

From the G.C. President

March 6, 1995

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1. MURDER IN MOZAMBIQUE: Joao Malangane, a guard for the Mozambique Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) was found stabbed to death Sabbath morning, February 25. Malangane's murder may be related to the arrival in Mozambique of two men, claiming to be refugees, looking for food and shelter. According to Dwight Taylor, ADRA director for Mozambique, the two men said they were Seventh-day Adventists and carried a letter of introduction from the Adventist Mission in Burundi saying they had to flee because of the tribal war. Touched by their story and the apparently authentic letter, ADRA gave them temporary housing, food, and medical aid for a number of weeks. Friday, February 24, the men were to move to housing provided by the local church. However, they did not move. Sabbath ADRA personnel found Malangane dead, a motorcycle missing, and the men gone. Police have mounted a search for the fugitives.

"We are deeply saddened by this tragic incident," says Ralph Watts, president of ADRA. "Mr. Malangane, who had worked for ADRA for three years, was the father of 10 children. Our hearts and prayers go out to his family."

2. FIFTY BUSES and hundreds of vehicles caused a traffic jam as 5,000+ attended last Sabbath's (March 4) "*Hands Across the World*" rally at Blue Mountain Academy for the Allegheny East, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey Conferences. It was an exciting day filled with reports from the world Church and the Columbia Union's plans to expand its own Global Mission program.

3. ATTENDANCE AT NET '95 meetings, sent by satellite from Chattanooga, Tennessee, to almost 700 sites across North America, continues to prosper - even for "late arrivals." Don Jacobson, North American Division assistant to the president who returned this morning from Collegedale, told me about a very high-ranking officer of a major international firm who has attended every meeting thus far. Reluctant to miss any of the programs, he inquired of evangelist Mark Finley and arranged his itinerary in order to attend the program each night of his trip in a different Seventh-day Adventist church! ! Jim McMurry, pastor of the Sonora, California, church wrote, "God miraculously provided equipment at the last possible moment... We had done no advertising until a week after the meetings had started... We now have an average of 80 attending each night, and 120 were here last Saturday night. Last Wednesday evening five adults asked to be baptized." ! Between 500 and 600 are

attending the series in the General Conference auditorium, sponsored by a coalition of six churches in the Suburban Washington, DC, area, reports Steve Willsey, from Spencerville, Maryland, Church. He added, "The skeptics have been silenced." ! From David Long (Pastor, Palm Bay, Florida), "We average 140 people each night, and we've had 87 visitors during the first week. The Holy Spirit is being poured out in a mighty way."

4. GLOBAL MISSION - ISLAM: Islam remains one of Global Mission's highest priorities. One out of every five people in the world is a Muslim. God loves Muslims, and I believe there is nothing He desires more than their salvation. Hundreds are being touched by the love of Christ and responding to the gospel. I want to assure our members around the world that through the work of the Holy Spirit, the gospel and the messages of the three angels of Revelation are being felt in many Muslim areas. Even in some of the most difficult Global Mission priority areas God's message is being proclaimed by Adventist World Radio.

It is interesting that the country with the fastest growth (calculated as a percentage of their membership) has been in a predominantly Muslim country. In one Muslim country several thousand have been baptized. In another country, where during the past 80 years only 17 Muslims accepted the gospel message, today more than 700 people have accepted Christ and worship each Sabbath.

I have a letter on my desk marked "confidential" from a young man who is hard at work to achieve his dream of establishing a congregation in a Muslim country where we have never had an Adventist presence. He says, "By God's grace I am studying the Bible with four young people twice a week, and I am visiting nine families. Pray for us that our Lord may grant us His love, mercy, and wisdom to work for the salvation of our brothers (and sisters) in this last hour of this world." He signs off, "Your brother in the blessed hope of the second advent." This young man is on the front line of mission for this church. Global Mission is real to him as he labors for Christ. The challenge of Islam is great. I urge our world church family to unite in prayer asking God to provide opportunities so Christ's great love may reap a harvest of **all** His people.