

1. '93 ASI CONVENTION: Exciting, spiritual, stimulating, mission-focused, loyal, and unifying are just a few words that come to mind when I try to describe the '93 ASI Convention. About 1,500 Adventist businessmen, and professionals, along with many supporting church leaders from across North America, gathered in Toronto, Canada for the 1993 Annual ASI convention. Weekend highlights included: testimonies from soul-winning laymen, messages from Dwight Nelson—Andrews University pastor, Sabbath afternoon's program uplinked live by ACN for satellite distribution, and Sabbath evening's \$1,213,000 offering (4 times the \$260,000 received during the '92 convention) destined for a wide variety of projects. Thank God for the spirit of ASI, uniting laity and leadership around the mission of the Church.

2. THE COMMISSION ON WORLD CHURCH ORGANIZATION(COWCO) today began its second (of four) week-long sessions. General Conference secretariat has taken the recommendations of the last week-long session in March 1993 and suggested how these might be reflected in the wording of denominational basic documents (constitution, bylaws, and policies). During this week, these drafts will be reviewed, refined, and sent to world divisions for discussion during their year-end meetings. In next week's edition I'll review some of the issues that will have been considered.

3. THE MICHIGAN LAY BIBLE MINISTRY (LBM) is an innovation in soul-winning. Developed to train lay members to give Bible studies, it is conducted four times a year at the conference youth camp.

However, a "problem" developed when attenders, thrilled at the material being presented, began to bring non-members with whom they were studying. Thus, about two years ago the conference designed a weekend program (held twice a year) for the laymen's Bible-study interests (who attend with expenses-paid) who have studied several fundamental beliefs, including salvation and the Sabbath. During the long weekend, an evangelist covers topics including salvation, Sabbath, mark of the beast, baptism and the remnant Church as well as several decision meetings. In addition, they offer a smorgasbord of different classes such as the sanctuary, health, resurrection, the millennium, prayer life, how to study the Bible, and Gift of Prophecy. Between 150 and

200 attend each session, with one-half being non-members. Commitments for baptism vary between 35-55 each weekend. The candidates are followed up by the pastor and baptized in the local church. Pastors are also encouraged to bring their candidates. One pastor baptized 11 as a result of one such weekend.

For further information write Michigan Conference President Jay Gallimore, PO Box 19009, Lansing, Michigan 48901, USA

4. NORTH AMERICA PLANS FOR EVANGELISM: NAD union and conference presidents recently spent a day considering the report of a special taskforce on evangelism. Commissioned by action of the NAD '92 Year-end Council, the taskforce—chaired by Northern California Conference President Don Schneider—formulated a strategy for expanding evangelism in North America.

Key elements of the recommendation include affirming evangelism in all its forms as the primary emphasis of the Church in the 1990s and challenging leadership to take the initiative in nurturing a culture of evangelism that will motivate and enable every member to share Jesus effectively.

Of particular interest was the plan to conduct a division-wide evangelistic crusade in early 1995 utilizing communication satellite technology. The evangelism team would feature Mark Finley, speaker of the It Is Written telecast, and C. D. Brooks, speaker of the Breath of Life telecast. Meetings will originate in an east coast city with delayed transmission into each time zone for appropriate local use by churches wishing to participate with a locally-arranged public event.

Similar technology has been used by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, and this provides encouraging information on its effectiveness. Use of Ken Cox video in public evangelism in some of our churches seems to substantiate those findings.

Public evangelism delivered via this technology provides support for those local churches who want a widely-recognized evangelist, while tailoring the program to fit local needs. In addition, it offers opportunity for mass advertising and other economies of scale.

Hardware for participation in this evangelism project is now being purchased by churches for linkage to the new Adventist Communications Network, an information service of the North American Division.

Watch for further information on availability and cost.