

GC SSPM 2020 Advisory Minutes

AGENDA

**General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Advisory
/ Will Go Strategic Plan
SSPM Objectives and Key Performance Indicators
July 29, 2020, 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

Welcome and Prayer Session—Ramon and All
Review of GC SSPM Objectives and Key Performance Indicators—Ramon and Jim
Devotional and Greetings—Elder Ted Wilson
Department initiatives update—Ramon & Jim
Ministry Highlights— Kurt, Nina, Justin
Report of IWG strategic plan implementation by division—Division leaders
Conclusion

ATTENDANCE

Nina Atcheson, Paolo Benini, Herbert Boger, Ramon Canals, Udayo Chandra, Edison Choque, May-Ellen Colon, Michael Eckert, Oleg Elkine, Melchor Ferreyra, Meredith Herzel, Jim Howard, Alfred Johnson, Patrick Johnson, Tonny Katsekera, Justin Kim, KH Kim, Vealumun Lorkyaa, Hidayat Masih, Noah Musema, David Ng, Michael Ngwaru, Emile Albert Nlend, Onyenweaku Nnamdi, Uzoma Nwosi, Ashirvad Pandey, Umesh Kumar Pokharel, Leigh Rice, Richard Sabuin, Rex Sahayaraj, Vincent Same, Samuel Telemaque, Hermogenes Villanueva, Dmitriy Zubkov, Vladyslav Zubkov

WELCOME AND PRAYER SESSION

Welcome – Ramon Canals. Acts 4:31. Our plans will not finish the work, only Holy Spirit power.
Opening Prayer – Al Johnson
Worship in Music – Meredith Herzel
Prayer Session – Led by Ramon Canals

REVIEW OF GC SSPM OBJECTIVES AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Presentation: GC Objectives – Ramon Canals, GC SSPM Director, (PPT provided—#2)

Over-all theme: Reach the World

Quinquennium strategy: *I Will Go*

- *I Will Go* is personal. It is not THEY will go.
- *I Will Go* includes all leaders. We can't tell others to go and then stay home. Leaders need to be in the forefront.

2020 – *I Will Go* to Proclaim the Three Angels' Messages

2021 – *I Will Go* to Make Disciples

2022 – *I Will Go* to Be His Witnesses

2023 – *I Will Go* to Share God's Word

2024 – *I Will Go* to Proclaim Christ's Second Coming

SSPM Objectives and Key Performance Indicators

Eight objectives of *I Will Go* relate to SSPM, with 23 key performance indicators.

These objectives fall into three categories: mission, spiritual growth, and leadership.

Mission Objectives

1. IWG Objective 1: to revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young, and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples (Total Member Involvement)
2. IWG Objective 2: to strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities, across the 10/40 Window, among unreached and underreached people groups, and to non-Christian religions
3. IWG Objective 3: to make developing resources for mission to non-Christian religions and belief systems a high priority

Spiritual Growth Objectives

4. IWG Objective 5: to disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives
5. IWG Objective 6: to increase accession retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults
6. IWG Objective 7: to help youth and young adults to place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview

Leadership Objectives

7. IWG Objective 9: to align world church resources with strategic objectives
8. IWG Objective 10: to enhance the transparency, accountability, and creditability of denominational organization, operations, and mission initiatives

GC SSPM is currently working on several big initiatives to achieve these objectives, and more will be added.

Presentation: GC Initiatives – Jim Howard, GC SSPM Associate Director (PPT provided—#3)
GC SSPM over-arching goal: Making Disciples

Two Key Initiatives

1. Revitalize Sabbath School and Personal Ministries

- We believe these are the *heart* and *engine* of the church. But it is not viewed this way everywhere and in all local churches. In some places there are no leaders for SSPM, these vital ministries are lumped into another department.
- The work of spreading the gospel will only be done by the laity. Laity are best mobilized by Sabbath School and Personal Ministries.
- Sabbath School Alive! – Alive.adventist.org, <https://vimeo.com/315970803> (Sabbath School revitalization)
- GROW your Church – GROW.adventist.org (The disciple-making process of Personal Ministries)

2. Development of new Sabbath School Curriculum

- A new curriculum is underway for birth through young adult.
- As a result of piloting and feedback, it was decided to make a course correction and the future is exciting.
- Nina Atcheson is the new curriculum manager, working from Australia.
- Justin Kim, GC SSPM assistant director and inVerse editor, has already launched the new inVerse young adult Sabbath School resource, including a Hope Channel program.
- aliveinjesus.adventist.org
- inversebible.org

Training and Events

GC SSPM department provides training and resources.

