

ISAIAH 1:17-18



# Learn, Seek, Defend & Disciple



Orphans & Vulnerable  
Children's Ministries  
**GLOBAL  
CONGRESS 2024**

| **February  
21-26**

**PACIFIC HOTEL**  
SIEM REAM, CAMBODIA

# Message

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Dear Delegates and Friends:

I am delighted to welcome you to the Orphans and Vulnerable Children's Ministries Global Congress, held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from February 21 - 26, 2024. I wish Nancy and I could join you, as we have a heart for this ministry!

What a privilege to serve the Lord at this time in earth's history as part of the mighty Advent movement. Certainly, the unfolding of the great controversy theme is coming to a climax. Jesus' return is imminent. Let us continue to humbly submit ourselves to Christ and seek revival and reformation through the power of the Holy Spirit so that the Lord can pour out the latter rain and Jesus can come. As we proclaim God's grace and the three angels' messages that focus on Christ and His righteousness, let us be moved with compassion to care for the orphans and vulnerable children.

You have been called to a very special ministry. I am pleased to see the strong teamwork between Children's Ministries and Possibility Ministries to care for the orphans and vulnerable children! The congress theme "**Learn, Seek, Defend & Disciple**" comes from the Bible text, Isaiah 1:17-18, which is a powerful reminder of what the three angels' messages motivates us to care & minister!

**"Learn** to do good; **Seek** justice, Rebuke the oppressor; **Defend** the fatherless, Plead for the widow. 'Come now, and let us reason together,' says the Lord, 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.'"

This precious Seventh-day Adventist message, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is to turn people back to the true worship of God. The Lord will bless your special efforts for Him. Let us work together through the power of the Holy Spirit as we fulfill God's unique mission entrusted to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

May God bless your special work for Him as you uplift Jesus and proclaim His soon coming!

With Christian Greetings,



Ted N C Wilson, President



# Speakers

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## **Abner De Los Santos**

**General Vice President**

Originally from Mexico, he began his work in 1986 in southeast Mexico. He earned a master's in pastoral ministry from Andrews University and completed a doctorate degree in ministry from the Inter-American Theological Seminary in 2012. He and his wife, Leticia has two adult children.



## **Audrey Anderson**

**General Vice President**

With roots in Ireland's pastoral community, she navigated a multifaceted career post-Theology graduation and amidst her professional pursuits, she engaged in church initiatives like the Gracelink Sabbath School Curriculum, ascending as the first European woman and the second woman overall in her current position.



## **Ernesto Douglas Venn**

**Assistant to the President for Adventist Possibility Ministries, Co-chair of the GC APM Taskforce for Orphans and Vulnerable Children**

Pastor Venn seeks to uplift Christ, over the past 31 years of ministry, He has served as church planter, district pastor in the US, and as cross cultural missionary with his family in Thailand and Philippines. He hosted the TV show, "I Want This City!" aired on Hope Channel and 3ABN. He is married to Dawn and have two adult children. He is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Missiology in Urban Mission from Andrews University



## **David Fournier**

**VP | Chief Client Care Officer  
Adventist Risk Management Inc.**

Having served ARM since 2004, he is responsible for implementing the delivery of products and service programs which includes oversight for the communication, customer service, risk control, and risk education programs of ARM. Graduated with an MBA from Southern Adventist University, he also holds the Associate in Risk Management from the Institutes, and Property and Casualty, Life and Health producer licenses.



## **Diane Thurber**

**President**

**Christian Record Services, Inc.**

Diane Thurber is equipped with a diverse skill set encompassing Web Content Management, Ministry Leadership, Community Outreach, Crisis Management, and Family Ministries. Her extensive experience spans various leadership roles at the Lake Union, Indiana, Northern New England and Michigan Conferences.



## **Orathai Chureson**

**Director**

**Children's Ministries of General Conference**

With a background in education, she specializes in curriculum development, instruction, and TESOL. Her work experience was in diverse roles, including elementary teacher, tertiary instructor, and children's story translator.

