

From the G.C. President

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1. AWR NEWS: ! The Paraguay/AWR project for building a major broadcast station, has been approved by the project's financial sponsor and AWR administration. AWR President Walter Scragg said "We are ready to begin as soon as governmental clearance is received." Application for permission to operate shortwave (2 x 50 kw), AM (10 kw) and FM (5kw) stations in the Asunción area are now in process.

The plan also includes satellite uplinks at both AWR Pan-American sites in Asunción and Alajuela, Costa Rica. The two centers will be capable of distributing Spanish, French and English program feeds to the two AWR international and 20-30 local stations in Latin America. The network will also provide Portuguese programming for Brazil from the Adventist national satellite network already under construction in that country.

"The project has turned out to be a major one for AWR," says David Gregory, AWR Pan-America manager. "It will be the first AWR facility to include all three types of radio signals, plus satellite."

During a recent trip, AWR officials worked with local broadcasters to locate land, discussed the project with government officials and prepared the documentation for the new facility. Equipment and towers will be purchased from manufacturers in South America, where possible. Scragg said it is feasible that the 1.6 million dollar project could be completed within a year's time.

! A Filipino man working in Beirut, Lebanon, heard AWR's broadcasts in Tagalog and decided to enroll in the Bible Course. As a result, today he is the only Christian in a family of eight. He hopes to return home to tell his family about "the greatest treasure he found in the Arab world, Christianity."

! In Korea, citizens were not allowed to own shortwave radios until last July. AWR Korean broadcasters now expect a great increase in listeners. Meanwhile, Korean programs are successfully reaching Korean communities in China and Russia. The "Voice of Hope" studio in Seoul reports that, as a result of their broadcasts, there are 34 Korean congregations in mainland China and 13 new churches in Sakhalin Island, Russia.

! In East Indonesia, 112 people were baptized during 1994 as a direct result of AWR efforts.

! Polish "Voice of Hope" programs are now heard

nearly every week on the new national network called Radio BIS, reports Marek Smalec, director of the "Voice of Hope" studio in Podkowa Leśna. Radio BIS utilizes EUTELSAT II F3 for reaching the growing number of satellite-dish owners and is on medium wave in 11 major cities and on FM in another five cities, effectively covering most of the Polish population. He added that the programs continue on a number of local stations, on cable radio in some districts, in addition to the shortwave broadcasts on AWR.

! Norway: Karl Bergland, the Adventist communication director in Norway, announced the formation of a national radio network called "Channel Seven." Nine radio stations have joined to share programs and present a common message to major cities around the country, with the former Radio Omega in Oslo as the network anchor-station. "A name was sought that could also be used in future TV programs," Bergland says. "The purpose of having a common name is to get a clearer profile, as well as make it easier to produce programs for common use."

AWR discussions about possible use of satellite in Europe are of interest to the network because their programs may be distributed nationally and internationally. Programs produced by the Norwegian stations have been carried by AWR for many years in its international broadcast service.

2. BURKINA FASO: In Burkina Faso, a former Catholic priest now an Adventist lay-evangelist, has begun work in this strategic Global Mission territory. Since his baptism last year, the priest has established a congregation of 35 people who meet regularly and are preparing for baptism. Gilberto Araujo, president of the Burkina Faso Mission, reports that many new territories in this strategic country have been opened up by lay evangelists and those baptized include several Moslems.

3. BUKA ISLAND: The town of Bougainville on remote, tiny Buka Island in the South Pacific had no Adventists until members in a nearby town developed a Global Mission plan. Today there are 15 people that worship there each Sabbath and a new chapel was dedicated during 1994.