

GCDO
April 14, 2003

**Positioning the
Church for 2020**

April 2003

THE WORLD CONTEXT

- World population projections for 2025 average 8.5 billion

The most populous countries	Population 2001 (millions)	Population 2025 (millions)
China	1,273	1,431
India	1,033	1,363
United States	285	346

- Population growth will be greatest in poor nations

THE WORLD CONTEXT

- Disintegration of traditional family life
 - Growth of non-traditional family groupings
- Urbanization: 41 cities with five million or more; 23 more by 2015
- Average age: decreasing in developing world
 - Aging in developed world

THE WORLD CONTEXT

- Widespread poverty in developing world
 - More than 150 million children under 5 years are malnourished
- AIDS and other scourges, especially in Africa, India and China
 - Ebola; Malaria; Measles, Smallpox; Polio, SARS
- Great numbers of refugees transnational
 - From "have-not" to "have" societies
- Pollution of air and water
 - Natural disasters

THE WORLD CONTEXT

- Rise of non-Christian religions
- Secularism
 - Religion becoming irrelevant

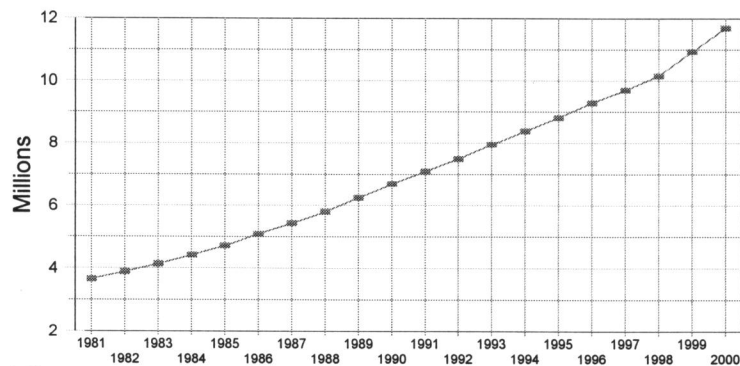
World Population by Religion. (2000)	
Christians	1,999,564
Muslims	1,188,243
Nonreligious	768,159
Hindus	811,336
Buddhists	359,982
Atheists	150,090
New-religionists	102,356
Ethno-religionists	228,367
Sikhs	23,258
Jews	14,434
Others	409,260

THE WORLD CONTEXT

- Global poverty: 50 percent of the entire world population now lives in absolute poverty.

THE CHURCH OF THE PAST—1981 to 2000

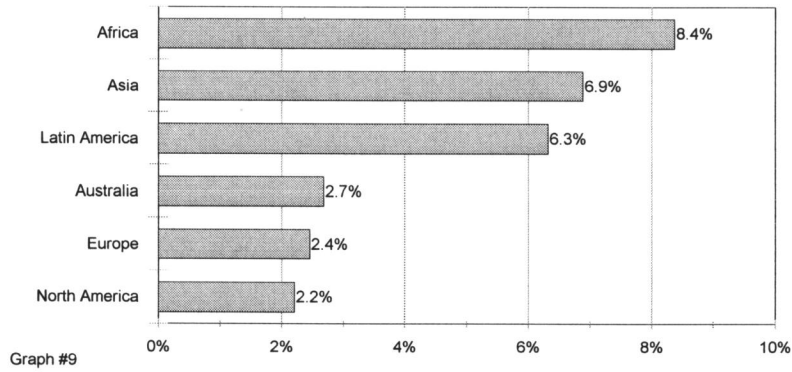
Global SDA Membership
Growth (1981-2000)



Graph #1

THE CHURCH OF THE PAST—1981 to 2000

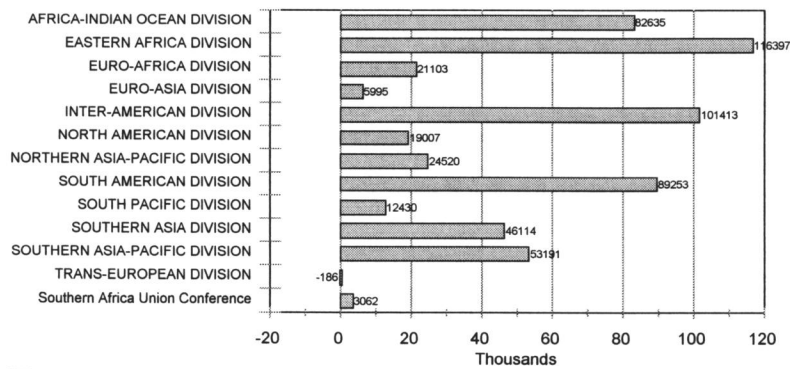
SDA by Continents
Average Growth Rate (%) 1981-2000



