

1. RWANDA UPDATE: Hundreds of Seventh-day Adventists are among at least 300,000 Rwandan refugees who have entered Tanzania in recent weeks, according to Z.F. Ayonga, Communication director of the Eastern African Division.

ADRA has mobilized to assist the Rwandan refugees by shipping 40 tons of food supplies from the ADRA warehouse in neighboring Uganda, about four hours drive away. The agency's response comes amidst appeals from the region to relief the suffering of the refugees. ADRA's extensive Africa network is enabling the agency to mobilize faster than many other agencies in providing disaster relief.

On his return from Africa, General Conference Vice President Matthew Bediako reported that 50 students (not 10 as previously reported) from the Adventist University of Central Africa lost their lives in the current uprising. He further reported that Pastor Amon Iyamuremye, president of the East Rwanda Conference (located in Kigali) was killed along with his wife and daughter. Two pastors, Mutabuzi and Kamangu, from North Rwanda, also lost their lives. The full effect to the members of the church will not be known fully for some time.

Though a final decision has not yet been made, it is probable that AUCA will not open for school again this year.

2. 130 PASTORS ATTENDED two "1844 Made Simple" seminars which focused on the foundational importance and continuing relevance of Adventism's 1844 theology. NAD sponsored the meetings, coordinated by the Mid-America and Pacific Unions which featured Clifford Goldstein, editor of *Liberty*, and William Shea and Angel Rodriguez of the Biblical Research Institute. As part of this year's emphasis on the 150th anniversary of the "Midnight Cry," NAD asked Goldstein to prepare the seminar using his book *1844 Made Simple*. Successive Sunday-Tuesday seminars were held in Kansas and California for pastors in the Central and Western United States. NAD plans a third seminar for pastors in the East.

3. A HIGH RANKING COPTIC MONK, once responsible for one of the largest Coptic churches in the Middle East, accepted Seventh-day Adventism recently. The new brother in the Advent faith is continuing his theological studies in order to prepare for SDA gospel

ministry. Anonymity as to his identity is currently mandated due to prevailing circumstances. The Coptic Orthodox church is the largest Christian church in the Middle East.

4. ISOLATION ENDS FOR SDAS IN MOSLEM MOSTAR: Elder Damir Super, a pastor from Croatia, visited the Seventh-day Adventist church in Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina, concluding a year of isolation. He also delivered 12-tons of food and medical supplies, provided by the Czechoslovakian office of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), which were turned over to the Central Emergency Aid Warehouse in Mostar. Although our church is in the heavily damaged section of town, it appears to be in a better condition than most buildings in the area and has been spared serious vandalism or plundering thanks to the care of Nada Kljaic, wife of the pre-war pastor who has remained in Mostar since the hostilities began.

5. EVANGELISTS IN RUSSIA FACE OPPOSITION:

Two Russian Adventist evangelists had to appeal to local governments for protection after receiving serious opposition from the Orthodox Church.

Local priests strongly opposed meetings being held by I. Nalchadzi in Shuiaj and a campaign in Balashikha with Nicolai Smagin by announcing on radio and television that attending the meetings was a sin and that those who did so would need to go to confession.

At least four evangelistic campaigns in Russia have met opposition, reports Gilbert Bertochini, Global Mission consultant for international evangelism.

8. ADRA-LAOS: ADRA just completed a successful project which provided nearly one quarter of all the wells and latrines produced in the country during 1993. Now the Ministry of Health has requested that we provide English language training to all those who are involved in the provision of health care in Vientiane. Traditionally, only French and Russian have been taught.

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