Being a Thai native, she enjoys reading, writing and exploring new cultures. She and her husband, Pastor Samuel Saw have two teenage children.



## **Stepan Avakov**

**Co-chair of the GC APM Taskforce for Orphans and Vulnerable Children**

Stepan Avakov initiated the establishment of the Adoption Support Center, a supporting ministry based in Rostov-on-Don with the aim of aiding adoptive and foster families. The ministry actively engages families through seminars, biblical counseling, and providing medical and legal support.

He shares a joyful marriage with Olesya and together, they nurture three sons named David, Alex, and Daniel.



## **Todd McFarland**

**Deputy General Counsel, General Conference**

Atty. McFarland received his Bachelor of Arts in History from Southern Adventist University in 1997 and his Juris Doctor from the University of Illinois, College of Law in 2000. He was appointed Associate General Counsel in 2006. Before joining the Office of General Counsel, Mr. McFarland practiced with a civil litigation firm in the St. Louis, Missouri area for more than five years.





## **Zivayi Nengomasha**

**Chief Collective Impact Officer**  
**ADRA International**

Born a Zimbabwean, Zivayi and her husband, Edward, are blessed with two adult children.

Holding a PhD in Animal Science – Rangeland Ecology and a Masters in International and have served in ADRA for over 16 years, she has passionately led in the design and successful implementation of multi-country programs targeting vulnerable children and youth.



## **Torben Bergland**

**Associate Director**  
**Health Ministries of General Conference**

He is a psychiatrist and psychotherapist and has taken a particular interest in working with patients with depression, anxiety, and personality disorders, as well as integrating relational, religious, and existential perspectives in psychotherapy.



## **Anna Gabriella Colon**

**Assistant General Counsel**

She received her Bachelor of Science in Accounting in 2015 and later graduated with her Juris Doctor from the Catholic University of America in 2018. She is a member of the D.C. Bar. Prior to joining the Office of General Counsel in November 2021, she served as an Associate in private practice. Most recently she was a litigator representing clients before the Virginia and Maryland Immigration Courts.



## **Linda Koh**

**Former Director**  
**Children's Ministries of the General Conference**

She is a retired director of the Children's Ministries of the General Conference and enjoys developing resources to nurture the faith of children and has written books. She holds doctorate degree in education, psychology and counseling at Andrews University



## Larry Evans

**Former Assistant to the President  
for Adventist Possibilities Ministries**

As a committed leader within Possibility Ministries, Pr. Evans has exemplified his commitment through a series of impactful roles across local organizations and the world church. He has served at various levels, including as an assistant to presidents at local conferences. During his tenure at the GC, he held several significant responsibilities, such as Undersecretary, Associate Director of Stewardship, and Assistant to the President for Adventist Possibility Ministries.



## Thomas Ongasa

**Train Them 2 Fish  
Supporting Ministry**

Pastor Ongasa is part of Train Them 2 Fish, a supporting ministry dedicated to empowering communities in French-speaking countries of Central Africa and beyond which collaborates with various organizations and donors to extend their impact, including in war-torn regions like the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Their mission is to foster holistic empowerment, nurturing spiritually enriched, health-conscious, and self-reliant individuals and communities.



## Rith Yamin

**Pursat Child Sponsorship Education Facilitator  
ADRA Cambodia**

Mr. Rith Yamin has a BA of Theology studies in APIU Thailand. He began his journey as a teacher in Thailand's government school system in 2013 before returning to Cambodia in 2014 to serve as a Morality Teacher, Chaplain, and Youth Leader at ICC, an Adventist orphanage in Kompong Thom province. In 2016, Yamin had the privilege of joining ADRA Cambodia, where he contributed to the EMBRACE project. In 2019, he transitioned to a new role as a Pursat Child Sponsorship Education Facilitator. Yamin is passionate about empowering young minds and making a positive impact in their lives.



