



Welcome to the first issue of the Archives, Statistics, and Research (ASTR) Newsletter! We have introduced a Newsletter because of a growing interest around the world in our shared Adventist heritage and an increasing awareness of the need to preserve the records of our wonderful remnant church. These include rare books, pamphlets, personal manuscripts, and official church documents – the kinds of materials we think of, when we hear the words “historic records”; but they also include photographs, films, and audio and video recordings. *All* of these document “the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history,” as Ellen G. White memorably put it—preserving them means we will not “forget” that history and consequently, we shall “have nothing to fear for the future” (*Life Sketches*, p. 196).

These historic materials are more than tools to ensure that we remember God’s leading in the history of this movement, or that we correctly identify the lessons we should learn from His action in the life of His people. They embody stories that can inspire. Ellen G. White also wrote: “Again and again I have been shown that the past experiences of God’s people are not to be counted as dead facts” (*Manuscript Releases*, 5:455).

Many of these historic materials are not in church archives, records centers, or libraries. They are in the possession of our church members. In ASTR, our desire is to tell the story of how God has worked in the history of this movement. We hope you will help us do that—we’d enjoy telling your stories. Feel free to share them with us!

As director of ASTR for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, I want you to know how much we in ASTR appreciate your interest in “the past experiences of God’s people.” In this newsletter, you will find stories of Adventist history and mission; wonderful, rare photographs from our past; and church statistics and research findings from the present. Enjoy and be blessed.

D. J. B. Trim
Director, ASTR, General Conference



*The Teddy Bear on a Mission:
The Story of the Field Family*

When people are asked to describe a *missionary*, their answer usually depicts a man, alone with a Bible roll tucked under his arm, trekking on foot through various landscapes. Such a picture of Adventist missionaries, however, is woefully incomplete, as many missionaries sent by the Adventist Church were often *families*—young couples, sometimes childless, sometimes not, and all subject to the privations and privileges of mission life.

In the below photograph from July 12, 1908, we see the Field family in Tokyo, Japan. The young boy on the left is eight-year-old Clarence Field, and he's holding a teddy bear which appears to be a prized possession. Teddy bears like his weren't invented until around 1902 or 1903 (the date depends on which of the first two stuffed toy bears one thinks is

the first stuffed toy bear), so we know that Clarence did not bring his bear along with him on his first ship voyage across the Pacific Ocean before then in 1901. Teddy bears got their name from the American president, Theodore Roosevelt, who was commonly called 'Teddy,' after he refused to shoot a bear chained to a tree during a bear-hunting trip in the southern United States.

We do not know how Clarence got his teddy bear—perhaps his parents ordered it for him, or supportive Adventists back in the States sent one to him, or, it is possible, his father, Frank W. Field, had purchased a teddy bear while in Washington, D.C. for the 1905 General Conference Session and brought it back with him to Japan.

Below, L-R: Clarence Field, Effie Field, Ethel Field, unidentified student, Frank Field



Update on the Forthcoming Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists (ESDA)

Frank Field had been appointed superintendent of the Japan Mission (a position equivalent today to a mission president) on July 21, 1901 by the Foreign Mission Board, called from his position as science teacher at Mount Vernon Academy. By early August, the Fields had put their seven-room cottage in Mount Vernon, Ohio, up for sale, and they sailed for Japan on October 29, 1901. Clarence was not quite two years old and Ethel, his older sister, was nearly seven when the Fields arrived in Japan in the fall of 1901. By July 1902, Frank reported to the readers of the *Review* that they were “becoming quite accustomed to our new surroundings.” They returned to the States in 1909, sailing aboard the *Chiyo Maru*, a new Japanese passenger liner, leaving from Hong Kong on March 13, 1909 and arriving in San Francisco, California on April 7, 1909.

The Fields lived in California thereafter for a while, with Frank working as the preceptor and teacher of biological sciences and chemistry at Pacific Union College. From there, the family moved to Tennessee, where Clarence was part of the first graduating class of Southern Missionary College (today’s Southern Adventist University). Later, Clarence and his wife Veva were both educators, teaching at various academies in New York, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Clarence went on to be a professor of history at Emmanuel Missionary College (today’s Andrews University).

