

ECD

News Clips



Newsletter of East-Central

General Conference | Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Message From ECD Treasurer Philip Philipsen

Dear Leaders at All Levels in ECD,

It is a great pleasure to be able to communicate with you through this new ECD NEWS CLIPS. From the treasury department we want to thank you for collaboration and faithfulness in supporting God's work in this Division. It is our plan to share reports and information with you every month. We hope that this will be of encouragement and inspiration. It is our sincere hope that this information doesn't stop in your offices but is communicated to our members by the channels you have available.

This month we report on tithe and special offerings. You will notice the development in your area. Again we thank you and God for this increase! The strategic plan for ECD voted three years ago plans for a tripling of the tithe within five years. One of the great goals for ECD is to be self supporting and after that even to be able to send financial help to the huge unentered

areas in the 10/40 Window before it is too late. Last year our more than two million members gave an average USD 5.50 in tithe. In strengthening faithfulness, in faithful transfer of tithe and other trust funds to the storehouse of God and in careful and economical use of this money for the best purposes we will soon reach the goal.

Reflecting on the past, our strategic plan and on things that maybe don't work as we want them to work, we often say, "We ought to...!" Then James 4.17 says, "Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it." Let us encourage and help each other to do what we ought to do! ◇

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Report on Tithe And Special Offerings in ECD

Territory	Tithe			Special Offerings 2006				
	Jan-Aug 2006	Jan-Aug 2005	Jan-Dec 2005	February	March	April	July	August
				Free Bibles	World Radio	World Mission	World Mission	Adv.Univ of Africa
Burundi	10,468,095	9,045,759	13,819,866	29,573	28,431	30,270	35,017	33,916
East Africa	281,622,677	239,734,103	366,819,636	196,687	24,315	0	0	201,981
Ethiopia	30,526,954	26,747,079	39,518,638	0	0	2,234	0	301
East Congo	6,427,174	3,665,611	6,251,597	4,627	2,009	0	0	5,992
North-East Congo	25,012,789	19,373,403	29,709,593	63,995	61,340	32,663	65,542	67,771
Rwanda	112,509,194	94,405,299	131,832,132	0	106,593	0	199,578	17,592
Tanzania	122,522,537	108,953,563	171,454,580	0	450,91	111,179	55,952	338,276
Uganda	49,539,151	41,832,952	62,441,345	115,602	94,90	74,055	7,328	30,213
West Congo	18,042,932	15,233,344	24,149,382	0	17,822	3,577	0	33,694
Attached Field	939,255	453,090	734,047	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	657,610,755	559,444,202	846,730,816	410,485	786,327	253,978	363,416	729,737

All in Kenya Sh.

Editorial Comment By Steven Bina

The quinquennium has gone and another one has come. Plans have passed and new plans have emerged. We have embarked on a journey of yet another five years ahead of us, with new zeal and enthusiasm. Suffice to say, that we are back on our “marks, set, ready and go.”

The incredible fact is that the church’s voice has spoken in word and deed, from top level to lower levels of its operation. We have heard and heed the voice. We are left with one agenda on the table and that is to put our ploughs to work. As workers in the vineyard we have been assigned portions in the Lord’s farm. We, like the three servants who were given one, two and five talents respectively, ought to give an account for one allocated to us. The comfort I have, which should be yours too, is that God is able to provide strength and knowledge to each one of us to multiply every one of the talents placed in our hands.

This reminds me of my high school days. One day our TOD, meaning Teacher on Duty, took all students for a weekly duty in the school farm. A jump start kind of breakfast was served in the cafeteria at 6am. We had to walk five kilometers to the farm, which was not fun when we knew there was a piece work waiting for us upon getting there. The TOD had gone way ahead of us just in time to mark a portion for each student. This particular day, one of my friends finished his portion hours before everyone. The TOD, looking over the backs of bent students, saw him standing and called his name. Being a respectful student he ran to him. He was immediately asked to take a small additional piece because there was plenty of land untilled. He grumbled in protest at first, then went on to do the piece. He was a strong fellow on manual work, given the background of his upbringing. No sooner had the TOD walked twice across the farm supervising other students, when this fellow finished. Once again

he called him and the student came running! This time he commanded the boy to help one of the tired students to finish the assigned piece. He grinned for a moment without an argument and pitched his hoe to the ground to assist his fellow student. That day everyone finished the day’s work and under the scourging sun we all started walking back to school. What made me wonder is that the same student who had done two extra portions was leading the entire student body with songs of triumph for the accomplished day’s work. Up to this day I have not ceased to think about what kind of a person this friend of mine was.

