

KINGDOM BUILDERS

To Win – To Hold – To Train

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S PEN:

Greetings!

We have come to the close of another year and 2016 is upon us. Where did the time go? Ain't it funny how time slips away.

The Sabbath School department has had a very fruitful year. We have seen a paradigm shift in many of our churches and the new approach to the way we do Sabbath School has met great reception. No need to worry. There is no one-size fits all. For those who still want it the old fashion way, there is still the traditional Sabbath School.

Make Sabbath School work for your members! That means getting buy-in from your board, elders, and members. Team work is key for transition from one model to another or to multiple models.

The important thing is to never give up. Keep your Sabbath School before God. When all seems to be lost, lay your plans before Him and ask for His guidance. And remember we are here to serve you and your needs. Let us know how we can help.

In the coming year, our newsletter will focus on the preliminary portion of Sabbath School, how to integrate all age groups into the Sabbath School experience through this vehicle, and other resourceful information to assist you in your planning.

Thank you for all your dedication and hard work to the body of Christ.

*At Jesus' feet,
Shirley Scott*



Global Mission is the frontline mission arm of Adventist Mission, and is an office of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's world headquarters. The organization sends volunteer missionaries, typically for one or two years, to reach people in areas of the world where there are no Seventh-day Adventist members. Together Global Mission pioneers and cross-cultural Seventh-day Adventist missionaries are working to "Tell the World" about the love of Christ in some of the world's hardest-to-reach places.

Global Mission was voted at the 1990 General Conference Session as a special initiative to reach people in the so-called 10/40 Window with the gospel. Typically Global Mission pioneers work within their culture and language group. Unlike typical missionaries they already know the culture, and are thus more easily accepted by the community.

Pioneers

Global Mission sponsors laypeople, called pioneers, who volunteer at least a year to establish a congregation in an un-entered area within their own culture. They have the advantage of knowing the culture, speaking the language, blending with the local people—and being far less expensive than foreign cross-cultural missionaries.

More than 2,500 Global Mission pioneers are now working around the world. Since 1990 pioneers have established more than 11,000 new Seventh-day Adventist congregations around the world. Global Mission pioneers share the gospel through a holistic ministry including: caring for the sick, teaching agricultural skills, running literacy programs, holding evangelistic meetings, and giving Bible studies.

Present a clear vision of the global mission of the church. It will promote a personal, systematic, and self-denying commitment to the support of world missions, and foster in all a desire to help fulfill the gospel commission.



Study centers

Global Mission has created study centers on the world to research various people groups and belief systems in order to more effectively share what Adventists believe. There were 5 centers specializing in the study of Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, secularism/postmodernism and Islam, but now only 4, with Buddhism and Hinduism combining to form "East Asian Religions and Traditions."

Funds Allocated

2006 was financially a record-breaking year for Global Mission. They distributed some \$5.3 million to more than 1,800 projects around the world. Combined with funds from local church organizations, the projects totaled \$13,994,745 worldwide.

Source: Global Mission - Wikipedia

Suggested Personal Giving Guide

The suggested giving for World Mission budget offering is 2-3% of Income. Of the world budget offerings distributions:

Weekly Sabbath School	57%
Thirteenth Sabbath	16%
Birthday-Thank	4%
Total Sabbath School	77%

The remaining 23% of the World Budget Offering is divided among other entities of the world church.

Source: World Budget SS Offering and Class Record

WHY WORLDWIDE MISSION

The issue in Global Strategy is world wide mission, foreign mission, mission in other lands, other languages, other cultures. Must the church in Smalltown, U.S.A., or Bigcity, Australia, be involved in what happens in Africa, Asia, or Latin America? Must church members hear stories of faraway mission lands and give offerings to help people they have never seen or heard of except through those stories? In short, why should a church that is fulfilling its caring, Christlike mission at home be concerned with a global strategy for mission?

Three reasons that the Seventh-day Adventist Church should have a world wide mission vision come to mind.

