

November 1999

57th General Conference Session 2000

PLACE: SkyDome and Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Canada

DATES: **June 25 - June 29 (Sunday - Thursday)**
World Ministers Council
June 29 - July 08 (Thursday - Sabbath)
General Conference Session

THEME: *Almost Home*

You're Going to Love Toronto

If you walk outside the Metro Toronto Convention Centre during the General Conference Session next June, you'll find hot dog vendors on the sidewalk—with veggie hot dogs! The hot dogs have a little tang and zip from a pleasing blend of spices. And they're longer than the bun!

You're going to love Toronto.

Suppose it rains one day during GC Session. If you can dash across the street to the Canadian Broadcasting Centre, you can then walk 15-20 blocks underground. Toronto has a great underground pathway that lets you walk all over downtown and stay out of the elements.

You're going to love Toronto.

Toronto is clean, safe, and convenient. People walk down city streets that are free of litter and trash at all hours of the day until late at night. There's a subway system that's inexpensive and efficient, and it's just one block from the Convention Centre. There's Eaton Centre, a spacious, wonderful shopping mall that's just a 15-minute walk from the SkyDome.

Restaurants abound in the downtown area, and the menus routinely feature vegetarian choices. The restaurants range from inexpensive fast-food facilities to elegant fine dining, and most will be adding additional vegetarian choices to their menus just for GC Session. (And of course, the largest vegetarian restaurant in the world, at least for the 10 days of GC Session, will operate in the

Convention Centre providing inexpensive and healthful meals to delegates and visitors.)

Within just a few blocks of the SkyDome is a symphony hall, the Lake Ontario waterfront, an excellent public library, the Toronto central train station, and almost all of the hotels used by GC Session delegates.

You're going to love Toronto.

What kind of a city is Toronto?

- **Toronto is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world.** People from every continent and more than 100 nations live in Toronto. There are newspapers in more than 40 languages, ranging from Arabic to Chinese, from Italian to Portuguese. Neighborhoods along Bloor Street feature Ghanaian stores in one block, then Jamaican stores two blocks further down the street.
- **Toronto has about 4 million residents.** This big city has almost every product available and service offered that you can imagine. Medical care is among the best in the world. Financial centers can fund massive building projects and change your foreign currency. Need service for a computer? No problem. This is one of the best communities in the world for meeting your needs.
- **Toronto has plenty of recreational things to do, if you can tear yourself away from the GC Session.** Niagara Falls is approximately 75 miles away. Toronto Island is less than a mile away from the SkyDome, but it could just as well be 500 miles from the hustle and bustle of downtown. The Ontario Centre is a little more than a mile away, but can provide a pleasant day's entertainment like Disney World—at a much more attractive price. The Ontario Science Centre, art museums and galleries, downtown fountains and performing arts centers, and other places will tempt you.

Restaurants with veggie-friendly menus, family outings and activities, convenience for shopping and finances, safety and cleanliness. You're going to love Toronto!

[Kermit Netteburg]

First GC Session to be Uplinked Globally

For the first time in history, people can view General Conference Session 2000 in Toronto on television from every continent of the world.

Every weekday, three hours of Session events, sermons, music, and reports will be uplinked to seven footprints, and can be watched in Siberia, Sydney, South Africa, and thousands of other sites around the world. On Sabbaths, there will be approximately six hours of sermons, reports, and mission events uplinked.

The programs will be carried around the world by AGCN (Adventist Global Communication Network). In North America, ACN (NAD's Adventist Communication Network) will distribute the signal. It will also be carried by ADSAT, the Brazil-based satellite distribution system covering most of the Western Hemisphere. The signal will be available to other private distribution organizations such as 3ABN.

AGCN's director, Brad Thorp, commented that "this will be the most widely viewed satellite event in Adventist history. It is the first time we know of when any denomination has shared daily reports from a world convention."

The General Conference Session in Utrecht in 1995 was watched by viewers in North and South America. In 2000, the whole world will be watching.

