

From the G.C. President

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1. THE ADVENTIST MEDIA CENTER BOARD, recognizing that operating costs could be reduced by US\$1 million or more per year in salaries alone if they were located in a lower-cost area, authorized its administration to investigate the possibility of relocating to a site, preferably near a college campus, where Communication students could benefit from the proximity of the Media Center.

2. ANNUAL COUNCIL UPDATE: A travel moratorium for GC staff is in effect as final preparations are underway for the 1994 Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee. Interviews and pre-meetings begin September 21 with the Annual Council itself beginning the evening of October 3. The normal importance of an Annual Council is augmented this year since it is at this meeting that the major agenda items for the '95 General Conference Session will be approved. To provide for a more-intense review of agenda items, "Senate-style" hearings are scheduled for **a)** financial matters, **b)** policy items and **c)** proposed changes to the Church Manual (which require approval by a General Conference Session). But the report of the Commission on World Church Organization will come directly to the floor for consideration. During the next few editions, I will highlight some of the issues under consideration for the General Conference Session agenda.

3. PUBLISHING--MAJOR CHANGES PROPOSED: Over the years the General Conference publishing policies, which direct the production and distribution of Seventh-day Adventist literature around the world, have increased significantly. However, publishing policies applicable to the entire world are becoming increasingly ineffective. At this Annual Council a major revision (and dramatic reduction) in Publishing Policies will be considered.

Two of the major components of this proposal include: ! Referring complete oversight of the Literature Evangelist (colporteur) distribution programs to each division, and ! Removing *all territorial and linguistic restrictions* from Seventh-day Adventist publishing houses.

Rest assured, this latter proposal will be fully debated! Historically, each publishing house has had a designated territory, protected both by policy and tradition. If

approved, this means that any publishing house may produce and distribute material in any language without territorial restrictions. On the one hand, it is hoped that this proposal will increase the variety (and tend to decrease the price) of material available for the nurture of our members as well as that sold by Literature Evangelists. On the other hand, such a change could threaten the manufacturing (if not the publishing/editing) ability of the weaker or less competitive institutions.

4. VOICE OF PROPHECY IN CUBA: In response to an invitation from church leaders in Cuba, asking for help in reopening the Bible Correspondence School, Milton Peverini, speaker/director of the Spanish Voice of Prophecy (*La Voz*) radio program, traveled with several others to Cuba. Leaders requested plates and resources to print hundreds of thousands of Bible lessons. Their goal: 12,000 new students. It was in 1942, while serving as a pastor in Havana, that Braulio Pérez Marcio became the first speaker of *La Voz*. Now, 51 years later, *La Voz* anticipates an active role in Cuban evangelism. Pastor Peverini and the visiting team participated in the first Bible correspondence school graduation in 33 years. During the ceremony 600 students received diplomas for having completed their Bible course while 500 more are still studying and 450 visitors, present for the graduation, came forward requesting baptism. If US\$10,000 can be found to cover the cost, plans are to print 10,000 sets of lessons. What an opportunity!

5. ADVENTIST SCHOOLS SUPPORT GLOBAL MISSION: In Argentina, the Balcarce Academy in Buenos Aires chose Villa Mayo (a city with no Adventists) as its Global Mission target. The students raised US\$5,000 to purchase land to house an evangelism center from which to reach out to the community.

In Brazil, teachers and students from the Indaial Adventist School dropped all other activities during Holy Week and worked to establish an interest in a nearby unentered area. Today there are twenty studying the Bible and preparing for baptism.