




## INTRODUCING THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS





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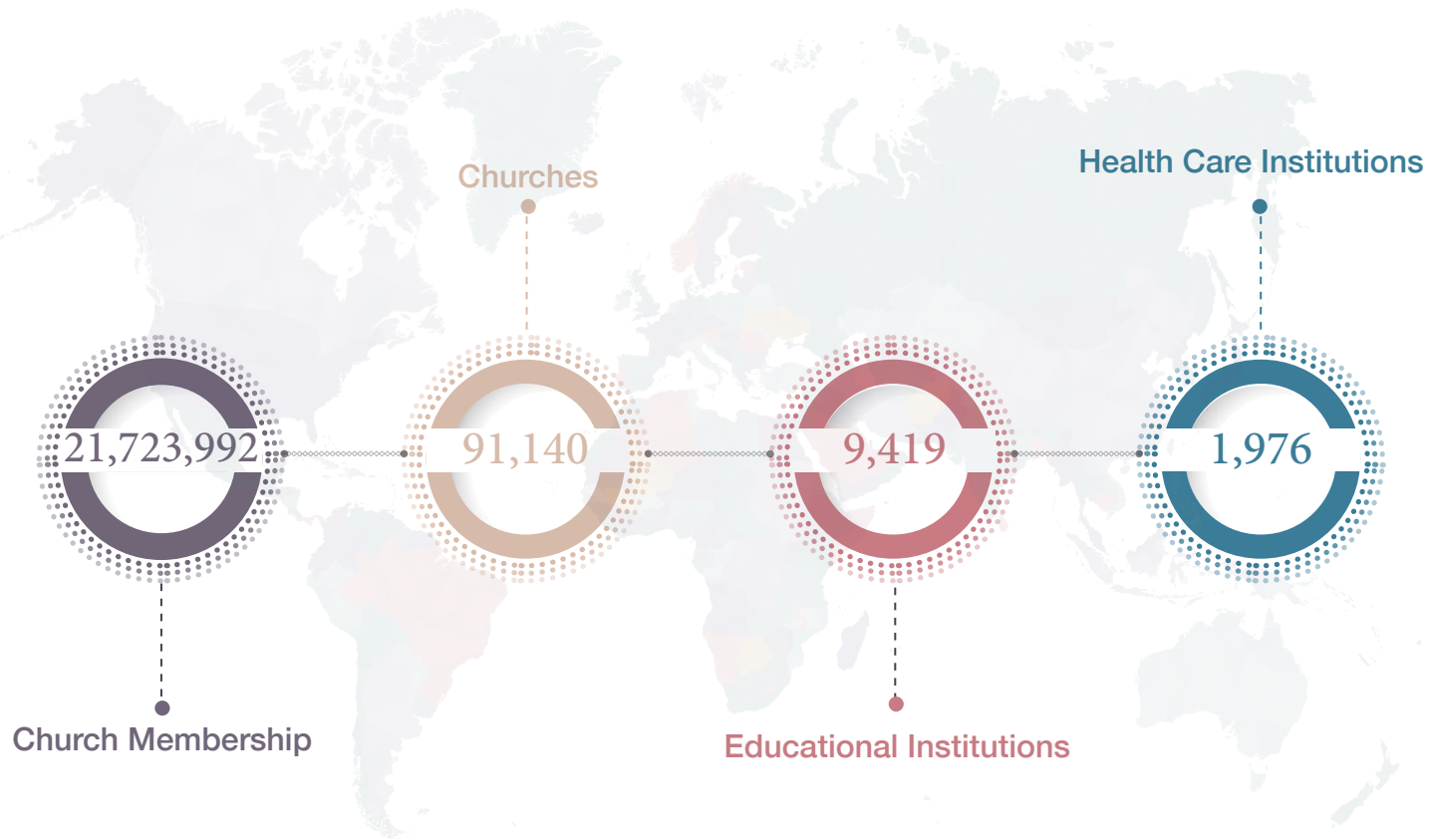
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# WHO ARE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS?

Seventh-day Adventists are bible-believing Christians who base their faith, hope and future in Jesus Christ and His second coming.

