

# From the G.C. President

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**1. EVANGELISM AND BIBLICAL PREACHING** was the pervasive theme as several hundred African-American pastors and other leaders gathered at Oakwood College last week for the annual convocation on evangelism. It was evident to all who attended that the evangelistic success, extraordinary preaching skills, and doctrinal orthodoxy manifested in this Seventh-day Adventist community are not accidental. They are rather the effect of members *and* leaders who are willing to confront the pluralism or status-quo-ism that are hallmarks of modern society in general and the Laodicean Church in particular. I was so blessed that I could pray that all pastors could participate in such a gathering each year. The effect would be significant.

**2. GO '94--THAT "MISSION" IS ALIVE** will be apparent as hundreds will converge on Andrews University, December 27-31, to attend the GO'94 International Young Adult Missions Conference. In order to inspire and prepare for mission service, GO'94 will feature inspirational speakers and music, seminars on many facets of mission, Bible-centered devotions in a small-group setting and more than 25 organizations providing mission opportunities.

As a result of the past two GO conferences, hundreds of young adults have renewed their commitment to Jesus Christ, signed mission commitment cards, and become actively involved in long and short term missions projects.

The cost for the four-day conference, including materials, meals and accommodations is US\$85. More information is available by calling the Institute of World Mission, Berrien Springs, Michigan (Tel: 616 471-2522, Fax: 616 471-6252). Further information is available on the CompuServe SDA Forum in the Young Adults [19] section.

**3. GLOBAL MISSION--BELARUS:** The little country of Belarus, (Beylorussia) with a population of 10.3 million, is experiencing an extraordinary out-pouring of the Holy Spirit. During 1994, church membership has increased from 2,900 to 4,000 and seven new congregations have been established. This represents a 28 percent increase in membership and a 33

percent increase in congregations.

The city of Lida was the last city in Belarus with a population of 100,000 or more in which there were no Seventh-day Adventists. Luba Anatska, a nurse, moved to Lida and prayed that God would help her establish an Adventist congregation. She began to work long hours preparing for an evangelistic meeting. When the meetings began, it became apparent that the 350-seat auditorium (rented at a cost of US\$800 per month) was not sufficient to hold the crowd. A second session each evening was requested, but the managers refused the request. Immediately, a 700-seat auditorium was found just seven minutes walk away. When asked the price, the managers said it was US\$80 per month. People packed the new auditorium and 500 waited outside to attend a second meeting immediately following. The evening attendance now runs between 1,200 and 1,300. As I write, the meetings are still in progress.

With a membership of only 4,000, the Belarus Field has set as their 1995 goal, to establish 31 new congregations in unentered towns and villages. This will represent more than a 100 percent increase in the number of congregations in just one year. Yes, Jesus is coming again!

**4. GLOBAL MISSION IMPACTS MAURITANIA:** On November 9, 1994, for the first time, the Church placed a Global Mission worker in the country of Mauritania. For more than two years the African Indian Ocean Division has been praying and searching for a way to help the beautiful people of this great country. Jean-Luc Lienard from Belgium has made a one-year commitment to Mauritania serving until Hans Obenaus returns from leave. Brother Lienard's sacrifice is accentuated in that his wife and children have stayed behind in Belgium. Brother Lienard has already met with high ranking government officials to discuss possibilities of service. I can hardly think of a worker who is more frontline. Many serve on the frontline, but brother Lienard provides even more compelling evidence that "bless the missionaries and colporters" needs to again have a special place in our prayers.