

Statistical Report

Annual Council of the General Conference Committee Manila, Philippines, October 10 - 15, 2008

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Baptisms Set New Records

In 1980 General Conference President Neal C. Wilson wrote to former President Robert H. Pierson: "The reports for 1979 in soul winning and evangelism give every indication of coming closer to some of your expectations. We just had a telex from South America and Elder Oliveira tells us that their baptisms numbered 50,384 for 1979. This is a marvelous demonstration of God's power." In *this* Annual Council report, 28 years later, six of the 13 world divisions show baptisms over 50,000 and the average accessions for the 13 divisions is 80,892. For the sixth time in its Annual Council reporting history, the world divisions reported baptisms that surpassed one million. The 1,051,601 accessions during the past four quarters (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008) meant that on the average, every day within that period, 2,879 believers accepted the everlasting gospel and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Our current mid-year total of 15,780,719 baptized members means that there are currently 425 people populating our planet for every

baptized Seventh-day Adventist. The mid-year ratio only a decade ago was 570 to one.

Baptisms within the Divisions

A comparison of the baptisms within each of the divisions gives us an idea of the divisional location of our newest members. Almost 21 of every 100 new believers come from the South American Division while close to 20 live in the Inter-American Division. Double-digit figures spring from East-Central Africa (16), Southern Africa-Indian Ocean (15), and Southern Asia (11). The Southern Asia-Pacific Division on the average added six new members of every 100 to the Seventh-day Adventist Church during this past Annual Council year. Twelve of every 100 of our newest members live within the remaining seven divisions. Our current membership distribution shows 35% within Africa, 35% within Latin America, 18% within Asia, seven percent within North America, and five percent within Europe and Oceania. (Please turn to page 2.)

World Membership July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 (Preliminary)

<i>Division</i>	<i>Baptisms and Prof. of Faith</i>	<i>Net Membership Increase</i>	<i>% Net Increase Over Last 12 Months</i>	<i>Baptisms and Prof. of Faith as % of Current Membership</i>	<i>Membership June 30, 2008</i>	<i>Membership as % of World Total June 30, 2008</i>
Southern Asia	111,893	107,564	8.31	7.98	1,402,566	8.89
Southern Asia-Pacific	63,544	57,843	6.60	6.80	934,040	5.92
Southern Africa-Indian Ocean	160,926	139,440	6.60	7.14	2,253,731	14.28
Inter-American	206,851	154,574	5.32	6.76	3,059,993	19.39
East-Central Africa	164,601	83,532	3.58	6.81	2,416,954	15.32
Trans-European	4,783	3,540	3.38	4.42	108,166	0.68
West-Central Africa	40,793	26,291	3.35	5.04	810,127	5.13
Northern Asia-Pacific	20,206	14,782	2.55	3.40	593,601	3.76
North American	37,668	19,688	1.87	3.52	1,069,898	6.78
South Pacific	11,561	6,049	1.53	2.87	402,275	2.55
Euro-Africa	4,723	1,020	0.58	2.68	176,177	1.12
Euro-Asia	5,408	(1,717)	(1.24)	3.95	136,900	0.87
South American	218,644	(267,357)	(9.96)	9.05	2,416,291	15.31
World, June 2008	1,051,601	345,249	2.24	6.66	15,780,719	100.00
World, June 2007	1,044,315	681,448	4.62	6.77	15,435,470	
Net Increase (Decrease)	7,286	(336,199)	(2.38)	(0.11)	345,249	

The divisions are arranged above according to percentage of net membership increase over the last 12 months.

The Church Audits Continue and Statistical Life After the Audits

A massive auditing of church membership rolls resulted in a decrease of some 300,000 within the South American Division. That meant that despite its 218,644 accessions, the division exhibited a 267,357 net membership decrease during this reporting period. The church membership audits conducted within the South American Division resulted in a loss of 16 in its population per member ratio. This huge membership decrease impacted the world church growth rate to render a 2.24% overall rate for the 13 divisions. This resulting growth rate is the lowest since 1943. While the previous audits in other divisions were also intense, the more accurate membership totals that resulted suggest a positive look toward the future. The Southern Asia-Pacific Division is one case in point. Its recovery from recent massive auditing is apparent with its current high growth rate of 6.60 percent. That is the highest growth rate for that division since it organized in 1997. Additionally, Southern Asia-Pacific for the 2007 calendar year exhibited a loss to gain ratio of 24 losses per 100 accessions, which is well below the Church average of 33 per 100. The division also

witnessed the fourth best divisional population per SDA member ratio improvement.

Population to Member Ratios of the Divisions

Seven of our 13 world divisions now have a population to member ratio less than the 425 worldwide average. Three of our divisions maintain ratios less than 100: Southern Africa-Indian Ocean with 68, South Pacific with 86, and Inter-American with 86. Four other divisions have ratios that better the world average: East-Central Africa (118), South American (130), North American (316), and West-Central Africa (407). The greatest improvements in the ratios, in most cases, occurred in those divisions below the world average of 425: Southern Asia-Pacific (808), an improvement of 41; Southern Asia (839), improving by 57; Northern Asia-Pacific (2,624), improving by 55; and Trans-European (5,701), improving by 117. TED's was the highest increase in the population per SDA member category. During this Annual Council reporting period the world population grew at a 1.22% rate. Even though our church membership growth rate was the lowest since 1943 and was only 2.24%, we still slightly improved in our overall population to member ratio moving from 429-to-1 to 425-to-1.