Live Training

- SSPM monthly prayer and update meeting – every first Wednesday
- SSPM tri-division convocations
- SSPM in-person and Zoom training
- Total Member Involvement training and support

Strategic Resources

- Community Services & Urban Ministry Certification – May-Ellen Colon
- International Association of Bible Correspondence Schools (IABCS) Visioning Committee develops resources – Kurt Johnson
- Total Member Involvement – book/PPT by Alejandro Bullón
- GROW: Discipleship Handbook—book/ebook (app coming soon)
- GROW: Fundamentals of Faith—book (PPT coming soon)

Divisions are encouraged to obtain from GC SSPM a simple royalty-free license allowing translation and printing of these resources in division publishing houses.

Resource Development Completion Date Goals

- Q4 2020: *Every Member a Disciple*—book/PPT by Alejandro Bullón
- Q4 2020: *GROW: Spread the Word*—book/PPT
 - This book will cover:
 - Spiritual preparation for witnessing
 - How to share your testimony
 - How to have spiritual conversations
 - How to invite people
 - How to have a local church literature ministry
 - How to have a local church media ministry
 - How to engage in group outreach
 - The importance of house-to-house ministry
- Q4 2022: Bible Study Training System—book/guides/PPT
 - While the GROW resource *The Bible Study Handbook* is being developed, it will be released chapter-by-chapter for free download—approximately one chapter/topic posted monthly. Composed of a full Bible study guide and accompanying PowerPoint for each topic, it will include key points, key texts, text explanations, and common questions. When all chapters are complete, it will be made available as one book in print form.
- Q1 2021: New Sabbath School app
- Q2 2021: Update SabbathSchoolpersonministries.org
- Q3 2021: *Sabbath School Alive!*—book/PPT
 - Practical book about:
 - How to train Sabbath School teachers
 - How to develop a Sabbath School mission program
 - The importance of the foundation of Bible study and prayer
 - The Sabbath School format of fellowship
 - The Sabbath School focus of mission
- Q3 2021: Launch aliveinjesus.adventist.org
- Q4 2021: *GROW: Health Ministry Guide*—book/PPT

- Q4 2021: *GROW: Community Outreach Guide*—book/PPT
- Q4 2022: Launch new social media strategy
- Q4 2022: New Personal Ministries app
- Q4 2022: Sabbath School Alive! and GROW training videos
GC SSPM would like to collaborate with divisions to use GC-produced training videos as models for divisions to create training videos in their local languages.
- Q1 2023 or Q1 2024: *Alive in Jesus* Sabbath School curriculum launch

DEVOTIONAL AND GREETING

Devotional Key Points – Elder Ted Wilson

- We are living in an amazing time, just before Jesus’ second coming.
- We could become discouraged with all that is going on around us.
- Don’t bemoan the times—Prophets of old would have done anything to live during these times.
- Use this opportunity when people are asking questions.
- The Lord has provided you as leaders to touch the lives of church members and engage them in Total Member Involvement through Sabbath School and Personal Ministries.
- Ask the Lord to open before you what you can do to help members refocus on proclaiming the three angels’ messages with Christ and his righteousness at the core.
- Now is your time to shine like never before by saying, “I will go!”
- Why **I** and not **we**? Of course, **WE** will go. But we’re not saved as a corporate body. We’re saved as individuals. Whatever culture we are in, our salvation is based on a personal relationship with Jesus. That’s why **I** will go is so important.
- As you focus on the objectives and how you can participate, may you benefit from the discussion and the Holy Spirit’s leading so that you can motivate your members.
- Let’s look at the positive side of working in this pandemic—no travel cost, no jet lag.
- God is allowing us to use these opportunities to keep the church moving ahead and the Holy Spirit is working in dynamic ways across the globe.
- We are going to face challenges far beyond anything we are facing right now. God asks us to use this opportunity now to learn to lean on Him completely because in the future he will be our only refuge.
- Psalm 46—“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” I claim this verse for every SSPM director around the world.
- God gives us the formula to do this: “Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted.”
- The God of Jacob is your strength and he will help you promote Total Member Involvement. You are vital to this role.