The General Conference is the world headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It coordinates the global activities of the Seventh-day Adventist Church—with more than 21 million members—a body set up under the belief that no man should be governed by the judgment of another, and any decision should be made by an assembly.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has the largest Protestant integrated network of hospitals and clinics worldwide, with 229 hospitals and sanitariums, 1,603 clinics and dispensaries, and 144 lodging facilities, including nursing homes, retirement centers, orphanages, and children's homes.

In the context of the United States, the lifestyle of Seventh-day Adventists has been featured in National Geographic, CNN, The Today Show, and The Blue Zones, a New York Times best-seller book that describes the lifestyles of the people who live longest.

Among faith-based organizations, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has the world's second largest integrated network of schools, with more than 9,400 schools worldwide enrolling more than 2 million students.

One of the major contribution of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been in the area of promoting freedom of belief for all people.

# RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

adventistliberty.org

The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, established since 1901, represents and introduces the Church to governments, public officials, and international organizations endeavoring to maintain good relationships with all people.

The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) promotes religious freedom around the world and assists members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church who are discriminated against or persecuted for practicing their beliefs.



# HOW DOES PARL WORK?

## 1

### DIPLOMACY

We maintain a presence at the United Nations in New York and Geneva, and with other international organizations. We also have an office on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. We maintain relationships with the various branches of US Government and members of the Washington's large and diverse diplomatic community. We build relationships with state leaders and public officials. We invite them to visit with Adventist Church leaders at the General Conference headquarters.

## 2

### EVENTS

We organize and take part in special events. These events range from academic symposiums, to festivals that fill stadiums. Every five years we also organize a World Congress for Religious Freedom, an event that brings together hundreds of public officials, government organizations, NGOs, lawyers, and religious leaders from around the world.

## 3

### COMMUNICATION

We publish regular news reports, articles, books, an annual World Report on Religious Freedom and a yearly Journal, *Fides et Libertas*. We also want to keep church members informed and we invite them to become partners with PARL and IRLA to raise awareness about religious freedom issues. The third Saturday of every January is named "Religious Liberty Sabbath" and we invite church members to take time to remember the work of PARL and the importance of protecting and promoting this precious freedom — Religious Liberty.



**DR. GANOUNE DIOP**  
**DIRECTOR**

Dr. Ganoune Diop is the Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. Dr. Diop's passion for God has led him to extensive theological, philosophical, and literary studies. Dr. Diop has a Masters in Exégèses and Theology from Collonges, France, a Masters degree in Philology from the University of Paris, and a PhD in Old Testament Studies from Andrews University. He was honored with a Doctorate Honoris Causa and many other international awards, granted for his contributions to developing a global culture of human rights and respect for human dignity.

Dr. Diop is also an ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister, and has served as a local church pastor. Other positions he has held include conference departmental director, and professor of Biblical Languages, Exegesis, and Theology at Saleve Adventist University in France, and later at Southern Adventist University and Oakwood University in the United States. Before joining the General Conference PARL department in 2011 as an associate director, Dr. Diop was the Director of the five Global Mission Study Centers of Adventist Mission.





**JENNIFER WOODS, JD, MPH**  
**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR**

Jennifer Gray Woods received her B.S. (Biology) from Oakwood College in 2002, her J.D. from Harvard University in 2005, and her M.P.H. from Johns Hopkins in 2007. She is a member of the Illinois and California bars.

Jennifer joined the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in 2015 as an Associate General Counsel where she focused on the areas of trademark, copyright, and data privacy. In 2021 Jennifer joined the Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty as an Associate Director. Before joining the General Conference, Jennifer worked in Washington D.C. at the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of General Counsel where her focus was legal issues concerning health operations and health administration.



**DR. NELU BURCEA**  
**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR**

Dr. Nelu Burcea serves as the church's liaison to the United Nations in New York and Geneva, and as its representative within the international community of civic and political leaders. His task is to continue developing relationships on behalf of the church with various international institutions. He brings to the department a strong educational background and administrative skills, along with a long-term commitment to ministry and mission.

Dr. Burcea is also an ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister, and has served as a local church pastor. Dr. Burcea has many educational credentials, including a PhD in Economics specializing in Management Business Ethics, a Masters degree in Management of Business Development, and a Theology degree. He has also completed postgraduate study in Media and Marketing and Diplomatic Protocol and Communication and a Postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University focusing on the area of religious freedom.



