

**1. DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER:** Though the international news services report the death of tens of thousands during the recent civil strife in the small African country of Rwanda, we still do not have information about the effect this has had on our believers. About one person in 30 is a Seventh-day Adventist (and we have 300,000 members) but the number attending Sabbath services is estimated to be close to 500,000! I am urging each congregation to set aside a day of fasting and prayer for Rwanda during which we ask God to bring peace to this war torn country in order that His message may prosper.

**2. VOLUNTEER SHOT IN CAMBODIA:** Ben Davis, an AFM volunteer working with ADRA-Cambodia, was shot by armed guerrillas while traveling 44 miles southwest of Phnom Penh last Monday. He was traveling by motorcycle when he encountered two gunmen dressed in Khmer Rouge uniforms. They opened fire about 50 meters from the vehicle, getting off about 20 rounds before ceasing fire. He was driven to Phnom Penh and flown to a hospital in Bangkok, Thailand, where he was operated on for neck and foot wounds. He was expected to spend less than a week in the hospital before returning to his field of labor.

**3. ITALY--BROADCAST LAW SIGNED:** We have just received word that the Short Wave law in Italy has just been signed by the Minister for Telecommunications and it is to be published in the next few days. According to an unofficial copy of the law, SW stations will have 60 days from the date the law becomes effective to submit an application for license. A recent meeting of the AWR Board authorized AWR/Italy administration to proceed with application preparation and submission.

**4. EVANGELICAL PROTESTANTS AND CATHOLICS LINK UP:** A 25-page "declaration" recently signed by 39 leading evangelical Protestant and Roman Catholic leaders calls for a closer working relationship between the two groups regarding mission, affirms each other as full-fledged Christian brothers and sisters, vows to reduce conflict between the groups, and calls for an end of "stealing sheep" from each other.

Well-known signatories include Charles Colson, Pat Robertson, John Cardinal O'Connor of New York, two leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention, and numerous others ranging from archbishops to theologians.

Any response to the radical changes proposed is too soon to gauge, but even the proposing of such cooperation between Protestants and Roman Catholics is eye-opening to Seventh-day Adventists. It represents a significant shift since the Reformation when tens of thousands chose martyrdom rather than accept the doctrinal errors espoused by the Roman Catholic Church.

The document clearly spells out numerous theological differences between evangelical Protestants and Roman Catholics but suggests that unity in mission would be a fulfillment of Christ's prayer that all be one in Him. Part of the driving force behind the document appears to be the common interests of both groups in promoting specific social issues, such as their anti-abortion, pro-family, and parochial-school agendas. An expanded report on this declaration will appear in the April 28 issue of the *Adventist Review*.

**5. ALBANIAN MISSION ORGANIZED:** Just three years after Albania opened its doors, Seventh-day Adventists have formally established the church organization in that country. Seventy delegates representing believers from Tirana, capital of Albania, as well as Korca, Shkodra and Elbasan convened, April 14-16, in Tirana and voted to adopt a church constitution and form the Albanian Mission.

The international church made its first contacts with Albania in decades in April 1991. Today, there are 155 baptized members in Albania. According to Ron Edwards, mission president, the number worshipping on Sabbath is much greater. They are now preparing 80 for baptism and have an objective of tripling their membership by 1997.

Among their chief concerns is: training local ministers, preparation of adequate literature, and building church buildings. Though the law permits the church to acquire land and build churches, limited resources currently restrict expansion. However, session delegates rejoiced to hear plans to build the country's first Adventist church in Korca. The new Korca church will be completed by Trans-European Division young people by the end of May as part of a special youth project.

Session delegates included two sons and two daughters of Andrea Misha, a pioneer church member from Korca in whose house Sabbath services were conducted for more than 15 years, and Meropi Gjika, who first heard of the Advent hope from pioneer missionary Daniel Lewis and was baptized in April, 1992 after having waited 50 years.

**6. DATELINE SOUTH PACIFIC:** Departing Wednesday afternoon, traveling 25 hours and crossing the international dateline, brought us to Sydney, Australia to begin a two-week itinerary to portions of the South Pacific Division we had not visited before. Friday evening and Sabbath we joined believers from the greater Sydney area for a Global Mission Rally with the offering to be used to establish congregations in many unentered villages on the island of Malaita as well as in Thailand. This coming week we will be meeting with believers in Christchurch (New Zealand), Samoa, Cook islands, Tonga, and Tahiti.