

From the G.C. President

October 24, 1994

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1. **“THE GREAT APPOINTMENT”** was the theme celebrated by about 2,500 on the William Miller farm in Low Hampton, New York, last Sabbath. The weekend program, which started on Thursday evening, included seminars and tours on Friday. Sabbath activities began with a consecration service in the maple grove. During Sabbath School Jim Nix, associate director of the E.G. White Estate, inspired the group with historical perspectives and Dr. C. Merwyn Maxwell, retired chairman of the Church History department at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, led in the lesson study on Daniel 8:14. Pastor Walter Pearson, associate director of the E.G. White Estate, preached during the worship hour.

Hundreds took their lunches a few meters away to “Ascension Rock” where a strong oral tradition says a band of believers waited for the Lord to return on October 22, 1844. After lunch Elders Nix and Maxwell painted graphic verbal pictures of the early Adventists as their expectations turned to foreboding and then, as midnight came, to dismay. Then Robert J. Kloosterhuis, GC vice president, Mike Ryan, Global Mission coordinator, and Alfred C. McClure, North American Division president, reported on Global Mission progress.

The afternoon program was broadcast via satellite to more than 500 churches in the North American Division. The program was also rebroadcast by Three Angel’s Broadcasting Network. The first 30 minutes was a pre-recorded introduction to the surroundings as well as a historical review of the Great Awakening of the early 19th century which climaxed on this date. During the last hour I had the privilege of speaking to an estimated 30,000-50,000 believers (who were watching the broadcast live) about “The Great Appointment” that *did* take place in the heavenly sanctuary in 1844 as well as the *next* Great Appointment that is to come when our Lord returns in triumph.

For our family, the highlight of the day came at 7:30 in the evening when a few of the program participants and their families met by kerosene lantern in the little Miller chapel, built in 1848, where together we celebrated the Lord’s supper. I am confident that each of us left with a renewed determination to proclaim the full message that has been entrusted to this movement.

For video tapes of weekend activities, in North America call 1-800-328-0525, outside North America call or write the GC Communication

department.

2. **FROM SOOT TO HEALTH:** During communist times the large building on the Friedensau campus, near Luther’s Wittenberg in the former East Germany, was known as a “Dreckschleuder” (dirt thrower). Six strong men fed brown coal into the oven, round the clock, producing a little heat and hot water for the community, but simultaneously discharging tons of sulfuric soot into the “eternal cloud” that appeared to live on top of the huge chimney. The dirt-thrower is no more. The anti-pollution legislation brought about one of the many drastic changes so typical of East Germany. Now the facility houses a new health enhancement program instead of producing smog. On October 8 it was inaugurated as a center of health for the university campus, which recently began the new school year with 100 students.

3. **UNITED NATIONS:** At the recent 1994 meeting in New York of the United Nations Non-Government Organizations Committee on Religious Liberty, Dr. B. B. Beach, director of the General Conference department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, addressed the Committee on the topic **“Religious Liberty: Principles and Practice.”** During a question-and-answer period Dr. Beach described to participants the role of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in meeting religious liberty issues around the world.

4. **PUBLISHING IN RUSSIA:** To strengthen the literature evangelism program in Moscow the Russian “Source of Life” Publishing House is establishing an Adventist Book Center in downtown Moscow. To serve the 40 literature evangelists working in Moscow, last week the Publishing House sent its 8-ton truck loaded with books to a pre-arranged site so that the colporteurs could buy books. During the next six hours they distributed over 8 million rubles worth of books (US\$4,000 at the present exchange rate) to these literature evangelists.

5. **ON A PERSONAL NOTE:** After a few days at the office, I leave Thursday for the year-end meetings at the Inter-American Division office, from which I’ll be filing my next two editions.