

1. CHURCH OF CHRIST SCIENTIST - PROPHECY COUNTDOWN: A November 26 news release from The First Church of Christ, Scientist announced that it had "signed a letter of intent to sell its shortwave [radio] station in Scott's Corners, Maine to Prophecy Countdown Inc. of Mount Dora, Florida for \$5 Million." The release added that "Prophecy Countdown is a non-profit organization headed by Seventh-day Adventist Pastor John Wesley Osborne, Jr." The General Conference has notified The First Church of Christ, Scientist that John Osborne does not represent the Seventh-day Adventist Church and has never been ordained by the church.

John Osborne's church membership is held by the Angwin, California Village Church. The Northern California Conference currently is counseling strongly with that congregation because of its apparent disregard of the *Church Manual* in taking in members who have been disfellowshipped elsewhere, including John Osborne.

As outlined in the General Conference *Working Policy*, a Seventh-day Adventist congregation's right to use the name Seventh-day Adventist is not self-derived. The right is based on the approval of church or company status by the local conference or mission constituency. Concurrent with that privilege comes a responsibility to their eight million fellow believers around the world. The limits of that congregation's authority and their responsibilities are described in the *Church Manual*, which is the authoritative voice of the world-wide membership. The *Church Manual* cannot be modified by the General Conference Committee, but can only be changed by the General Conference in Session.

As recent highly-publicized and tragic events have made abundantly evident, it will become increasingly important that our members respect the interests of

the believers they represent and apply the directives provided in the *Church Manual* by the world body. I earnestly appeal to believers and our leaders to review and apply the instructions it contains.

2. BAPTISMS IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA indicate that evangelism has not been halted in this war-torn region of the former Yugoslavia. This year, 30 have been baptized in Banja Luka, the capital of Bosnia. In Sarajevo more than 400 worship at two separate church services and 50 are preparing for baptism. During the first ten months of 1993 22 evangelistic efforts have been conducted leading to the establishment of four new congregations. [ANR]

3. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY THREATENED IN INDONESIA: There are almost 140,000 church members in the two unions in Indonesia, the largest Muslim country in the world. Facilitated by laws providing religious liberty, about 20% of the 7,000 baptized each year were former Muslims. Today these freedoms are threatened by the request of the government's Department of Religion that parliament enact restrictive legislation. Please ask our believers to remember this matter in prayer.

4. NORTH SOLOMONS: During a baptism of 21 people in the town of Torokina in the North Solomons (Bougainville), Pastor Joshua Mouvo was interrupted by a group who tried to stop the service by claiming that the river belonged to them. The river, of course, is public and the baptism proceeded. In spite of the disruption, a member of the Papua, New Guinea Defence Force was baptized and 26 others asked to join the baptismal class.

Bougainville is in a state of civil war so the people, for approximately four years, have had little access to medicines, clothing and other basic necessities. ADRA arranged to deliver clothing and relief supplies. Some members have been killed in the civil unrest, but a report received out of one of the

uncontrolled areas states that three pastors baptized over 700 people in 1992.