

From the G.C. President

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1. GROWTH CONTINUES IN ALBANIA: One of the three people baptized in Ohrid Lake near Pogradec, October 2, was Ester Misho, the daughter of Daniel Lewis, a pioneer missionary to Albania several decades ago. Ester joins a company of nearly 30 members in Korca where her mother, Flora Sabatino-Lewis, her husband and daughter are also members. Daniel Lewis raised a small company of believers in Korca in the late 40s, but Communist persecution terminated his efforts and he died in a labor camp after refusing to give up his Christian faith.

Ester's baptism was witnessed by Kristaq Treska, one of the original members of Daniel Lewis' Bible class, who has been attending the church services in Korca the last few weeks.

Pastor Ron Edwards, leader of the church in Albania, reports that another group of believers has been organized in the town of Rreshen near Tirana where more than 20 people worship every Sabbath. Recently, a group of young volunteers from the Stanborough Park area in Watford, England, went to Rreshen and made a considerable contribution to the town by painting the local secondary school dormitory as well as the children's wards of the local hospital.

2. A NEW CHURCH WAS BURNED, the night of September 25, in the village of Marini, in Bosnia-Herzegovina. According to the local government officials who inspected the site, the fire was started deliberately. Only the walls withstood the flames. The church is located in a region where there has been no war activity since the beginning of the civil war in the country. Adventists have lived and worked in Marini for over 60 years and had a good relationship with the mostly Orthodox population. This is the second church building in Bosnia-Herzegovina to be burned. A few months ago our church in Doboje in central Bosnia was also destroyed.

3. KIVOGA SCHOOL in Burundi received a grant of US\$1 million from DANIDA (Denmark's

International Aid program) to finance its complete renovation. The school, built for 200 students, was functioning with 600 students, which meant that three students had to share each bed! The grant, requested by Helge Andersen, ADRA-Denmark director, will provide for new dormitories and faculty homes as well as extending several existing buildings. [ANR]

4. TRAGEDY IN TANZANIA: October 27 a group of Pathfinders went for an outing to an island on Lake Victoria. On their return, the boat capsized resulting in the death of eight girls and two adult directors. Ten others swam to safety. Sadly, Reuters (an international wire-service) released a distorted report saying that they drowned while trying to "walk on water!"

5. REPORT FROM EASTERN AFRICA: Elder L D Raelly, president of the EAD, reported that: ! In Botswana, as a result of studying the Voice of Prophecy lessons 43 souls were baptized. Additionally, 10 lay-crusades led to 281 baptisms and 19 youth-efforts resulted in 62 more baptisms. ! In Kenya, Professor. Keya, Vice-Chancellor of Moi University, along with other SDA laymen, conducted an evangelistic crusade in which 200 were baptized. ! In Uganda two isolated medical workers began to worship alone under a tree. Their activity aroused curiosity in the neighborhood with the result that a new church was born!

6. PLANS FOR NOVEMBER: After spending today attending the North American Division year-end meetings, I leave tomorrow for the Euro-Africa Division to attend their year-end meetings, followed by those of the Spanish and Portuguese Unions, before returning to Washington in three weeks. Then, after two days in the office, I fly to Guatemala to spend Sabbath, November 27, celebrating the completion by Maranatha of about 100 churches and three schools! Leadership in Guatemala expects more than 25,000 to attend these festivities! The visit to Guatemala will include visits to some of the

church sites as well as an International Children's
Care orphanage and secondary school.