

From the G.C. President

January 4, 1993

Robert S Folkenberg

1. Greetings: I hope you have been blessed during this holiday season. Anita and I enjoyed a few days with family, and I spent the rest of the time writing. Travel in January will take me to a meeting with ministers in the Rocky Mountain Conference, an E.G. White Estate consultation, followed by a trip to Mozambique.

2. Don Robinson shares good news on GC Finances: With expenses substantially reduced, and the Lord's blessing providing increased income, the GC operating gain as of Nov. 30 exceeds projections, assuring the US\$3.8 million for the '93 world budget, in addition to replacing some eroded working capital. An estimated US\$1 million dollars may also be available for Global Mission as a result of the recent Annual Council action directing that a portion of operating gains be used for this purpose.

3. New appointments: On recommendation of the respective division committees, the GC Executive Committee on Dec 15 voted the following appointments: **George Johnson**, Ministerial Secretary, Far Eastern Division (formerly president, Southeast Asia Union); **Akinori Kaibe**, PARL Director, Far Eastern Division (in addition to Communication); **M M Murga**, PARL director, Euro-Asia Division (recently appointed division vice-president, formerly president, Russian Union); **I N Rao**, Treasurer, Southern Asia Division (formerly director of auditing, Southern Asia Division).

4. GC Session Devotional speaker: Administration has asked GC/CM to submit the names of three young people, 30 years of age or younger at the time of the Session, who are good speakers and active Church members. From these, one or more may be selected to present a devotional message during the '95 Session in Holland. Please send names to Elder Israel Leito, GC Church Ministries, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904 USA.

5. Two pastors killed in Angola war: A letter from Elder Edwin Ludescher describes how after church one Sabbath a few weeks ago, Pastor Daniel

Matias, our seminary teacher who also pastored the Central church in Luanda, was invited along with a retired pastor to the home of a family for lunch. During the meal, armed men rushed in and shot the two pastors to death.

6. Church reorganization for Macedonia: In the wake of political changes, Adventists in the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia (400 members, 9 churches) requested that the structural organization of the Church in their territory be reviewed. Dr. Jan Paulsen, president of the Trans-European Division, met with members Dec 12, and on the 16th TED's Executive Committee agreed to supervise directly the Church in Macedonia and call a general church session in February to determine issues of status and leadership.

7. The Quiet Hour concludes banner evangelistic year: Through *The Quiet Hour* evangelistic crusades around the world, including 14 in Russia plus others in Rumania and Jamaica, over 20,000 precious souls accepted the gospel during 1992. Six of the 8 translators used were baptized. Seventy percent of the 400 new members in Archangel, Russia, where Elder LaVerne Tucker held a crusade and where *The Quiet Hour* has undertaken to build a new church, are under the age of 40.

8. The Challenge of Turkey: Only eight Adventist members in Turkey, largest country in the Middle East, means there is one member for every seven million people! The Middle East Union has plans to begin working in six Turkish cities, initial emphasis to be medical work and English language schools followed by Adventist World Radio broadcasts, Radio Bible correspondence schools, Bible study groups. We pray such outreaches will lead ultimately to the establishment of congregations. Because the funds needed to carry out these plans are significantly beyond the means of the Middle East Union, it has asked the Global Mission Office to assist.