

Research & Strategic-Planning Advisory, 2020



CONTEXT FOR 2020–2025 RESEARCH

DAVID TRIM





Arthur G. Daniells

Presidential address to the 1922 GC Session

“This Conference should lay definite, workable plans for this movement ... the plans agreed upon here should be entered upon at once, and every preacher, every church officer, every conference & institutional leader, should have a part in it.”



(Photo: GC Archives)



**Research &
Planning
Context**

Oversight at the General
Conference:

The Future Plans Working Group

Chair, Michael Ryan (since 2010)

Secretary, David Trim (since 2012)

Three executive officers, six general vice-presidents, the undersecretary & undertreasurer, directors of Office of Adventist Mission, Education Department, Health Ministries Department

MULTIPLE RESEARCH
PROJECTS COMMISSIONED
EACH QUINQUENNIUM



Culminating in quinquennial
Planning Retreats at which
the outline is sketched for the
strategic plan or strategic focus
for the following quinquennium

UNION
HAITIANA

UNION
COLOMBIANA
DEL NORTE

UNION
MEXICANA
DEL NORTE

UNION
GUATEMALTECA

UNION
MEXICANA
DE INTEROCEANICA

UNION
MEXICANA
DEL NORTE

UNION MEXICANA
DEL SURESTE
UNION MEXICANA
DE CHIAPAS

UNION
GUATEMALTECA

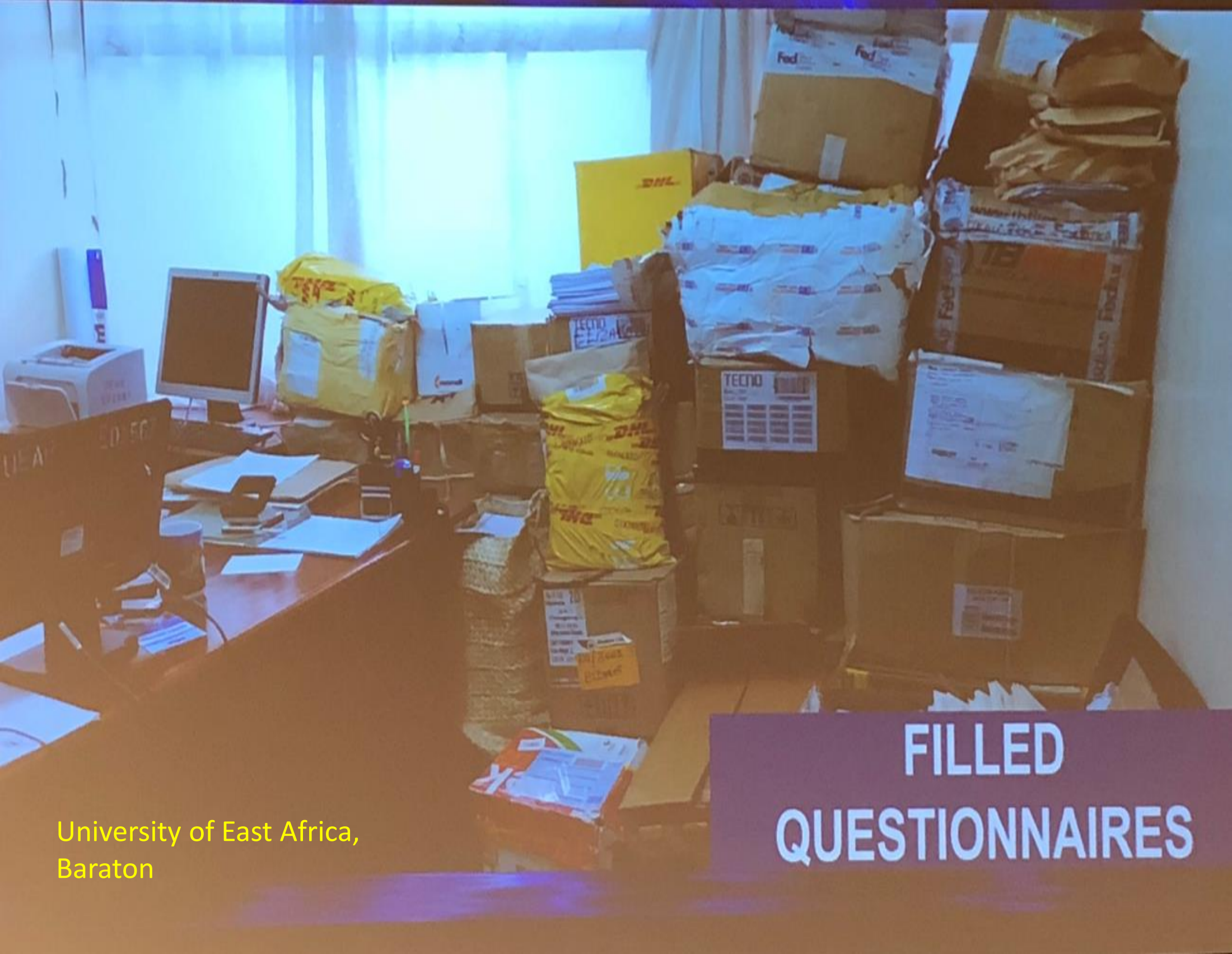
UNION
MEXICANA
DEL NORTE

UNION
MEXICANA
CENTRAL

UNION CUBANA
UNION COLOMBIANA
DEL SUR

UNION
SALVADOREÑA

UNION
PANAMEÑA
UNION DOMINICANA



University of East Africa,
Baraton

**FILLED
QUESTIONNAIRES**

I. Strategic Planning-related Research



**Carried out in 2010–15
quinquennium**



Projects commissioned 2012–13

To support the strategic-planning process



SUMMARY

- Five major studies completed
- Drew on a total of 42,150 interviews or completed questionnaires from around the world
- Methodologies: both quantitative and qualitative (though mostly the former)
- One major study left unfinished

