

Statistical Report

Annual Council of the General Conference Committee Silver Spring, Maryland, October 9 - 14, 2009

Prepared by the Office of Archives and Statistics

Baptisms Set New Records

For the seventh time in its Annual Council reporting history, the world divisions reported baptisms that surpassed one million. The 1,029,206 accessions during the past four quarters (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009) means that on the average, every day within that period, 2,818 believers accepted the everlasting gospel and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Our current mid-year total of 16,049,101 baptized members means that there are currently 424 people populating our planet for every baptized Seventh-day Adventist. The mid-year ratio only a decade ago was 535 to one.

Baptisms Within the Divisions

A comparison of the baptisms within each of the divisions gives us an idea of the divisional location of our newest members. Almost 22 of every 100 new believers come from the Inter-American Division while 20 live in the South American Division. Double-digit figures spring from Southern Africa-Indian Ocean (17) and East-Central

Africa (15). The Southern Asia-Pacific Division on the average added almost seven new members of every 100 to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Southern Asia added six new members during this past Annual Council year. Thirteen of every 100 of our newest members live within the remaining seven divisions. Our current membership distribution shows 37% within Africa, 33% within Latin America, 19% within Asia, seven percent within North America, and four percent within Europe and Oceania.

Church Audits Continue and Impact Growth Rate

For the second consecutive year, the South American Division has conducted major auditing of its church membership rolls. The resulting decrease of some 300,000 within that division meant that despite its 208,031 accessions, it exhibited a 335,752 net membership decrease during this reporting period. The church membership audits conducted within the South American Division resulted in a
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World Membership July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 (Preliminary)

<i>Division</i>	<i>Baptisms and Prof. of Faith</i>	<i>Net Membership Increase</i>	<i>% Net Increase Over Last 12 Months</i>	<i>Baptisms and Prof. of Faith as % of Current Membership</i>	<i>Membership June 30, 2009</i>	<i>Membership as % of World Total June 30, 2009</i>
Southern Asia-Pacific	70,153	62,158	6.65	7.04	996,198	6.21
Southern Africa-Indian Ocean	175,744	149,232	6.62	7.31	2,402,963	14.97
Inter-American	221,035	172,953	5.65	6.84	3,232,946	20.14
Southern Asia	62,190	59,328	4.23	4.25	1,461,894	9.11
East-Central Africa	156,142	86,028	3.56	6.24	2,502,982	15.60
West-Central Africa	42,977	24,772	3.06	5.15	834,899	5.20
Northern Asia-Pacific	19,177	16,022	2.70	3.15	609,623	3.80
Trans-European	3,804	2,839	2.62	3.43	111,005	0.69
South Pacific	15,118	8,486	2.11	3.68	410,761	2.56
North American	42,646	20,319	1.90	3.91	1,090,217	6.79
Euro-Asia	6,754	1,927	1.41	4.87	138,827	0.87
Euro-Africa	5,435	70	0.04	3.08	176,247	1.10
South American	208,031	(335,752)	(13.90)	10.00	2,080,539	12.96
World, June 2009	1,029,206	268,382	1.70	6.41	16,049,101	100.00
World, June 2008	1,051,601	345,249	2.24	6.66	15,780,719	
Net Increase (Decrease)	(22,395)	(76,867)	(0.54)	(0.25)	268,382	

The divisions are arranged above according to percentage of net membership increase over the last 12 months.

loss of 20 in its population per member ratio (from 130-to-1 to 150-to-1) and also decreased its percentage of church believers from 15% to 13% of total Seventh-day Adventist members. This huge membership decrease impacted the world church growth rate which rendered a 1.70% overall rate for the 13 divisions. This resulting growth rate is second only to last year's year-end rate of 1.67%. Prior to these recent developments, the lowest growth percentage was in 1902 when a full church audit was conducted.

But Is There Good News on the Horizon?

There may be good news on the horizon. Prior to the South American Division audit, the Southern Asia-Pacific Division conducted a similarly close scrutiny of its membership rolls and for the past two Annual Council statistical reports has exhibited the highest growth rate of the divisions (8.31% last Annual Council and 6.65% for these past four quarters). These two Annual Council reports exhibit the highest growth rate for the Southern Asia-Pacific Division since its organization in 1997. Similar results

hopefully will occur in the future for the South American Division.

Population to Member Ratios of the Divisions

Seven of our 13 world divisions have a population to member ratio less than the 424 worldwide average. Three of our divisions maintain ratios less than 100: Southern Africa-Indian Ocean with 66, South Pacific with 83, and Inter-American with 86. Four other divisions have ratios that better the world average: East-Central Africa (119), South American (150), North American (312), and West-Central Africa (403). The greatest improvements in the ratios, in most cases, occurred in those divisions below the world average of 424: Southern Asia-Pacific (783), an improvement of 25; Southern Asia (821), improving by 18; Euro-Asia (2,013), improving by 24; Northern Asia-Pacific (2,565), improving by 59; and Euro-Africa (3,382), improving by five. The Trans-European Division receded by 48 and exhibits a ratio of 5,749 of the general population for every Seventh-day Adventist.