To make this happen, a team of people from nearly every continent on earth will pool their talents and technical skills. The same team will supply sound and image magnification to persons attending the Session in the SkyDome.

The General Conference will use its giant encoder which is capable of digitally encoding one video signal and up to 40 audio signals (with some redundancy). Another encoder, which can handle up to 16 languages, will also be in use. Different languages can be beamed to various footprints, making it possible to broadcast around the world in nearly 100 languages.

Translators will be provided by the divisions, unions, or other denominational entities desiring that language. The General Conference will provide translation booths and equipment.

Each evening's mission report will be uplinked, as well as a summary of the day's activities and a sampling of sermons, interviews, and music. Mark Finley, Speaker-Director of *It Is Written*, will be the anchor.

The two Sabbath sermons, as well as the Sabbath

afternoon programs and Saturday night events, will be uplinked.

Co-directors of the audio-video broadcast of the General Conference Session will be Ray Tetz, president of Mind Over Media, and Warren Judd, president of the North American Division's Adventist Media Production Center. They will bring with them their staffs, plus scores of other professionals. [Phil Follett]

Global Mission

The cutting-edge work of Global Mission around the world will be featured throughout the GC Session 2000.

1. The Global Mission Stage in the Exhibition

Hall: Each day the exhibition hall will come alive with non-stop Global Mission programming. A large, central Global Mission stage will run continuously throughout the week (10-6 Monday to Thursday; 10-4:30 Friday). There will be several hundred seats available on first-come basis.

The Global Mission stage will be a highlight of the Session. Some of the church's best preachers will address the challenge: "If I had only 15 minutes to preach." Global Mission pioneers will share experiences from the frontline of mission. The church's best musicians will share their talents. Groups taking the stage to share their part in the church's Global Mission will include ADRA, AWR, *It Is Written*, the *Adventist Review*, Women's Ministries, and Maranatha Volunteers International.

At the Session, printed sheets of each day's activities on the Global Mission stage will be distributed. Those attending can choose the items they don't want to miss.

2. Sabbath Afternoon, July 1: On the first Sabbath afternoon of the Session, a 90-minute Global Mission program will feature frontline mission from around the world and report on what Global Mission has achieved in the past five years. It will portray why mission is still the heart of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

From the deserts of northern Africa to the secular cities of Australia, Global Mission is penetrating the most difficult areas of the world. Hear of progress as well as challenges.

For further information on Global Mission at the GC Session 2000, keep checking www.global-mission.org. If you have any suggestions or questions, contact Gary Krause, Global Mission Communication director either by telephone: 301-680-6614, or e-mail: 102555.325@compuserve.com [Gary Krause]

AWR to Broadcast Session from Toronto

Adventist World Radio was an active participant in the events of GC Session '95 in Utrecht, Holland. Attendees at that Session may remember the eye-catching display and studio complex AWR operated at the entrance to the exhibit area. Through large windows, visitors could watch the intense activity as radio program producers from around the world scrambled to meet broadcast deadlines and datelines.

“We plan to be just as active in Toronto,” says AWR president Don Jacobsen. “Our plan is to make GC Session as exciting to those around the world who will listen to the broadcasts as to those who are able to be there in person.”

From an auspicious location, again at the entrance to the huge exhibit area, AWR plans to share the excitement of broadcasting to all the world from the SkyDome with Session participants. “Our goal is to display not only the scope of AWR’s activities around the world in a formal exhibit, but also to make the broadcast activities visible to everyone who enters the exhibit area,” says Max Church, AWR vice-president for Development.

To accomplish their objectives, AWR will occupy one of the largest display areas at the Session. “We will need this space to house the studios, editing rooms, announce booths and our open display area,” says Church. “Visitors to our site will not only be able to watch professional broadcasters at work but will be able to participate in several interactive modules, such as computer data banks and a recording studio.”

“The display area will emphasize broadcast technology in use by AWR to reach the remotest places of earth,” Church adds. “It will be obvious to everyone who visits us there that the Church is on the cutting edge of technology in its mission to give the gospel to the world, using shortwave, satellite, AM, FM and the Internet.”

