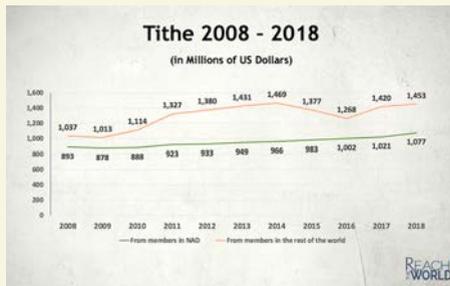
Throughout the year the US financial markets in 2018 brought us volatility, particularly in the later part of December when there was a significant market decrease. The markets reacted positively after January 1, 2019, and the decreases in value of investments were reversed.



Total Gross Tithes

The total gross tithes reported by the divisions in 2018 reached 2.5 billion dollars. The total reported by the North American Division was \$1,077,149,556, and the total tithes reported by the world divisions was \$1,452,843,982. We rejoice in the total increase in US dollars of \$89,094,912, or a 3.6% increase over 2017. The mission offering total was \$88,335,071.

The total reported by the North American Division was \$21,909,126, and the world divisions reported \$66,425,945.



Currency Exchange Update

The value of the Brazilian Real against the US dollar showed a decrease in 2018. The graph below shows the journey of the Brazilian currency in 2018.



Total Expenses Are Down

The total amount spent by the General Conference in 2018 was slightly below the 2017 level. The expense in Office Operating reached 85.64% of the total budgeted amount, which is an improvement over 2017. Travel expense was 85.8% of the total budgeted.



Liquidity Level

We ended at 101.9, which is the same level we ended 2017. (See Operating Fund Statement page 4, last line).

Operating Fund Working Capital and Liquidity December 31					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
WORKING CAPITAL					
% of Recommended WC	102.7%	92.8%	87.6%	89.2%	88.0%
LIQUIDITY					
% of Liquid Assets to Commitments	124.8%	109.1%	99.4%	101.9%	101.9%

Where We Are: A Look at the Years 2014-2018

A look at the data of the last five years helps us place 2018 in context. I will make just a few comments.

A year ago, in 2017, had it not been for a decrease in value per acre in our investment in the Review and Herald land from 250K to 100K, our total increase to Net Assets would have been \$8,241,740. However, we reported a total increase to Net Assets of \$1,594,740. In 2018 our total increase in Net Assets was \$11,660,425, which included the recovery of blocked currency from South Korea in the amount of \$6,000,000. Both transactions, the decrease in value of the Review and Herald land investment in 2017 and the recovery of blocked currency, are unique onetime events not likely to be repeated in 2019.

We are continuing with the comprehensive currency management initiative, and the repurposing of the headquarters building space with the use of Plant Fund assets.

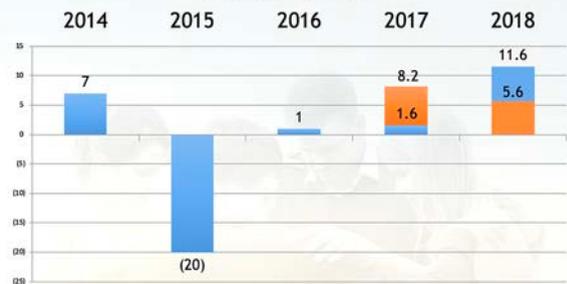
The average giving per week in tithe and mission offerings reached 50 million dollars.

Where We Are Going: An Anticipation of 2019 and 2020

Our current term extends through the years 2015-2019, although we do the planning and budgeting for 2020. In the planning and operations of 2019, several items will be carefully considered, as we move forward into the fifth year of our five-year term.



Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets (In Millions of US Dollars)



- Tithing percentages from North America will continue declining as per GC Working Policy V 09 05, 2d.
- In the international scenario we will continue doing our best to anticipate and minimize the negative currency fluctuation impact on our income.
- Expenses and allocations will be carefully monitored.
- We will be doing our best to maintain adequate levels of liquidity and working capital to provide stability and efficiency.