Clarence’s sister, Ethel, was also an educator (while her husband, Leonard Allen, was a church administrator) and worked at Oakwood College (today’s Oakwood University) and Mt. Pisgah Academy. However, for most of their career, starting in the mid-1920s, the Allens were missionaries in India, where all four of their children—Ruth, June, Elsie, and Ralph—were born over the course of Ethel and Leonard’s thirty-five years of service there.

Think of all the stories packed into this one photograph—stories of Adventist missionaries and mission stations, of Adventist educators and schools, stretching from one continent to another and back again across the years. The Fields’ stories are a part of our Adventist history, and now they’re a part of your story, too.

Ashlee Chism, MSI
Research Center Manager



The *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists (ESDA)* website is set to launch at the 2020 GC Session with a minimum of 2,000 articles. It will be a free website. At the moment we are halfway to reaching this goal with nearly 1,000 completed articles and 400 accompanying images from all of the world church’s divisions. However, launching the website next year is just the beginning. The *ESDA* contains over 8,500 entries that need to be written on Adventist history, including articles pertaining to various crucial events, people, organizations, institutions, and distinctive teachings. Many articles are from world regions that previously were left out of the Encyclopedia. The *ESDA* will present an international perspective because it draws on the expertise of hundreds of authors and editors worldwide.

After the *ESDA* Online is launched in 2020, it will be constantly updated and expanded as the Adventist Church grows. The *ESDA* needs writers from all parts of the world to write articles on people and events in their territories. Some topics have little or no written documentation. But here is the exciting part: many *ESDA* articles will become foundational sources for future researchers. For more information about the *ESDA* and how you can contribute see <https://www.adventistarchives.org/encyclopedia> or contact the *ESDA* main office at encyclopedia@gc.adventist.org. We invite researchers, teachers, students, and members with expertise on many given subjects—not only history and theology scholars—to contribute articles. We welcome help in other areas, too, including peer reviewing, proofreading, conducting interviews to collect historical information based on traditions, and submitting missionary letters, photographs, and artifacts. Historical nuggets from the *ESDA* articles are shared on Twitter @EncyclopediaSDA and the ASTR Facebook page.

Dragoslava Santrac, PhD
Managing Editor, *ESDA*



*Japan: the Land of the Rising Sun—
And what about the Son?*

Born on the Kamchatka peninsula in eastern Russia, I was always intrigued by the neighboring island country of Japan to the south. Located amid the Pacific Ocean and being washed by the seas of three countries—Russia, the Philippines, and China—Japan has always maintained a distinct uniqueness from its surrounding countries. In ancient times, people believed that it was the place where the sun rose and called it the Land of the Rising Sun. This name became an alternative name for Japan. The sun means a lot in this part of the world. It brings light, life, green landscapes, fresh berries, fruits, and vegetables. It sweeps away seasonal depression, melts snow, clears cloudy skies, and generates joy, healing, and a different outlook to everything people do. And so does Jesus, “the sun of righteousness,” He who “will rise with healing in its rays” (Mal. 4:2).

My dream came true, when my husband and I flew to Japan in May 2018 to be part of the TMI (Total Member Involvement) project at the Tokyo International Church. Going through the streets of Tokyo, which seemed like cleverly designed mazes, I saw many young people hurrying in different directions, and I pondered about this island country containing 127 million people. The country of sushi, seaweeds, chopsticks, kimonos, rice fields, and Buddhist temples—what are these people’s hopes, dreams, and challenges? Do they need the rising hope of God’s Son in the Land of the Rising Sun?

The first local Adventist Church in Japan was organized in 1899—120 years ago. And about four or five years later the Japan Mission was formed.¹ When a photo with the Fields family and a teddy bear was taken, the Japan Mission had already existed for some time. In 1917, when the Russian Empire was swept away by the communist revolution, the Japan Union Conference was organized. About one hundred years later, in 2018, there were more than 15,000 Adventists in the Japan Union. How do they relate to Jesus, “the sun of righteousness”? What about the Son?