## San Raksa

Adventist Community Services / Total Member  
Involvement project  
ADRA Cambodia

Mr. San Raksa has a BA in Health Ministries from Hartland College in the USA. He has been working with ADRA Cambodia since 2016, first as a Health Facilitator in the EMBRACE project. Raksa worked to set up and supported mother's groups in rural women learning about health, including parenting. In 2019, Raksa began work in the Adventist Community Service/Total Members Involvement project. He has two wonderful children, one boy, and one girl, as well as a lovely wife.



## Mark Schwisow

Country Director ADRA Cambodia

Mark Schwisow started his work in Asia as a volunteer in a Loatian refugee camp along the border in Thailand. After graduating as an engineer, he came to Cambodia in 1994 to work with ADRA and build health centers, but spent two years first helping the Cambodia Adventist Mission to construct churches until a church builder arrived. After supervising the building of 8 health centers with ADRA Cambodia, Mark found that he could use his engineering training to conduct assessments, and implement and monitor development projects effectively. Mark became Country Director for ADRA Cambodia in 2004 and continues his interest in efficiency as he leads the ADRA Cambodia team and partners. Mark loves to play the trumpet, conduct choirs and lead Adventurers in exploring the universe.



## Ann Schwisow

Associate Director ADRA Cambodia

Ann Schwisow began working for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in 2000 and has been in Cambodia as Associate Director for the last 22 years. Working for ADRA fulfilled Ann's life-long dream that began as a small child when seeing SAWS respond to a terrible cyclone in Bangladesh. While Ann's work involves supporting administrative and technical issues, her passion and graduate studies are working with victims of gender and domestic violence, speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves and supporting them in learning themselves.

# Schedule

## DAY 1 | FEB 21, 2024

08:00 – 08:45 am	Morning Devotional – <b>Linda Koh</b>
08:45 – 09:00 am	Free Time/Walking Break/Media Time
09:00 – 09:30 am	<b>OPENING PROGRAM</b>
09:30 – 10:00 am	Plenary – <b>Larry Evans</b> (APM) <i>Why We Need To Seek?</i>
10:00 – 10:30 am	Plenary – <b>Linda Koh</b> (CHM) <i>Why We Need To Disciple?</i>
10:30 – 11:00 am	Plenary – <b>David Fournier</b> (ARM) <i>Why We Need To Defend?</i>
11:00 – 11:15 am	Free Time/Walking Break/Media Time
11:15 – 11:45 am	Group Discussion
11:45 – 12:00 pm	Group Discussion – <b>Stepan Avakov</b>
12:00 – 02:00 pm	Free Time – Lunch – Networking
02:00 – 02:40 pm	Plenary – <b>Orathai Chureson</b> <i>Reaching Vulnerable Children from Diverse Cultures</i>
02:40 – 03:00 pm	GC VPs Moderate Reporting
03:00 – 03:25 pm	Free Time / Walking Break / Media Time
03:25 – 04:00 pm	Group Discussion – The Challenges
04:00 – 05:00 pm	OVC Resource Promotion <b>Zivayi Nengomasha</b> (ADRA International) <b>Mark &amp; Anne Schwisow</b> (ADRA Cambodia)
05:00 – 05:30 pm	Summary/Preview – <b>Doug Venn / Orathai Chureson</b>
05:30 – 07:30 pm	Free Time / Networking / Dinner / Shopping
07:30 – 08:00 pm	Consultation / Networking

