

**1. Personal schedule:** After a hectic March that began in India and Nepal (and a week to reset my internal body clock to stop awakening at 2 and 3 am), the second week of March was GC Colloquium which, though filled by the inevitable deluge of meetings, was dominated by a spiritual feast with the theme, "Joy in Christ." If you want a treat, order the series of messages from the GC Communication Department. March 13 & 14's "storm of the century" (which I think happens about 3 times each decade) snowed-in most GC staff for 2 or 3 days and gave me invaluable time to work on sermons and articles whose deadlines were fast approaching. Following my first visit to the Pacific Press for a Board meeting and a day in the office, I headed to Cohutta Springs, Georgia, for nine days (7 days with the Commission on World Church Organization, on which I reported last week, and a 2-day consultation with the world division presidents, general vice-presidents, and GC treasurer and secretary).

April looks a bit better for, after Spring Meeting concludes Thursday evening, I am taking my backpack to a West Virginia wilderness area to hike and sleep for a few days! On returning, I have one day in the office, then it is off to Milwaukee to meet with the North American Division editors and spending Sabbath the 17th at Milo Academy in Oregon. After the next stop at Anaheim, California (4/24 at the Convention Center) for the Pacific Union's Global Mission convocation featuring "Project Providential Openings," it's back to Southern College for graduation.

**2. Mail, a word of explanation:** "I know you're very busy, but..." is a phrase found in many of the 150-300 letters that come to my office each week! We try to answer every letter that comes in. However, attending to these queries, suggestions and even complaints (some rather articulate) is a major challenge given (a) that I am in the office an average of 4 to 5 days a month, (b) that these 14-hour-days are filled with back-to-back interviews and committees, and (c) that I do need some quiet time to work on sermons and articles! Bob Jacobs, my administrative assistant, sorts and reads all the mail addressed to me. He selects those he feels I

should read personally (and I do read hundreds of them) and meets regularly with me to discuss issues, so he will know how to respond on my behalf. If you write me, and receive a response from Bob Jacobs, please try to exercise a bit of understanding and patience. The spirit is willing...but the hours and flesh insufficient!

**3. Travel to Russia and Eastern Europe:** Since the fall of communism in the former U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe, many have volunteered their services to assist in a wide variety of projects. Most of these visits have been of value to the mission of the Church. At times, however, the number of those traveling exceeds the ability of the Church infrastructure to cope. When this happens, misunderstanding and frustration inevitably results. If you know of individuals (or groups) who would like to help in this part of the world, it is vital that they do so with the awareness and coordination of the respective division leaders. Please don't make plans to go without working through the proper Church organization first.

**4. Global Mission - Sri Lanka:** There is a village 20 miles from Tangalle in which there were no Seventh-day Adventists. An ex-security officer tells how God changed that story. He says, "When I was a student, my school principal gave me an envelope addressed to another student whose surname was the same as mine. Since the other boy had left school, I opened it and found that it was a Voice of Prophecy lesson. I completed the lesson and went on to finish the course. Later I joined the army and was a security officer in Colombo. At that time I was experiencing some serious problems and remembered the trust and faith I had learned about in those lessons. I begin to put these principles into practice and soon became a Seventh-day Adventist. My first thought was to share the hope and salvation that I had found. I returned to my home village, about 20 miles from Tangalle, where I am presently conducting Bible classes in this previously unentered area."