According to the findings of the 2018 Church Member Global Survey (see graph at top of page 5), 93% of respondents from the Japan Union believe in a personal God who seeks a relationship with human beings. And even more (97%) believe that salvation is through Jesus Christ alone and that Christ is the Head of the Church (98%). Furthermore, 95% believe that fulfillment of prophecy and events in the world indicate that Christ’s coming is very near, although a smaller majority (72%) are not sure or disagree that it will be during their lifetime. This could be an indication of the predominantly elderly age of respondents, which also reflects the composition of the Adventist Church in Japan today. Adventists in Japan also believe in the power of Jesus: 84% responded that prayer in the name of Jesus is the only way to defeat evil powers and demonic spirits.

The research showed some challenges too. Many respondents (58%) are the first generation of Adventists in their families and need more support from the church. Additionally, there is a room for improvement in areas of devotional life, daily Bible reading, and personal commitment to Jesus.

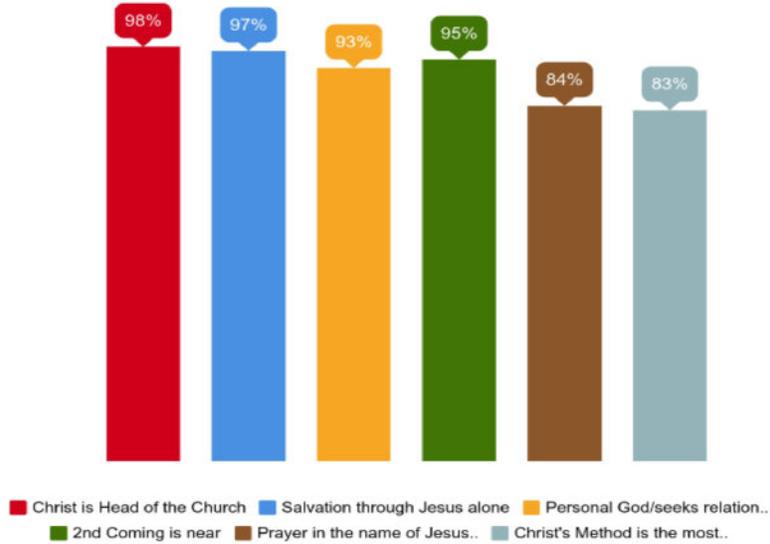
Adventists in Japan also treasure their connection with the global Adventist Church: 73% said that it is important for them that their local church is part of the worldwide Church. Also, a majority (83%) are active members who hold an office in their local church. Most of the survey participants (94%) said that it is very likely or likely they will be attending the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the rest of their life. Many (83%) consider Christ’s method as the most effective method for reaching people for Christ, and 75% think they need to get to know people’s needs before they preach the Gospel to them. Thus, though they certainly face challenges, the Adventists in Japan want to follow Christ’s example and bring the bright hope about the risen Son, “the sun of righteousness,” to the people in this beautiful Land of the Rising Sun!

Galina Stele, DMin
Research and Program
Evaluation Manager



¹ See D. J. B. Trim’s report on the origin and history of the Adventist Church in Japan at <http://documents.adventistarchives.org/Resources/Papers/TheSeventh-dayAdventistChurchInJapan.pdf>.

What about the Son? The 2018 Church Member Survey Japan Union



Update from the Research and Evaluation Team

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” Romans 12:4-5 ESV.

In Romans 12:4-5 the Bible refers to the church as the body of Christ. A body of many members with different gifts, talents and functions can make the Church on the worldwide and local level flourish more fully. When members with different talents

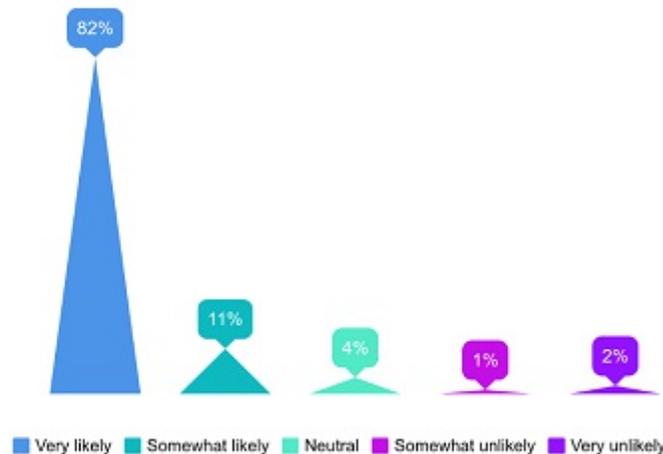
work together to achieve a common goal, Christ can better use them to show what His true love looks like to the people of the world. With this information in mind, some recent research (2018 Global Church Member Survey [GCMS]) looked at the Commitment and Satisfaction of Adventist church members to the Church itself and to their local congregation. The graph below shows some results about this study.

