

# From the G.C. President

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■ **NET '95 UPDATE:** Evangelist Mark Finley started the third week of the evangelistic series the weekend of March 3-5 by introducing the Sabbath. Thousands of pastors and lay leaders are deeply involved in visiting nearly 20,000 non-members who continue to attend the satellite meetings at 676 locations.

Pastor David Glass in Twin Falls, Idaho, has about 75 attending each night; half of these are non-members. One guest said to Glass, "I am really impressed with the way Evangelist Mark Finley can be talking about the cards and at the same time the deacons in the local church are passing out the cards." He was amazed how everything was so well coordinated. "The meetings are going better than I expected," says Glass.

The 27-member Harrington, Delaware, Church is especially happy about Net '95. With no response to their last evangelistic series, they have more than 30 non-members attending this series regularly. Pastor's wife, Joy Coleman, was candid about her initial feelings when the NAD announced the project. "We Adventists tend to be a rather cool, unemotional, and I thought, this is just what we need, an evangelistic effort that is even less personal. But having seen the tremendous response to this series, I'm glad to be proven wrong!"

Sherman Jefferson, pastor of the Manteca, California, Church confesses that he was a "doubting Thomas" when it came to Net '95. He told his lay leaders that he would support them, but that they would have to do all the work. They have! The pastor attends each meeting and helps with the visitation but all of the organization, advertising, and other details have been handled by Manteca's active lay members. A non-member husband has a satellite dish and purchased a new VCR so he could record the meetings each night and have a good quality recording to be used at the meetings. The church itself does not own the equipment. There were 100 in attendance the first weekend, now it is averaging 65 with 30 non-members consistently participating. "As I see people coming back each evening, I have become a believer in video evangelism," says Jefferson.

■ **A CHILD'S SURVIVAL KIT:** Do you know a child who carries a survival kit? Two-year-old Igor Cerkez carries one. He lives in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In his backpack, he carries cookies and juice, his mother's life insurance certificate, his passport, and a letter addressed "To Whom It May Concern." This simple survival kit was packed by Igor's mother. She was terrified that her small son would be left to survive alone if she were killed, one of the 50,000 children left as orphans by the war.

When war devastates a nation, internal systems break down. Food isn't imported or exported. Crops die for lack of harvesting. Medical aid is a luxury few can afford. Missile and sniper attacks, sporadic electricity, fuel and heat shortages, and lack of food are killers in

their own right. Women search the woodlands for firewood to help keep their children warm enough to survive the winter, and for roots and grass to eat as food.

To assist, ADRA has channeled \$20 million worth of relief aid including food, basic necessities, medical supplies and equipment, ambulances, distribution vehicles, and fire trucks. For more than 2½ years, ADRA has provided a lifeline of supplies to besieged cities in the former Yugoslavia. In the face of great danger, people like Radomir Nikolic, ADRA's Sarajevo director, continue distributing food aid. Nikolic has been trapped numerous times by sniper fire. His VW mini-bus has 32 bullet holes. ADRA is committed to providing relief aid to those who have nowhere else to turn for help.

■ **KANSAS CITY** was the site for last Sabbath's *Hands Across the World*—Global Mission celebration. Twelve hundred who attended the program and contributed \$50,000 for the General Conference Session offering which will establish 2,000 new congregations (each with a chapel) in unentered areas by the year 2000. This was the 13th Global Mission emphasis weekend (including one in Sydney, Australia) since beginning this series. Seven more are scheduled in North America and three other divisions have requested similar programs.

■ **BIBLE INFORMATION LINE UPDATE:** Seven weeks ago the Upper Columbia Conference launched a conference-wide media (billboard, radio and newspaper) campaign offering a free copy of "Your Bible and You" and referring the public to the telephone Bible Information Line where callers can access 315 recorded presentations on Biblical topics. They have received 8,126 calls (as of last Thursday), 3,500 requested the free book, 2,500 have listened to recordings on the Bible Information Line, and 150 have returned post cards requesting Bible studies.

One caller was a Jewish man, who recently accepted Christianity. He called asking for Bible proof of Sunday sacredness and was thrilled to discover 8 million Christians who believe in the Bible Sabbath. He requested a pastoral visit and Pastor Charles Ferguson visited him the following day and invited him to attend the Net '95 meetings at the Valley Church. Since then he has made his decision to be baptized. I will report periodically this innovative evangelistic plan.

■ **GEM:** "The call of God is not the echo of my nature; my affinities and personal temperament are not considered. As long as I consider my personal temperament and think about what I am fitted for, I shall never hear the call of God." (My Utmost for His Highest, O Chambers, Jan. 16)