

# From the G.C. President

December 20, 1994

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**1. NORTH AMERICAN CHURCH AND HEALTH-CARE LEADERS** met in Naples, Florida, last week for the fourth in a series of consultations. One major topic, among several discussed, included the wisdom and effect on mission of Seventh-day Adventist hospitals participating in networks and affiliations with other hospitals. Another issue dealt with the financial contribution of hospitals to the mission of the Church within the local community, region or nation, as well as the Church's worldwide health program.

Though the issues were clarified, no consensus emerged on the matter of what constituted appropriate relationships with other institutions. While health-care leaders manifested a willingness to provide support to both local and worldwide mission initiatives, they sought programs and methods that would be acceptable to the communities which they serve.

**2. NEW PRESIDENT—CHRISTIAN RECORD SERVICES:** Larry Pitcher, senior pastor of the Wichita South Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kansas, has been named the new president of Christian Record Services. Pastor Pitcher was selected because of his experience in both business and church work. Before moving to Kansas-Nebraska Conference, he owned a successful business in southwestern Michigan. Pitcher replaces Dr. Clarence Hodges, who was elected to serve as vice-president of the North American Division.

**3. RWANDA—MUGONERO HOSPITAL:** I'd like to share with you parts of a letter written by Dr. Hugo Sosa, ADRA/Rwanda Medical Director.

"Thank you for your interest in Rwanda. Those of us here can see and feel the fresh scars of the recent savage war. Very shy smiles try to hide the marks of pain and agony in those who survived. It is particularly touching to attend church services and listen to the testimonies. Our Adventist family here has experienced many trials since the war began. Many brothers and sisters lost their lives, many lost loved ones, and some lost their faith.

"When we first walked through the halls of

Mugonero Hospital and the other Adventist institutions, we could hardly keep the tears from falling. It was difficult to imagine the horrors that went on in these places. Now we have a great opportunity to come in the name of Jesus to wipe away the tears of those who remain, to straighten their backs, strengthen their courage, and stand beside them and help them heal and rebuild.

"Just a few days ago the inpatient ward at the hospital was opened. During the very first night a wonderful thing happened—a healthy baby boy was born in the very room where dozens had died. It was like a message from heaven, a symbol of a new beginning for the hospital, as though the hospital's heart, hurting and lacerated, began to beat again.

"Sabbath, December 17, we will have a special service in the hospital chapel. This will be the first worship service since that terrible day. This is the same chapel where many people were massacred. Their bodies are part of the 3,500 buried in a mass grave beside the building. During the service the baby will be offered in dedication to God. That symbol of the new birth represents the cleansing of this place, a chance for all of us to be reborn and start anew here.

"As you and your families and friends worship this Sabbath, would you join us as we praise God and pray for the healing of Rwanda? Please remember ADRA's courageous workers all over the world this holiday season."

**4. ERITREA ACCEPTS GLOBAL MISSION:** Fifty percent of the population in the Eritrea Mission (Eastern Africa Division) are Muslim. For the past 11 years the government has confiscated and held all church properties. The entire Mission only has six workers. In 1990, in spite of these challenges, the six workers determined to accept the Global Mission challenge. Two unentered Muslim towns were targeted, and an Adventist family was sent to live in each one. People have responded to the call of the Holy Spirit. Now, each Sabbath in these front-line towns, companies are meeting to worship God and renew their hope in Christ.

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