

**1. REPORT FROM IRELAND:** Lush green beauty and a peaceful, pastoral environment and an ancient Celtic heritage, were among my first impressions on arriving in Dublin last week. These impressions were moderated somewhat as the tensions between largely protestant Northern Ireland and the Catholic Republic of Ireland in the south became apparent as we crossed the border on the way to Belfast.

The first Seventh-day Adventist congregation on this island was established in Banbridge (in protestant Ulster, just south of Belfast) in 1891 as a result of members of Irish parentage in America sending literature to relatives in the old country. Northern beginnings are still apparent today for two thirds (230 out of 322) Seventh-day Adventists live in the north and one third (92) live in the south.

The Emerald Foundation (a non-profit organization based in Loma Linda, California) has provided significant assistance to gospel proclamation in Ireland since its organization in the early 1980s. It has assisted in building several churches, and schools as well as provided continuing support for several evangelistic and educational personnel.

**2. EARTHQUAKE SHAKES COLUMBIA:** Last Wednesday (June 8) a major earthquake, measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale, struck the Cauca province of Columbia, about 200 km (120 miles) southwest of the capital of Bogota. Several villages were buried in mud and ice brought down by an avalanche on the 18,975-foot Nevado del Huila volcano. This single avalanche triggered a series of landslides and caused the Paez river to flood. According to initial estimates, between 250-350 people perished and 100,000 are homeless.

Within hours after the quake, ADRA's Columbia director had clothes en route to the victims. ADRA is preparing to ship tents and blankets by early next week. ADRA assisted these same people after Nevado del Huila volcano erupted in 1989 providing them with food, tents, clothes, and construction materials for rebuilding 150 homes.

**3. RWANDA UPDATE:** The Ugandan government asked ADRA to join three other agencies removing and burying Rwandan bodies floating in Lake Victoria, a task made difficult due to their state of decomposition. ADRA's operation, funded by contributions from the governments of Uganda, Australia and the United States, is directed from a base camp near the river in Golo, 50 miles southwest of the capital of Kampala.

This is a task that ADRA has never been asked to do in any prior emergency.

**4. AWR TO BROADCAST GC SESSION NEWS:** AWR directors met in Utrecht, Holland, site of the 1995 General Conference Session, to finalize plans for radio coverage of the event. Daily programs in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Mandarin (Chinese), and a number of other languages will be broadcast from the AWR Broadcast Center in Utrecht. AWR stations around the world will receive daily reports by satellite several hours a day to provide worldwide coverage of the session. In addition, many stations in Europe and the Americas will carry reports distributed on the AWR satellite network. To provide the programming, AWR will construct a broadcast center with six studios in the heart of the Jaarbeurs Convention complex.

**5. IN MYANMAR,** the Burmese Bible Correspondence School has 1,646 students enrolled, 400 of which are a result of the AWR broadcasts. The Bible School director says 90% of the students complete the course and graduate. In northeast Myanmar a Buddhist man listened to the AWR broadcast, contacted the Bible school and enrolled in the Bible course. He completed two of the courses and then asked if he could join the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

**6. MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE ACCREDITED:** After lengthy negotiations with Lebanese educational authorities, Middle East College was finally accepted on May 16 as an accredited institution. This accreditation will have positive effects on the training of young people in the Middle East since future graduates will be issued a degree which is widely accepted in the Middle East.

**7. R C BROWN,** president of the Lake Region Conference, died June 11 in Hinsdale, Illinois. At the time of his death, he was recovering from surgery for a brain tumor. An officer of the Lake Region Conference for more than 20 years, he is survived by his wife, Virginia, and son, Richard. Funeral services will be held at 7 p.m., June 16, at the Shiloh Church in Chicago.

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