

From the G.C. President

January 26, 1993

Robert S Folkenberg

1. General Counsel appointed: Today ADCOM appointed Robert Nixon (formerly associate counsel) to serve as General Counsel of the General Conference, replacing Warren Johns who resigned in mid-1992. This appointment concludes an 11-month process, carried out under the guidance of a team of attorneys (Derrill Yaeger, Lee Boothby, and Jim Balkins), in which the GC/NAD legal department was restructured and a new General Counsel appointed. We owe a debt of gratitude to these attorneys who gave freely of their time and expertise.

2. Dateline South America: Elder Robert Kloosterhuis (GC Vice President) reported on his visit to South America: (1) 355 radio stations broadcast *The Voice of Prophecy* and in the past 10 months 1,514 students completed Bible courses and 660 were baptized; (2) of 331 studying the Bible as a result of watching *It Is Written*, 179 were baptized; (3) Brazilian inflation exceeded 700%! (4) Global Mission baptisms increased 10.1% from 100,772, the first year, to 110,934 in 1992 bringing the SAD membership (as of June '92) to 1,124,757; (5) North Brazil Union held 600 "micro-evangelistic series" and 4 pastors using this method baptized over 1,000...each! (6) Central Brazil has penetrated 460 places where formerly there were no Adventists. Just a few weeks ago the lady who owns the biggest circus in Brazil became an Adventist. Now, no programs are performed on the Sabbath.

3. Rocky Mountain Youth in Action: During an early-January meeting with the pastors of the Rocky Mountain Conference, I listened to exciting reports of youth participating in the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. 100 Adventist youth have canvassed over one million homes during the past three years. Their systematically planned objective is to offer Seventh-day Adventist literature to **every single home** in the Rocky Mountain Conference! If a family is not home at the time of the first visit, the address is noted and the students return until they make a personal presentation. The 24 students of Champion Academy, 10 students of Colorado Springs, and 5 students of Mile High Academy,

working both during the school year and summers, have earned over \$250,000 in scholarships for Adventist education. The plan for the summer of 1993 is to canvass the 190,000 population of eastern Wyoming. In addition to financial assistance, these youth have found enjoyment in working for God in the literature ministry. Conference president Gordon Retzer reported that the missionary activity of these young people has not only enriched spiritually their own lives but it is influencing the entire church in that conference.

4. Global Mission in Central America: The Central American Union has targeted 251 cities, towns, and barrios in which to establish new churches during the next 9 quarters, wrote George Brown, IAD president, as part of his report of the IAD year-end meetings.

5. On a personal note: With only 3 days in the office, I've had a hectic month. Forgive me for sharing just a bit of a father's personal joy. Last Sabbath, I had the privilege of leading out in my son, Bob's, ordination at the Orlando, Florida Central Church, where he is pastor.

Here's a glance at my February calendar, with 2 nights at home and 1 day in the office! Travel begins with a North Pacific Union evangelism rally in Portland, followed by Media Center, Loma Linda University and Loma Linda Medical Center Boards, an evening with conference presidents, a weekend at Pacific Union College and an International Children's Care Board, before returning home. The one day I have at the office is filled with appointments. Then a dash to the airport is followed by the two back-to-back all-night flights it takes to get to India. After a weekend at Spicer College, and a visit to Kathmandu for a scheduled visit with the King of Nepal (a unique opportunity for a Christian leader in this 89% Hindu kingdom), then it's back to the isolated northeastern Indian province of Mizoram, to participate in organizing the first conference in the Southern Asia Division, before heading home the first of March.

###