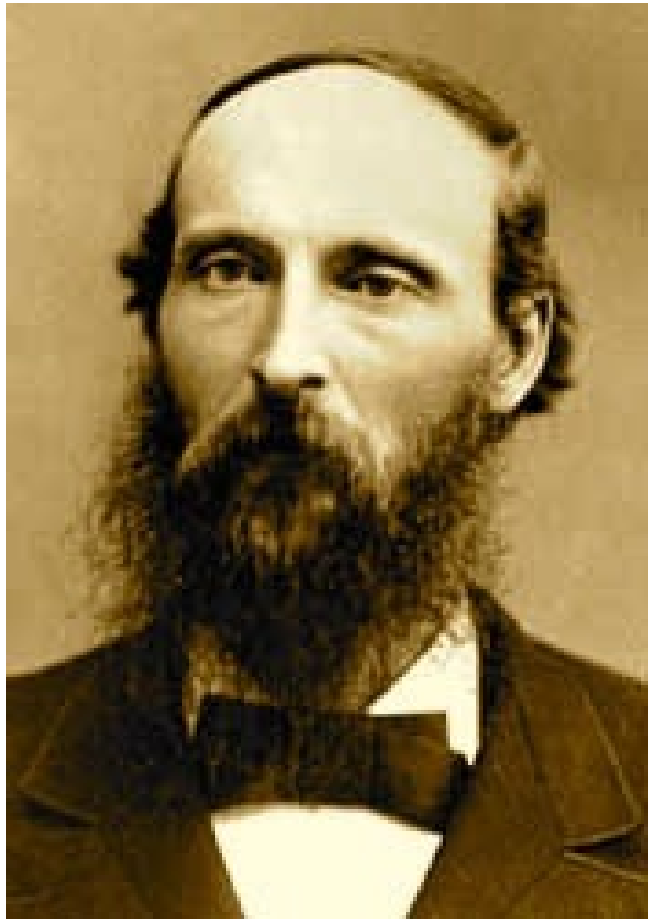
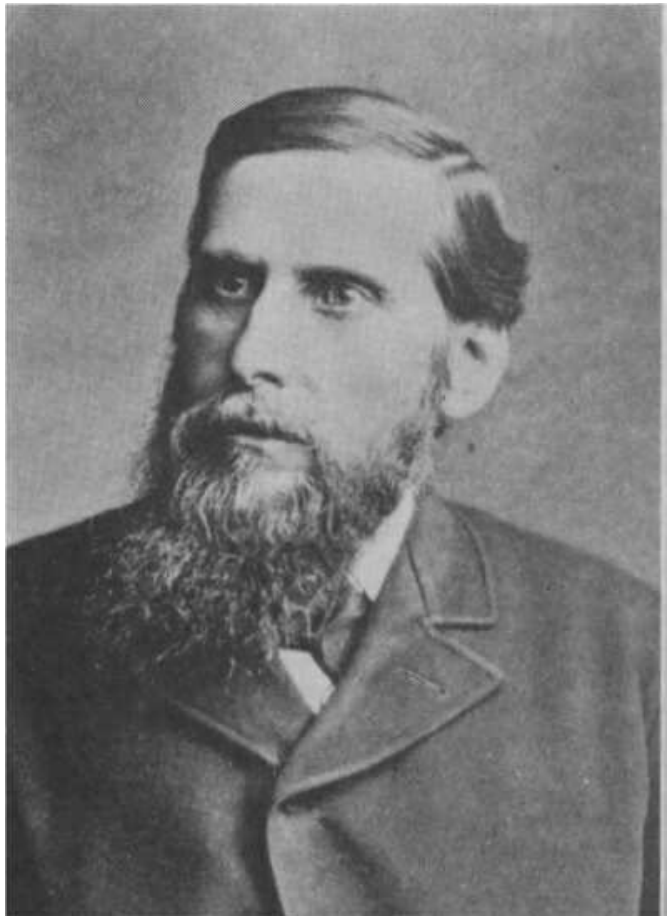
John N. Andrews, his son Charles, and daughter Mary

