

1. CE BRADFORD, former NAD president, inspired the GC headquarters staff during Colloquium Week as he spoke each morning on the theme, "*The word we have is the word we need*," focusing on the messages of the angels in Revelation 14. Sabbath afternoon's program featured a moving concert by the Oakwood College Aeolians and the ordination of Jim Nix and Reo Ganson, of the E G White Estate and Education Department, respectively.

2. COHUTTA SPRINGS Convention Center is home to many of us for the next two weeks as world division officers and many other leaders participate in a series of meetings which include a) leadership training, b) strategic planning and budgeting, c) a stewardship summit, and d) the Commission on World Church Organization. On Sabbath, March 19, the group will meet at Southern College for a full day devoted to presenting Global Mission to that community. Returning to Silver Spring, officers' meetings and the Spring Meeting of the GC Committee will take up the last few days of the month.

3. AWR/ITALY REPORTS SOME PROGRESS: AWR president Walter Scragg says that on February 17 the "Consiglio Superiore della Comunicazione" approved the law that will rule shortwave broadcasts in Italy. The Minister of Communications is expected to sign and send it to the Republic's President to be published. Since Italy has an election in March, we pray the law will be promulgated before there are changes in government.

4. BEIJING REASSERTS CONTROLS ON RELIGION: The Chinese government has reissued long-standing regulations on religion in the form of two Cabinet decrees signed by Prime Minister Li Peng and published in the official *Legal Daily*. The restated rules limit religious activities by foreigners but recognize their rights to hold private religious services. They forbid foreigners from setting up religious organizations, centers for managing religious affairs or schools for

religious activity. Foreigners are also forbidden to proselytize and are allowed to preach only with provincial or central government permission. Violation of any of these measures under Order No. 144 brings unspecified punishment.

Order No. 145 bans underground house churches or unauthorized places of worship, limits what goes on in churches ("no one may use places of worship for activities to destroy national unity, ethnic unity and social stability"), and forbids places of worship to receive funds from overseas. [ANR/The Tablet]

5. THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANIA is about to begin construction in the city of Korce. According to Ron Edwards, leader of the Church in Albania, final permission was granted by the city council. Plans are now under way to proceed with the foundations in preparation for a major initiative in May by the young people of the Trans-European Division. The Korce church, to be known as the Daniel Lewis Memorial Church, will be the first owned by Seventh-day Adventists in Albania. Lewis, the first Adventist missionary to Albania, was persecuted and died for his faith in the 1950's.

Permission was also received to proceed with building an ADRA warehouse in Tirana. Edwards is continuing negotiations with council authorities in Tirana, Rreshen and Shkodra to obtain permission for church buildings in these towns. [ANR]

6. GLOBAL MISSION - IRELAND: Previously I reported that John and Flora Hinchey left their homeland in Canada and established a new group of believers in the unentered town of Cork. The British Union has further supported this project by providing Union Global Mission funds to purchase a little church. The Hinchey's still courageously labor in Ireland where there is only one Seventh-day Adventist for every 17,225 people, compared with the world average of one for every 740.