

Official press release from the
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June 29, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

International fashion parade concludes Adventist world church Session

ATLANTA – An international fashion parade – or “Parade of Nations” – featuring 206 countries ranging from Albania to Zimbabwe will brighten Atlanta’s Georgia Dome on Saturday, July 3, at 7 p.m. The Parade of Nations is free and open to the public.

This unique Parade of Nations is the grand finale event culminating the 59th General Conference Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The two-hour event highlights global cultures as representatives of the 206 nations of the world church, clothed in traditional dress, march with their respective national flag to the podium.

“The Parade of Nations is a celebration of the immense diversity of the church members,” says G. Alexander Bryant, secretary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, who spearheads this event. “The native attire of the participants is an inspiration” as it demonstrates unity in diversity, Bryant said.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has over 16.3 million members in 206 nations worldwide. The church covers 13 world regions and has an overall growth rate of 8 percent. The three countries that have received substantial growth over a five year period are India, 55 percent; Zambia, 30 percent; and Zimbabwe, 21 percent. The United States was seventh in growth.

Bryant states that the purpose of the parade is to emphasize the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church based on Christ’s commission in Matthew 28:19, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.” The event accentuates the challenge to expand the world church into remote regions of the world.

The parade will conclude with participants singing the hymn “Jesus Is Coming Again,” Bryant said.

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.

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