Daniel and Marian Bourdeau



John and Anna Matteson

William and Jennie Ings (left and center) and Maud Sisley (right)



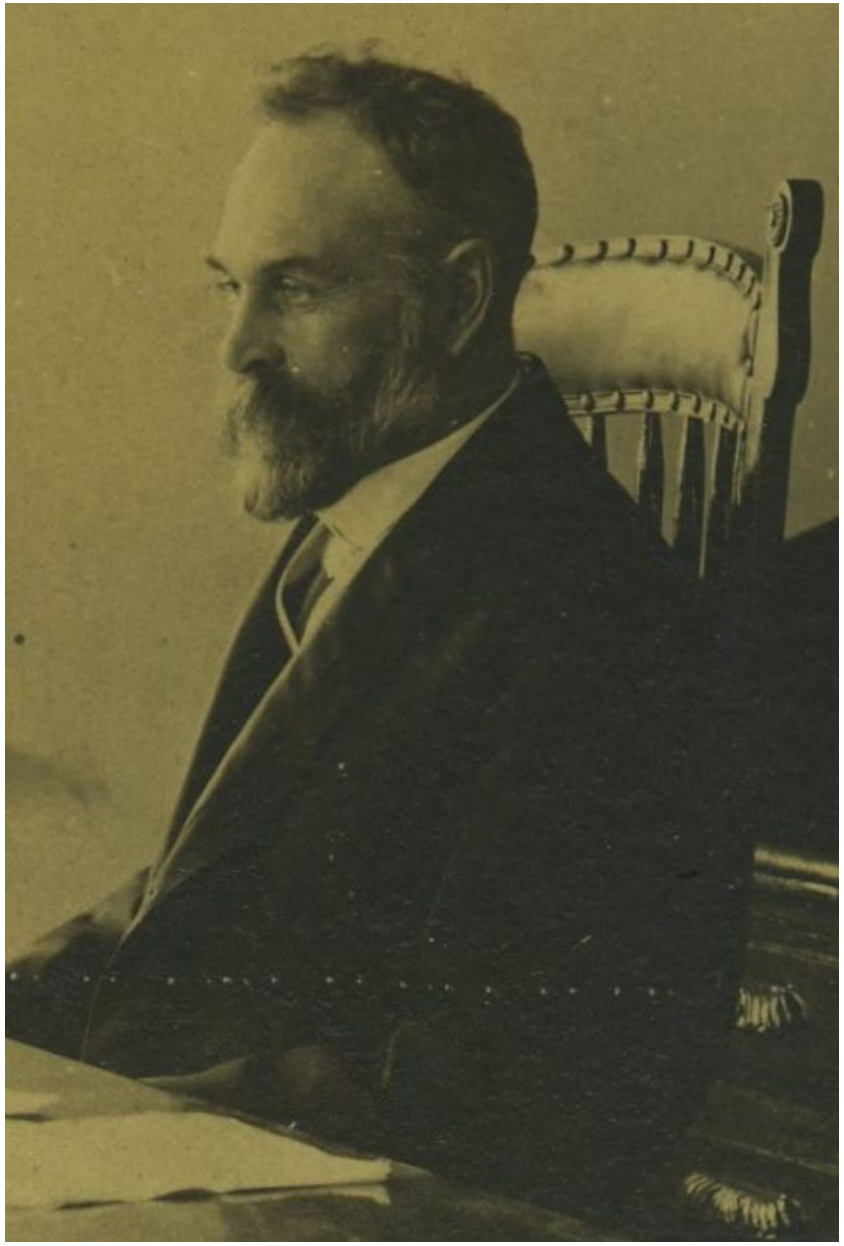
John and Maggie Loughborough

Visionaries of Mission (i)

Arthur G. Daniells

Elected President, he served until 1922.

