

From the G.C. President

August 15, 1994

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1. 1994 ASI CONVENTION: The 1,200+ who attended the 1994 ASI (Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries) Convention in Dallas this past weekend, were deeply moved by the soul-winning stories of dedicated business leaders and professionals who are witnessing for the Lord in the marketplace. Sabbath afternoon NAD's Adventist Communication Network (ACN) and Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) produced a live, 90-minute program that was broadcast via satellite to tens of thousands across North America and the Caribbean. Each ASI convention concludes with a Sabbath evening banquet, and an offering. This year the attendees contributed more than US\$1.4 million for 18 projects around the world. It is encouraging to sense the dynamic, supportive, ASI-spirit, characterized by a deep commitment to our message and mission.

2. DR. GERHARD HASEL DIED Thursday afternoon (June 11) in an automobile accident. Hasel, 59, on the Andrews University faculty since 1967, was Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Theology as well as Director of the Ph.D. in Religion and Th.D. programs at the seminary. Author of many books and articles, member of many scholarly organizations, currently writing the sections on Hosea and Amos for the *New International Commentary on the Old Testament*, Dr. Hasel was not only a well-known and internationally respected scholar, but an effective voice articulating the biblical foundations of our distinctive message. Grieving are his wife Hilda; three children--Michael, Marlena, and Melissa; thousands of students; countless colleagues and friends, who cannot but wonder why, while trusting in the assurance that "it won't be long, we'll be going home" together.

3. THE LAKE UNION CONFERENCE RECENTLY ELECTED Don Schneider, 51, currently president of the Northern California Conference, as its president. Schneider, supported by his wife Marti, began his pastoral ministry in 1964, served as president of the Rocky Mountain, Arkansas-Louisiana, New Jersey and Wyoming conferences, and chaired the NAD Evangelism Committee that originated the *Net '95* project, using satellite linkage for public evangelism.

4. BENJAMIN C. MAXSON who, with his wife Mary, leads the Ministerial Association and Church Ministries/Stewardship departments in the Upper Columbia Conference, was invited by the General Conference Committee to serve as General Conference

Associate Director of Church Ministries for Stewardship. He replaces Charles Griffin (who was elected president of the Greater New York Conference). Born of missionary parents in Venezuela in 1949, Maxson is fully bilingual (English and Spanish), having worked in the North and South American divisions, and has demonstrated the ability to teach the deeply spiritual principles of stewardship.

5. CHRISTIAN RECORD SERVICES, which provides services to the sight and hearing impaired, in its July 28 board meeting, accepted the recommendations from the special study committee and voted to reduce its expenses by US\$50,000 per month. The decisions, painful and difficult, included: ! reducing international rallies to one per quinquennium, ! eliminating the three staff members and consultant handling the major-donor program, ! reorganizing field services leading to cutting three staff members, ! reducing two from the production staff, ! reducing the production of the Braille Magazine from monthly to bimonthly, ! purging the list of those receiving the magazine, 67% of which are sent overseas--free of charge, and ! requesting assistance from the North American Division ingathering appeal.

6. THE LOCAL COMMUNITY responded to ADRA's appeal and contributed 20,000 pounds of clothes which, along with 100,000 pounds of clothing contributed by Adventist Community Centers throughout North America, were shipped in three 40-foot containers to Mombassa, Kenya, destined for Goma, Zaire. Along with the clothes being shipped are five tarps, and 258 mattresses for the hospital so patients won't have to lie on the rough, volcanic surface. This shipment will take about 45 days to reach port and, once unloaded, will be flown by the U.S. military to Goma.

7. INDIA--FIRST GM CHURCH DEDICATED: Giftson Chandran and Immanuel Dorairaj, two Spicer College students, decided to go to Pollachi, a city with no Seventh-day Adventists. They presented simple health programs and invited the people to study the Bible. The work was not easy for community leaders created resistance. However, under the power of the Holy Spirit during the last two years, 35 people have been baptized. It was with rejoicing that recently Dr. K J Moses, Global Mission Coordinator for the Southern Asia Division, dedicated their new chapel.