

From the G.C. President

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1. ADRA UPDATE: ! Bosnia--John Arthur, Trans-European Division's ADRA Director, accompanied by ADRA directors from Japan, Switzerland and Yugoslavia, recently returned from a visit to Bosnia. During their six-day itinerary, they drove 3,200 km (2,000 miles), through 63 military checkpoints.

Sarajevo is a divided city with Serbs occupying one part and the Muslims the other. Linking the two is the United Nations' controlled airport. Visitors who are allowed to travel between the two areas, by driving down the 3.2 km (2 mile) long runway, are grateful for the protection offered by the U.N. Because of the war, ADRA's convoys into Sarajevo experienced a four-month hold-up during early 1994. Many gifts from relatives and well-wishers in 18 countries had to be stockpiled in Belgrade. However, the routes from Belgrade, Split and Zagreb are currently open, and 20 ADRA truck-loads of aid have reached Sarajevo during the past month, the only mishap being a truck-driver's leg injury caused by sniper fire.

It has been reported that the Japan Postal Service gave a grant of US\$105,000, negotiated by ADRA's regional director in Japan.

! Somalia--ADRA's office in Denmark received a grant from the Danish International Development Agency in the amount of US\$388,386. According to Helge Anderson, ADRA director in Denmark, the funds will be used for the operating expenses of the hospital. ADRA's primary purpose in Somalia is to provide clean drinking water and primary health care.

2. WORK AMONG JEWS: ! New York--Two thousand copies of the book, *The Source of Peace*, were distributed among the Jewish communities of New York City. The books were not mailed, or left hanging on door knobs, but were personally delivered during a home or business visit. Jewish people are earnestly looking for the Savior. Many showed an interest to discuss the Messiah and study God's word. The project was so successful that plans are now being made to distribute another 15,000 books in this Global Mission, high-priority city.

! Australia--A team of Adventist lay-members regularly distribute the *Messiah Correspondence Course* in the Jewish sectors of Melbourne, Victoria. Then they go door to door meeting Jewish people in their homes and conducting studies with them from the Hebrew Scriptures. Five of the 39 Bible students have already completed the correspondence course.

3. BYELORUSSIA UPDATE: According to a recent report, during the past three years 2,200 people have joined the church in Byelorussia, resulting in a 300% increase in membership since August 1990. During this same period, the number of congregations increased from 15 to 25. This growth has taken place while the church has met the challenge of organizing its operation, which is no small accomplishment. A recent session elected a 15-member conference committee, representing all six regions of the country, which included women and young adults.

Let me tell you about Dimitry Lukashenko. Dimitry was a pastor in Byelorussia during World War II. In spite of all the war-time confusion, he and his wife established a new group of believers. Between 1947 and 1960 he established, at great risk, two more congregations. Then, in 1961 he was convicted and sentenced to five years of prison for being a Christian. While in prison, he baptized eight men and led the little congregation in worship from week to week. At 78 years of age, and long since retired, Dimitry started, and now is pastor of, a new congregation in Mogilyeo, where each Sabbath he ministers to 15 new Adventists. He said, "Why, I've worked for Global Mission all my life."

4. HONG KONG is one of the most densely populated cities in the world with millions living in high-rise buildings. It is a challenge to evangelize these complexes, with guards at the gate that exclude all but residents. During a planning session, members decided to establish cell groups in both public and private estates. Community programs were implemented and, as relationships formed, many began studying the Bible. Today, 38 cell groups meet each week in the high-rises of Hong Kong and many owe their hope in Christ to this creative ministry.

5. SELECTIONS: I'd like to share the blessings I've received from Oswald Chambers devotional book, *My Utmost for His Highest*. Periodically I'll include a choice quotation. Here's the first. "If we have never had the experience of taking our commonplace religious shoes off our commonplace religious feet, and getting rid of all the undue familiarity with which we approach God, it is questionable whether we have ever stood in His presence. The people who are flippant and familiar are those who have never yet been introduced to Jesus Christ." (p. 2)