He had served for ten years as a missionary in New Zealand & Australia



Visionaries of Mission (ii)

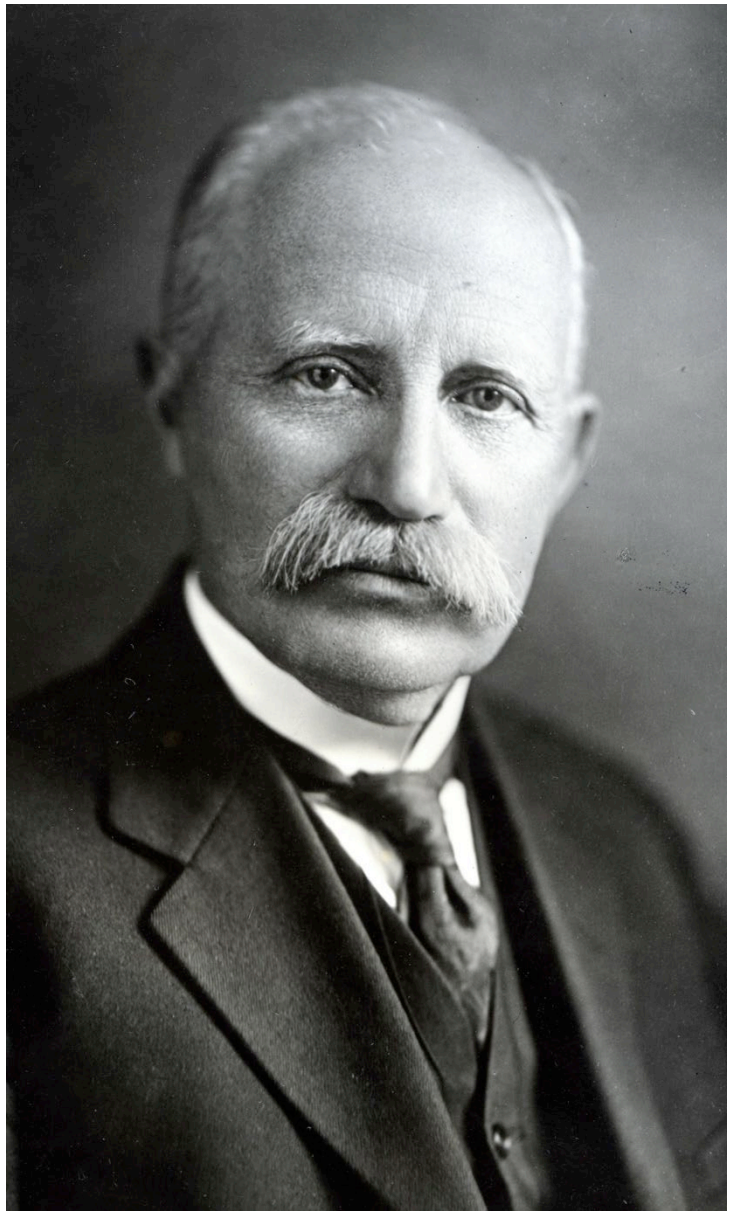
William A. Spicer: former missionary to England and India; elected GC Secretary 1903, he served until 1922; and then was President until 1930.

Visionaries of Mission (iii)

Irwin H. Evans: former missionary to Norway; GC Treasurer from 1903 to 1909, then president of the Asiatic Division (first Division); served as a GC vice president until 1936.

Visionaries of Mission (iv)

Walter T. Knox: elected Treasurer of the GC 1909; had mostly worked in the USA but saw mission service in Mexico; served as GC Treasurer until he retired in 1922.