As we move forward

1. Tithing percentage from NAD will continue declining
(GC Working Policy V 09 05 2.d)
2. Anticipate and minimize impact of currency fluctuation
3. Expenses and allocations carefully monitored
4. Maintain adequate levels of Liquidity and Working Capital



In Conclusion

We present this report with a deep sense of gratitude. As we conclude, we resonate with the declaration of Isaiah the prophet when he wrote, “To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal? says the Holy One” (Isaiah 40:25).

We trust in the Lord Almighty. He understands our seasons, our times, and our needs. He will guide us, and He will provide for us according to what He considers to be the best for us. We will sleep well at night and will be energetically engaged during the day because He will keep us “in perfect peace.” (Isaiah 26:3).

Our “ears shall hear a word behind [us], saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it’” (Isaiah 30:21). We trust in the Lord, the creator of heaven and earth. We thank Him for His blessings. We thank our members for their generosity, and the employees and volunteers who make this report possible.



Juan Prestol-Puesán, GC Treasurer



Ray Wahlen, GC Undertreasurer

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Directions: For more information on an item, click on the corresponding number on the map.

1 Doctors at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital in **Loma Linda, California**, recently conducted the institution’s first stem cell transplant in an 11-year-old sickle cell disease patient, effectively curing her of the inherited blood disease. The successful procedure was also Children’s Hospital’s first haploidentical transplant.

2 Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in **Colombia** has been providing assistance to thousands of Venezuelans who have migrated into Colombia to escape the economic and political instability in their homeland. Free medical check-ups, lab tests, medications and basic hygiene kits are being provided.

3 Polish Adventist, Greg Sereda, YouTube videos result in baptisms. His channel, Bible Flock Box, has more than 400,000 subscribers

and 44 million video views. Greg says YouTube is the best evangelism tool he’s ever used. Story from **Warszawa, Poland**.

4 Adventist members and institutions in Cameroon donated 30 million Central African Francs (approx. US \$51,500) toward emergency aid to support the more than 400,000 internally displaced people of the Anglophone crisis that is tearing apart regions of northwest and southwest **Cameroon**. The funds will be used to provide food and other fundamental needs, along with education.

5 Church attendance in **Kolkata, India**, doubled following unprecedented outreach. The outreach included a four-year initiative involving local church members and gospel workers ministering to their communities in creative ways, such as going door-to-door

asking, “Can I pray for you?” and receiving many positive responses. Temperance rallies were organized to help people stop smoking, drinking alcohol, using drugs, and chewing *paan*. Regular mini-health fairs were set up reaching numerous neighborhoods of the metro area of 14 million people. The outreach work culminated with a successful reaping campaign.

6 **Korea’s** Supreme Court gave a historic legal victory to young Adventist student, Han Ji Man, upholding his right to take university exams outside of Sabbath hours. The long-awaited two-year legal ordeal ruled a legal right to Sabbath accommodations.

7 An Adventist doctor from **Sydney, Australia** is at the forefront of a revolutionary treatment that could potentially cure cancer. Dr. Ken Micklethwaite

and his team at the Westmead Institute for Medical Research have been working with modified immune cells, called CAR T cells, which could help cure blood cancer. “We take immune cells that are unable to see cancer, we insert a gene in them that enables them to actually see and then respond to and kill cancer cells,” Dr. Micklethwaite recently told Charles Wooley, a reporter in a hope-filled interview for the 60 Minutes Australia television program.

Important Upcoming Meetings, October 2019

at the
Seventh-day Adventist Church
World Headquarters
Silver Spring, Maryland, U.S.A.

- 3** Presidents Council
Secretaries Council
Treasurers Council
- 6, 7, 10** Division Officer Interviews
- 8** GC & Division Officers
- 10, 11** LEAD Conference
- 10-16** Annual Council