- Isaiah 6 records Isaiah taken in vision to God's throne room.
- Rev. 4 also gives a vision of God's throne room, filled with worship, music, adoration, and Seraphim crying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is filled with His glory."
- Soon the earth will be filled with the fullness of his glory, when Jesus returns to conquer forever the prince of darkness.
- During his vision, Isaiah was so scared and filled with feelings of inadequacy.
- We are all like Isaiah. Compared to Christ, we are all inadequate.
- You are not saved by your PhD, your vast experience, or your talent. When you come to God's throne room you are completely inadequate except for the grace of Christ which fills and qualifies you.
- An angel brings a burning coal and puts it on Isaiah's mouth as a symbol of cleansing from sin.
- Then Isaiah hears the voice of the Lord himself. "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"
- Isaiah responds, "Here am I, send me." I will go!
- This phrase was conceived by mission-minded young people at River Platt University in Argentina.
- We along with Isaiah, want to say, "I Will Go."
- All around us people are in terrible conditions. Mostly people are discouraged because of their lack of connection with the Lord.
- Our objective is to point people to the one who can bring them complete healing.
- That's why I will go. And I hope you will go.
- I will be praying for you.
- Thank you from the world church for what you are doing to inspire our church members to live life to the fullest and to pray for the latter rain.

Elder Wilson closed his thoughts with prayer.

Q&A

Q: How do divisions get files to translate the Personal Ministries resources?

A: Email Jim Howard with request. Jim will request the information required for the license agreement. Then Melinda Warden from Review and Herald Publishing Association will provide the license for signing. After the license is signed the files will be provided.

Q: Is the e-book version of *Discipleship Handbook* only available through Amazon? Could it be made available for free?

A: It is currently available for Android, Kindle, or Apple in English for a small charge on Amazon. The goal is to make the resources as accessible as possible. However, when working through a publisher some costs must be recovered before free electronic files may be offered. After an initial period of sales, free availability may be possible.

GC INITIATIVES UPDATES AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

***Alive in Jesus* Sabbath School Curriculum**

GC SSPM is excited to introduce the new Sabbath School curriculum manager, Nina Atcheson, who started last year. After the pause in development due to course corrections, work on the curriculum is moving again at full speed. One course-correction change is a different name: *Alive in Jesus*.

***Alive in Jesus* Curriculum Report** — Nina Atcheson, Curriculum Manager

The new Sabbath School curriculum implements the *I Will Go* Strategic Plan, most strongly connecting with Objectives 5, 6, & 7.

- Objective 5: to disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives
- Objective 6: to increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults
- Objective 7: to help youth place God first and exemplify a Biblical worldview

Four Pillars of the Curriculum

1. Bible—The Bible is a lamp to your feet and a light to your path as it helps you know Jesus.
 - A prop-focused babies' curriculum with simple music will provide a way for families to establish a daily family-worship routine.
 - Beginner, Kindergarten, and Primary levels strategically introduce the Bible narrative. Every daily reading connects the story to the Bible in age-appropriate ways.
 - Junior, Teen, and Youth levels incorporate an increased rigor of Bible study and Bible journaling, teaching young people that the Bible answers life's big questions and instilling the skill of life-changing Bible study.
 - The number one goal of this Bible study is to know Jesus, the Giver of the Word, and to grow in a relationship with Him that will last into eternity.
 - The Bible is the big foundation.
2. Grace—Come to Jesus just as you are.
 - The tone and message of the curriculum is “come” because...
3. Character—When you abide in Jesus, He changes you.
 - By abiding in Jesus (John 15), your character is pruned and shaped.
 - Ellen White says character development is the most important work entrusted to humans.
 - Every lesson will highlight a character trait from the story and make it applicable.

4. Mission—When Jesus changes you, you want to share it.
 - We can't teach truth and grace without empowering them to *go*.
 - Every lesson will incorporate challenging ways to share Jesus.

Alive in Jesus Writing Objectives

- Appeal—warm and winsome
- Clarity—clear and convicting
- Discovery—prompts deep thinking and internalization of the lessons and stories
- Conviction—moves and converts
- Action—naturally compels to witness and service

Other Goals

- The curriculum will seek to nurture the parents of the younger children.
- Nature will be incorporated through nature lessons and challenging children to be outdoors.
- Everyone who reads these lessons will say, “I now know Jesus. I love Him so much. I must tell others. I will go.”

Curriculum Development Prayer Objectives

Please pray for the curriculum development—for Nina, the writers, the designers, and mostly for the young people in our churches. “The teaching of the Bible should have *our freshest thought, our best methods, and our most earnest effort*” (Education pg. 13).

