



## Assorted Facts About Adventists and Their Church

**The name** Seventh-day Adventist is based upon two core beliefs of the church. *Seventh-day* describes the observance of the biblical Sabbath, the seventh day of the week—Saturday—as God's ordained day of worship. *Advent*, or coming, describes a belief in the nearness of Jesus Christ's return to this earth.

With **15 million baptized members** (a community of 20 million, 10 million of which are under 35 years of age) and about a million new members joining each year, Seventh-day Adventists are among the fastest growing denominations in the world.

The **official logo** of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church was adopted only recently. It happened at the church's Annual Council in 1996. Prior to the logo you see today, the church did not have an official corporate identity program. With the help of professional graphic artists and the world church communication department, there is a symbol that encompasses who Adventists are in a concise, highly recognizable symbol. The logo also includes the full name of the church.

Adventists have an established **presence in 204 of the 230 countries** and areas recognized by the United Nations, and communicate in more than 700 languages.

Ellen G. White (1827-1915), one of the founding pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is the **world's most translated female author**. With literary productions totaling 100,000 pages—including more than 130 books—Ellen G. White has provided millions of people with a unique Christian perspective on the world in which we live. Through the inspiration of her writings the Seventh-day Adventist Church has become one of the dominant forces in promoting quality of life and the value of education, and in communicating fresh insights into the life of Jesus Christ.

Adventists operate one of the **largest religious educational infrastructures** in the world, with over 6,700 elementary and secondary schools worldwide, as well as 100 colleges and universities. A combined enrollment is over 1.2 million students worldwide.

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**WORLD HEADQUARTERS**  
**OFFICE OF MEDIA RELATIONS**  
12501 OLD COLUMBIA PIKE  
SILVER SPRING, MD 20904-6600 USA  
301 680 6300 | 301 680 6312 FAX  
**WWW.ADVENTIST.ORG**  
**MEDIA@GC.ADVENTIST.ORG**

According to **National Geographic Magazine** (November 2005), the average Adventist lives 4–10 years longer than the average Californian.

Seventh-day Adventists take their **lifestyle**, including health, seriously. Besides not smoking and drinking, we also encourage a vegetarian diet. Now, not all Adventists are vegetarian, but if they do eat meat they use the guidelines established in the Bible regarding clean and unclean food.

**Dr. John Harvey Kellogg**, an Adventist pioneer, guided the Adventist Church's first medical institution, Battle Creek Sanitarium, into becoming an internationally known medical center of its time. From its beginnings in the 1860s, the Adventist Church now operates more than 600 hospitals, sanitariums, dispensaries and clinics worldwide. The Kellogg family has become internationally known for their breakfast foods discoveries and production. Today, Adventists are behind several internationally recognized, successful health-food companies.

Responding to Christ's command to "Go into the all world, and preach the gospel," the Adventist Church launched Global Mission in 1990. The office of **Global Mission** was given a mandate to establish new groups of believers in areas where there were no established Adventist churches. Particular emphasis was given to the so-called "10/40 Window." More than 30,000 lay people, referred to as pioneers, are involved in Global Mission activities around the world.

In 2005, Adventists are celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Loma Linda University and **Loma Linda University** Medical Center. LLUMC operates some of the largest clinical programs in the United States in areas such as neonatal care and outpatient surgery and is recognized as the international leader in infant heart transplantation and proton treatments for cancer. Students from more than 80 countries are represented in Loma Linda University's student body. Through providence, Loma Linda has truly grown and prospered beyond the early leaders' expectations. It has emerged into a health-sciences university and medical center internationally known for advanced technology, service-oriented medical care, and education, operating numerous programs and facilities internationally.

Adventist Health System's **Florida Hospital**, is considered to be the **busiest hospital** in the United States. The Disney Corporation invited Florida Hospital to create and operate "The Hospital of the 21st Century," in their new community of Celebration. That new hospital, Florida Hospital Celebration Health, operating in partnership with more than a dozen corporations like General Electric, Johnson and Johnson, and Roche Diagnostics, is a laboratory for the "best practices in healthcare," and trains more than 2,000 healthcare professionals from around the world each year.

The word CREATION is also an acronym for **eight principles of Health** God gave us in the Garden of Eden: Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust in God, Interpersonal Relationships, Outlook, and Nutrition. Those eight principles provide the "care plan" for the whole-person health ministry of the hospitals, rehab centers, medical practices, and community health initiatives of the Adventist Health System.

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**The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)** International is an independent humanitarian agency established in 1984 by the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the specific purpose of providing individual and community development and disaster relief. ADRA has a presence in more than 120 countries and assists more than 20 million people annually. ADRA's motto is "Changing the world, one life at a time."

The **Adventist AIDS International Ministry (AAIM)** office in Johannesburg, South Africa serves the territory of continental Africa and the Indian Ocean through Adventist Medical, Educational, Humanitarian, and Religious institutions. The office coordinates actions and resources to bring comfort, healing and hope to people affected by HIV/AIDS, and shares a message of education and prevention. This office is the result of a joint project of the world church headquarters, regional church offices, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), and Loma Linda University.

Seventy percent of the world's population is a potential audience for **Adventist World Radio**, which is recognized as a major religious shortwave broadcaster. These programs, broadcast in 55 languages, are produced in 69 different production studios around the world.

In 1994, Seventh-day Adventists entered the world of **cyberspace** by establishing an interactive, popular forum on CompuServe. It now successfully uses the Web for its mission activities. Internationally, you can look through the church's "window" on the World Wide Web at <http://www.adventist.org>.

In 2004, the church celebrated the tenth anniversary of its presence on **satellite television**, the newest in the television ministry of the church. After the so-called occasional event evangelistic broadcasts, translated simultaneously in 40 languages, the global satellite system, Adventist Television Network, can be viewed on Hope Channel around the globe.

The weekly information voice of the global church, **Adventist News Network**, via e-mail and the Internet, reaches tens of thousands of readers worldwide with news about Seventh-day Adventist church matters, social concerns and global action. Hundreds of thousands more interact with ANN reports as they are republished in church and outside media around the world.

The church has a representative to the United States Congress and the United Nations. Through the office of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, the church works closely with policy and lawmakers to help protect our **religious liberty**. Such publications as *Liberty Magazine*, *Fides et Libertas*, and *Conscience et Liberté* are supported by the church in promoting religious freedom.

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**Let's Talk** is a direct line for young people to the office of the president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. By going to [www.letstalk.adventist.org](http://www.letstalk.adventist.org) you can ask questions or make comments directly to the president's office.

Historically, Seventh-day Adventists have been known for their **non-combatancy**. An example of such a stance is an American soldier who saved the lives of 75 of his fellow soldiers in a battle of Okinawa without carrying a gun. Private Desmond T. Doss, a conscientious objector, enlisted in the army, and was ridiculed by his peers for his religious conviction. For his bravery he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest citation in the United States. Inspired by his story, filmmaker Terry L. Benedict created an award-winning documentary film that chronicles the life of Doss and his faith that he clung to so dearly.

Every five years the Seventh-day Adventist Church holds a worldwide business meeting. Known as the **General Conference Session**, this meeting of more than 2,100 delegates, representing the worldwide membership, has elections for leadership positions of the church and also votes for new initiatives and policies that affect Seventh-day Adventists worldwide.

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