1. CHRIST EXPECTS IT

The Old Testament model of mission centered on a people whose well-being would attract the attention of all who observed them. Israel was to have been prosperous and holy, blessed and happy. Its neighbors would ask "For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is the Lord our God whenever we call on Him?" (Deut. 4:7). Israel would be the head and not the tail (Deut. 28:13).

Ellen White wrote: "It was God's purpose that by the revelation of His character through Israel men should be drawn unto Him."⁶ Israel was not only to attract its immediate neighbors to God, but it would be "as a light to the nations" so that God's salvation might "reach to the end of the earth" (Isa. 49:6, RSV). In other words, it was God's purpose to accomplish a worldwide mission through Israel.

The New Testament does not abandon the idea of the blessing that comes with belonging to God's people or of the attraction their lifestyle would have for observers. But in the New Testament, mission is no longer mostly centripetal. Now there is a command to go. Mission becomes centrifugal.

Christ told His disciples clearly that "forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem" (Luke 24:47). The apostles were sent to "Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). His followers were to take the good news of hope, joy, peace, and love wherever there were people. And Matthew 24:14 makes it clear that this instruction included more than the familiar Mediterranean world: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come." Jesus said that worldwide mission was to be a sign of the nearness of His return.

2. THE CHURCH NEEDS IT

When we talk of worldwide mission, we must consider that the church consists of two parts: the one here and the one over there, the sending church and the receiving church. Both need mission.

The church here at home—wherever on the globe that may be—cannot afford to insulate itself from the rest of the church. I am reminded of the story of the eccentric, rich, old gentleman who had so much silver he had his maintenance crew plate it onto the outside of his windows. After that, all he ever saw was himself. He no longer saw the sunshine, the flowers, or the children playing under the trees. Instead, he sat and watched himself getting old.

Giving, caring, sharing these are God-ordained ways of loving and serving. When the church here at home looks beyond its own needs, it grows stronger. At times we think we give because we love. The fact is that only when we give do we really learn to love.

The church "here" cannot afford to lose the love and support that come from "out there." In a small church in South America I heard an elderly member laboriously read the mission story about some project in the United States. When she finished, she put down the mission quarterly and looked into the eyes of the 20 or so members. "Please," she begged, "we must give generously. They may live in the United States, but they need us and they need our offering. They are our brothers."

3. THE TIMES DEMAND IT

Missiologists note that there are important changes taking place that will affect the preaching of the gospel as we near the third millennium. Although the studies have been done by other churches, much of what they say applies to Seventh-day Adventists as well.

A shift in who comprise the agents of mission is one of the trends of the times. Missionaries stay shorter periods, come from places still considered mission fields, and include volunteers of all ages, as well as "tentmakers" who, like Paul, make their own living.

Missionaries, both professional and volunteer, are going out for shorter periods than before. Some go for a set time—usually no more than six years. Others go to finish a project; their terms of service may be as short as two weeks. Their contribution to the church in which they serve may not be as great as that of a long-term missionary, but the home church to which they return—glowing with enthusiasm and full of stories benefits greatly from their mission experience. Student missionaries, Adventist Volunteers, Maranatha builders—all are part of this growing body of short-term missionaries.

Exerpts from "Why world mission?"
Ministry, August 1990
Nancy Vyhmeister

As we start the new year, remember that whenever you are in your quest to make Sabbath School a vibrant, relational, and relevant ministry for your church, we admonish you to never give up on the vision. I am reminded of a poem that my godmother gave me years ago entitled "Don't Quit." As you read it be reminded that change is difficult but when we make small steps they add up to large ones in the end.

Don't Quit (author unknown)

*When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and debts are high,
And you want to smile but have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest, if you must, but don't you quit.*

*Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As everyone of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about,
When he might have won if he'd stuck it out,
Don't give up though the pace seems slow,
You might succeed with another blow.*

*Often the struggler has given up,
When he might captured the victor's cup,
And he learned too late, when the night slipped down,
How close he was to the golden crown,*

*Success is failure turned inside out,
The silver tint of clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems afar,
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit,
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.*



CONTACT US:

Judith Eddings
Sabbath School Department Secretary
615-226-6500 (ext. 133)
judith.eddings@scc-adventist.org