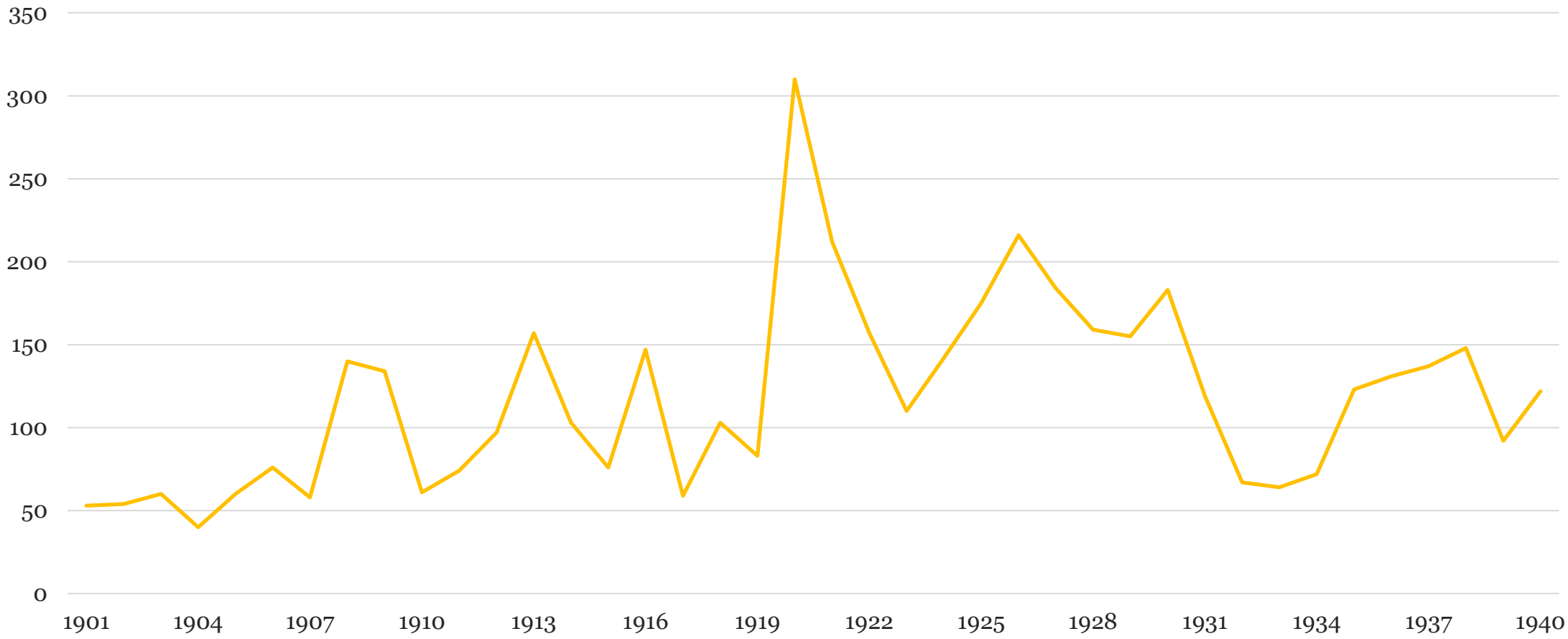
Missionary Deployment

- At the end of the nineteenth century, the Seventh-day Adventist Church had a global total of 148 “laborers in foreign fields.”
- First ten years after the 1901 GC Session: average number of new missionaries sent to foreign fields each year was 73.6
- In 1908, 140 new missionaries were sent out – almost the same in one year as the total number in place before the 1901 GC Session.
- In 1913 for the first time, more than 150 new missionaries were sent out in a year.

Missionary Deployment

- From the 1913 to the 1918 Sessions, Spicer told the 1918 Session, “542 of our brethren and sisters have gone . . . into the regions beyond”, an average of “well above the hundred a year.”
- In **1920**, **310** new missionaries were sent out in twelve months.
- The **average** number of new missionaries per annum sent in the 1920s was **182**.
- The **total** number of new missionaries sent in the first three decades of the twentieth century was **3,638**.
- Around four-fifths of these were from North America.

