

the National Service Organization, and the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Self-Supporting Institutions. These departments all function under the general organization of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.

Thus we have sketched the history of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination from its beginning stages up to the present day.

As to the present day picture of this denomination, Mr. Walter Martin gives the following statistics in his book, The Kingdom Of The Cults, which was published in 1965 A.D. In this book Mr. Martin writes:

Today the Seventh-day Adventist denomination numbers over 1,250,000 adult baptized members, while they have over 1,600,000 Sabbath school members throughout the world. There are some 6,300 ordained ministers and more than 3,500 licensed ministers. The Adventists have 44 publishing houses producing literature in approximately 225 languages, while they are preaching and teaching in about 800 languages and dialects. They publish 385 periodicals and more than 60 new books yearly, and have enrolled more than 3,000,000 persons in their Bible study courses offered over the radio. Their Voice of Prophecy radio program is heard on 880 stations and is reaching people in some 75 languages. Faith for Today, their official TV program is heard on 183 stations in the U.S. and many stations abroad. The Signs of the Times and These Times their largest missionary magazines have a combined circulation of 420,000 copies a month.

During 1963 Seventh-day Adventists contributed more than \$85,000,000 for their church work at home and abroad, while the literature sales of the denomination amounted to \$24,000,000. They contributed on the average of over \$226 per person. In addition the Adventists maintain 230 medical units employing over 490 doctors in 110 sanitariums and hospitals with 124 clinics and dispensaries. They have numerous medical launches in areas like the Amazon, and welfare projects all over the globe.

It is interesting to note by way of contrast that the average per capita contribution for all denominations in the United States is \$48.81! Though still a relatively small denomination, the Seventh-day Adventists are said to have actually more missionaries active on foreign fields than any other mission body except Methodists who have a few over 1,600; the Adventists in excess of 1,500.

To round out the picture where this zealous group is concerned, it should be remembered that Adventists have a working force of more than 46,000 with a total of 12,600 churches organized into 425 conferences and union conferences. The Adventist school system comprising 5,226 schools and colleges employs more than 12,000 teachers. Approximately 295,000 students are attending their schools.³⁵

³⁵ Walter R. Martin, The Kingdom Of The Cults, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1965), p. 365.