Likewise, in God’s work there are the strong and the weak. We may have the same assignments or slightly different ones but the ultimate goal is to finish the day’s work. There are times when God may see fit to give an extra load because He knows you are strong enough to carry it. He sees one weak colleague and wants you to assist so His work may be completed. You may murmur or complain for a while, but go on and lift the weight. God has seen that you can. You may not be well acquainted with the new assignments you have been given. Don’t worry! We have a TOD who will not only supervise, but will provide knowledge and strength by sending someone to you. A commonly quoted portion of the book *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers* goes like this: “We have nothing to fear for the future, unless we forget how the Lord has led us in the past.” I am glad that we are created in the image of God, and therefore we carry character traits that have the affinity of His, despite our sinful nature. That is our strength and audacity. We have all that it takes to press on. We should not allow our attention and focus to be drawn away from the target. Let us not forget the truth that God leads us through what we have faithfully, under His infinite guidance, put down as strategic plans to accomplish the task before us. ◇

North East Congo Attached Territory Ordains Ten Pastors, Inaugurates Churches and Office

September 9, 2006 was a memorable Sabbath at NE-CAT. Ten pastors from North Kivu Association were ordained to the gospel ministry. Nine of them are frontline pastors, and one a theology lecturer at the Adventist University of Lukanga. The service was conducted by Pastors Geoffrey Mbwana, Blasious Ruguri, President and Secretary of ECD, and Pastor Musasya Makulambizia, President, NECAT. The ordination has greatly reduced the shortage of ordained ministers in this area, hence pushing the Lords work ahead.

On September 12, 2006 in Goma at Central Kivu Association two churches were inaugurated at Ngangi in Goma Town and Kituku. On the following day, September 13, the new field office building, including nine staff houses, was officially inaugurated. The former office building and staff houses were destroyed by

volcano lava on the 17th of January 2002. We want to thank Adventist Risk Management for releasing funds for the lost buildings and equipment. We can now see the new buildings at NECAT for the glory of God.

Guest of honor at the ceremony was the governor of North Kivu Province. The church was represented by the ECD officers, Geoffrey Mbwana, President, and Blasious Ruguri, Executive Secretary, accompanied by Dr. Hudson Kibuuka, ECD Director of Education, and Prof. Timothy McDonald, Vice Chancellor of the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton. There were many distinguished guests from other churches and many prominent people in Goma. ◇

Kyaga Mutuza
Director of Communication, NECAT

**Mostly for Treasurers
and Business Managers**

We have just entered 4th quarter of 2006. This is always a busy period with finishing the accounts for the previous quarter, making a budget for next year and of course attending the year end meeting where you report and the budget is discussed.

At ECD we receive the financial statements from entities audited by GCAS. I have once more spent hours reviewing the statements and the management letters from the auditors. We thank you for the work you are doing in the treasury department and we thank GCAS

HOPE CHANNEL NEWS

In December 2003 Adventist Television Network (ATN) launched Hope Channel satellite TV network to bless homes with everlasting truth. Currently over 25,000 churches and thousands of homes have access 24/7 to Hope Channel via satellite dishes. For millions of homes that cannot afford satellite dishes, ATN has developed a new concept of reaching them with Hope through easy access to Hope Channel using their TV sets directly without dishes. This concept is termed LPTV project for cities of hope. LOW POWERED TELEVISION station has a transmitter with output power to cover a 10km to 50km radius. One satellite dish downlink connected to a LPTV enables many TV viewers in a given city to receive Hope Channel freely. LPTV costs \$10,000 which is 10 times cheaper. It is user friendly and affordable. The objective is to affordably reach

many people in cities with the living gospel truth by sharing hope in Jesus Christ through Hope Channel TV and local church broadcasts. This will empower the church to witness for Christ in their home city and to provide alternative TV content for family viewing as opposed to secularized TV stations. The approach is that the union proposes the towns and cities to be covered. Site survey and concept promotion is done by the Hope Channel team.

Other Things to be done by the Union are:

- (1) Taskforce Committee formation
- (2) Deposit of US\$1,500 paid to ECD
- (3) The union to acquire TV license and frequencies on behalf of site
- (4) Frequency and license documents should be scanned and sent via e-mail to mogusu@gmail.com
- (5) Hope Channel places an order

for the TV transmitter
 (6) Shipment of transmitter is done
 (7) The union to deliver it to the site
 (8) Installation of Hope TV station is done by ECD Hope Channel engineer
 (9) Training of the site custodians and camera crew is done during installation
 (10) Monthly repayment should commence to clear the US\$8,500 balance for 24 or 36 months as per the ability of the stakeholders
 (11) The taskforce to work out ways and means of improving local programming.

The sites now in operation are HOPE TV Kigali, Rwanda, HOPE TV Kisii and HOPE TV Kitui in Kenya. By November we shall have HOPE TV Kinshasa, DRC. For your territory to benefit from this LPTV project, refer to the above numbered steps.