Manuela Coppock
Research Assistant



“How likely is it that you will be attending the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the rest of your life?”

GCMS 2018, Q36, n = 57,825



ASTR Employee Profile – Rowena J. Moore

The Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research performs many functions for the Church, relating both to maintaining and understanding our Adventist history and institutional records, as well as researching and presenting contemporary information, denominational statistics, and human-subject survey data and analysis. What makes all this possible is our incredible team in ASTR.

One of our more longstanding members, who has had a profound impact on helping shape ASTR into what it is today, is Rowena J. Moore. As one of our Assistant Directors in ASTR, as well as the editor of the *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook*, perhaps no one has been more responsible for managing our ongoing institutional data during our most rapidly expansive period of growth around the world than her. You can rest assured that she has faithfully and accurately captured every development in our many unions, conferences, and missions. No one has a greater familiarity with our numerous organizations and institutions around the globe than Rowena. It is to the sorrow of the ASTR team that she will retire following the 2020 General Conference Session at Indianapolis.

After completing her associate degree in Secretarial Science at Walla Walla College (now University) in 1973, Rowena began her denominational employment later that year at the Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital (now Adventist Hinsdale Hospital) in Illinois, where she remained until 1975. From there, she then felt led to pursue foreign service as the administrative assistant to the Secretary of the South American Division. However, following a serious car accident in June 1976, which kept her in a Brazilian hospital for three months, she returned to the United States in October 1976, and remained on temporary disability until November 1977.

Having recovered sufficiently from her injuries, Rowena then returned to denominational employment, this time as an administrative assistant in the General Conference Secretariat, where she remained until 2002. Here she performed a wide variety of duties, including processing missionaries to serve overseas, and preparing the 1995 and 2000 editions of the *Church Manual*. During her time working for the Secretariat, she traveled back to Brazil to assist with secretariat training for the Church there, and also spent time in Russia helping

set up the offices of the Euro-Asia Division headquarters.

In March 2002, Rowena made the wise decision to join the Office of Archives and Statistics (as it then was) as the *Yearbook* editor, where she has been responsible for updating and preparing the annual *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook*—a very daunting task. Through her faithful diligence in preparing the *Yearbook*, she has made the work of many church employees more effective.

During her time with ASTR, Rowena has enjoyed helping with many other duties and functions, from participating in GC Secretariat strategic planning, to serving as one of the two recording secretaries for the 2005 and 2010 General Conference Sessions, to serving as a delegate at the 2015 Session, a role she will reprise in 2020. Additionally, she has enjoyed the opportunity to advertise the ASTR office and its many helpful resources and tools at a number of conventions, such as ASI and GYC, and also represents the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a member and board member of the interdenominational Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies.

Rowena is a greatly valued member of the ASTR team! Her calmness and patience in processing the seemingly innumerable details pertaining to our worldwide organizations and institutions is remarkable. Her friendly demeanor amongst her colleagues worldwide is greatly appreciated. She will be sorely missed by her ASTR friends and other colleagues following the 2020 GC Session, but we wish her all the best as she looks forward to her retirement. Thank you, Rowena, for being part of the ASTR family!



*Latest Seventh-day Adventist World Church
Interesting Facts and Figures*

As of 2018, our data shows that a new church is organized every 4.09 hours, with 157 new accessions (through either baptism or profession of faith) every hour! Praise God for the continuing work of His Spirit upon human hearts all around the world in diverse cultures and contexts.

Kathleen Jones
Editor of the *Annual Statistical Report*



Please Share Your Stories with Us!

We at ASTR hope you enjoyed our latest insights into the Adventist Church and its history—which includes the stories of its members! If you enjoyed the newsletter, please share it with your family and friends and encourage them to sign up for this quarterly publication! Email us at: astrnewsletter@gc.adventist.org.

