

From the G.C. President

January 3, 1995

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1. ADRA GUINEA: Under the leadership of Hugo Wegmuller, Guinea, a small country of 1.5 million inhabitants on Africa's west coast, has gone from having virtually no ADRA presence to become ADRA's largest operation in the world (with 225+ employees including eight expatriates). Guinea has absorbed hundreds of thousands of refugees from war-ravaged Sierra Leone and Liberia.

ADRA's 120 trucks deliver food (35,000 metric tons during 1994) from two large warehouses to nearly 700,000 refugees over roads which are widely considered the worst in the world. Wegmuller designed, built, equipped, and maintains a garage facility staffed by 45 mechanics, whose job is to repair the truck/motorcycle fleet, not only for ADRA, but for the UN, Red Cross, and others. They are considered as the best in their country.

ADRA was recently asked to manage the largest medical teaching hospital in the country and is negotiating a \$5 million contract with Adventist Health Systems/Sunbelt. The agency also has contracts with the World Bank for building 300 schools and distributing text books to remote areas. As a result, ADRA and the Seventh-day Adventist Church's standing in the country, from the president to the various ministries, is as high as any place in the world. Thank the Lord for the ministry of ADRA.

2. CAMBODIA UPDATE: A Spirit-led membership explosion is the only way to describe what is happening in Cambodia. In 1990, there were no Adventist churches in Cambodia. Today, there are 34 churches scattered in formerly unentered villages and cities. On September 17, 230 people were baptized in the Battambang area. As of last October, membership in Cambodia was about 750, up from 150 on January 1— a 400 percent church growth in 10 months! More than 1,500 people attend worship services each Sabbath. Church growth in Cambodia has resulted from God blessing Global Mission initiatives leading to planting new congregations in unentered areas. Programs by ADRA, Health, Ministerial, Education, Publishing, and other departments have played a major role in achieving

this Global Mission success.

3. DJIBOUTI: The country of Djibouti is a Global Mission priority. The Eastern Africa Division has prayed, sacrificed and worked hard to establish a presence in this unentered country. Under challenging conditions, over the past three years, the Holy Spirit has used our new dental clinic and other programs to provide a foundation from which to build. On October 29, 1994, for the first time ever, Djibouti people were baptized in the Red Sea and joined the Adventist church. A group of 30 continues to meet and worship each Sabbath.

4. AN EVANGELISTIC TEAM FROM LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE (a television program produced by the Adventist Media Center) recently visited Athens, Greece and presented a series of health topics because traditional topics are strongly resisted in that country. Though the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been working in Greece since 1903, there are only about 300 members in this country of 10 million.

After only three seminars, which presented the eight natural laws of health and family issues, six non-Adventists began attending the Adventist Church. The number doubled the following week and several continue to attend. Dan Matthews, speaker and director for the telecast, had the opportunity to host ten hours of "Morning Star," a locally-produced television program and visit several government ministries.

Herman Smit, Greek Mission president, indicated that this was probably one of the best things that has happened for our work there in many years.

5. ON A PERSONAL NOTE: In terms of travel, 1994 was an improvement over previous years as I was away from home only about 200 days and spent only 300+ hours sitting in airplanes. I was busy preaching, however, doing so on average just over twice a week.

The first half of 1995 will be busy with trips scheduled to Africa, the Middle East, Pakistan, and Guam before the General Conference Session. These

are in addition to Global Mission/Hands Across the World (GC Session offering) Sabbath programs scheduled for most NAD unions.