“WE SHARE WITH THE WORLD WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO,  
INCLUDING OUR CHURCH’S SIGNIFICANT PORTFOLIO OF SERVICES:  
HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY,  
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE,  
WOMEN’S MINISTRY,  
FAMILY MINISTRY,  
YOUTH AND CHILDREN MINISTRIES,  
ADVENTIST POSSIBILITY MINISTRIES.”

**DR. GANOUNE DIOP,**

*Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty  
for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church*

# HEALTH

The Health Ministries Department serves as a resource for information and counsel on health and temperance. It advises the Church and its departments and related agencies on health and/or temperance related policies and programs.

The Health Department promotes a healthful lifestyle among church members through literature, programs and Sabbath services.

It provides publications, services and programs to inform the world concerning the physical, mental and soul-destroying effects of tobacco, alcohol and other harmful substances.



# HEALTHCARE MINISTRY

Medical Clinics and  
Dispensaries

Hospitals and Sanitariums

229

Nursing Homes and  
Retirement Centers

129

1,475

Orphanages and  
Children's Homes

15

Over 20 million

128

Dental Clinics

Outpatient Visits

# EDUCATION

The interest of the Seventh-day Adventists in promoting education shows the philosophy that students at all levels of schooling possess individuality and should be educated to use their God-given capacities to become individuals of principle, qualified for any position in life. Education was to begin in the home where the basic values of redemptive discipline and mental and physical health were to be balanced with the importance of work.

Adventists have embraced the philosophy that education should be redemptive in nature, for the purpose of restoring human beings to the image of God, our Creator.

Mental, physical, social, and spiritual health, intellectual growth, and service to humanity form core values.



## THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

is responsible for the coordination, promotion, training, and quality of the global Seventh-day Adventist educational program, which includes 9,419 schools, colleges and universities, with 113,638 teachers and 2,023,844 students

	Schools	Teachers	Students
Elementary	6,623	56,752	1,268,405
Secondary	2,640	42,083	587,283
Further Education	38	547	7,159
Higher Education	118	14,256	160,997
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,419</b>	<b>113,638</b>	<b>2,023,844</b>

# HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is a global humanitarian organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church that demonstrates God's love and compassion in action.

ADRA works with people in poverty and distress to create just and positive change through empowering partnerships and responsible action. Through an international network, ADRA delivers relief and development assistance to individuals in more than 130 countries—regardless of their ethnicity, political affiliation, or religious association.

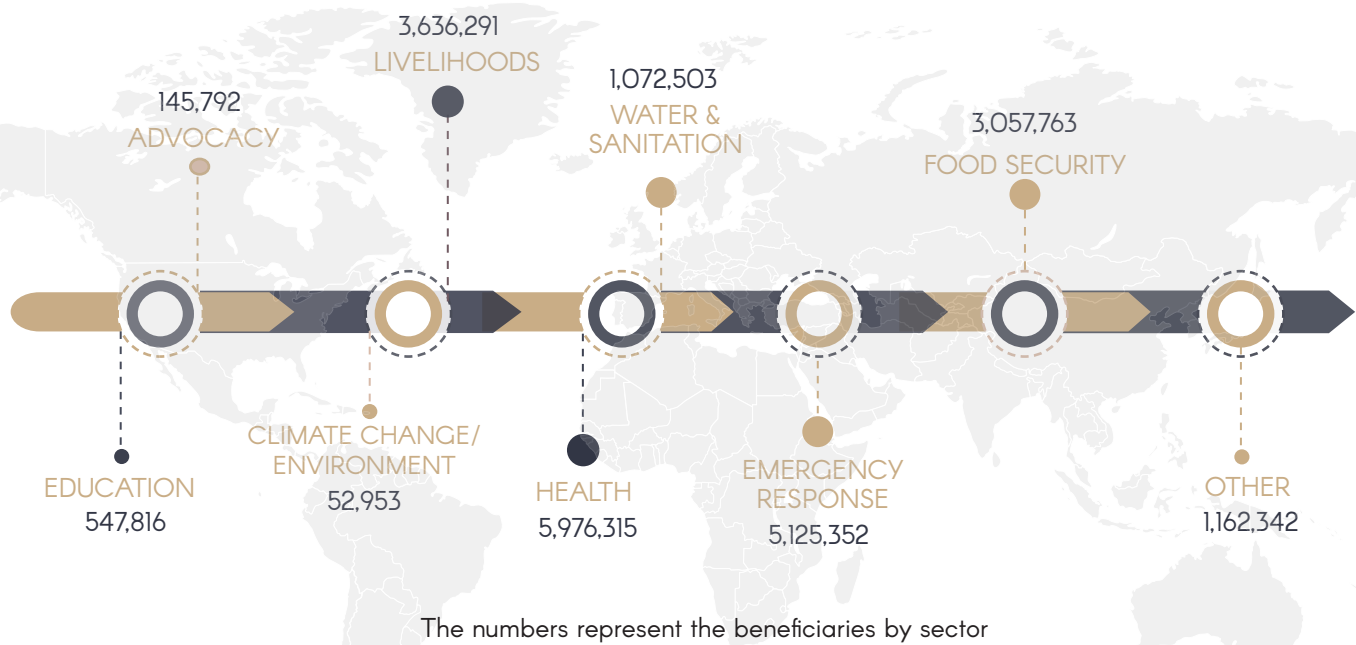
By partnering with communities, organizations, and governments, ADRA is able to improve the quality of life of millions. By working within the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) framework, ADRA was better equipped to implement projects that aligned with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).





