

Dear Attendees of the Nurture and Retention Summit:

Welcome to the Summit and thank you for taking your precious time and dedicating it to this very important aspect of Church life!

First of all, on behalf of the General Conference Nurture and Retention Committee, I would like to thank in a special way all those who have conducted research in the area of Nurture, Retention, and Discipleship and will share with us their findings during this Summit. My appreciation also goes to all division representatives who have come from near and far to share with us the methods they are using in their respective territories in nurturing and retaining adults as well as young people. Finally, a very distinct thank you to the personnel and leadership of the GC Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research. They have done an extraordinary work in making this event a reality.

It is our great hope that this Summit will help us to understand more clearly why people, especially young adults, leave the Church. We anticipate that this Summit will also contribute to the developing of a new culture in our beloved Church, a culture that will open more widely the front doors of our churches and close more tightly the back doors, thus making our churches warmer, caring, loving, and welcoming places.

Jesus, the Great Disciple Maker, has left us His example of how important the work of Nurturing, Retaining, and Reclaiming actually is. So let us follow our Master.

Yours,

Artur Stele, Ph.D.
GC General Vice President,
BRI Director, Chair of GC Nurture & Retention Committee