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Accession Rates (Shown as Percentages)

<i>Division</i>	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
East-Central Africa	6.75	8.70	7.14	6.93	8.00
Euro-Africa	2.65	3.02	2.97	2.97	2.77
Euro-Asia	6.06	6.05	6.32	4.52	4.51
Inter-American	7.95	6.51	7.41	8.01	7.09
North American	3.84	3.72	3.65	3.78	3.59
Northern Asia-Pacific	1.98	3.79	3.30	3.20	3.50
South American	12.70	9.57	9.96	8.64	8.57
South Pacific	4.26	4.67	4.90	4.60	2.67
Southern Africa-Indian Ocean	7.48	10.83	7.61	6.87	7.05
Southern Asia	15.28	16.92	16.45	18.29	8.18
Southern Asia-Pacific	4.61	5.13	5.86	7.45	7.08
Trans-European	5.20	3.12	4.42	3.58	4.27
West-Central Africa	6.42	6.82	4.79	5.36	5.18
World	7.69	7.99	7.59	7.69	6.88

Accession rates give the number of accessions to the church for each 100 members at the beginning of the year. Accessions consist of additions by baptism and profession of faith.

Baptisms and Professions of Faith Per Active Ordained Minister

<i>Division</i>	2007	2006	<i>Division</i>	2007	2006	<i>Division</i>	2007	2006
East-Central Africa	190.7	130.6	West-Central Africa	63.9	66.4	North American	10.5	11.1
Southern Asia	180.4	357.6	Southern Asia-Pacific	45.1	45.6	Trans-European	8.3	6.9
So Africa-Indian Ocean	162.0	*153.6	Northern Asia-Pacific	21.7	19.5	Euro-Africa	5.5	6.0
Inter-American	110.6	118.1	South Pacific	15.3	26.1			
South American	98.1	99.8	Euro-Asia	11.7	12.6	World Average**	66.5	71.2

**Revised. **General Conference employees not included.*

Rates of Growth
(Shown as Percentages)

<i>Division</i>	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	<i>2007 Membership</i>
East-Central Africa	0.74	0.51	4.55	5.24	4.10	2,376,903
Euro-Africa	0.09	0.86	1.16	0.58	0.75	176,047
Euro-Asia	(1.52)	(0.14)	(3.63)	(0.52)	(0.65)	137,676
Inter-American	5.69	4.27	4.84	6.02	5.39	2,958,485
North American	1.82	1.44	1.76	1.72	1.97	1,062,189
Northern Asia-Pacific	1.63	4.91	2.40	2.98	2.56	590,684
South American	9.28	6.26	6.61	2.85	(1.17)	2,617,706
South Pacific	1.36	3.17	3.21	1.73	0.70	399,979
Southern Africa-Indian Ocean	5.51	8.76	5.25	5.26	5.92	2,187,125
Southern Asia	14.82	16.94	16.26	16.60	7.92	1,345,615
Southern Asia-Pacific	(6.72)	(8.66)	(21.93)	3.39	5.04	902,394
Trans-European	5.99	1.92	3.07	2.48	2.82	107,050
West-Central Africa	4.94	5.37	4.01	2.30	3.22	798,494
World	3.98	3.96	3.32	4.98	3.60	15,660,347

Rates of growth are the changes in membership between the beginning of the year and the end of the year, shown as percentages.

Trend in Tithe and Offerings Per Capita
World Summary

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Tithe	\$98.20	\$101.55	\$109.47	\$113.68	\$129.80
World Mission Fund incl. S.S.	3.89	3.85	3.98	4.16	4.48
Sabbath School	\$3.51	\$3.47	\$3.63	\$3.75	\$4.05
Other General Conference Funds	1.90	1.98	2.11	1.70	2.07
Ingathering Funds	0.81	0.70	0.65	0.70	0.77
Intradivision and Local Church Funds	44.67	43.55	47.95	47.26	44.04
Total Tithe and Offerings	\$149.46	\$151.63	\$164.15	\$167.50	\$181.16

Total Tithe and Offerings
World Summary

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Tithe and Offerings</i>	<i>Per Capita</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Tithe and Offerings</i>	<i>Per Capita</i>
1960	\$ 99,902,355	\$ 83.66	1997	\$ 1,499,697,681	\$175.70
1965	142,700,596	94.75	1998	1,547,163,363	169.28
1970	211,181,658	112.69	1999	1,604,813,057	168.23
1975	386,740,731	164.74	2000	1,662,602,192	164.54
1980	642,444,216	202.19	2001	1,718,230,383	156.95
1985	731,464,528	175.16	2002	1,772,948,122	152.66
1990	1,011,715,372	180.07	2003	1,878,781,139	149.46
1993	1,122,302,148	164.23	2004	1,991,055,579	151.63
1994	1,208,988,062	166.74	2005	2,238,446,489	164.15
1995	1,321,864,914	172.14	2006	2,383,690,238	167.50
1996	1,370,593,782	170.23	2007	2,668,006,564	181.16

