

Official press release from the
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Seventh-day Adventist® Church



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

World's largest vegetarian restaurant now in Atlanta

ATLANTA – The Georgia World Congress Center is temporarily home to the world's largest vegetarian restaurant, thanks to the international business session of the historically vegetarian Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Preparation for one meal is a two-day process, says executive chef Frank Abbinanti. Even with the help of Levy Restaurant's 75 cooks and 80 service attendants, preparing 250,000 meals over 10 days takes meticulous planning.

Abbinanti personally supervises all meals prepared in the Dome and Georgia World Congress Center. Over the years he's become familiar with vegetarian food preparation, as many individuals within the Atlanta Falcon's organization are vegetarian.

Hundreds of volunteers will assist in serving an expected 10,000 patrons per meal from June 23 to July 3. The estimated 70,000 Seventh-day Adventists will gather in the 206,000 square foot serving area in the Georgia World Congress Center. The meals are served buffet style, with multiple food stations in place to move large groups along quickly.

The meals have an ethnic flare reflecting the various cultures from around the world, Abbinanti says. All food items served are prepared on site, with many dishes created from scratch. Abbinanti says they will serve about 32,000 pounds of rice and 250,000 bread rolls during the lunch and dinner meals.

In the November 2005 edition of National Geographic, Seventh-day Adventists were featured in an article on people that lived long lives. In this article, longevity was attributed to healthy lifestyles which included exercise and diet.

About General Conference Session:

The 59th General Conference Session is a business meeting of the global Seventh-day Adventist Church from June 24 to July 3, 2010 in Atlanta. Occurring every five years, General Conference Session gathers representatives from the church around the world to elect leadership and determine the focus of mission. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a mainline protestant denomination with over 16.3 million members in 206 nations around the world. The church's headquarters is in Silver Spring, Maryland.

If you are interested in this story, please contact George Johnson Jr., at 240-338-2219.

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