

# From the G.C. President

October 17, 1994

Robert S Folkenberg

**1. BREAK TIME!** After seven weeks of extra-long hours and non-stop, high-pressure meetings, I packed my camping gear and have headed for a few days of seclusion and recovery in the mountains. On returning, I will have two days in the office before driving to New York for the October 22 celebrations. The Sabbath afternoon program will be broadcast by satellite 4-6 p.m. EST on Galaxy 4, Channel 9 commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Millerite Movement from the William Miller Farm in New York.

**2. YOUTH IN ANGOLA:** Luanda, Angola, the capital of a country devastated by 25 years of war, was the backdrop of an extraordinary Youth Congress during which 30,000 Seventh-day Adventist youth gathered to worship God on Sabbath, September 10. Responding to a call by Dr. John Graz, Youth Director of the Euro-Africa Division, 1,000 indicated their desire to prepare for baptism. The event was covered by radio and national television. Never before in the history of the Euro-Africa Division has a single event had so large an attendance.

**3. 15,000 ATTEND** the opening night of an evangelistic campaign conducted by Jamaican lay-evangelist, Fitz Henry, in Kampala, Uganda. The campaign was officially opened by Dr. Samson Kisekka, vice president of the Republic of Uganda.

**4. TV FIRST:** The first church-owned and operated television station went on the air September 10 in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. This 14,000 watt station was miraculously offered to the West Puerto Rico Conference for the price of \$100,000 and has a potential audience of over 1 million people in the western part of the island.

**5. REPORT FROM RUSSIA:** "It was a miracle," declared evangelist F. Dale Leamon, "We managed to finish the campaign in Saransk, Russia." One day after the second week of his crusade, the KGB came into the large building where Dale was preaching. A Church of Christ pastor was also conducting a series of meetings in a smaller hall on the second floor. The KGB representative went into the Church of Christ meeting and boldly shouted orders. "Put away your

Bible--you are done. Go home!" The pastor had to adjourn his meeting and leave. But before he left he protested, "What about the Adventists? They are in the large hall? What are you going to do to them?" "Nothing," answered the official. "There's something different about Adventists. They seem to be part of our community."

In 1993, 89 international evangelists were scheduled by General Conference Russian-evangelism coordinator, Gilbert Bertochini, to conduct campaigns in 15 former Soviet Union countries. The Quiet Hour, Bearhug, and sister unions also sponsored many campaigns. The total baptized by these efforts is over 17,500!

The message of the righteousness of Christ Jesus is being proclaimed with immeasurable power. Thousands have repented in tears seeking forgiveness and salvation. A revival and reformation is taking place.

In Bishkek, Kirgistan, Elder Helmut Mayer, from Germany, baptized 119 people. Among them was a KGB representative from the department of religion. When the department asked him why he attended an evangelistic meeting, he simply replied, "You don't need to be concerned about me. The reason I go there every night is to control their activities." However, Mayer's message of forgiveness, judgment, and salvation moved the KGB agent to accept Jesus Christ. Then when an appeal for baptism was made by Mayer, the agent was one of the first to respond. His beautiful testimony was, "A new world has opened up to me. Now I am a happy person."

During his crusade in Vinnitsi, Ukraine, evangelist Larry Lichtenwalter experienced strong opposition from a local Orthodox priest who stood outside the hall each evening and turned scores of people away. Nevertheless about 1,000 people came and over 100 joined the SDA Church.

Dedicated ministers from Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, Germany, Norway, New Zealand, and the United States have presented the gospel in Russia, not as a lifeless theory, but as a living force to change lives. Many of these dug into their savings and appealed to their friends for means to support their campaign expenses. "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good

tidings, that publisheth peace.” (Isaiah 52:7-10)