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**Accession Rates
(Shown as Percentages)**

<i>Division</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>
East-Central Africa	8.70	7.14	6.93	8.00	6.28
Euro-Africa	3.02	2.97	2.97	2.77	2.81
Euro-Asia	6.05	6.32	4.52	4.51	4.09
Inter-American	6.51	7.41	8.01	7.09	7.56
North American	3.72	3.65	3.78	3.59	3.74
Northern Asia-Pacific	3.79	3.30	3.20	3.50	3.24
South American	9.57	9.96	8.64	8.57	8.15
South Pacific	4.67	4.90	4.60	2.67	3.33
Southern Africa-Indian Ocean	10.83	7.61	6.87	7.05	7.66
Southern Asia	16.92	16.45	18.29	8.18	6.49
Southern Asia-Pacific	5.13	5.86	7.45	7.08	7.35
Trans-European	3.12	4.42	3.58	4.27	3.55
West-Central Africa	6.82	4.79	5.36	5.18	4.94
World	7.99	7.59	7.69	6.88	6.60

Accession rates give the number of accessions to the church for each 100 members at the beginning of the year. Accessions consist of additions by baptisms and professions of faith.

**Baptisms and Professions of Faith
Per Active Ordained Minister**

<i>Division</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>Division</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>Division</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>
So Africa-Indian Ocean	176.8	162.0	West-Central Africa	59.6	63.9	Euro-Asia	9.9	11.7
Southern Asia	141.5	180.4	Southern Asia-Pacific	49.2	45.1	Trans-European	7.1	8.3
Inter-American	118.7	110.6	Northern Asia-Pacific	19.7	21.7	Euro-Africa	5.6	5.5
East-Central Africa	109.9	190.7	South Pacific	18.6	15.3			
South American	89.5	98.1	North American	11.6	10.5	World Average*	63.4	66.5

**General Conference employees not included.*

Rates of Growth
(Shown as Percentages)

<i>Division</i>	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	<i>2008 Membership</i>
East-Central Africa	0.51	4.55	5.24	4.10	4.10	2,474,396
Euro-Africa	0.86	1.16	0.58	0.75	0.09	176,209
Euro-Asia	(0.14)	(3.63)	(0.52)	(0.65)	(0.06)	137,593
Inter-American	4.27	4.84	6.02	5.39	5.72	3,127,602
North American	1.44	1.76	1.72	1.97	2.13	1,084,838
Northern Asia-Pacific	4.91	2.40	2.98	2.56	2.77	607,057
South American	6.26	6.61	2.85	(1.17)	(14.03)	2,250,520
South Pacific	3.17	3.21	1.73	0.70	1.88	407,505
Southern Africa-Indian Ocean	8.76	5.25	5.26	5.92	6.34	2,325,863
Southern Asia	16.94	16.26	16.60	7.92	6.21	1,429,172
Southern Asia-Pacific	(8.66)	(21.93)	3.39	5.04	7.01	965,608
Trans-European	1.92	3.07	2.48	2.82	2.64	109,876
West-Central Africa	5.37	4.01	2.30	3.22	3.34	825,169
World	3.96	3.32	4.98	3.60	1.67	15,921,408

Rates of growth are the changes in membership between the beginning of the year and the end of the year, shown as percentages.

Trend in Tithe and Offerings Per Capita
World Summary

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Tithe	\$101.55	\$109.47	\$113.68	\$129.80	\$125.24
World Mission Fund incl. S.S.	3.85	3.98	4.16	4.48	4.50
Sabbath School	\$3.47	\$3.63	\$3.75	\$4.05	\$3.94
Other General Conference Funds	1.98	2.11	1.70	2.07	1.71
Ingathering Funds	0.70	0.65	0.70	0.77	0.72
Intradivision and Local Church Funds	43.55	47.95	47.26	44.04	38.33
Total Tithe and Offerings	\$151.63	\$164.15	\$167.50	\$181.16	\$170.50

Total Tithe and Offerings
World Summary

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Tithe and Offerings</i>	<i>Per Capita</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Tithe and Offerings</i>	<i>Per Capita</i>
1960	\$ 99,902,355	\$ 83.66	1998	\$1,547,163,363	\$169.28
1965	142,700,596	94.75	1999	1,604,813,057	168.23
1970	211,181,658	112.69	2000	1,662,602,192	164.54
1975	386,740,731	164.74	2001	1,718,230,383	156.95
1980	642,444,216	202.19	2002	1,772,948,122	152.66
1985	731,464,528	175.16	2003	1,878,781,139	149.46
1990	1,011,715,372	180.07	2004	1,991,055,579	151.63
1994	1,208,988,062	166.74	2005	2,238,446,489	164.15
1995	1,321,864,914	172.14	2006	2,383,690,238	167.50
1996	1,370,593,782	170.23	2007	2,668,006,564	181.16
1997	1,499,697,681	175.70	2008	2,627,027,513	170.50

