**Editorial**

**Good and Bad News**

You’ve probably heard the story of the pastor who visited a member of his church who was very sick at the hospital. He had the difficult task of informing the patient that would be the last day of his life. When he entered the room, he said very gently that he had two things to tell him: one good and one bad. The patient asked him to tell the good news first, then the bad. The pastor than began by saying: “The good news my dear brother, is that one day you are going to sing in the Heavenly choir, and the bad news is that the practice is today.”

I also have two things to tell you: one good and one bad. The good news is that “*Tell the World”* will continue to be the General Conference official theme for 2010-2015. We hope there is an unprecedented involvement of the entire Church in the proclamation of the Gospel. The ultimate goal is to provide every person on earth with the chance to know Jesus Christ, so that we have a great harvest, as never before in history. Isn’t that good news?

The bad news is that at least 80% of our Church members might die, if Christ doesn’t come during this generation, without ever having the privilege of leading a soul to Christ, through baptism. This is sad, if not tragic! Although the Church is growing at a fast pace, this advance, is in truth, the result of the involvement of only 20% of its members. What would happen, then, if this year we had more members trained, equipped and empowered in the Church’s missionary program? The harvest would certainly be bigger. Our challenge is also to *involve the non-involved to reach the non-reached.* This means we need to have pastors and elders, more than ever, mobilizing and equipping church members to be involved in church mission. The goal is not focused on number of baptisms, but in greater church involvement and participation. Church leaders will not be challenged to carry a heavier work load than they already have. The truth is: we want to see the church in action, not only pastors and elders fighting at the frontline.

The General Conference president, Ted N. C. Wilson is also emphasizing the program *“Integrated Evangelism.”* In this program not only church leaders and members will be challenged to be involved but, each department, institution and church ministry will be committed in the proclamation of the Gospel. These are not integrated departments, for we know each department has its own specific activities to be promoted; however, each department and institution needs to be committed with the fulfillment of the mission. The slogan to motivate the church in this endeavor is still “*Tell the World*”. Everything the Church creates in the different geographical areas, such as *“Hope Impact”, “Share the Hope”, “Year of Evangelism,”* and other activities are strategies to motivate, train and involve the church in the *“Integrated Evangelism”* program.

There are also some special emphases that will be given during this quinquennium: ***Reach Up, Reach Out and Reach Across***. The first one is to motivate people to grow spiritually through Bible study, prayer, and reading the Spirit of Prophecy, resulting in revival and reformation. The second is to challenge the members to be more involved in the mission of the church, in community projects and increase the number of non-seventh-day Adventists attending church each week. The last one is to challenge church members to improve retention of members and increase the percentage of young people involved in the work of the church.

We are calling everyone to be involved and to participate. We want each local church leader to be an instrument of God by supporting and motivating their congregation in this mission strategy. During this year, I would like to be an agent so God may use me in a special way to tell of His love to those who still do not know Him. Would you like to join me in this dedication? If we do that, 2011 will certainly be the best year for our church in all its history.

**Jonas Arrais**

**General Conference Ministerial Secretay**