

Country | Condensed Article Guidelines
Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists

This article will be the go-to source on Adventist history in the country, and so should meet the high standard that all ESDA articles will achieve: thoroughly researched, primary-source based, information-rich, clearly written, accurate, honest, comprehensive, engaging, authoritative, and written for both Adventists and the wider public. The steps in this guide will help you to write such an article.

Title

Begin your article with the title and your name (as you want it to appear) on the line below it.

Organization

The layout of the article can follow one of two models: chronological, in which the history of the Adventist work in the country is traced from its origins to the present; or one that begins with a brief overview of the history of the work, and then goes more in-depth by theme in separate sections (e.g., membership growth, significant eras, certain administrations or war periods, etc.). When including dates in this article, please try as often as possible to include day, month, and year. Endnotes adhering to the Turabian style should be used (See Documentation Manual here: <https://www.adventistarchives.org/author-materials>).

Below the first model is outlined.

- I. Vital Statistics
- II. Overview
- III. Origins
- IV. Pioneers
- V. Spread and development of the message
- VI. Institutions
- VII. Church administrative units
- VIII. Important points in membership
- IX. Effect of political developments on SDA work
- X. Adventism's place in the country
- XI. Challenges to mission and what remains to be done

I. Vital Statistics

ESDA Online will have a mechanism that automatically generates the most current line of the following statistics from the *Annual Statistical Report*

(<http://documents.adventistarchives.org/Statistics/ASR/ASR2016.pdf>), pages 88-91: ordained ministers, churches, companies, church membership, population estimate, Adventist deaths per thousand, general population deaths per thousand, church membership per million population, population per member ratio, % net membership growth.

II. Overview of Country

This will be a brief section, and so the goal of conciseness should be kept in mind. The Adventist presence in your country did not arise in a vacuum: there is a rich and essential history of the peoples and their country. So outline very broadly the history of the country: where its people came from and who they were; how the territory became a nation; the size and geographical description of the territory (when relevant); something of the language and culture of the people; the political structures and significant leaders of the country; the religions of the people; and wars, alliances, and other developments that shaped the national course. This information should shed light on Adventism's progress and development in the nation. Although it may vary from country to country, try to keep this section below one thousand words.

III. Origins

How did the Adventist message first find its way to the country? Through mailed literature? A literature evangelist? Radio broadcast? Transient laborers? Trace the origins and present them. If there is a controversy as to when the message first arrived, present the sides, and then share which side the evidence seems to support most. Be sure to distinguish and lay out the different start dates, so the reader can be aware that there is more than one. Even if there isn't a controversy, but you are suspicious of the traditional account of origins, challenge the tradition in your research to see if it is accurate and when appropriate express your reason for second-guessing the accepted date.

Be as specific as possible in this Origins section. Find out the name(s) of the first Adventists in the country, or even the first who kept the seventh-day Sabbath. Specify the location, as well. If the message first came via mailed literature, try to determine from whence it came, who sent it, and the titles of the publications. There are many myths and legends surrounding the beginning of Adventism in certain countries, and this is an opportunity for these to be verified or disproven by an expert—you.

IV. Pioneers

This section goes beyond Origins, although parts may overlap. The pioneers are those who were initially instrumental in spreading the Adventist message. Make it a point to highlight not only the official ministers sent to the country by the church, but also the indigenous or native workers, who have often been overlooked in histories, and literature evangelists and self-supporting missionaries. Also make a concerted effort to highlight *all* of the pioneer missionaries—the husband and wife, as well as children when germane. What did these pioneers do to spread the message, what were their methods, and how effective was it? How did it influence the subsequent efforts there?

In any given country, there will be many pioneers at various times and places in the Adventist work in that country. There will be the original pioneers—the first Adventists in the country, the first Adventist missionaries/ministers—and then there will be pioneers in certain regions, or among certain people groups in the nation. Oftentimes, a later pioneer came to a certain area in the nation for that first time, fifty years after the initial pioneer started the Adventist work in the country but on the opposite side; that later pioneer might as well be on another planet. Although it may be tedious or impossible to mention all of these later pioneers, try to include them as often as you can.

V. Spread and development of the message

Like the manner in which Adventism entered a country, your article should trace the spread and development of Adventism in the country. This aspect of the article will include people, institutions, ministries, media, and other ways that the gospel was disseminated and took root. Record how the church gained a foothold in the major regions, cities, provinces, states, and among the people of the country.

VI. Institutions

Though not a separate category, per se, this is important enough to mention on its own. Inevitably, whenever the Adventism became established in a country, Adventist institutions followed. Highlight the role that schools, churches, clinics, sanitariums, hospitals, orphanages, and other institutions had in the growth of the church in the nation.

VII. Church administrative units

Church administrative units are the Seventh-day Adventists Church's administrative structures organized to forward the spread of the gospel in the area in which they are established. They include divisions, unions, conferences, missions, regions, mission stations, field stations. Often, a single country will have many units, depending on its size. How did these units contribute to the growth of Adventism in your country? When official missionaries were sent to the country, what board of administrative unit sent them? Many times, the growth of Adventism in the country will necessitate the organization of a unit. Briefly describe how this

happened with the units in your country. Remember: The country article differs from the church administrative unit article in that the country article centers on the history of Adventism in the country as a whole, while the church administrative unit focuses on the history of the unit itself.

VIII. Important points in membership

Although not a statistical article, this article should chart the important points in the Adventist membership in a country, as this has been a traditional means to measure the effectiveness of missionaries, ministers, ministries, institutions and units in a country. What these important points are will vary from country to country, be it attaining a membership of 1,000, 10,000, or 100,000; a spike in a year from 100,000 to 300,000; a ratio of 1 Adventists to 10 non-Adventists; or four consecutive years of 10,000+ accessions.

IX. Effect of political developments on SDA work

The Adventist Church has never been an island, totally immune and indifferent to political and governmental developments. On the contrary, in many countries, the Adventist work has been immensely impacted by national regimes, state laws, and political intrigues. If these have had a significant influence on the church and its growth, show how.

X. Adventism's place in the country

How has the Adventist Church impacted the country? Has the church made significant contributions in politics, humanitarianism, education, medicine, media, or some other area? In countries in which the Adventist presence is prevalent and influential, this section will be key, especially in nations in which the Adventist/population ratio is 10% or greater.

XI. Challenges to mission and what remains to be done

What have been historical challenges to mission in the country, and what are the current challenges? What remains to be done in the country to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20, Revelation 14:6-12)?

Sources

The sources section (like a bibliography or works cited page) should list all of the sources used to write the article, and others that may be helpful to the reader. Use the Turabian format (See Documentation Manual here: <https://www.adventistarchives.org/author-materials>).

Additional Helps

The materials for ESDA authors can be found here: <https://goo.gl/YklFzg>

Submission

Each individual who writes an article for the *Encyclopedia* will have an Author Page on the ESDA website. This page will include a brief biography and links to all of the ESDA articles that the author wrote. Please submit in a *separate* Word document from the main article a bio of yourself no longer than three sentences. This can include any information you like, but usually covers things like birthplace, education, career, accomplishments, publications, hobbies, and family. Please send this bio to your assistant editor.

You are now ready to submit your article. There are two ways in which this can be done. First, if you have completed your article before the due date, email your editor notifying him that you are ready to submit the article. The editor will then send you a link that you will click and follow the instructions to upload the article. Second, around the time of the due date an email will arrive from your editor with the link and submission instructions. After you have uploaded the article you will receive an email confirmation that it has been received, and then you will wait for the editor to contact you further.