## ADVENTIST HUMANITARIAN WORK

reaches into more than 130 countries and serves tens of millions of people every year



adventiststatistics.org

ADRA partners with multiple UN agencies in numerous countries, including with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

# WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

The Women's Ministries Department serves to the spiritual, emotional, physical and social needs of women around the world. It encourages women to improve their potential and participation in the mission of the church.

The Department provides a support system for hurting women, and a forum to address topics and issues as they affect women in and out of the church. It promotes programs to mentor young women and encourages young women academically through a scholarship program.



## THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

What it is?

Women's Ministries encourages women to improve their potential for participation in the mission of the church

It is a support system for hurting women—whether they are suffering from divorce, abuse or simply loneliness

It is a forum to help address topics and issues as they affect the woman

It encourages young women through a scholarship program

It encourages women to become involved in all areas of ministry in their church, their community, and in their home

It mentors young women so that they may find joy in the Lord

Women's Ministries recognizes that women have many Gifts of the Spirit, and it attempts to help women discover and use these gifts to the glory of God.

# FAMILY MINISTRIES

familyadventist.org

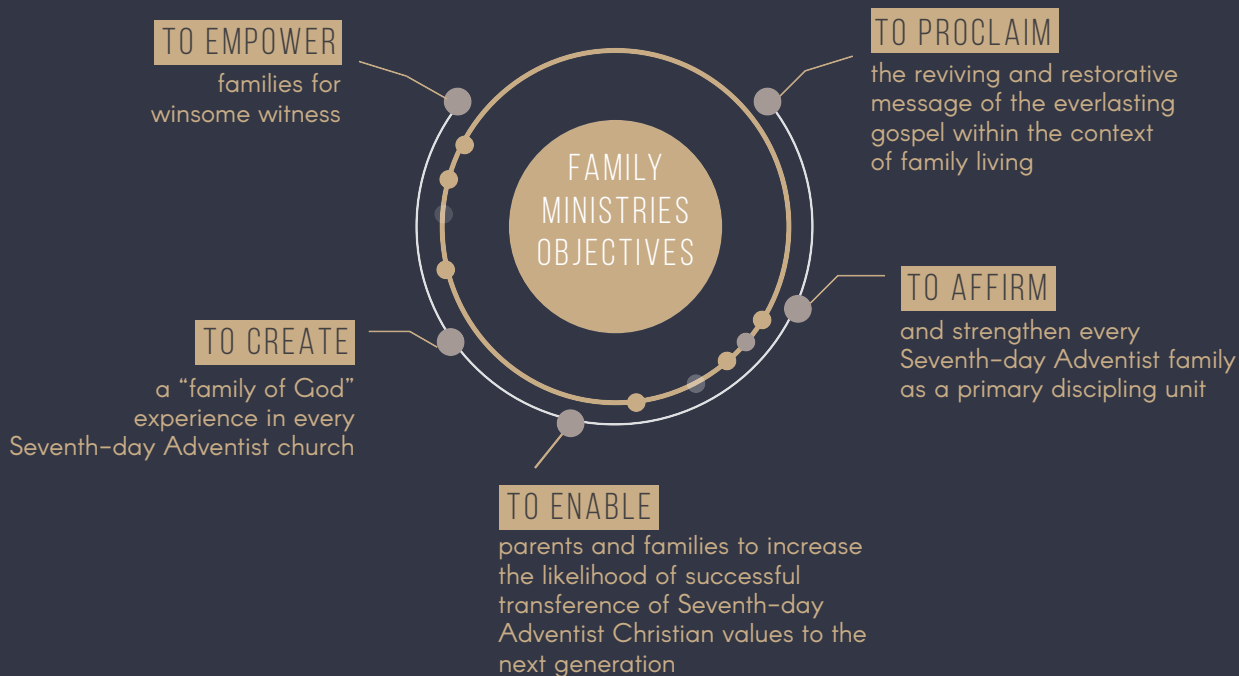
Family Ministries focuses on the relationships: husband and wife, parent and child. Relational dynamics are in view rather than the needs of individuals per se. Primary areas of emphasis include premarital guidance, strengthening marriage, parent education, and family evangelism.

