

From the G.C. President

January 9, 1995

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1. GOOD NEWS: The tithe and mission offering report from North America through November, 1994, compared to the previous year, shows an increase in tithe of 4.4 percent (up from 4.2 percent at the end of October) and, reversing previous declining trends, an increase in mission offerings of 1.2 percent. We pray that the positive trends will continue.

2. PACIFIC PRESS staff and leaders rejoiced when the final payment was made on its debt of over \$10 million, which was the obligation that remained after selling its property in Mountain View, California, in 1984 as well as moving to and building its new facility in Nampa, Idaho.

3. THE ELLEN WHITE ESTATE BOARD held its major annual meeting last weekend during which it was reported to the board that last year 64 new books of Ellen White writings were translated and published in a variety of languages. These new publications bring the total of Ellen White books to 1,060, published in 145 languages.

4. GLOBAL MISSION — CALCUTTA: In 1895 the first organized work in India was begun in Calcutta. The first organized church, the first school, the first clinic, and the first printing press were all located in Calcutta. However, as the years rolled by, our church membership shrank from a major center to only 12 members. Today, Calcutta is a high-priority Global Mission target.

Now there is good news. December 10, 1994, there were 106 people baptized in Calcutta. Brother P. K. Gayen Sr. spearheaded the Global Mission plans that brought about a revival of our work in this mega-city of some 5 million people. Several churches are under construction in the Calcutta area. Dr. M. E. Cherian, president of the division wrote, "thank God that Calcutta has seen a new day for evangelism and soul-winning."

5. BREAKTHROUGH IN CHINA: Canadian evangelist Dr. Victor A. Schulz just returned from Beijing and reported that after negotiations with the top

leadership of the Three Self Movement, an authorization was given for an Adventist evangelist to run the first evangelistic series meetings in Beijing. Not only will the authorities allow the meetings, but they offered an auditorium for it. Pastor Schulz reports that this is the first time a permission like that has been granted since 1949! As God in His mercy is opening the gate for public evangelism in China, may we pray that our efforts be blessed when we reach out to the 1.2 billion people who have not heard about Jesus.

6. REPORT FROM CHECHNAYA: As of a few days ago, there were still about 57 Seventh-day Adventist members in Grozny, after a number of our members fled the city earlier. Pastor Nikolai, the local pastor, has refused to leave the city as long as any Seventh-day Adventist member remain. Please pray for their safety and for peace. This is a very difficult time for the citizens of this strife-torn country.

7. TANZANIA: Due to difficulties in the country, it is not possible to know just how many evangelistic efforts have been conducted by lay people in Tanzania. However, it is evident that hundreds of lay-conducted crusades have taken place over the past four years. Since 1990, 59 previously unentered Global Mission areas now have Adventist congregations worshipping each Sabbath. Fifty-eight of these congregations have been organized into churches with 7,853 new Adventist members. Since 1990, more than 82,000 have been baptized in the Tanzania Union.

8. BELARUS UPDATE: I recently reported on how the Holy Spirit was falling on Belarus. Subsequently, I received word that 93 more people were baptized on December 18, and about the same number were to be baptized on December 25! Imagine, from one member, Luba Anatska, to a church of about 200 in a few short months! What a marvelous God we serve! Truly the latter rain is falling!