Enoch Mogusu

Coordinator of Hope Channel, ECD

Health Ministry in Bujumbura, Burundi

On Friday, September 21, 2006, Dr. Fesaha Tsegaye, Dr. O. Giordano and Mr. E. Sindayigaya met the Minister of Public Health, the Honorable Dr. Triphonie Nkurunziza and the Honorable Dr. Barnabe Mbonimpa, Minister in the Office of the President in charge of the fight against HIV/AIDS of Burundi government. We had a brief meeting with them and discussed the current HIV/AIDS situation in Burundi and what steps they have taken. We were told that the prevalence rate in Bujumbura city is 13.2% whereas the prevalence rate in the villages is 2.5%. They shared with us their strategies and that they would be happy to partnership with the Adventist Church in fighting against HIV/AIDS. We briefly told them that we are here for a preliminary visit to see the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the country and in our churches so we can plan to start a 'support group' in the churches—both Adventist and non-Adventist—for HIV/AIDS prevention and impact mitigation. On Saturday we worshiped at Jabe

Adventist Church in Bujumbura city. Dr. Giordano preached during divine service. Immediately after the service a few people came to us one by one and shared their challenges by saying, "We are Adventists and living with HIV and we are on ART." This tells us the church is affected. We believe that the church should be a place of love, compassion and hope.

We have shared these challenges with the officers of Burundi Association and they are very concerned and have promised to appoint an HIV/AIDS coordinator as soon as possible. We have planned to visit Burundi in February 2007 for training pastors and the laity in how to start a support group in the churches and income-generating projects for the communities living with HIV. Our theme for this quinquennium is 'Each Church A Community Health Center.' The visit has strengthened this goal and we will achieve it by God's grace. Matthew 9: 36 says, "When Jesus saw the crowd, He was filled with compassion for them..." May our hearts be filled

with compassion, love and hope.

NB: We have a new clinic in the city of Bujumbura and we are planning to open a new dental clinic as soon as we get the dental units and equipment. ◇



Jabe Adventist Church, Bujumbura city



General Medical Outpatient Clinic, Bujumbura, Burundi

Dr Fesaha Tsegaye

Director of Health Ministrie, ECD

Hundreds of Global Mission Projects Given Green Light

Most of the Global Mission funding will go to projects ranging from health-related outreach in rural areas to church planting efforts in major cities in East-Central Africa and Northern-Asia Pacific regions.



Ethiopia Union Mission, Sabbath School, conducted from a muddy hut, donated by one of the new converts



East-Congo Union Mission, Ruashi Church, built with funds

More than 200 Global Mission projects got the go-ahead on Thursday, August 17, keeping 2006 on track to become one of the largest years ever for projects and funding. Meeting at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, the Adventist Mission Committee approved all 266 proposed projects, most of which are located in the East-Central Africa and Northern Asia-Pacific regions. Funding approved for the projects totaled more than US\$1.7 million, pushing the total 2006 project funding to more than \$9.7 million.

Most of the projects approved at the August 17 meeting are located in areas with little or no Adventist presence. In one region with 2.7 million people, the only Adventists are the two Global Mission pioneers who will start an outreach project. Projects will range from health-related outreach in rural areas to church planting efforts in major cities.

One project will provide a boat for Global Mission

pioneers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to travel between fishing villages to hold health and family life seminars. Another provides funding for an Adventist massage therapist to open a practice in an area of a country that is one of the Adventist Church's biggest mission challenges.

"Times are difficult, remaining areas are often dangerous and expensive to work in," says Homer Trecartin, planning director for the Office of Adventist Mission. "But dedicated pioneers are willing to take the risk in order to share the gospel with every man, woman and child on earth. ... We all need to be reaching out to those around us."

Total projects now underway this year number 1,069, with many more yet to be formally proposed and approved. During the past nine years, Global Mission projects have averaged more than 1,200 annually.

Since 1990, Global Mission, a special initiative of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, has undertaken more than 11,000 outreach projects in previously un-entered areas of the world. Global Mission pioneers typically spend at least a year on these projects, establishing a congregation within their own culture. Thousands of these pioneers are currently active around the world. For more information about the work of Global Mission visit <http://www.global-mission.org>. ◇

Steve Hamstra, Adventist Mission, ANN

"The comfort I have which should be yours too, is that God is able to provide strength and knowledge for each one of us to multiply every one of the talents placed in our hands."

From the Editor: Special Points of Interest

1. Don't forget to send in news items from your organization for News Clips.
2. We need individual e-mail addresses for conference/field officers, department directors and leaders of institutions under the above entities ASAP.
3. Send us statistics on how many church members access internet in any form in your area. These are urgently needed. Here are two questions that if asked on a typical Sabbath day can quickly give you a sample figure: How many of you have e-mail addresses? How

many of you visit internet cafes? Put your questions in a language that can easily be understood.

4. Beginning with the next issue, News Clips will be available also in French.
5. If you are still using the old postal address for the East-Central Africa Division office, please note that it will soon be discontinued. So that we will not miss your correspondence, please take note of the new postal address shown below and begin using it right away. ◇

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