

**1. COWCO UPDATE:** The Commission on World Church Organization (COWCO), during its second of four week-long meetings, met in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, last week and spent significant time considering the following issues:

**! Church Ministries Department:** At its March session COWCO decided to survey world division and union leaders to request their evaluation of the Church Ministries departmental structure and make recommendations for the future. While survey results indicated that 73% felt some type of restructuring was in order, respondents were divided about whether or not these departments should return to their pre-1985 individual focus units or be clustered in a new configuration. After lengthy deliberation COWCO recommended that Sabbath School and Personal Ministries be consolidated into one department; Youth and Children's Ministries be combined into another department; and that Stewardship and Family Life Ministries function as separate departments.

**! General Conference Session delegation:** In view of the size to which General Conference Session has grown (with its commensurately escalating costs), COWCO came to the conclusion that it would be wise to cap the number of delegates to attend the GC Session in the year 2,000 Session (and beyond, should the world last) at the number of delegates projected to attend the 1995 Session (2,650).

Using a spreadsheet and computer-projector, the commission spent a good deal of time evaluating formulas by which the approximate current balance between world divisions could be maintained while under a delegate-cap and still provide both increased representation for organizational and membership growth as well as protection for the divisions located in sectors of the world which do not have as rapid growth. We believe a fair solution was found and a short video explaining the formula and its implications is under preparation.

**! Basic Church documents:** In the months since the March '93 COWCO session, GC secretariat

drafted suggested wording changes to the GC constitution, bylaws and policies to reflect the actions taken. These recommended changes were projected on the screen, reviewed, edited and ultimately approved by COWCO.

**! Inter-organizational linkage:** Identifying and evaluating optional methods to strengthen inter-organizational linkages was the next major topic COWCO confronted. While major issues were identified and possible solutions considered, COWCO members requested that comprehensive Biblical, Spirit of Prophecy, and historical studies be prepared to guide future discussion prior to reaching any conclusions.

Items considered at the last two COWCO sessions will be discussed by world divisions at the time of their 1993 year-end executive committees in order that feed-back will be available for the first COWCO meeting in '94. All recommendations that will impact the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws will be considered by the '94 Annual Council of the Executive Committee and, if approved, referred to the 1995 General Conference Session.

**2. DATELINE SOUTH AMERICA:** ! In the past three years the SAD has established in excess of 1,200 congregations in previously unentered communities.

! A new Church-operated FM radio station, capable of reaching 3.5 million has begun broadcasting in Nova Odessa, near the Brazilian Adventist University.

**3. THE GLOBAL MISSION CENTER FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES** at Newbold College has provided guidance to hundreds of pastors serving in Islamic areas around the world increasing their effectiveness in winning Muslims. One pastor baptized four Muslims and a literature evangelist has two Muslims faithfully attending a baptismal class. Both of these reports come from areas where the Church has previously made no progress in witnessing to Muslims. Please join me in thanking God for blessing these initial little beginnings around the world.

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