

**DATELINE SOUTH AMERICA:** Last week Elder Follett and I met with all the South American Division's, union and conference administrators (about 100) for four days of spiritual, evangelistic and administrative planning. The 1.2 million members of this rapidly-growing division meet in over 11,000 churches, cared for by 1,100 pastors. On an average Sabbath, church elders fill the pulpits of 90% of the congregations! Global Mission dominates the thinking of members and leaders alike. They reported that during the past three years 1,200 previously unentered communities now have churches! Here are just a few more highlights of this visit:

! The 400,000 members in the Inca Union (Peru and Bolivia) meet in 3,400 congregations attended by 220 pastors—which is an average of 15+ congregations per pastor! Over 30,000 students attend 190 primary and 58 secondary schools and two colleges. The 40,000 baptized during 1992 represented a 10% growth rate.

During recent months in the Lake Titicaca Mission, 18 church leaders have lost their lives and 15 more are in jail today due to the guerrilla warfare that has disrupted life in Peru. Our members are in jail because guerrillas force their way uninvited into homes (including those of our members) and demand, on the threat of their lives, that they be housed and fed. When the military discovers guerrillas have stayed in a particular home, they put the unwilling “hosts” in jail! In spite of these challenges, evangelism continues. The Peruvian city of Ayacucho, (birthplace of the terrorist organization “Sendero Luminoso”) had long been difficult to enter with the gospel until, during 1992, ADRA sponsored a ten-month agricultural-training program. This ministry led the public to be receptive to the gospel and today there are 1,000 attending church on Sabbath!

Seeing an opportunity to witness, our Titicaca members responded enthusiastically to the opportunity to build and operate a 10 Kw AM radio station. Though our members had no money, they wanted to help make this a reality. By their gifts of bicycles, produce, sheep, lamas, and alpacas, etc., they have raised \$25,000 toward the cost of the station, which they expect will begin broadcasting in October.

! South America's ministerial secretary Elder

Alejandro Bullon's mass-evangelistic meetings, called “Revive” (Revival), have taken several countries in the SAD by storm. Of Peruvian descent Elder Bullon has worked in Brazil for 20 years. Challenged to “Turn a Friend into a Brother,” our members prepare for 6 months to a year prior to each meeting. He rents the largest facility available for 10 nights and makes a call every night. In his Rio de Janeiro effort 30,000 attended. In Sao Paulo last May he filled a 15,000-seat auditorium twice each night. The highways 20 Km either side of the auditorium were congested as 15,000 left and 15,000 others arrived. Nightly busses filled with Pentecostals came from up to 150 Km (90 miles) away. The evening's sermons are broadcast nightly by area radio stations. As soon as the public meetings are over the members and pastors begin intensive personal work with those who have made public decisions. In a few weeks he will begin another crusade in Rio de Janeiro in an auditorium seating 30,000.

! In Manaus, a city of 1.2 million on the Amazon River, 1 out of 50 is an SDA. They now have 120 churches, literally one every 500 yards from any point in the city!

! José Zonatelli, president of the Sergipe Alagoas Mission (East Brazil Union) reported that they recently hired 14 Bible workers (financed by the laity of his conference) and assigned one to every district in the conference, with the understanding that they work exclusively in unentered areas of their district. They are well on the way to establishing 15 new churches!

! At a cost of just over \$100 per set, the Division ordered 5,000 Russian-made film-strip projectors, film-strips, and 15 Bibles per set, for laymen who commit to work in unentered areas.

! Hanging outside 60 Adventist homes in Cordoba, Argentina, was an attractive felt sign saying, “Here we pray and study the Bible.” As a result of public inquiry about the time for the meetings, today there are 60 cottage churches.

! Five North American Division ASI leaders counseled with Church and lay leaders as an ASI organization gets under way in South America.

" When you receive this, I'll be on a 2-week trip to Southeast Asia. Please be patient; there could be a delay in the next editions of *From the G.C.*

*President.*