

1. Home again: Anita and I just arrived home after a pleasant visit to Alaska which combined speaking at the campmeeting in Palmer and a few days vacation. This dynamic conference, with enormous challenges, not only has a strong evangelistic program which in '92 led to one of the highest membership growth rates in North America, but 1993 thus far has a 17% increase in mission giving!

2. SOUTH PACIFIC: Prior to the 1992 Annual Council, divisions with large church memberships could not readily relate to Global Mission for they had no unentered population group of one million people. The new definition now includes establishing a Church in any unentered area.

For many years, Papua New Guinea and other South Pacific islands, provided a model for church growth. That special focus on unentered areas continues. Today, Global Mission has caught the imagination of conferences and institutions all across the division, including Australia and New Zealand.

The SPD Global Mission Management Committee recently submitted 18 superb, direct-action plans to establish congregations in unentered areas with the majority of the funding provided from local sources. More similar thrusts are planned for 1993.

With my interest in youth involvement, I am pleased to see Pacific Adventist College taking on the challenge of evangelism in the Gulf districts of Baimuru/Kikori. Travel to this area includes crossing eight rivers within five kilometers (three miles). Please pray for Lepsy Koia, a third year theology student who, assisted by two other theology students, is working to plant the Third Angel's message in this community.

3. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY ASSISTS IN "MEGALOPOLIS INDIA:" Southern Asia launched "Megalopolis India," taking Jesus to the millions in India's cities. Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay and Madras are among the most populated cities in the world.

Dwight Nelson, of Andrews University's Pioneer Memorial Church, and a team of 25 workers from the USA and the North Tamil Section conducted a major evangelism initiative in the city of Madras. Nightly attendance in this largely Hindu city averaged between seven and eight hundred. Over 160 were baptized, including many Hindus.

A few months ago Global Mission's Center for the Study of Hinduism opened in India. The purpose of the

Center is to research and test models of evangelism among Hindu people. The first model began with a health ministry emphasis.

Twelve Seventh-day Adventist pastors, working as Christian social workers, have established a new group of believers among five villages. Eighty-three people, all former Hindus, were baptized.

The Health Department in cooperation with the 12 pastors initiated the church planting program with a village clean-up. A needs survey resulted in a free "medical camp," a health and temperance program that included a 5 day stop smoking rally and lectures on alcoholism. During these programs, the 12 pastors got to know the people and earned their trust.

The 83 baptisms did not come easily. Those selling illegal liquor demanded that the pastors leave. However, the people with their leaders insisted that these caring people remain. In one village, when many began taking Bible studies, the leaders insisted our workers leave the village. They did, but not until several had been baptized.

4. GLOBAL MISSION IMPACTS APPALACHIA: The Mountain View Conference in the Columbia Union launched "Appalachia Impact Evangelism," with the objective to establish congregations in Kingwood, New Martinsville and Keyser, the three largest cities of Appalachia with no Seventh-day Adventists. "I want to be involved in finishing the work in Appalachia and around the world" was the commitment of more than 400 of the 2500 conference members. Every Conference and Mission in the world needs to have a similar vision targeting their unentered areas.

5. DATELINE POLAND: Over the past two years the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Poland has established one new group of believers every 12.2 days. Sixty new companies have been established during the past 24 months. Each of these new companies is located in what was an unentered area. How is this happening?

Between October and December of this year more than 100 public evangelism efforts will be conducted in over 100 cities. This new nationwide effort will be supported by laity, pastors, evangelists and a distribution of 200,000 special evangelism booklets.

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