# Schedule

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## DAY 2 | FEB 22, 2024

08:00 – 08:45 am	Morning Devotional – <b>Diane Thurber</b>
08:45 – 09:00 am	Free Time/Walking Break/Media Time
09:00 – 09:30 am	Plenary – <b>Torben Bergland</b> <i>Understanding the Nature &amp; Impact of Trauma</i>
09:30 – 10:00 am	Plenary – <b>Anna Gabriella Colon</b> <i>Advocating &amp; Defending OVC in Today's Context</i>
10:00 – 10:30 am	Plenary – <b>San Raksa , Ramin Rith, Mark &amp; Ann Schwisow</b> <i>ADRA Cambodia's Work and the Mission: A OVC Case Study</i>
10:30 – 11:00 am	Plenary – <b>Steve Avakov</b> <i>Building Blocks of OVC Ministry</i>
11:00 – 11:15 am	Free Time/Walking Break/Media Time
11:15 – 11:45 am	Group Discussion – OVC Building Blocks 1 TEAM BUILDING by coded groups
11:45 – 12:00 nn	GC VPs Moderate Group Discussion
12:00 – 02:00 pm	Free Time – Lunch – Networking
02:00 – 02:40 pm	Group Discussion – OVC Ministries Strengths & Opportunities
02:40 – 03:00 pm	GC VPs Moderate Reporting
03:00 – 03:15 pm	Free Time / Walking Break / Media Time
03:15 – 03:35 pm	Group Discussion – OVC Building Block 2 INFRASTRUCTURE by coded groups
03:35 – 04:15 pm	GC VPs Moderate the Feedback
04:15 – 04:30 pm	Free Time/Walking Break/Media Time



## DAY 2 | FEB 22, 2024

04:30 – 05:00 pm	OVC Resource Promotion – <b>Diane Thurber</b> <i>Christian Record Services for the Blind</i>
05:00 – 05:30 pm	Summary/Preview – <b>Doug Venn / Orathai Chureson</b>
05:30 – 07:30 pm	Free Time / Networking / Dinner / Shopping
07:30 – 08:00 pm	Consultation / Networking

## DAY 3 | FEB 23, 2024

08:00 – 08:45 am	Morning Devotional – <b>Abner De los Santos</b>
08:45 – 09:00 am	Free Time/Walking Break/Media Time
09:00 – 09:30 am	Plenary – <b>Douglas Venn</b> <i>Adventist History of OVC</i>
09:30 – 10:00 am	Plenary – <b>Todd McFarland</b> <i>OGC Missional Supports: Legal Considerations for Conducting Ministries Around OVC</i>
10:00 – 10:30 am	Plenary – <b>Zivayi Nengomasha</b> <i>Reaching the Vulnerables with Connections &amp; How Actions Speak Louder than Words</i>
10:30 – 11:00 am	Plenary – <b>David Fournier</b> <i>ARM Perspectives: Defending the Orphans &amp; Vulnerable Children and Protecting the Church and its Mission</i>
11:00 – 11:15 am	Free Time/Walking Break/Media Time
11:15 – 11:45 am	Group Discussion – OVC Building Blocks 3 <i>BUDGET by coded groups</i>
11:45 – 12:00 nn	GC VPs Moderate Group Discussion
12:00 – 02:00 pm	Free Time – Lunch

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## DAY 3 | FEB 23, 2024

02:00 – 02:40 pm	OVC Ministry Profiles
02:40 – 03:00 pm	GC VPs Moderate Reporting
03:00 – 03:15 pm	Free Time / Walking Break / Media Time
03:15 – 03:35 pm	Group Discussion – OVC Building Block 4 <i>ENVIRONMENT by coded groups</i>
03:35 – 04:15 pm	GC VPs Moderate the Feedback
04:15 – 04:30 pm	Free Time/Walking Break/Media Time
04:30 – 05:00 pm	OVC Resource Promotion – <b>Orathai Chureson / Nilde Itin</b> <i>Children's Ministries</i>
05:00 – 05:30 pm	Summary/Preview – <b>Doug Venn / Orathai Chureson</b>
05:30 – 07:30 pm	Free Time
07:30 – 08:00 pm	Vespers

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## DAY 4 | FEB 24, 2024

08:00 – 08:45 am	Morning Devotional – <b>Audrey Anderson</b>
08:45 – 9:15 am	Travel to <b>SALT MINISTRIES &amp; Butterfly Paradise Orphanage</b>
09:15 – 1:00 pm	Testimony – <b>Tim &amp; Wendy Maddocks</b>  Children’s Ministries Activities with Orphans  Group Photo  Orphanage Tour  Butterfly Paradise Tour  SALT Ministries Studio Tour / SANGKEM Media
01:00 – 01:15 pm	Return Back to the Hotel
01:15 – 03:15 pm	Free Time – Lunch
03:15 – 04:30 pm	Free Time – Media Time
04:30 – 6:00 pm	<b>Communion &amp; Commitment Service</b> Abner De Los Santos
06:00 – 08:00 pm	Free Time / Networking / Dinner / Shopping