New Missionaries Dispatched, 1901–1940



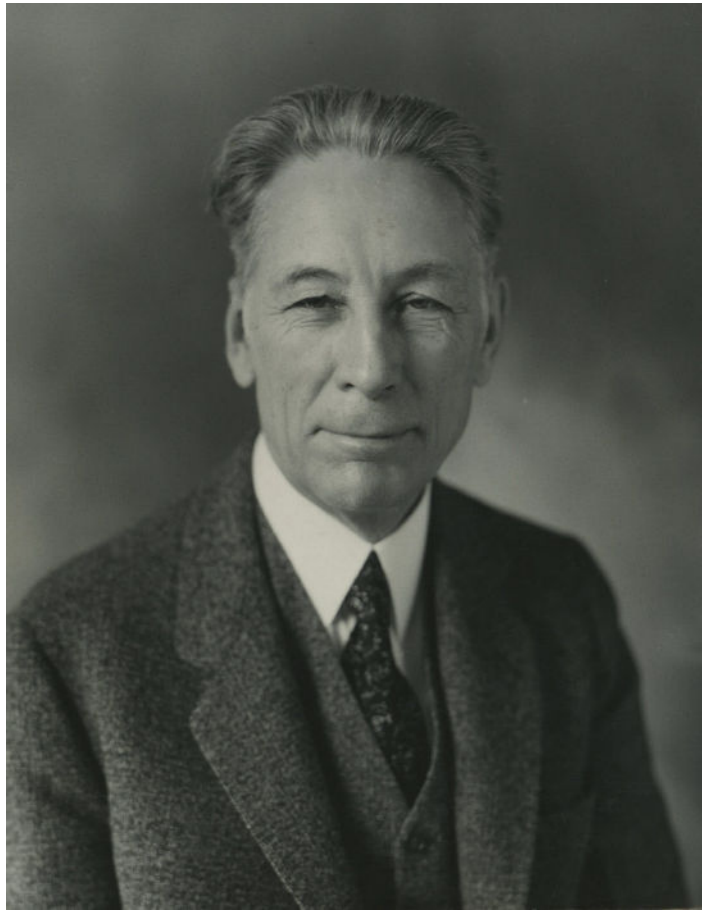
The Great Depression

- In 1930 and 1931, the workforce in North America was cut by 10 percent; in the foreign mission fields, the workforce decreased less than 5 percent.
- The 119 missionaries sent overseas in 1931 were only 65 percent of the 183 sent in 1930.
- The next three years were far worse: the total for those years was 203: fewer than the annual totals in 1920, 1921 or 1926
- The annual average for those three years (1932–34) was 67.67, the lowest for any three-year period since 1904–1906.

The Great Depression

- 628 new missionary appointments from 1930 through 1935.
- 45 percent originated from outside the North American Division
- While **628**, in a six-year period, was in contrast to **714** appointed in just the preceding four years, it was a large number, given that “we have been passing through most serious times, with cut budgets and depleted working forces.”
- “Not one mission station has been abandoned during these hard years.”
- *The Great Depression did not stop the Church’s mission!*

President Charles H. Watson (left), Secretary Milton Kern (center), and Treasurer John L. Shaw (right)



