

From the G.C. President

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O THE PACIFIC PRESS PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION'S (PPPA) quinquennial constituency meeting was held August 24. PPPA's five year operating picture revealed increased sales at over US\$90 million with operating profits each year. During the same five year period, Pacific Press eliminated its US\$7.5 million debt through careful management including a US\$4 million inventory reduction (35 percent) and a nearly 20 percent staff reduction. The new board of directors reelected President/General Counsel Robert Kyte and Vice Presidents Ross Lauterbach, David Sherman, Russ Holt, and Robert Gorton.

Following the meeting the newly appointed board of directors approved a wage/salary compensation policy for press employees in harmony with the 1993 General Conference Annual Council action. The program, approved after several years of study, will pay lower scaled employees at high end community rates and higher scaled employees below community rates. The new rates also merged all benefits, except retirement, vacation and medical, into a single rate for each employee. Based on the proposed rates, once fully implemented over a three year phase-in, PPPA's annual labor costs will be reduced between four and five hundred thousand dollars. For specified positions, including all officers, quantifiable goals and objectives are being developed which must be attained in order for the individual to receive full compensation.

The new compensation policy recognizes the need for highly skilled craftsmen and others who bring technical skills and expertise in areas such as the pressroom, electronic publishing, and computer systems. The action taken by the 1993 Annual Council acknowledged the constraints that the present denominational wage policy places upon institutions that do not receive operating appropriations from the church and which must compete in the market place. The new policy enables the publishing house to compete more effectively and efficiently in both quality of products and pricing.

O "HANDS ACROSS THE WORLD" was the theme of last Sabbath's Global Mission celebration at Mount Pisgah Academy in Asheville, North Carolina. The 1,000+ members from the Southern Union attendees contributed more than US\$65,000 to help establish 2,000 new congregations by the year 2000!

During the day, I visited with Tony Cirigliano, the dynamic pastor of our church in Morganton, North Carolina, a city with a population of 40,000. When he began this pastorate in 1992, about 85 attended church each Sabbath. Today attendance is about 230. This growth is largely due to Pastor Cirigliano's commitment to train his members to be gospel workers. In fact, he trains 12 new gospel workers every six weeks. His goal is to have 51 percent of his attending members complete the training and to be active gospel workers. Thus far 104 have completed the training and, using one of the four sets of Bible studies he has developed, they are giving

studies to over 1,000 individuals at this time. When I asked him how many non-members attend church services each Sabbath, he reported that they have a monthly, all-day, "Prophecy Sabbath" and "Vegetarian Buffet" (potluck meal) which they advertise in the newspaper to which an average of 30 non-Adventists attend. It is truly exciting to see lay people in action!

O THE MOZAMBIQUE UNION, during their constituency meeting last week, set a quinquennial baptismal goal of 65,000 and approved an action plan to mobilize the membership to establish a congregation in every unentered territory in the country by the year 2000, reported Pastor Ulrich Frikart, president of the Euro-Africa Division. Thank God for this vision of a finished work.

OYEREVAN, ARMENIA: They call it the "White House." Built by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) after the 1988 earthquake leveled the region, it is the only child rehabilitation center in Armenia. Six years later, ADRA's donation is still serving the children of this young republic.

The earthquake that shocked Armenia was the worst in its history, destroying four major cities and 128 surrounding villages. The village of Spitak, population 25,000, was at the epicenter of the quake and was literally reduced to nothing. Fifty-five thousand people were killed, and more than 500,000 left homeless. When the Soviet Union decided to accept international assistance, ADRA offered to build a health center that would specialize in treating children maimed or crippled by the earthquake. Materials for the building were pre-fabricated in Germany and airlifted to Armenia, where the project was completed in 1990.

Amy Willsey, ADRA's assistant director for planning, recently visited the rehab center and found it was not only still operational, but planning to expand. "The building had just had a fresh coat of white paint, and the grounds were very well maintained," said Willsey.

Recently ADRA representatives met in Armenia with delegates from the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) to discuss future cooperative efforts. According to Lars Gustavsson, ADRA senior project manager, WFP promised to help ADRA 1) with additional food supplements to be distributed through ADRA's network of soup kitchens in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, 2) by expanding the number of soup kitchens, and 3) by supporting ADRA's greenhouse distribution program. ADRA's greenhouse program, run in conjunction with the local school system, demonstrates greenhouse techniques and horticultural principles to students and teachers and distributes build-it-yourself greenhouse kits. With greenhouses, citizens can extend their growing season to 11 months of the year.