

From the G.C. President

March 7, 1994

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1. ELDER RON WISBEY RESIGNED the presidency of the Columbia Union during a meeting of the Union Executive Committee last Thursday, and was appointed as liaison officer with the Columbia Union for Adventist Health Systems/Mid-Atlantic. Then the Union Executive Committee appointed a "search committee" to bring back names of individuals to fill the vacancy for consideration by the Executive Committee in the near future.

2. GARY PATTERSON HAS BEEN APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF MISSION AWARENESS in response to the '93 Annual Council request that steps be taken to increase each member's awareness and participation in Global Mission. And they recommended that the individual carrying this assignment operate directly with the GC President. During these intervening months, several groups have considered how best to implement this recommendation.

Last Tuesday GC ADCOM voted to: a) appoint the team of **Gary Patterson** (former Administrative Asst to the NAD president) and his wife **Rae** (former NAD Editorial Asst) as Director and Assistant Director, respectively, of Mission Awareness, and b) move the staffs currently involved in print and video mission-story production under their direction.

3. THE G.C. COMMITTEE HAS ELECTED LOWELL C. COOPER, Secy of the Southern Asia Division, as an Associate Secretary of the General Conference, filling the vacancy created when Gerry Karst accepted the position as Administrative Asst to the G.C. President. Elder and Mrs. Cooper have served the Church in Southern Asia for 16 years. Originally from Canada, Elder Cooper was of invaluable service in organizing the '93 Annual Council held in Bangalore, India.

4. RAY DABROWSKI AND JAMES ZACHRISON (Director of Communications and Associate Director of Church Ministries respectively) officially began their responsibilities at the G.C. on March 1.

5. EARTHQUAKE STRIKES UGANDA: On February 6 an earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter Scale hit

northwest Uganda in the Rwenzori Mountains. Few deaths were reported, but there is massive loss of homes and schools. It is estimated that 200,000 are now without shelter, and the monsoon season has just started! ADRA is responding with medical assistance, temporary shelter, blankets and food supplies. The U.S. Ambassador to Uganda matched ADRA's contribution, providing a total budget of \$40,000.

6. ADVENTISTS OFFERED PROGRAMS DURING THE WINTER OLYMPICS. They ranged from choir performances of Valen Solistkor and Sandefjord Jentekor under their legendary conductor Sverre Valen; concerts by Per & Monica; worship services in English, French and German; and various other activities. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lillehammer was organized in 1940 and today has about 200 members. Lillehammer Adventists are also proud of their Skogli Sanatorium which opened in 1946. The Olympic brochure, which listed church activities by the local Christian community, indicated that services were held in the Adventist church on Saturdays. [ANR]

7. CROATIAN RELIGIOUS LIBERTY WILL BE MONITORED by a new Religious Liberty Association. More than 70 participants, representing a mosaic of Christian and other churches, chartered the new association during a meeting on February 14 in Zagreb. The initiative to form this Association came from a group of concerned representatives of minority churches, among whom Seventh-day Adventists had a prominent role. The Association plans to institute several commissions whose tasks will be to specialize in those areas which need special attention, such as religious education in schools, equal access to media by all religious denominations, restoration of places of worship destroyed in the war.

Asked about the attitude of the Association toward the majority Catholic Church in Croatia, Dr. Esad Cemic (a leader of the newly formed organization) said that the organization was not established as an opposition to the Catholic Church. "However, to a considerable degree the quality of religious liberty in Croatia will be measured against how the minority churches are

treated." [ANR]