The primary methodologies of the department are education and enrichment. While the target audience is families at home, the ministry is invaluable to the church as the wider family of God.



## THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MINISTRIES

seeks to strengthen, inspire hope, and bring healing to marriages, families, and individuals through the abundant love and saving grace of JESUS CHRIST



# YOUTH MINISTRIES

youth.adventist.org

The Youth Department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church coordinates youth ministry planning and resources between world church regions, and helps youth leaders evaluate and monitor the results of their programming.

The department conducts training seminars, workshops, and congresses for both department and specialized ministries in church regions around the world.



## Official Youth Ministries of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

### Adventurer Club

.....

4-9 YEARS OLD

With more than one million kids around the world, the Adventurer Club is designed to strengthen parent-child relationships by providing specialized weekly activities tuned into the psychological needs of this age group while simultaneously giving parents opportunities for learning parenting skills and enjoying special activities with their children.

Membership 1,328,039  
Clubs: 35,495

### Pathfinder Club

.....

10-15 YEARS OLD

With about 2 million members around the world, this Seventh-day Adventist Church-sponsored club accepts any youth who promises to abide by the Pathfinder Pledge and Law regardless of their church affiliation.

Membership 1,625,482  
Clubs: 47,325

### Ambassador Club

.....

16-20 YEARS OLD

The Ambassador Group is an organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church dedicated to meeting the spiritual, social, and lifestyle needs of youth ages 16-20's by challenging them to experiencing and sharing a personal relationship with Christ, developing a lifestyle fitting their belief system and vocational interest, and providing them with an adequate venue for wholesome development of lifelong friendships.

Membership 393,293  
Clubs: 18,615

### Young Adults

.....

21-30+ YEARS OLD

The story of the Adventist Youth Society, now titled Young Adults (YA), began over 125 years ago along a dusty country lane in Michigan with two young boys kneeling in prayer. Today that dusty lane has become a world-wide web of highways that links over 10 million Seventh-day Adventist young people in nearly every political entity on every continent of the globe.

Membership 2,427,509  
Societies: 78,647

# ADVENTIST POSSIBILITY MINISTRIES

Adventist Possibility Ministries (APM) coordinates and facilitates acceptance, support, and inclusion for people who have special needs and for their caregivers. This global ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church encompasses ministry *for* and *with* the deaf, blind, orphans, and those with mental health and mobility challenges. It also seeks to provide support for caregivers of those with special needs.

The mission of Adventist Possibility Ministries is built around the concept that “All are gifted, needed and treasured.” This ministry emphasizes the recognition of the value and dignity inherent in every person.





## ADVENTIST POSSIBILITY MINISTRIES

is a ministry about caring and helping develop a sense of inclusiveness



## 28

## FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS



Adventists hold 28 fundamental beliefs that can be organized into six categories—the doctrines of God, man, salvation, the church, the Christian life and last day events. In each teaching, God is the architect, who in wisdom, grace and infinite love, is restoring a relationship with humanity that will last for eternity.