## DAY 5 | FEB 25, 2024

08:00 – 08:45 am	Morning Devotional – <b>Thomas Ongasa</b>
08:45 – 09:00 am	Free Time/Walking Break/Media Time
09:00 – 09:30 am	Plenary – <b>Stepan Avakov</b> <i>How to Launch an OVC Ministry at the Local Church</i>
09:30 – 10:30 am	<i>Strategic Planning by Groups</i>
10:30 – 11:00 am	<i>Plenary – <b>Torben Bergland</b></i> Ministering to the Traumatized
11:00 – 11:15 am	Q & A with OGC <b>Todd McFarland &amp; Anna Gabriella Colon</b>
11:15 – 11:25 am	Free Time / Walking Break / Media Time
11:25 – 12:00 pm	Strategic Planning by Groups
12:00 – 02:00 pm	Lunch / Free Time
02:00 – 03:15 pm	OVC Ministry Profiles
03:15 – 03:35 pm	Free Time / Walking Break / Media Time
03:35 – 04:15 pm	Q & A with Adventist Risk Management
04:15 – 04:30 pm	Plenary – <b>Douglas Venn</b> <i>The Divine Call to Partnership in Ministries for the Orphans and Vulnerable Children</i>
04:30 – 04:45 pm	Free Time / Walking Break / Media Time
04:45 – 05:15 pm	Resource Promotion: <b>Stepan Avakov</b> <i>Adventist Possibility Ministries</i>
05:15 – 05:30 pm	Strategic Planning Reports
05:30 – 06:00 pm	Summary of the Day: <b>Douglas Venn / Orathai Chureson</b>
06:00 – 07:30 pm	Banquet

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## DAY 6 | FEB 26, 2024

05:00 am	Departure from Hotel
5:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>World Heritage Site Visit: Angkor Wat</b>
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Return Back to the Hotel
1:00 – 3:00 pm	Lunch / Free Time
03:00 – 03:15 pm	Group Discussion: Next Steps & Recommendations
03:15 – 04:15 pm	Reporting Time: Next Steps & Recommendations & Evaluation
04:15 – 05:30 pm	Closing Ceremony: <i>Appreciation of Resource Speakers</i> <i>Appreciation of SSD Media Team</i> <i>Appreciation of SALT Ministries Media Team</i> <i>Presentation of Certificates for Attendees</i>
05:30 – 07:30 pm	Dinner by Division / Division Networking
07:30 – 08:00 pm	Free Time





## THEME SONG

# Jesus Counts Every Teardrop

Lyrics: Orathai Chureson & Josie Felda Calera  
Music: Lindley John Madrigal

Refugee children endure pain and suffering,  
So vulnerable are they, one must be loving;  
Basic needs, love, care, kindness and helping hand – they need,  
The little we share, a big blessing to them – one must heed.

### CHORUS:

Jesus never considers all children a burden,  
He counts every teardrop that has solemnly fallen;  
Don't cause them to stumble, neglect and drive them away,  
For He wants to save them, saying, "Let them come unto Me."

Countless children suffer because of war and strife,  
There's no peace and shield, they cry in sadness and fright;  
Abuses, grief, and poverty but sadly few care,  
While they're shedding tears, we're living comfortably here.

### Repeat Chorus

### Bridge:

Many more children who have special needs and are helpless,  
Use me to love them, and fill their hearts with happiness;  
They are unique, treat each one fairly and kindly,  
Jesus has made a place in heaven, for He loves them dearly  
For He loves them dearly. . .

### Repeat Chorus

Don't cause them to stumble, neglect and drive them away,  
For He wants to save them, saying, "Let them come unto Me".

### Coda:

He counts every teardrop!  
Yes, Jesus counts every teardrop!  
Because He loves all children in the world!

In the world, In the world!