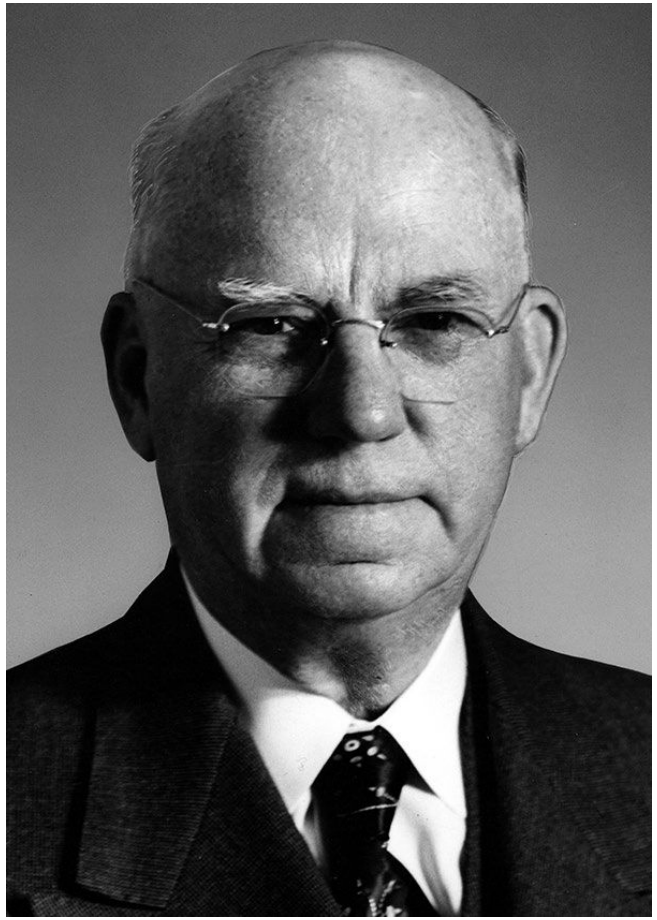
Spring Meeting 1942

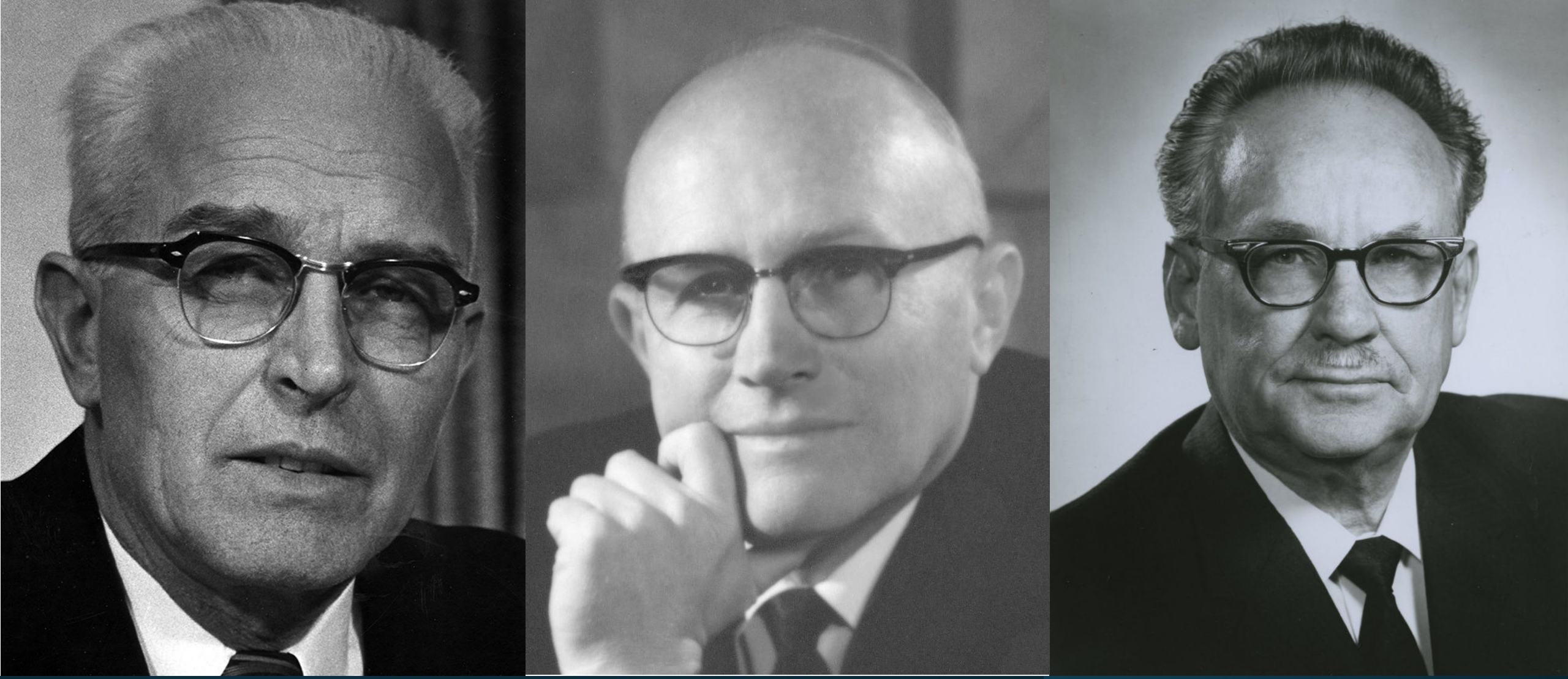
- “The General Conference Committee [gave] earnest consideration to the necessity of having missionary families under appointment for when this present conflict ceases or when the Lord otherwise indicates that the way is open for missionaries to be sent forward once more.”
- Spring Meeting “decided that ten families should be immediately placed under appointment and definitely earmarked for work in the Moslem lands in the Near East . . . .”