AWR will provide daily programs in the four official languages of the Session: English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. Several other languages are expected to be aired as well by program producers in other major tongues. Greg Scott, AWR’s program director at the Session, says, “In addition to the official language programs, other languages will be produced in the AWR complex as decided by our producers around the world, including Kiswahili, Mandarin Chinese, Romanian, Russian and others.”

To accommodate the production schedule, an extensive digital studio suite will be installed as part of the AWR exhibit. A large computer editing room will serve approximately 25 broadcasters who will bring recordings of interviews, music and events for final editing. A modern set of studios will provide all-digital mix down facilities where the final programs will be recorded. Once completed, the programs will be transferred to a satellite uplinking station for distribution to international shortwave stations, local stations and networks around the globe.

AWR expects to involve nearly 50 people in its efforts in Toronto. Regular staff will be joined by volunteers to staff the exhibit and studio complex nearly around the clock. “Since choice broadcast times vary as the world turns,” explains Scott, “we will operate nearly 24 hours each day to accomplish our mission.”

“GC Sessions are a challenge for us,” says Jacobsen, “because we want to expose the world to the excitement of the Session activities, yet we are on a very limited budget for coverage of an event of such a gigantic scale. We will have to rely on our regular staff to put in the overtime and effort needed to make this a success. But it will be worth it, to demonstrate to church members worldwide how God is using this special radio ministry to reach the unreachable. [Allen R. Steele]

Translation Services at the Toronto Session—Part II

Interpretation equipment will be furnished by ISTS, from Toronto.

We are refining the list of languages which will be simultaneously interpreted and transmitted via radio and they stand as follows at this date: Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian/Croatian, Spanish.

The expenses for equipment and some manpower is shouldered by the General Conference and the rest is equitably funded by various divisions as follows:

- Africa-Indian Ocean Division—French
 - Euro-Asia Division—Russian
 - Euro-Africa Division—German, Romanian
 - Inter-American Division—Spanish
 - North American Division—Italian, Serbian-Croatian
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- Northern Asia-Pacific Division—Japanese, Korean
- South American Division—Portuguese

Here is a list of individuals (with phone numbers or e-mail addresses) selected by the Divisions to be Anchor-Interpreters/Coordinators in Toronto:

- French: Daniel Latchman, Canada, telephone: 450 651 5222
- German: Frieder Schmid, Germany, telephone: 49 511 97 17 70
- Italian: Giuseppe de Meo, Canada, e-mail: vds@idirect.ca
- Japanese: Shoko Tsuji, Canada, telephone: 416 665 2219, e-mail: y88tsuji@sympatico.ca
- Korean: Juheok Nam, USA, telephone: 616 471 6437, e-mail: namjh@andrews.edu
- Portuguese: Wilson H. Andruveit, Brazil, office telephone: 55 61 345 1818, home telephone: 55 61 380 1082, e-mail: wilson@dsa.org.br
- Romanian: Adrian Bocanenu, Romania, telephone: 40 1 312 92 53
- Russian: Lioudmila Melnik/Michael Kaminsky, Russia, telephone: 7 095 468 6500
- Serbian-Croatian: Branco Dedic, USA, telephone: 773 539 5088
- Spanish: Sergio Moctezuma, USA, telephone: 305 443 7471
- Deaf: Kay Thompson, USA, telephone: 402 483 2731 or 402 477 3346

These Anchor-Interpreters will be helped by a host of interpreters.

If you would like to volunteer your services for a particular language, please contact the corresponding Anchor-Interpreter or Dr Gerard Latchman at telephone: 301 680 6478 or 301 625 0190, or e-mail: 72731.2362@compuserve.com

Please remember to bring your own FM radio set and earphones. We will accommodate any other language group that requests interpretation in Toronto. But, it will be live and not via radio. [Gerard Latchman]

Theme of the Session:

From the action of the General Conference Session Program Committee: The theme for the General Conference Session in Toronto “Almost Home” is to express and support in its varied presentations, the concept of Seventh-day Adventists as a People of Hope.

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