Graph #9

THE CHURCH OF THE PAST—1981 to 2000

SDA by Divisions
Average Annual Net Growth 1996-2000

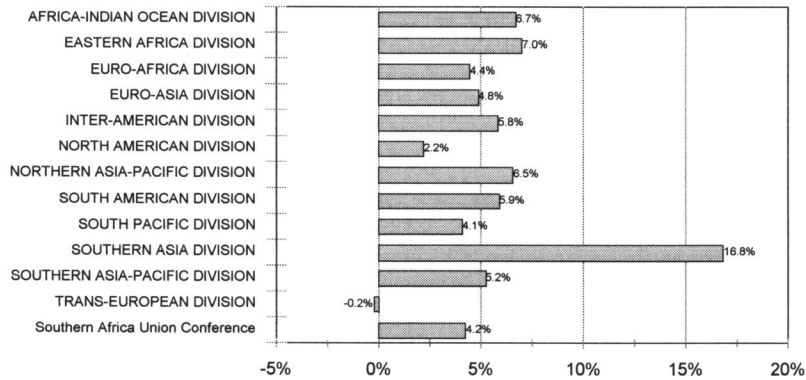


Graph #10

THE CHURCH OF THE PAST—1981 to 2000

SDA by Divisions

Average Annual Growth Rate % 1996-2000

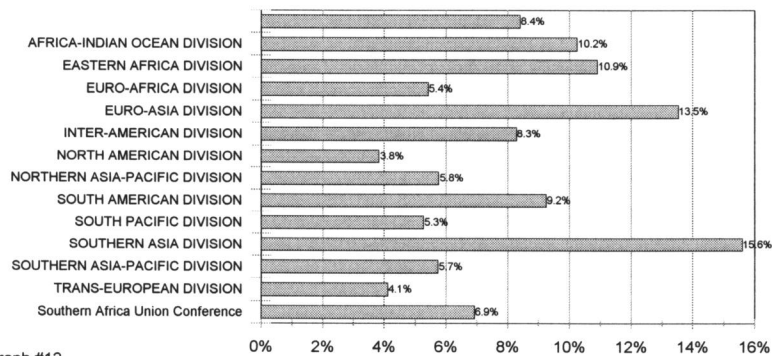


Graph #11

THE CHURCH OF THE PAST—1981 to 2000

SDA by Divisions

Average Accession Rate (%) 1996-2000

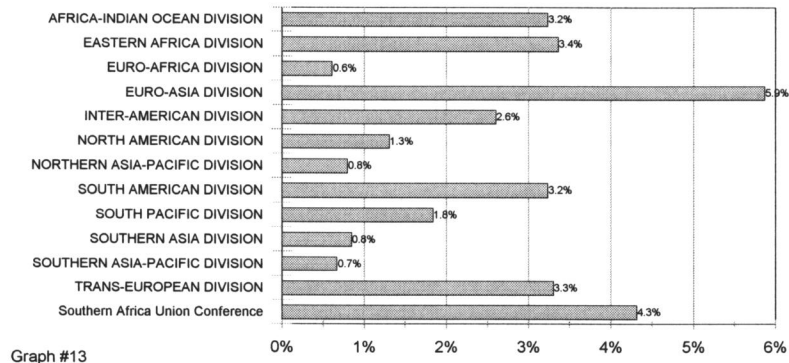


Graph #12

THE CHURCH OF THE PAST—1981 to 2000

SDA by Divisions

Average Drop/Miss Rate (%) 1996-2000

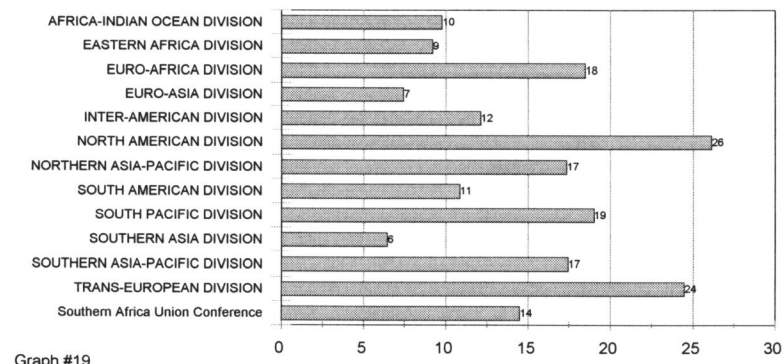


Graph #13

THE CHURCH OF THE PAST—1981 to 2000

SDA by Divisions