President J. Lamar McElhany (left), Secretary Ernest D. Dick (center), and Treasurer William E. Nelson (right)

Faculty and Students of First Class to Graduate from Arabic and Islamics,
Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, 1944

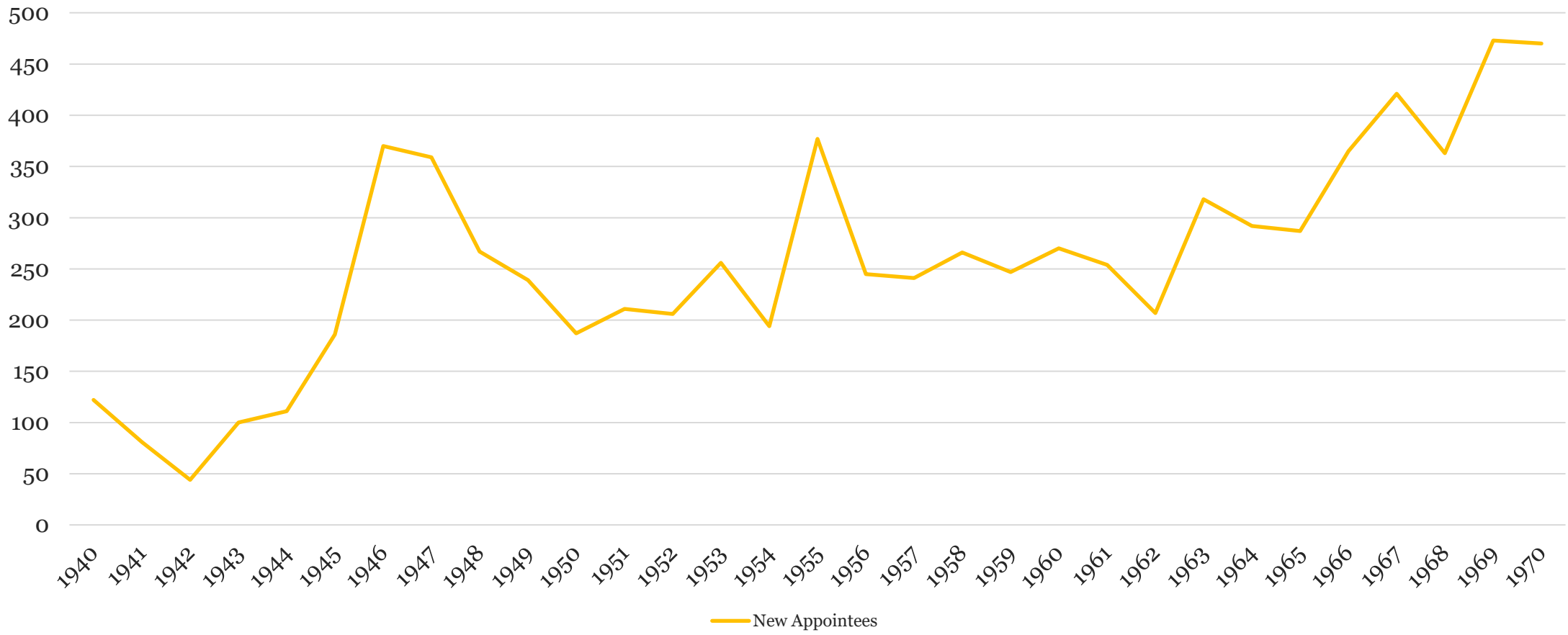
William H. Branson (president 1950-1954, left) and Denton E. Rebok (secretary 1952-1954, right)