Pray for these things:

- Our freshest thought—seeking God's will for the curriculum every morning
- Our best methods—seeking the very best methods to not just talk “at” the children, but to reach their minds and appeal to their hearts
- Our most earnest effort—seeking absolute excellence for the next generation of our church so that an army of workers are trained to take the gospel to the world

inVerse Curriculum Report — Justin Kim, GC SSPM Assistant Director, *inVerse* Editor (Word doc provided—#4)

- *inVerse* launched last year.
- The format has been well received.
- Many encouraging reports are coming in of how it is being used.
- Prayers and collaboration are solicited.

inVerse incorporates seven steps for Bible study resulting in a full-immersion experience. See video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1Ed5feLvR4>

- inTro—Read the passage
- inScribe—Write out the passage
- inGest—Study the passage
- inTerpret—Interpret and apply the passage
- inSpect—Compare with other scriptures

- inVite—Look for Jesus in the passage
- inSight—Read Spirit of Prophecy insights
- inQuire—Discuss relevant questions with other young adults

inVerse is designed to achieve the KPIs of *I Will Go* through objectives 5, 6, & 7. (See Word doc #4 for details.) Some key point indicators of these objectives are:

- Young adults are binge watching seasons of *inVerse* on Hope Channel.
- Through its advanced, maximum-experience approach, it is stimulating and attracting the most spiritual young adults and activating them to reach out to other young adults.
- It covers distinctive beliefs that may not have been approached before. Two quarters of the year it follows the *Adult Bible Study Guide*. The other two quarters cover young adult issues.
- Using the historical grammatical method of Bible study and writing out the verse really help the student understand how the Bible was written and the theological thought behind the passage.

Community Services Report (Revised) — May-Ellen Colon, Adventist Community Services Intl. Director (PPT provided—#5)

- In 2011, the Community Services & Urban Ministry Certification Program (CS&UMCP), produced by GC SSPM, was launched on the GC SSPM website as an additional course under the International Institute of Christian Discipleship (IICD) resource umbrella, bringing the total number of courses under IICD to seven. (For more information on the IICD resource umbrella, go to <https://www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/iicd>.)
- The goal of the CS&UMCP is to equip church members to demonstrate the love of Jesus and implement the full wholistic ministry of Jesus outside the doors of the church.
- The CS&UMCP was originally taught live in 15 modules, using the provided teaching notes and accompanying PowerPoints. The first live presentation of the entire course of 15 modules was in 2012. This course has since been presented in the majority of the world divisions.
- In 2016, the content of the CS&UMCP course went online on the Adventist Learning Community (ALC) video platform at www.Adventistlearningcommunity.com. This was a partnership project between GC SSPM (Adventist Community Services International) and North American Division Adventist Community Services.
- The ALC online CS&UMCP course contains reformatted content from the original teaching notes and PowerPoints, with the addition of videos, video scripts, resource activities, assignments, and quizzes.
- The online course also includes new PowerPoint slides to accompany the video scripts.
- In July 2020, three additional languages were launched. The entire CS&UMCP course is now available in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese. Videos are in English

but are closed-captioned in the other languages. The new PowerPoints are also available in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

- Video scripts and PowerPoint presentations may be downloaded and translated in other languages to create local programs. (The new PowerPoint presentations are available only in English, French, Spanish & Portuguese and cannot be manipulated to accommodate other languages.)
- Everything is free.
- Two Continuing Education Units (CEU's) are available upon completion of the Adventist Learning Community CS&UMCP course.
- A course-completion certificate for the Adventist Learning Community CS&UMCP course will be automatically generated.
- A disaster response course produced by North American Division Adventist Community Services is available in English on Adventist Learning Community.
- Divisions may add the Adventist Learning Community link to their e-learning platforms.

Bible Correspondence Schools Report – Kurt Johnson, GC SSPM Assistant Director, International Association of Bible Correspondence Schools Director, via video

Seven Tips for Developing Bible Correspondence Schools in Your Division

- Tip #1: Smart phone sharing on social media. Add invitations to your email footers, members invite through their personal media accounts. Prepare advertisements to be used on social media where members can hit a share button.
- Tip #2: Identify the people groups in each country within your division and provide Bible lessons in their language. Contact Kurt for help finding lessons in your languages.
- Tip #3: Ensure that doctrinal Bible study courses are available for all ages—children, youth, and adults—in the major languages of each country of your division.
- Tip #4: Develop a strategy to team up with your elementary schools and have the students study the Bible courses for Bible class.
- Tip #5: Develop a Pathfinder honor for completing the doctrinal Bible course and sharing the course with another friend.
- Tip #6: Identify the immigrant people groups and provide Bible courses in their language and provide culture transition support.
- Tip #7: Develop a youth health course as an option for online Bible study. Include the issues that youth face on a daily basis.

Three Leadership Objectives for Developing Bible Correspondence Schools in Your Division

- Step #1: Assist your union and conference leaders in obtaining the materials and resources to accomplish the tips above.
- Step #2: Work with your division administration, especially treasury, to enact a funding plan to provide the development, translation, and distribution of materials.

