

From the G.C. President

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■ **CHINA DELEGATION VISITS GC:** The GC hosted a five-person delegation from the China Christian Council, headed by vice-chairman Bishop Wang Shenyn last Thursday. The group, which included David Lin, a veteran Seventh-day Adventist leader, visited several church-operated institutions which included: Loma Linda University and Medical Center, La Sierra University, Pacific Union College, Andrews University, and Columbia Union College.

■ **ANDREWS UNIVERSITY HOSTED** a Hands Across the World/Global Mission celebration last Sabbath. Most of the program was broadcast live over the new, low-power television station. Those attending contributed over \$55,000 toward this Global Mission offering.

■ **THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS** is the focus of the latest TV campaign to be launched, April 1, by Adventists in Brazil. The spots are televised 10-12 times per day, during prime time, over the Global TV Network, with 100 affiliate stations, at no cost to the Church except producing the spot announcement. Coinciding with the Easter season, the 30-second spot features the message of the Second Coming of Christ and launches the "Year of the Adventist Woman" in Brazil. The Adventists have a 20-year media track record in Brazil and have successfully built public awareness about its mission and presence in society. The TV spots are only one part of a larger campaign involving billboards, radio spots, church activities, and other programs featuring the same message.

■ **A NEW RADIO STATION** has taken to the airwaves. "La Emisora de la Esperanza" (The Station of Hope) began test transmissions from Nirgua, Venezuela, on March 10. Acquiring a church-operated radio station has been a dream of William Gomez for many years. When the government recently granted the license, it was with the condition that the station had to be on the air by March 14. Time was short, but with the help of David Gregory, director of AWR/Latin America, they overcame serious obstacles in time to meet the deadline.

■ **MONUMENT VALLEY HOSPITAL:** "Feed My People International," a Phoenix, Arizona, charity which has been supplying the Monument Valley Hospital Food Bank with food since 1993 is now also underwriting the cost of operating the hospital's well. The sole source of drinking water for area residents, the well pumps 1 million gallons of water annually. Monument Valley Hospital is Utah's most rural facility. It is the only hospital within a 100-mile radius and is the Church's only mission hospital in North America. It provides care for more than 35,000 under-served Native Americans in Southern Utah and Northern Arizona. It also provides

the community with free drinking water, postal services, fire and rescue services and a food and clothing bank. Each year the hospital provides more than \$1.2 million worth of free care for people who cannot afford to pay. Since this represents about one-third of its annual budget, donations are largely responsible for the hospital's continued operation.

■ **RUSSIAN EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS** conducted by international evangelists have resulted in the baptism of more than 43,500 people since 1990 of which 9,396 were baptized during 79 campaigns in 1994. According to Pastor Gilbert Bertochini, consultant to the Euro-Asia Division for international evangelism, it was the plan in 1995 to reduce the number of series conducted by international evangelists, but 104 requests for efforts were submitted to his office. Due to the lack of funds only 39 evangelists have been scheduled. Thank God for the American, Australian, and German evangelists who do all they can to finance their own campaigns.

■ **ANGOLA UPDATE:** Though the Angolan seminary was severely damaged during the war and all the library books and materials stolen, plans are under way for it to reopen in September 1995. Ulrich Frikart, acting president of the Euro-Africa Division, recently visited Angola where on one Sabbath 12,000 believers attended a congress in a stadium in Luanda. This was the first time Union leaders were able to meet with church members in Luanda since the battle of Huambo in January 1993.

■ **GRAFTING A BETTER LIFE:** The average *yearly* salary for a working woman in Ghana is US\$10. Maimunatu Iddrisu was no exception, caught as she was in the vicious cycle of hard work and low pay. Then in 1993, Iddrisu spent the whole year as an agro-forestry trainee with Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). She learned about seedlings, grafting, and basic farming techniques. After this year of training, Iddrisu sold items from an inheritance and purchased land, though Ghanaian women do not usually own land. On this property, she duplicated everything she learned in her training. She now has a cashew plantation, vegetable garden, and seedling nursery where she grafts mangos, teak, neem, acacia and other tree seedlings. Now other farmers come to her to purchase seedlings and ask for her advice. Iddrisu was illiterate, but is now on her way to becoming literate, in addition to owning land and her own "budding" business. In 1994 Iddrisu made over \$2,000—over 200 times the average yearly salary. ADRA's program is not just reforestation but building human potential.