

From the G.C. President

February 7, 1994

Robert S Folkenberg

1. ELDER BOB E JACOBS, administrative assistant to the General Conference president since the 1990 GC Session, recently informed me of his and his wife Jean's decision to retire (to southwestern Utah) effective May 1. He will be missed. Bob's counsel, dedication, hard work, and friendship have multiplied my effectiveness and generally made my life survivable.

A careful search for a replacement led to Elder Gerald Karst, who is currently serving as an associate secretary in the General Conference. Elder Karst, originally from Canada, brings to this responsibility a rich experience both in North America as well as in the Middle East. In order to have one month with Elder Jacobs before his retirement, Elder Karst will begin his new duties on April 1.

2. LAWSUIT CONCLUDED: The unfortunate experience of many years of litigation between the Arizona Conference and Adventist Health System/West, which arose over a dispute regarding use of funds from the sale of the Adventist hospital in Tempe, Arizona, ended January 10, when the court ruled in favor of AHS/West. This decision reflected a similar conclusion by an arbitrator before the matter went to court. Such litigation between church entities should never have occurred.

3. NORWEGIAN HEALTH FACILITY SOLD: Jelyo Kurbad, a 68-bed rehabilitation facility located about 60 kms (37 miles) south of Oslo and operated by the Norwegian Union Conference since 1971, was sold to Daniel Joensen, an Adventist physiotherapist. Facing the need for a major capital investment in order to maintain the facility's Class 1 accreditation, the Norwegian Union decided to sell it to an individual who is committed to its continuing operation in harmony with the principles of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

4. DR. LARRY GERATY, was installed as president of La Sierra University last Thursday and Friday. Responding to his invitation, I challenged La Sierra's faculty, staff, and students to maintain their spiritual identity in this age of spiritual universalism and to continue teaching "The way of God in accordance with the Truth." (Matt. 22:16).

5. GUINEA CONAKRY: Amid extremely difficult circumstance and through the dedicated efforts of laity and pastors, the first Seventh-day Adventist church has been established in the West African country of Guinea Conakry.

A Seventh-day Adventist refugee from Liberia came to the town of Kpagnie. Quickly, he organized a group that met on his porch to study the Sabbath School lesson each day. When the group grew to 50 his porch was not big enough! Sabbath School lesson study turned into Bible studies and within four months 13 had been baptized. One new member donated a site for a church building out in the country, but recently the chief provided a lot in the center of the town.

6. BREAKTHROUGH ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT: The South England Conference made Global Mission history by baptizing six people on the previously unentered Isle of Wight. I pray every church organization and institution will select a place in which to plant the seed of the gospel.

7. ADRA BURUNDI: ADRA recently received two grants from United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide emergency relief supplies to be divided equally between Tutsi and Hutu refugee camps in Burundi. These camps shelter 4,000 people, mostly children, representing just a few of the 100,000 displaced since the violence began. Since the attempted military coup in October 1993, an estimated 200,000 people have been killed.