

# From the G.C. President

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**O CAMBODIA: ✓First church**—The first Seventh-day Adventist church building officially opened in Cambodia's second largest town, Battambang, where more than 100 baptized church members have been meeting in the shade of a large mango tree. The Battambang church is the first of 65 scheduled for construction in a two-year project. In some areas, where there is still active guerilla warfare, temporary buildings will be put up so that members will at least have a place to worship until more permanent construction can be done.

I met Robin Riches, president of the Southeast Asia Union Mission, a week ago at the Minnesota camp meeting and he shared the following story with me: **✓God's hand** was evident recently when a husband and wife, walking down a road in Phnom Penh, noticed the words "Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cambodia" on the Mission office. Walking in they met mission president, Dan Walter, asked if he was a Seventh-day Adventist. They were members of a Christian congregation of about 60 members in a provincial capital located about 50 miles south of Phnom Penh, where there are no Seventh-day Adventists. During a discussion one Sunday morning, somebody mentioned that if they really wanted to understand the Bible they needed to find a Seventh-day Adventist to teach them. Since they knew no Seventh-day Adventists and did not know if there were any Adventists in the entire country, they decided to pray and ask God to help them find a Seventh-day Adventist.

Meanwhile, Dan Walter and his team had been praying for six months that God would open the door for them to enter that particular provincial capital—since the government forbids any church to operate in a province without first having a congregation in the provincial capital.

Two months after the congregation began to pray the couple discovered the Mission office! They invited Dan Walter to visit them. He went the next day and preached about the Bible. They asked him to return the next day and tell them why the Seventh-day Adventists kept the sixth day instead of the seventh day as their Sabbath (in Cambodia Monday is the first day). He returned and gave them a Bible study on the Sabbath and began a regular series of Bible studies. Now the entire congregation is worshipping on Sabbath. Baptisms are expected soon.

In December of 1993, there was only one Seventh-day Adventist family in all of Cambodia, and it was the family of the ADRA director. Today, we have about 1,500 baptized members meeting in 44 congregations and many more attending who are not yet baptized. Truly God is blessing His message in Cambodia.

**O "FTP" INTERRUPTED:** It is quite likely that my weekly news-fax, "*From the G.C. President*," may not be released during the General Conference session (for which I depart on Thursday night). Since I type each of these editions myself and since pressures during the session are already at the maximum bearable level, an interruption is probable. Please try to understand.

**O DURA, SUDAN,** one of the most remote areas in the world, is home to the Nuer, a people in which there were no Seventh-day Adventists. In 1987, a Sudanese refugee from Dura living in Ethiopia began studying the Bible and soon accepted the Advent message. Immediately he returned home and began sharing his faith among his people but witnessing was made difficult by those who opposed a "new foreign God." Soon a little group was meeting each week to worship and pray. Then in 1991, political changes permitted more open witnessing and many began to respond to the call of the gospel. In 1993, a lay-pastor by the name of Majiak walked many miles from the Ethiopian border, baptized the first 16 members, and organized the first church. Since early 1994, when lay evangelism expanded dramatically, 15 new congregations have been established among the Nuer people. However, the leadership of the organized church knew nothing of these happenings. In May, Jerry Lewis, ADRA director for south Sudan, became the first church worker to visit the Dura area. What he found was absolutely unbelievable. Seven hundred people were faithfully worshipping and patiently waiting for a pastor to come and baptize them! It makes us wonder what other surprises the Holy Spirit has in store for us in another corner of the globe.