

1. MALAWI CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL: About 10,000 people gathered in Lilongwe, capital of Malawi, August 20-22, to celebrate 100 years of Seventh-day Adventist presence in the heart of Africa. The Malawians were exuberant as they remembered the beginnings of our work. There are 142,000 members in Malawi (population 8 million) and their objective is to reach 150,000 by the end of 1993.

Brother George James (a violinist) in 1880 moved from Britain to America, where he accepted this message. While studying at Battle Creek College he became interested in following in the footsteps of David Livingstone. He appealed for money, but to no avail. So he sold his belongings and went as a self-supporting missionary to Malawi, where he arrived on March 19, 1893. He brought the love of God, and his music to Malawi. After five years he died of malaria and is buried in an unknown tomb. It was from Malawi that the gospel went into the neighboring countries of Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique.

2. YEAR OF YOUTH EVANGELISM: Youth have always been willing participants in the ministry of the church. But this year they accepted the challenge of a whole year dedicated to youth evangelism and set themselves a goal of 400,000 baptisms and 100,000 evangelistic programs. Reports received for the first two quarters of 1993 record 175,037 baptisms of youth and those that youth helped to win.

Two divisions deserve special mention. At Inter-America's youth congress in Panama City in August, youth reported 41,989 baptisms and 13,031 evangelistic crusades.

In the same period Eastern Africa had 33,638 baptisms by youth and their division showed a 34% increase in total baptisms as the result of the Year of Youth Evangelism.

3. GOOD NEWS! LOMA LINDA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH received full re-accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health.

4. THE BULGARIA MIRACLE continues. Besides

hundreds of new members joining the church and about 50 churches being built during the past three years, I want to share a glimpse of the people who have been transformed by the power of the gospel of Christ.

Dimiter Stoyanov was a crippled Gypsy living in Kyustendil who, by his own admission, made a living off of cheating people. A thief and criminal, Dimiter lived a violent life drinking, smoking, and neglecting his family. Hearing that an American evangelist was preaching in town, Dimiter went to the meeting and hid behind the curtain. He planned to rob evangelist Robert Wagley. Instead he met God. Dimiter testified that he never knew that God loved anybody. "For the first time in my life I thought of God." Dimiter's life has changed, and on May 29, 1993, he joined 200 other Gypsies in baptism. This Gypsy church represents a new group of believers that now serves as a witness in what was previously an unentered people group.

In November 1990 there was not a single Adventist in Smolyan, a southern Bulgarian city in the Rhodope Mountains. Then, a pastor and his wife felt impressed to begin the work there. Due to the economic crisis the pastor and his wife lived in a cheap hotel with no heat, very little food, and only occasional electricity. Forty people were soon taking Bible studies. On June 19, 1991, nineteen people were baptized and organized into a company of believers. During the past 24 months, the church has grown to 50 members. The polite behavior of two Adventist girls distributing invitations to the evangelistic meetings so impressed the son of an Orthodox priest that he and his wife attended, were baptized, and are active church members in northern Bulgaria.

The day before the baptism of 45 candidates in the unentered city of Kazanlak, the Orthodox archbishop influenced local government officials to cancel the baptism. However, within 30 minutes of the order to cancel the baptism the director of the department of Religious Affairs, notified of the problem, rescinded the order.