- Step #3: Expand the annual division Bible Correspondence School Report to include a response page for these stated tips/objectives.

DIVISION IWG STRATEGIC PLAN REPORTS

Northern Asia Pacific Division — Richard Sabuin

Working on completing strategic planning with all unions.

Current Projects

- Translation of *Discipleship Handbook*
- Translation of *Fundamentals of Faith*
- Discipleship training seminar

Strategic Planning Process

- GC to NSD, NSD IWG Committee to work with all departments and then with all unions.
- Key in this process is to work closely with the unions, receiving from them what they think they will do, and then forming the division strategic plan.
- Held a June 10, 2020, mini advisory
- Adopted *1040 With Christ* theme
- Plans to be approved at NSD Annual Council

South Pacific Division – Lee Rice (Word doc provided—#6)

SPD's major focus is in equipping and resourcing Sabbath Schools and church members for disciple making and movement building.

For the *I Will Go* initiative, SPD will continue to build on the success that has been demonstrated by a 10-20% annual growth over the past three to four years.

This success has focused on:

- Promotion of evangelism with the farming cycle, following the pattern of Luke 10 Prayer
- Small groups (small action teams for disciple making) in the ministries of Sabbath School, youth, women's ministry, and Adventist Community Service
- Community engagement by serving people where they are
- Discovery Bible reading groups using the gospels of Mark and John and the book of Acts
- Equipping ministry leaders and pastors to train members, as Jesus did in Luke 10, by:
 - Forming teams
 - Praying for workers

- Finding persons of peace
- Connecting with people through eating their food and listening to their stories
- Healing sickness with practical information
- Personal testimony—your story connects to God’s story

Rather than looking at end results, focus on lead indicators and monitor things like:

- Number of churches doing training on disciple making and church planting
- Number of churches forming ministry teams
- Number of new Discovery Bible reading groups formed

Southern Asia Pacific Division – Genes Villanueva (Word doc provided—#7)

SSD *I Will Go* Strategic Plan includes the following:

KPI 1.1 Action Plans

- Intentional promotion and implementation of IICD
- Reproduction of *Discipleship Handbook*
- Evangelism resources available to equip members
- Intensified training and mentoring of local leaders and members
- Formation of CG digital groups for evangelism

KPI 1.2 Action Plans

- Local churches assign coordinator on various initiatives, including Mission to the Cities, Total Member Involvement, Christ’s Methods Alone

KPI 1.3 Action Plans

- Develop VOP correspondence course
- Develop online Bible studies/evangelistic meetings
- Develop online webinars

KPI 1.4 Action Plans

- SSPM will be part of administration’s plan that departments design a collaborative working plan integrating all departmental initiatives to ensure intentional focus of mission, program synchronization, and optimum resource utilization.
- Conduct evangelism in major cities of our territories

KPI 1.5 Action Plans

- Well-coordinated Festivals of the Laity with IELNDR which includes Harvest and Praise Celebration (mass baptism)

KPI 2.1 Action Plans

- SSPM actively supporting ADRA, PARL, and AYM by conducting services such as SADFREE Movement, Compassion, Global Youth Day, etc.
- Community Guest Day in every local church every quarter

KPI 3.1 Action Plans

- Include the 28 fundamental beliefs in the Sabbath School Schedule of programs
- Increase the number of Sabbath School members who have read the *Conflict of the Ages* series

KPI 3.2 Action Plans

- Reproduction of materials (Book on dynamic Sabbath School programs)
- Trained Sabbath School teachers promoting attendance of Sabbath School and divine service

KPI 3.3 Action Plans

- Foster spiritual growth of church members to reflect Christ's character
- Equip church members to use their spiritual gifts to serve the church and community through the power of the Holy Spirit
- Train laymen in assimilating church members

Chinese Union Mission – David Ng

Chinese Union Mission is composed of China and Hong Kong and is smaller than a division.

Mission Objectives

- Record about 17 thirty-minute videos to train Sabbath School teachers.
- Videos will include how to conduct evangelistic meetings through Sabbath School, training everyone in Total Member Involvement.
- Nine are already recorded, with eight more to go.
- Recordings will be completed by the end of September.
- Other materials will be developed for teachers, including 35 Bible studies for small groups.

Leadership Objectives

- Train Sabbath School superintendents
- Because of Covid19, this is being done through Zoom
- Originally planned to train 120 superintendents, but because China is so sensitive, the number had to be cut down to 15

Southern Asia Division – Hidayat Masih (Word doc provided—#8)

The work in SUD is challenging due to so many different languages and cultures. This requires SUD to depend heavily on the local people to develop ministries.