Reuben R. Figuhr (president 1954-1966, left), Robert H. Pierson (president 1966-1978, center) Walter R. Beach (secretary, 1954-1970, right)

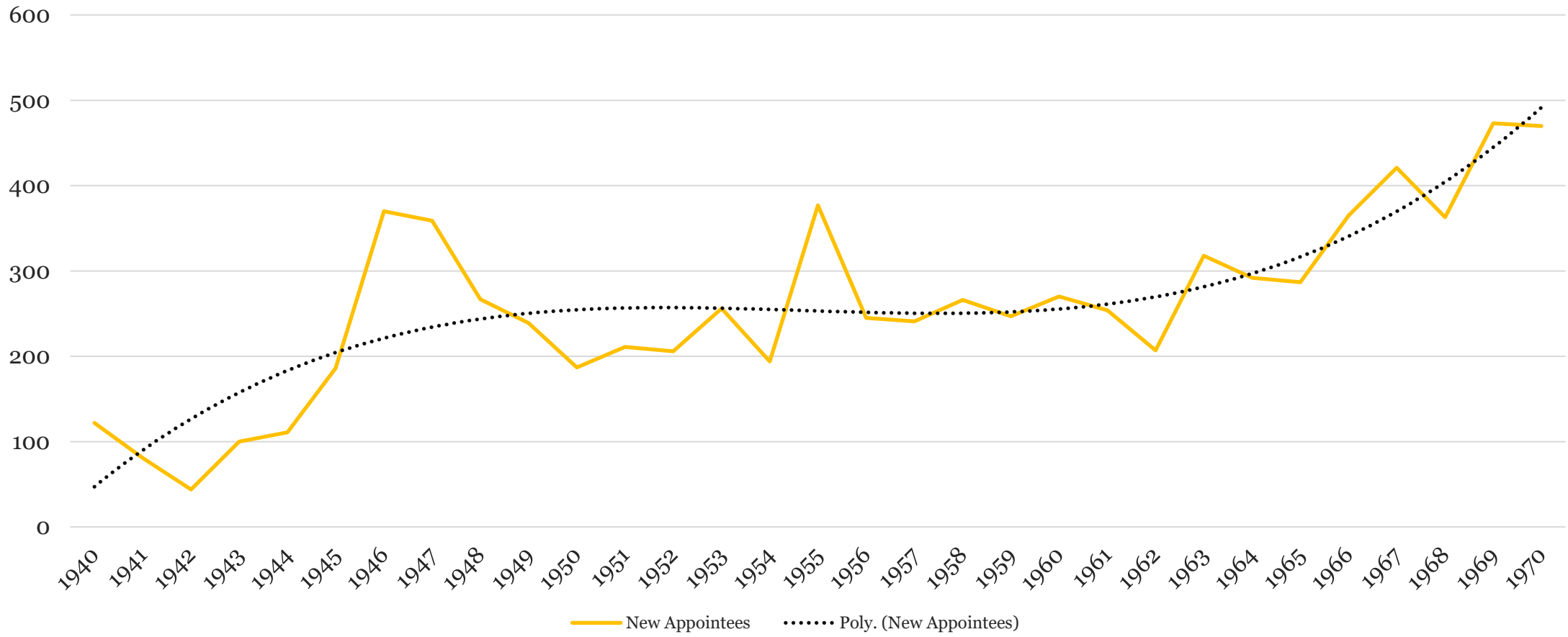
New Missionaries Dispatched, 1940–1970



Missionary Deployment after World War II

- In 1969–70, new missionaries totaled 970: by far the largest number of new missionaries sent into service in any two-year period in the Church's history.
- In 1967, 1969, 1970 and 1971, each year, more than 400 new missionaries were sent to the field.

New Missionaries Dispatched, 1940–1970



Mission Refocus

- In the twenty-first century, as in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, ***nothing must stop mission!***
- We need bold, spiritual leadership at division and union levels to mobilize numbers of new missionaries, not just to go from North America to the rest of the world, but to go from everywhere to everywhere.
- With eight billion people to reach, there is still much to do — and missionaries are needed now, more than ever.