## 1. HOLY SCRIPTURES

The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God, given by divine inspiration. The inspired authors spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. In this Word, God has committed to humanity the knowledge necessary for salvation.

## 2. TRINITY

There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation.

## 3. FATHER

God the eternal Father is the Creator, Source, Sustainer, and Sovereign of all creation. He is just and holy, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. The qualities and powers exhibited in the Son and the Holy Spirit are also those of the Father.

## 4. SON

God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. Through Him all things were created, the character of God is revealed, the salvation of humanity is accomplished, and the world is judged. Forever truly God, He became also truly human, Jesus the Christ.

## 5. HOLY SPIRIT

God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation, and redemption. He is as much a person as are the Father and the Son. He inspired the writers of Scripture. He filled Christ's life with power.

## 6. CREATION

God has revealed in Scripture the authentic and historical account of His creative activity. He created the universe, and in a recent six-day creation the Lord made "the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them" and rested on the seventh day.

## 7. NATURE OF HUMANITY

Man and woman were made in the image of God with individuality, the power and freedom to think and to do. Though created free beings, each is an indivisible unity of body, mind, and spirit, dependent upon God for life and breath and all else.

## 8. THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

All humanity is now involved in a great controversy between Christ and Satan regarding the character of God, His law, and His sovereignty over the universe. This conflict originated in heaven when a created being, endowed with freedom of choice, in self-exaltation became Satan, and led into rebellion a portion of the angels.

## 9. THE LIFE, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

In Christ's life of perfect obedience to God's will, His suffering, death, and resurrection, God provided the only means of atonement for human sin, so that those who by faith accept this atonement may have eternal life, and the whole creation may better understand the infinite love of the Creator.

## 10. THE EXPERIENCE OF SALVATION

In infinite love and mercy God made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might be made the righteousness of God. Led by the Holy Spirit we sense our need, acknowledge our sinfulness, repent of our transgressions, and exercise faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord, Substitute and Example.

## 11. GROWING IN CHRIST

By His death on the cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the demonic spirits during His earthly ministry has broken their power and made certain their ultimate doom. Continually committed to Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we are set free from the burden of our past deeds.

## 12. THE CHURCH

The church is the community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. The church is God's family; adopted by Him as children, its members live on the basis of the new covenant. The church is the body of Christ, a community of faith of which Christ Himself is the Head.

### 13. THE REMNANT AND ITS MISSION

The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

### 17. SPIRITUAL GIFTS

God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts that each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity. Given by the agency of the Holy Spirit, who apportions to each member as He wills, the gifts provide all abilities and ministries needed by the church to fulfill its divinely ordained functions.

### 14. UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

The church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us.

### 18. THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

The Scriptures testify that one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and we believe it was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White. Her writings speak with prophetic authority and provide comfort, guidance, and instruction to the church.

### 15. BAPTISM

By baptism we confess our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and testify of our death to sin and of our purpose to walk in newness of life. Thus we acknowledge Christ as Lord and Saviour, become His people, and are received as members by His church.

### 19. THE LAW OF GOD

The great principles of God's law are embodied in the Ten Commandments and exemplified in the life of Christ. They express God's love, will, and purposes concerning human conduct and relationships and are binding upon all people in every age.

### 16. THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is a participation in the emblems of the body and blood of Jesus as an expression of faith in Him, our Lord and Saviour. In this experience of communion Christ is present to meet and strengthen His people. As we partake, we joyfully proclaim the Lord's death until He comes again.

### 20. THE SABBATH

The gracious Creator, after the six days of Creation, rested on the seventh day and instituted the Sabbath for all people as a memorial of Creation. The fourth commandment of God's unchangeable law requires the observance of this seventh-day Sabbath as the day of rest, worship, and ministry in harmony with the teaching and practice of Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath.

## 21. STEWARDSHIP

We are God's stewards, entrusted by Him with time and opportunities, abilities and possessions, and the blessings of the earth and its resources. We are responsible to Him for their proper use. Stewardship is a privilege given to us by God for nurture in love and the victory over selfishness and covetousness.