SUD appreciates the union directors who, in 2015–2020, worked to accomplish:

- Festivals of the Laity
- Community Services & Urban Ministry Certification Programs

- TMI with ADRA India
- SSPM and TMI promotion in all areas
- Discover Bible lessons printed in six regional languages (Need to print in 14 languages)
- New website for VOP regional languages
- Evangelistic meetings
- Thirteenth Sabbath project, 4th quarter 2020
- Sabbath School teacher training programs

Future Plans

- SUD is still in the planning stages, working with union directors to complete their *I Will Go* quinquennium strategies.
- Because of Covid19, churches are not able to meet. Maximum is ten people with a lot of precautions. Churches are being encouraged to use Zoom or Google Meet and connect with other churches for Sabbath School.
- Encouraging the use of phones/WhatsApp and other electronic devices for ministry.

I Will Go KPI Goals

- KPI 1.1 Goal—all members involved in God’s work, using whatever talents they have, becoming involved in both personal and public ministry through: hospitality, Bible studies, singing, preaching, outreach, church events, personal visitation, phone calls, and literature distribution
- KPI 2.3 Goal—reach people in urban areas through a comprehensive healing ministry by the use of health films, New Start health literature, health correspondence course, medical check-ups, free general medicine, and television health programs
- KPI 2.3 Goal—start a Center of Influence
- KPI 2.3 Goal—start a VOP Bible Correspondence School
- KPI 2.3 Goal—use Adventist World Radio and Hope Channel
- KPI 5.1 Goal—update online Sabbath School Bible Study Guides for all 14 languages.
- KPI 5.1 Goal—update online VOP Bible guides in 15 languages
- KPI 5.1 Goal—encourage members to read Sabbath School lessons daily as well as one chapter of the Bible and one chapter from the Spirit of Prophecy
- KPI 5.1 Goal—encourage all members to have regular personal and family prayer

Israel Field – Oleg Elkin (Provided PowerPoint—#9)

Reports from the Central-Southern District. Two ways for *I Will Go* in Israel.

Centers of Influence

1. A Hebrew language school in Bat-Yam operated for two academic years using the Bible as a basis for teaching.
 - 45-60 persons attended with 25-30 finishing the program.
 - As a result, two small groups were formed which meet 2 days per week.
2. Tea parties were held in Azerbaijani culture groups (Muslim and Judaic).

Israel Field focuses on the Master's Plan for making disciples

- Systematic approach
- Much potential because of many methods
- Basis is evangelism in the home and with friends
- Endless source of contacts
- No time limits for leading a program/event
- Creates disciples, not just members
- It should be valued worldwide

From 2014-2018, 136 were baptized in the Israel Field. 120 of them were reached by the Master's Plan method. This confirms that Biblical principles work today as well as 2,000 years ago!

Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division – Michael Ngwaru (Personal Ministries), Tonny Katsekera (Sabbath School)

I Will Go plans for mission, spiritual growth, and leadership:

Mission Goals

- Prioritize the spread of the three-angels' messages to other religions, other Christian denominations, and political and civic leaders
- Aggressive church planting activities to form branch Sabbath Schools and house churches, counteracting the loss of church gatherings resulting from Covid19

Spiritual Growth

- Continue reinforcing Bible study through the use of the Sabbath School Bible Study Guides across all age groups
- Vigorously continue to promote the Sabbath School Alive! initiative, begun at the All Africa Summit
- Develop social media devotionals

Leadership

- Intensify disciple making through the GROW plan
- Disciple pastors so they may disciple the church
- Adopt and implement all the initiatives from the General Conference

East Central Africa Division – Noah Musema (Word doc provided—#10)

I Will Go has been well accepted in ECD as a personal call.

One major component of ECDs quinquennium strategy is the development of a new system to measure KPI goals every quarter and at end of year using a standard progress report. Reports will be submitted by two or three departments each quarter who will come together in a Strategic Discipleship Group to share what they have accomplished

toward their KPIs. Were the identified action steps fulfilled? This is a system of personal evaluation for *I Will Go*.

Please see provided document for detailed KPI action steps for each year of the quinquennium.

Euro-Asia Division – Dmitry Zubkov

SSPM strategic plans cover three key areas:

- Spiritual Growth
- Gospel Ministry
- Outreach to the 10/40 Window

Spiritual Growth Plans

- The personal spiritual growth of every member is a priority because gospel ministry is impossible without it.
- ESD is developing a smart phone application containing material to contribute to the spiritual growth of church members. App includes daily Bible study, Sabbath School lessons, news from the world field, lessons for growth groups, and more.
- The app motivates members to pray and study the material provided.
- The goal is Total Member Involvement.

