

From the G.C. President

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■ **THE SOUTHWESTERN UNION** Global Mission celebration, held last Sabbath in a Fort Worth sports arena, was attended by over 3,000 members. During the program the presidents of the five conferences indicated their conferences had plans to establish 136 new churches as part of the "Hands Across the World" initiative to establish 2,000 new congregations in unentered areas by the year 2000. Those attending contributed and pledged \$102,411 toward the objective.

■ **NET '96 APPROVED!** Last week the North American Division voted to conduct another satellite, evangelistic series beginning the latter part of September and continuing into early October of '96. Already several conferences have approved plans to install satellite-delivery systems in all their churches. We hope that the number of churches participating will exceed 2,000 — well above the 700 participating in Net '95. The General Conference is also considering simultaneously broadcasting the meetings over another satellite (in Spanish, Portuguese and possibly French) that would cover both the Inter- and South American Divisions.

■ **ANNUAL SACRIFICE OFFERING FOR GLOBAL MISSION:** At the 1995 Spring Meeting the General Conference Executive Committee voted to use 100 percent of the Annual Sacrifice Offering for its original purpose - front-line mission work. Years ago, when the Church had little overseas mission work, the majority of Adventists sacrificially gave one week's wages so that the Advent message might be taken to the world. Five world divisions, each with more than one million members, provide ample evidence of the result of that sacrifice. However, there are still major areas of the world that now need the prayers and sacrifice of the world church.

Through the years the offering was divided and used for various purposes. As a result of the recent action, 100 percent of the offering will be used on front-line missions. Offering funds will not be used for office expense, administrative salaries or operational overhead, which though vital, are otherwise provided for. The Sacrifice offering, usually taken at the close of the annual Week of Prayer, is one of the most important offerings of the year. If every Adventist in the world would give *one day's wages* for this offering, 30 times more funds would be available for front-line mission work than we now have. Just think what could be accomplished! I appeal to every pastor and elder to share this new opportunity with our believers and create a vision — a sense of urgency — to invest directly in the Gospel Commission, through Global Mission.

■ **GLOBAL MISSION UPDATE:** More than 9,000 new congregations have been established in unentered areas since the Global Mission emphasis was launched at the 1990 General Conference session. From designated contributions and funds appropriated by the General Conference, the Global Mission office has distributed \$15 million which has led to establishing more than 7,800 new congregations. Missions/conferences, Unions, and Divisions have provided matching funds in order to establish these churches.

The power of the Holy Spirit has been evident, working through thousands of lay members and pastors. Today, more than 2,800 Global Mission Pioneer (GMP) volunteers are serving fulltime (each having made a one year commitment) to establish the Church in 1,280 unentered areas. It is projected that during the year 2000, ten thousand GMP volunteers will be serving in more than 4,000 unentered areas.

■ **IAD ELECTS THIRD WOMAN AS OFFICER:** Last week the Guadeloupe Conference in session elected Mrs. Auuick Kancel as treasurer, becoming the third Inter-American conference to elect a woman as an officer. The South and North Caribbean Conferences had previously elected women as treasurers.

■ **AWR TO BROADCAST GC SESSION:** Adventist World Radio announces that it will broadcast daily one-hour programs from the General Conference session in Utrecht, Holland, June 29 through July 8, 1995. A satellite will carry the programs, in several major languages, for broadcast from AWR's shortwave facilities in Slovakia, Guam and Costa Rica. Each one-hour broadcast will include news of the session business meetings, interviews with church officers and human interest stories, music from the session, features on significant topics, history of Adventist broadcasting, and special reports from GC institutions. Local Adventist stations will carry reports from the session. "For many this will be the fastest way to get the major news of the session," says Walter Scragg, AWR president. Write AWR (12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904) for broadcast schedule.

On Sabbath, July 8, there will be a special two-hour live broadcast in English which will feature the worship hour at the session.

■ **ON A PERSONAL NOTE,** I'm writing this Saturday night after the meetings in Texas. Sunday I fly to Utrecht for a final "walk-through" of the GC session facilities and continue on to Jerusalem for a committee to consider strategies for working among the Jews.