Projects 2012–2013



1. Global Church Member Survey (GCMS)

- Implemented on six continents, in nine divisions, n = 26,343

2. Pastor's Survey

- Implemented in all 13 divisions, 116 unions (93%), and 424 conferences and missions (71%), n = 4,260

3. *Adventist Connectedness Study* (Millennials Survey)

- Graduates of Adventist universities (in NAD only), n = 1,153

Projects 2012–2013



4. *Leaving the Church*

- Qualitative study: interviews with former Adventists conducted in eight divisions, $n = 925$

5. Study of tithing and stewardship behaviors

- Included quantitative survey data, and analysis of actual tithe receipts and demographic data
- Implemented in five conferences on five continents
- For quantitative portion, $n = 9,003$

Projects 2012–2013



6. Surveys of school and college teachers, and hospital employees
 - It proved impossible to make significant headway

7. One other more minor study:
 - Church Leader Survey in all 13 divisions
 - Completed, but not in time for results to be incorporated into the 2015–20 strategic plan
 - Survey conducted in 2012–2014, n = 560

Reach the World



- All these research projects were carried out to inform the global strategic-planning process.
- The results of the five major studies were processed at the strategic planning retreat at Ouray, Colorado, in August 2013
- The outcome was *Reach the World*

II. Strategic Planning-related Research



**Carried out in 2016–2020
quinquennium**



Commissioned by FPWG for 2016–2023

To support the strategic-planning process



SUMMARY

1. Institutional workers' worldwide

- Building on the work begun in 2012–2013
- Seven years allocated: final reports to be submitted 2023
- Thus far: finished surveying teachers in SPD, NAD, TED; Surveys taking place of media centers worldwide and of all institutions in SAD

Commissioned by FPWG for 2017–2018

To support the strategic-planning process



SUMMARY

➤ Two new major studies commissioned and completed

2. Global Church Member Survey: implemented in all thirteen divisions, n = 63,756

3. Church Leader Survey: implemented in all thirteen divisions and in MENA, n = 440

I Will Go



- The findings of the Global Church Member Survey and the Church Leader Survey were processed at the strategic planning retreat in Spokane, Washington, in July 2018



MISSION

Jesus' Priority

Warm welcome to all our
special guests including
General Conference President

Elder Ted Wilson

and Upper Columbia
Conference President

Elder Minner Labrador

Mission Sabbath
July 21, 2018
Spokane Central SDA Church

Go therefore and make
disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the
name of the Father and of
the Son and of
the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28:19-20

For this work the church
was established, and all
who take upon themselves
its sacred vows are
thereby pledged to be
co-workers with Christ."

Desire of Ages, p. 822


Seventh-day
Adventist Church


Spokane
CENTRAL
Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Presenting to a convocation of local area churches in Spokane



I Will Go



- The findings of the Global Church Member Survey and the Church Leader Survey were processed at the strategic planning retreat in Spokane, Washington, in July 2018
- The result was *Reach the World: I Will Go* strategic focus

III. Other Research

Commissioned by GC Executive Officers



Carried out 2012–2018



Mission-Effectiveness Evaluations



2012–2015:

- *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World* magazines
- Hope Channel
- SunPlus accounting software

2016–2018:

- *Adventist Review* magazine and websites
- Adventist World Radio

Other Research Projects



2014–2016:

- Church leaders' views of the Geoscience Research Institute
- Teaching of Mission and Health in Ministerial and Theological Training programs
- Giving for mission in the North American Division

IV. Strategic Planning-related Research



**To be carried out in 2016–2020
quinquennium**



1. Global Church-Member Survey III



- We want to survey all thirteen divisions plus CHUM again
- Add MENA?
- Goal: equal or greater number of completed surveys than in 2018 (n = 63,756)
- To be implemented by teams in each division—*the likely leaders of those teams will be joining us later*

2. Church Leaders' Survey



- To be implemented by ASTR
- Concept: to use divisions' Year-End Meetings again—
—but is there a better way?
- Goal: to increase the number of valid responses to
more than 500

3. Institutional Workers' Survey



- Complete the work already begun
- Ideally should cover *all types of* institutions: not just schools or media centers but colleges, hospitals, publishing houses, health-food factories
- Will not be possible to survey *all* institutions but aim is to get a representative sample of each sector
- One team implementing: Avondale University College, led by Dr. Robert McIver

4. Pastors' Survey



- *This is provisional: funding is uncertain*
- FPWG identified need of a pastors' survey at Spokane; supported by current administration
- No survey in 2015–20 quinquennium; if not done this time, it would mean 15 years between surveys
- Yet this is the key workforce in the entire church
- If it goes ahead, it will probably be implemented by one team (identity to be determined by FPWG)

We need your help!



None of this can happen without **active** collaboration
by the world divisions and attached unions

Thank you for assisting us in the past

Please work with us again
To improve our collective self-knowledge
And thus our mission effectiveness