Gospel Ministry Plans

- Reverse church members' tendency toward passivity
- Organize missionary work by providing tools
- Provide internet resources
- Organize a Bible school (branch Sabbath School) in each community in the next five years
- Begin training Sabbath School leaders and pastors to organize the Bible schools in October 2020
- Teach every member to use these tools for gospel ministry through training and leadership

Outreach to the 10/40 Window and Beyond

- ESD areas in the 10/40 window—Afghanistan and Caucasus
- Mission is to reach the people of this territory, as well as the far north that is not in the 10/40 window, using modern tools
- Praying to inspire church members in Total Member Involvement—*I Will Go!*

West African Division – Vincent Same

Progress Report

- Sabbath School attendance has increased from 61% to 78%.

- Small-group activities are working very well with over 100 small groups, as the realities of Covid19 motivate members to use their homes as small-group centers.

Quinquennium Plans

- Promote TMI and *I Will Go* to all local churches, intentionally measuring the progress
- Work with union and conference directors to train all local church SSPM leaders and Sabbath School teachers. Sabbath School is where the members are educated, and all initiatives must get to the local church level for implementation.
- Develop Sabbath School online through live streaming or video recordings by directors, pastors, and young people
- Continue to promote Adventist Community Services so that it becomes a division culture and people understand that witnessing starts by showing love to others
- Encourage families to develop dynamic home worship which may grow to a small group, as opportunity arises to invite neighbors
- Train members in friendship evangelism, focused on Muslim-dominated communities, using methods such as house worship and lifestyle evangelism, so that members live what they study in Sabbath School
- Foster the practice of good teaching methods and value-based education in Sabbath School through continuing collaboration between Sabbath School directors and the education department, developing an activity sheet for every Sabbath School lesson
- Advance the successful ministry of small groups, where learning, fellowship, and sharing are all easier
- Provide leadership in producing African-contextualized training materials
- Continue to collaborate with the strong WAD Youth Departments
- Build up discipleship ministry through translation of the *Discipleship Handbook* in many languages of the division and share it widely
- Encourage discipleship to be at the heart of all plans

WAD still needs to meet to finalize strategic plan so more will be coming.

Inter-European Division – Paolo Benini

This report is from only the SSPM department of EUD, in conjunction with all union colleagues.

Main Goal is Discipleship:

Discipleship has been the most important tool in the past quinquennium. Some unions have had good results even during the lock-down because they invest in discipleship.

Two Discipleship Tools:

- *Discipleship Handbook* (What it means to be a disciple)
- *Making Disciples for the Lord* (How to make disciples)

Disciple Makers Are:

- Leaders
- Soulwinners
- Group planters

Discipleship Initiatives:

- Sabbath School dynamic small groups
- Family small groups
- Personal Bible Study where evangelism is Bible in hand with Jesus at the center of every doctrine
 - Pastor Benini has prepared a series of studies where every doctrine is built on Christ. These studies are being used weekly in Romania, Portugal, Spain, and Switzerland and are being translated into French and Bulgarian. To present Jesus is our mission, our main responsibility.
- Develop ministries using technology—Zoom meetings, cell phone evangelism, Facebook.
 - Just through Facebook people started keeping the Sabbath on their own and now one pastor is studying with a group of 35.

Discipleship must be our great commitment. Jesus said, “Go and make disciples.” When the church is trained and engaged in discipleship the church grows. In one of the most Catholic regions in Italy, one church grew from 73 to 250 members in five years. Just during the pandemic, this church has had 43 new interests begin Bible studies.

Trans European Division – Patrick Johnson

TED’s strategic planning starts in September.

Projected Focus of SSPM Strategic Plans:

- Division wide, plans will focus on discipleship with the emphasis “Who am I discipling?”
- Implementation of the *inVerse* curriculum over all languages in the division
- Get a GROW mindset into Sabbath Schools
- Promote the Sabbath School Alive! initiative

More will be shared once their strategic planning is complete.

Inter-American Division – Samuel Telemaque (Sabbath School) and Melchor Ferreyra (Personal Ministries)

Samuel Telemaque—Sabbath School plans will focus on the following:

1. Nurturing
 - Healthy churches—fostering holistic maturity of members
 - Resources—for holistic education

- Consolidation—discipleship of new and active members
- Redemptive ministry—reclaiming former members
- Prayer initiatives—facilitating members trust in God
A dynamic, powerful prayer ministry emerged from the 100 Days of Prayer and a Prayer Committee was established.