Membership Increase

<i>Year</i>	<i>Baptisms and Prof. of Faith</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Dropped and Missing</i>	<i>Net Increase</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Baptisms and Prof. of Faith</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Dropped and Missing</i>	<i>Net Increase</i>
EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA					SOUTH PACIFIC				
2004	179,614	8,307	50,633	10,612	2004	17,135	1,017	4,270	11,609
2005	148,169	7,325	38,200	94,438	2005	18,544	1,119	5,444	12,144
2006	150,286	7,404	35,615	113,668	2006	17,950	1,291	10,032	6,764
2007	182,697	6,848	34,988	93,624	2007	10,586	1,180	6,807	2,790
2008	149,253	6,069	34,122	97,493	2008	13,333	1,195	4,839	7,526
5-Yr Totals	810,019	35,953	193,558	409,835	5-Yr Totals	77,548	5,802	31,392	40,833
EURO-AFRICA					SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN				
2004	5,141	2,184	2,007	1,469	2004	185,683	7,646	24,818	150,127
2005	5,094	2,280	1,648	1,992	2005	141,835	6,782	24,623	97,840
2006	5,153	2,406	1,776	1,009	2006	134,729	6,691	21,071	103,184
2007	4,833	2,468	1,812	1,313	2007	145,520	6,997	17,801	122,206
2008	4,954	2,895	1,964	162	2008	167,593	5,597	17,869	138,738
5-Yr Totals	25,175	12,233	9,207	5,945	5-Yr Totals	775,360	33,713	106,182	612,095
EURO-ASIA					SOUTHERN ASIA				
2004	8,756	2,011	5,771	(202)	2004	133,074	673	1,360	133,233
2005	9,129	2,051	11,051	(5,251)	2005	151,289	502	1,250	149,552
2006	6,298	2,060	4,253	(726)	2006	195,610	3,818	14,296	177,514
2007	6,249	2,180	4,543	(905)	2007	101,950	739	2,377	98,767
2008	5,631	2,066	3,142	(83)	2008	87,310	713	2,435	83,557
5-Yr Totals	36,063	10,368	28,760	(7,167)	5-Yr Totals	669,233	6,445	21,718	642,623
INTER-AMERICAN					SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC				
2004	157,635	4,796	45,871	103,507	2004	59,811	4,454	148,017	(100,932)
2005	187,021	4,786	45,680	122,154	2005	62,347	5,359	252,887	(233,429)
2006	212,149	4,866	42,498	159,465	2006	61,888	1,483	26,353	28,164
2007	199,005	4,774	38,148	151,309	2007	60,798	1,615	14,569	43,284
2008	223,778	6,054	43,769	169,117	2008	66,341	1,702	9,939	63,214
5-Yr Totals	979,588	25,276	215,966	705,552	5-Yr Totals	311,185	14,613	451,765	(199,699)
NORTH AMERICAN					TRANS-EUROPEAN				
2004	36,887	6,500	17,257	14,271	2004	3,019	920	536	1,854
2005	36,700	6,930	14,575	17,718	2005	4,357	1,045	634	3,023
2006	38,718	7,168	16,150	17,650	2006	3,635	909	832	2,515
2007	37,359	7,703	16,707	20,504	2007	4,441	955	1,230	2,937
2008	39,709	7,353	14,687	22,649	2008	3,799	988	652	2,826
5-Yr Totals	189,373	35,654	79,376	92,792	5-Yr Totals	19,251	4,817	3,884	13,155
NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC					WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA				
2004	19,741	347	329	25,562	2004	47,053	2,285	4,201	37,037
2005	17,997	526	4,397	13,088	2005	34,807	2,161	3,038	29,176
2006	17,923	407	1,309	16,685	2006	40,501	3,051	12,175	17,381
2007	20,186	450	5,056	14,735	2007	40,086	3,058	8,172	24,873
2008	19,160	332	2,569	16,373	2008	39,408	2,759	5,882	26,675
5-Yr Totals	95,007	2,062	13,660	86,443	5-Yr Totals	201,855	13,314	33,468	135,142
SOUTH AMERICAN					WORLD				
2004	217,586	6,071	57,970	142,231	2004	1,071,135	47,211	363,040	530,378
2005	240,563	6,494	72,924	159,695	2005	1,057,852	47,360	476,351	462,140
2006	222,585	7,004	81,794	73,461	2006	1,107,425	48,558	268,154	716,734
2007	226,932	10,015	188,899	(30,896)	2007	1,040,642	48,982	341,109	544,541
2008	213,265	13,194	321,181	(367,186)	2008	1,033,534	50,917	463,050	261,061
5-Yr Totals	1,120,931	42,778	722,768	(22,695)	5-Yr Totals	5,310,588	243,028	1,911,704	2,514,854