

1. CAMEROON CONCLUDES AFRICAN VISIT: A group of members met our flight in Douala, Cameroon, during a brief stopover on our way to Yaounde (Friday, June 17), which is the political capital, located in the central highlands of the country. After speaking on Sabbath to 2,000+ believers in Yaounde (of the country's 60,000+ members), and meeting with our workers in the afternoon, I had a visit with His Excellency the Prime Minister Simeon Aichidi Achu at his home.

Sunday's visit to the interior was memorable. A dawn flight in a Cessna 206 took us to the lush, cool highlands. Our first stop was in Fouban, where His Majesty, Sultan, King of Bamoune, Ibrahim Mbombo Njoya, met us at the airport and took us to his palace. After an unforgettable visit (during which I learned his dynasty began in the year 1394), we continued our journey to a Bamilike-tribe village named Bandenkop. There, Chief Marcel Feze Nganjong told the gathered audience the story of his 23-year exile, during the last years of colonialism, and how only the Seventh-day Adventists befriended him and accepted his children in church school. He invited us to send evangelists and teachers, and assured us that he and many of his family and villagers wanted to accept Christianity as taught by Seventh-day Adventists. Further, he announced a gift of 22 acres (10 hectares) of land for a church, school and clinic. When I visited the church site, I found that construction had already begun, and I had the joy of laying the first stone.

After the flight back to Yaounde, and bidding our believers farewell at midnight Sunday night, I boarded the commercial flight beginning 24 hours of travel to take me back home.

2. ADVENTIST PHYSICIAN, BENJAMIN CARSON, lead a medical team which attempted to separate Siamese twins in South Africa. The twins, joined at the head, underwent the 16-hour operation successfully. One twin succumbed to congenital heart failure and died a few hours after surgery and the second twin died later.

3. FOUR PEOPLE ARE MISSING and presumed drowned in a tragic boating accident in South Pacific Division's Kiribati Mission. Missing are Araiman Ratu, Kauma Adventist Academy business manager and his three children. The mission dinghy capsized June 9, while traveling from the island of Abemama to Aranuka. Other passengers, Baraniko Mooka (mission president), Brother Ratu's wife, and the wife of the school principal were found alive after being washed up on some rocks.

4. UN HONORS SDA FAMILY-LIFE EMPHASIS: The Seventh-day Adventist Church was one of four organizations recognized by the United Nations, May 26, for its efforts to make a significant contribution to the building and preservation of healthy families. A H

Tolhurst, General Conference Undersecretary, accepted the award on behalf of the Church during a special ceremony at UN headquarters in New York. Vincent Piola, chief of the UN's Non-Governmental Organizations Section Department of Public Information, presented the 1994 International Year of the Family Testimonial awards to the four organizations during a mid-morning ceremony in the Dag Hammarskjold library auditorium.

"Adventists view family as essential to the well-being of society and the church," said Karen Flowers, Family Life coordinator at the General Conference. This special recognition by the United Nations is received with pride as the Church continues its efforts to empower families for growth.

It was in 1991 that the General Conference Committee voted to designate 1994 as the Year of the Family for the World Church to correspond with the United Nations International Year of the Family. The UN was regularly informed about the church's calendar of events connected with the Year of the Family, and the Church's programs were also presented by Karen Flowers and the church's representatives at a conference in Malta last year.

Also receiving the 1994 International Year of the Family Testimonial award were: The Non-Governmental Organizations International Committee, The Alan Guttmacher Institute, and Rehabilitation International. Of the four awards, only one went to a church.

5. WORLD GLOBAL MISSION COORDINATORS met June 14-18 at Cohutta Springs, Georgia, to discuss methods of identifying and opening work in unentered areas. Attendees, including personnel from Andrews University Department of Mission, the Institute of World Mission, the Buddhist and Hindu Study Centers and other missiologists, were divided into four strategy groups - Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and Urban/Secular.

One major initiative was launching the *Global Mission Pioneer* program. This plan places volunteers for at least one year in unentered areas to establish new congregations. Directors of ADRA, AWR, Church Ministries, Communication, Education, Health, Ministerial and Publishing departments presented a smorgasbord of skills that could be part of the Pioneer training program. Some divisions were so enthusiastic they already launched the program. Three divisions already have 776 Global Mission Pioneer teams serving in unentered areas, at an average cost of about \$2,000 per year. The group set an objective for 1997 of 4,000 teams.

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