2. Sabbath School Evangelism

- Sabbath School Media Ministry—use of cell phones for evangelism
- Branch Sabbath Schools—part of church planting strategy
- Community Guest Days
- There must be a strong spiritual climate for evangelism to explode

3. Non-formal training—how to you apply knowledge?

- Andragogic Method of Teaching—skill-based, Christ-centered methods, teaching members to do the evangelism described in #2

4. Sabbath School Membership

- Numerical Growth—to increase membership to 50% over church membership
- Current Sabbath School membership is four million. Goal is five million.

Melchor Ferreyra—Personal Ministries plans as taken from video presentation:
Plans will build on three fundamental pillars. I will go through...

- Education
- Evangelism
- Service

Education Goals

- Non formal education to the laity that is useful to cover the mission and create disciples
- Aula7, online education platform, puts knowledge within the reach of a click, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to anyone interested in preparing more for service
- Aula7 to train 200,000 church members, in 20,000 churches, in the GROW model of evangelism
- 20% of members trained each year of the quinquennium

Evangelism Goals

- Evangelism carried out through relevant actions to reach, equip, rescue, and retain in all areas of the division's territory
- Comprehensive evangelism, not only gaining new members, but retaining them
- 60,000 new small groups through Houses of Hope formed by members to reach 960,000 new non-Adventist friends during the quinquennium (240,000 per year)
- Evangelistic campaigns in each House of Hope, achieving 105,000 small group campaigns and 250,000 public campaigns by lay evangelists

- New and exciting soul-winning initiatives involving one million church members
- IAD Communication and Personal Ministries Directors at all levels recruiting members to work with Hope Bible School
- Spiritual Guardian initiative put into action to mentor new members, beginning immediately after baptism

Service Goals

Service will be the framework for IAD's 100-year anniversary. Personal Ministries leaders will recognize, reward, and distinguish:

- 1,000 lay disciples to baptize 100 in 2020
- 100 lay people turning 100 years old
- 1,000 pastors to baptize 100 in 2021 and 50 in 2022
- 100 fields that reached their five-year target in 2022
- 100 lay people with the most years of militancy per union
- All of the above translating into 1,000,000 souls won for Christ!

Only by holding Christ's hand can we say, "I will go!"

North American Division – Al Johnson

Three goals from NAD's ongoing strategic plan that lock directly into *I Will Go*:

1. Broad spectrum promotion of Total Member Involvement
 - NAD has a renewed commitment to promote and implement TMI on a contextual basis throughout the division.
2. Every Sabbath School class with a project goal for outreach/evangelism
 - TMI comes out of the gospel commission which is implemented through Sabbath School.
 - The objective is to implement a soul-winning protocol through every Sabbath School class/small group family.
 - Each class will have an outreach/evangelism project designed to feed the baptismal pool and disciple the congregation.
3. Promote the *Adult Bible Study Guide* on the Amazon Alexa platform
 - Three years ago, NAD put English ABSG audio recordings on the Amazon Alexa platform. This is a resource for evangelism and discipleship. ABSG readings are also available on the NAD adult ministries website.

South American Division – Herbert Boger (Sabbath School) and Edison Choque (Personal Ministries)

In SAD, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries work together using Christ's Method.

Herbert Boger—Sabbath School is the basis for actions, *I Will Go*. (PowerPoint provided—#11)

Three Sabbath School Emphasis:

- Solidarity Action
- Heard Friend
- Eight Laws of Health

Goals, Initiatives, and Reports:

- Hope Robot—1,000 new Bible students per day
- Chatbot sending 310,000 messages per day into 78 countries
- Send the most WhatsApp messages in Brazil
- TMI: goal 1,000,000 giving Bible studies
- Crescendo Em Cristo (Grow in Christ)—a 7-week plan for new member discipleship
- 56,000 baptisms, even during the pandemic
- Sent 25 families into the 10/40 window with SAD budget

Edison Choque—Spiritual Growth Objectives for 2021

- Grow 10% per year in members with Sabbath School study guides, 2021 goal of 1,212,195 members with study guides
- 39% of members studying the Bible Study Guides daily
- Video showing difference in two people—one who studies the Bible and the other who does not. “Every day, everyone, every morning. Food for life.”
- 7Me Bible study app

Leadership Goals

- More church members actively participating in small group action units
- Hold a Shepherding week once per quarter for training teachers for small group action units
- Goal of 60% of members involved for a total of 104,176 action units

CONCLUSION

Closing Remarks and Prayer – Ramon Canals

Minutes prepared by Meredith Herzel

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