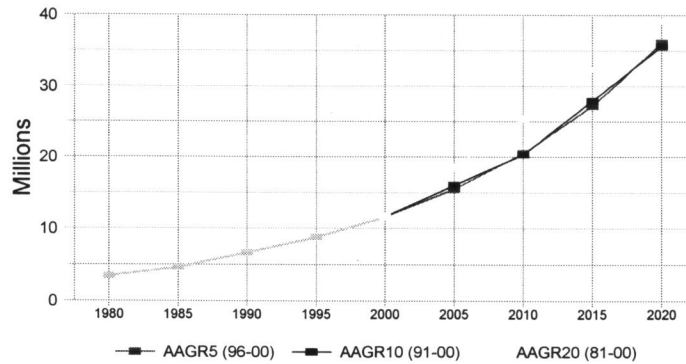
Average Members per Baptism 1996-2000



Graph #19

THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE

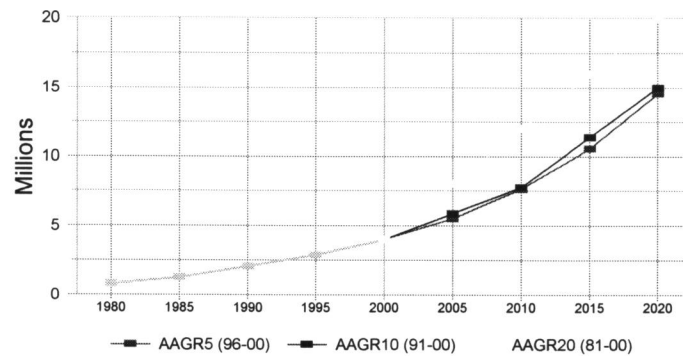
Global SDA Membership Projected Growth



Graph #20

THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE

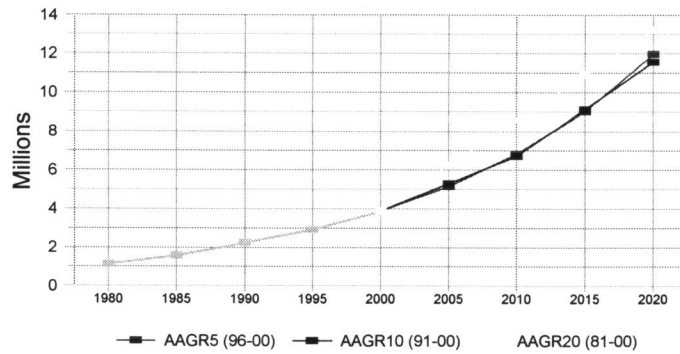
Africa SDA Membership Projected Growth



Graph #34

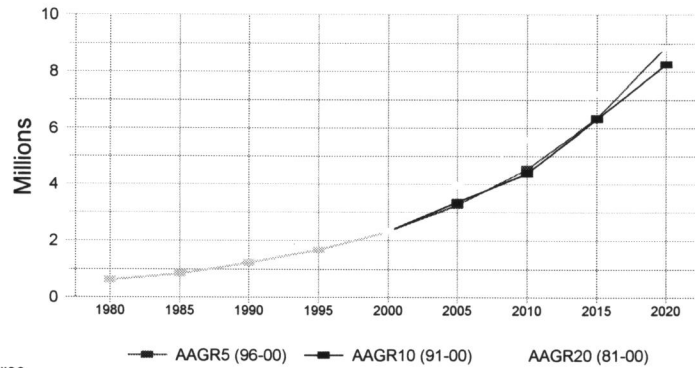
THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE

Latin America SDA Membership Projected Growth



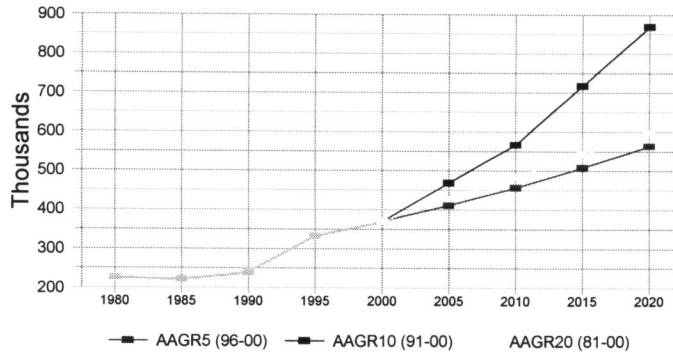
THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE

Asia SDA Membership Projected Growth



THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE

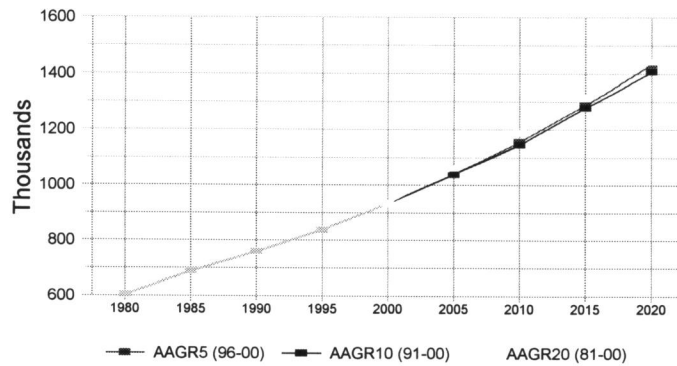
Europe SDA Membership Projected Growth



Graph #37

THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE

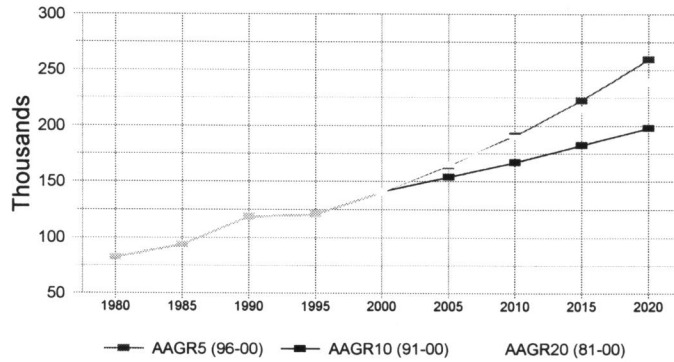
North America SDA Membership Projected Growth



Graph #38

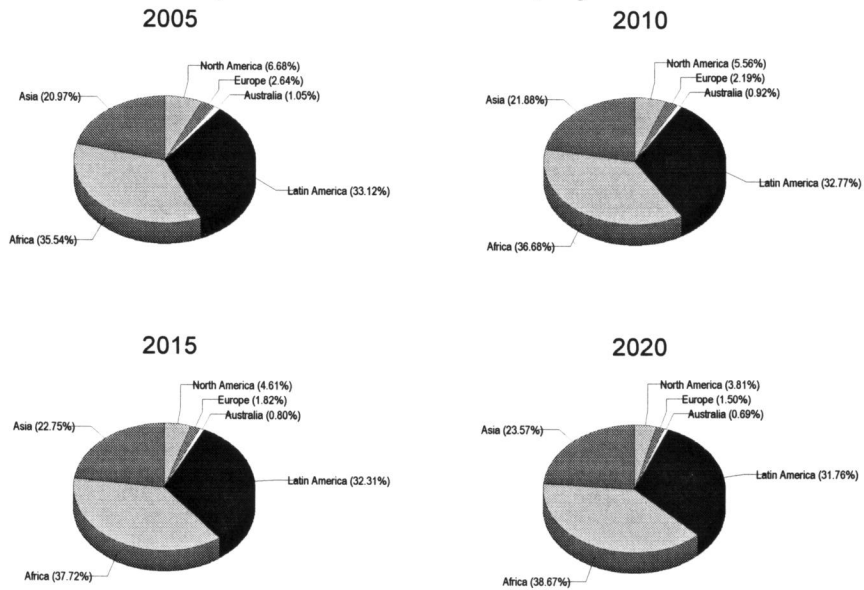
THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE

Australia SDA Membership Projected Growth



Graph #39

Projected SDA Membership by Continents



Graph #41

Summary

- 1985: Nearly 15% of world membership is in North America
- 2020: Less than 4% of world membership is in North America
- The growth of the population and the growth of the church tend to parallel each other in geography and economic resources

UNITY

Spiritual & Ecclesiastical

RATIONALE

By 2020.....

- Membership will be 50 million+ from diverse cultures, languages, and socio-economic levels



RATIONALE

By 2020.....

- Only about 12.5% of the Adventists will have been baptized Adventist in the year 2000



Biblical Authority

The loyalty and vision of elected church leaders will be critical to future unity. The Church must nurture a leadership culture that understands the Biblical basis of church unity, authority, responsibility, and accountability, and understands and accepts the current application and expectations of such authority as integral to unity.