Membership Increase

<i>Year</i>	<i>Baptisms and Prof. of Faith</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Dropped and Missing</i>	<i>Net Increase</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Baptisms and Prof. of Faith</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Dropped and Missing</i>	<i>Net Increase</i>
EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA					SOUTH PACIFIC				
2003	138,312	7,589	40,247	15,088	2003	15,417	1,603	9,120	4,914
2004	179,614	8,307	50,633	10,612	2004	17,135	1,017	4,270	11,609
2005	148,169	7,325	38,200	94,438	2005	18,544	1,119	5,444	12,144
2006	150,286	7,404	35,615	113,668	2006	17,950	1,291	10,032	6,764
2007	182,697	6,848	34,988	93,624	2007	10,586	1,180	6,807	2,790
5-Yr Totals	799,078	37,473	199,683	327,430	5-Yr Totals	79,632	6,210	35,673	38,221
EURO-AFRICA					SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN				
2003	4,515	2,292	1,853	153	2003	121,476	6,583	24,980	89,486
2004	5,141	2,184	2,007	1,469	2004	185,683	7,646	24,818	150,127
2005	5,094	2,280	1,648	1,992	2005	141,835	6,782	24,623	97,840
2006	5,153	2,406	1,776	1,009	2006	134,729	6,691	21,071	103,184
2007	4,833	2,468	1,812	1,313	2007	145,520	6,997	17,801	122,206
5-Yr Totals	24,736	11,630	9,096	5,936	5-Yr Totals	729,243	34,699	113,293	562,843
EURO-ASIA					SOUTHERN ASIA				
2003	8,909	2,046	8,224	(2,236)	2003	104,690	648	1,752	101,494
2004	8,756	2,011	5,771	(202)	2004	133,074	673	1,360	133,233
2005	9,129	2,051	11,051	(5,251)	2005	151,289	502	1,250	149,552
2006	6,298	2,060	4,253	(726)	2006	195,610	3,818	14,296	177,514
2007	6,249	2,180	4,543	(905)	2007	101,950	739	2,377	98,767
5-Yr Totals	39,341	10,348	33,842	(9,320)	5-Yr Totals	686,613	6,380	21,035	660,560
INTER-AMERICAN					SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC				
2003	182,107	5,734	43,387	130,467	2003	57,650	1,566	136,741	(83,972)
2004	157,635	4,796	45,871	103,507	2004	59,811	4,454	148,017	(100,932)
2005	187,021	4,786	45,680	122,154	2005	62,347	5,359	252,887	(233,429)
2006	212,149	4,866	42,498	159,465	2006	61,888	1,483	26,353	28,164
2007	199,005	4,774	38,148	151,309	2007	60,798	1,615	14,569	43,284
5-Yr Totals	937,917	24,956	215,584	666,902	5-Yr Totals	302,494	14,477	578,567	(346,885)
NORTH AMERICAN					TRANS-EUROPEAN				
2003	37,445	6,977	17,038	17,775	2003	4,742	1,133	873	5,467
2004	36,887	6,500	17,257	14,271	2004	3,019	920	536	1,854
2005	36,700	6,930	14,575	17,718	2005	4,357	1,045	634	3,023
2006	38,718	7,168	16,150	17,650	2006	3,635	909	832	2,515
2007	37,359	7,703	16,707	20,504	2007	4,441	955	1,230	2,937
5-Yr Totals	187,109	35,278	81,727	87,918	5-Yr Totals	20,194	4,962	4,105	15,796
NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC					WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA				
2003	10,141	436	1,317	8,360	2003	42,183	2,412	6,378	32,479
2004	19,741	347	329	25,562	2004	47,053	2,285	4,201	37,037
2005	17,997	526	4,397	13,088	2005	34,807	2,161	3,038	29,176
2006	17,923	407	1,309	16,685	2006	40,501	3,051	12,175	17,381
2007	20,186	450	5,056	14,735	2007	40,086	3,058	8,172	24,873
5-Yr Totals	85,988	2,166	12,408	78,430	5-Yr Totals	204,630	12,967	33,964	140,946
SOUTH AMERICAN					WORLD				
2003	264,130	6,050	57,814	193,064	2003	991,717	45,069	349,724	512,539
2004	217,586	6,071	57,970	142,231	2004	1,071,135	47,211	363,040	530,378
2005	240,563	6,494	72,924	159,695	2005	1,057,852	47,360	476,351	462,140
2006	222,585	7,004	81,794	73,461	2006	1,107,425	48,558	268,154	716,734
2007	226,932	10,015	188,899	(30,896)	2007	1,040,642	48,982	341,109	544,541
5-Yr Totals	1,171,796	35,634	459,401	537,555	5-Yr Totals	5,268,771	237,180	1,798,378	2,766,332