## 22. CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR

We are called to be a godly people who think, feel, and act in harmony with biblical principles in all aspects of personal and social life. For the Spirit to recreate in us the character of our Lord we involve ourselves only in those things that will produce Christlike purity, health, and joy in our lives.

## 23. MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman in loving companionship. For the Christian a marriage commitment is to God as well as to the spouse, and should be entered into only between a man and a woman who share a common faith.

## 24. CHRIST'S MINISTRY IN THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY

There is a sanctuary in heaven, the true tabernacle that the Lord set up and not humans. At His ascension, He was inaugurated as our great High Priest and, began His intercessory ministry, which was typified by the work of the high priest in the holy place of the earthly sanctuary.

## 25. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the church, the grand climax of the gospel. The Saviour's coming will be literal, personal, visible, and worldwide. The time of that event has not been revealed, and we are therefore exhorted to be ready at all times.

## 26. DEATH AND RESURRECTION

The wages of sin is death. But God, who alone is immortal, will grant eternal life to His redeemed. Until that day death is an unconscious state for all people. When Christ appears, the resurrected righteous and the living righteous will be glorified and caught up to meet their Lord.

## 27. THE MILLENNIUM AND THE END OF SIN

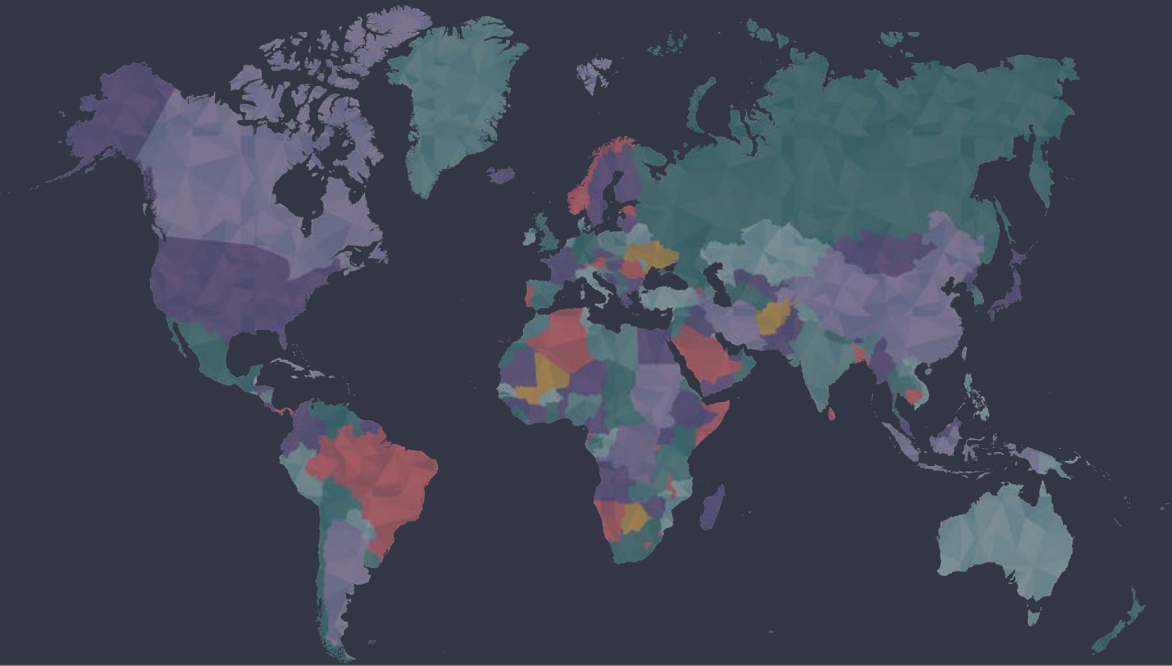
The millennium is the thousand-year reign of Christ with His saints in heaven between the first and second resurrections. During this time the wicked dead will be judged; the earth will be utterly desolate, without living human inhabitants, but occupied by Satan and his angels.

## 28. THE NEW EARTH

On the new earth, in which righteousness dwells, God will provide an eternal home for the redeemed and a perfect environment for everlasting life, love, joy, and learning in His presence. The great controversy will be ended, and sin will be no more.







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