RECOMMENDATIONS -1

1a. THAT the church define the authority and loyalty characteristics of leadership.

Further.....

- ✓ The Church plan and schedule a process of events that would serve to build consensus around a clear understanding of a defined biblical leadership culture
- ✓ A symposium just prior to 2005 GC Session

Symposium could include...

- A keynote address that carefully describes the rationale and objectives for the symposium
- A paper describing the projected diverse future of the church
- A paper on church authority and responsibility as described in the Bible

Symposium could include....

- A paper on church authority and responsibility as described in the writings of Ellen White
- A paper reviewing current policy statements on church authority, responsibility and accountability
- A panel discussion on what emerges from the above presentations

Symposium could include...

- Questions and comments from the floor
- A panel discussion which examines case studies on leadership loyalty

Symposium could include...

- The appointment of a writing committee to develop a statement which should answer 3 questions:
 - What is Biblical church unity, authority and responsibility?
 - What is the process by which alternate opinions on governance and methodology can be considered?
 - What is the expected understanding and support of church authority and responsibility by executive officers of the church?

Symposium could include...

- An appropriate statement for endorsement by Annual Council or the General Conference Session

RECOMMENDATIONS -1

1b. REQUEST IBMTE to develop a curriculum on servant leadership authority and responsibility to be integrated into undergraduate and graduate programs of theological and religious education

RECOMMENDATIONS- 1

1c. REQUEST Ministerial Association to design and implement a teaching/ education program for clergy that establishes the leadership profile that emerges from the symposium.

GROWTH

QUALITY OF LIFE

Contextualized Material

RATIONALE

- Church mission is just beginning to impact the 10/40 WINDOW which represents 65% of the world population and less than 14% of the SDA membership

- Contextualized material is one of the foundations to successful growth
- Today, the church is sending front line workers to first time mission areas with little or no contextualized material

- Many groups will wait years for the first translated page of Ellen White's writings.
- Church is far behind in developing, producing, and teaching the use of contextualized materials

RECOMMENDATIONS -3

- 2a. Each Division to define a beginning minimal core of materials for each "new work" area
- 2b. DEVELOP a proposal to reallocate budgets to religious study centers which will be charged with responsibility for developing contextualized materials

RECOMMENDATIONS - 3

- 2c. Contextualized material will not be printed until it has been approved by the Division Reading Committee

QUALITY OF LIFE

UNITY

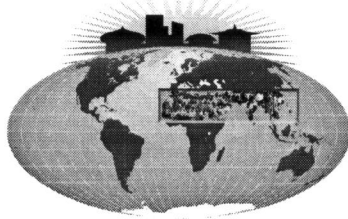
GROWTH

Church Programs

RATIONALE

- 5 new "churches" and 5 new congregations added each day
- Growth of believers in newly entered population areas
- Large membership growth in regions with depressed economies and limited funds results in minimal programs & few trained personnel

Since 1990, membership in the
10/40 WINDOW increased 240%



rest of the world increased 87%

- Infrastructure surrounding new growth lacks resources including experienced personnel
 - Limited Sabbath School Programs
 - Lack knowledge of church operated schools
 - Limited understanding of stewardship
 - Limited lay training
 - Limited prayer meetings
 - Few have access to EGW writings
 - Lack of participation in most of the church programs
 - Limited concept of belonging to a global church family

- Departmental programs are largely designed to stabilize, nurture, disciple and unify the membership

RECOMMENDATIONS - 4

- 3a. IDENTIFY Missions whose resources severely limit their ability to implement with quality the major programs of the church;
- 3b. DEVELOP a phase-in strategy that would identify and initiate programs

RECOMMENDATIONS - 4

- 3c. SOLICIT conferences/ unions, in harmony with the "Donor Conference Proposal", to sponsor interdivision budget or finance a "generalist"

RECOMMENDATIONS - 4

- 3d. DEVELOP minimum amount of materials to be used by the "generalist" establishing programs in the churches of new work areas.

QUALITY OF LIFE

UNITY

GROWTH

Leadership Training

RATIONALE

- Many areas of the world still operate with less than qualified personnel.
- By 2020, church will largely have a new membership far more diverse than currently expressed.

- Leadership positions are critical
- Formal education in most cases is not specific to church leadership roles

- Training has been availability driven as opposed to need-strategy driven
- Training can be initiated at the national level and offered at local churches

RECOMMENDATIONS - 5

Office of Leadership Training...

- 4a. IDENTIFY specific leadership skills that will be needed over the next 20 years
- 4b. DEVELOP training courses, curricula and delivery systems that provides skills for specific needs

The END