

# From the G.C. President

September 11, 1995

Robert S. Folkenberg

**O ANNUAL COUNCIL AVAILABLE VIA SATELLITE:** The first two days of the 1995 Annual Council will launch the quinquennial theme of "Our Message and Mission" and focus specifically on the tension between Biblical and secular world views and how these affect the Adventist Church. The programs, broadcast via ACN, will be as follows:

1) October 1, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. (Eastern Time), opening program speaker, R Folkenberg — Telstar 401, Channel 17.

2) October 2, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. (Eastern Time) the first day program begins with a devotional entitled "I Am the Light" by Humberto Rasi, and an introduction to world views by Ben Maxson and Jim Zackrison —Telstar 401 Channel 16.

3) October 2, 2 p.m.-4 p.m. (Eastern Time) the Annual Council continues with "Biblical World Views as Contrasted with Contemporary Thought" by John Baldwin, and "Theological World View and Its Impact on the Seventh-Day Adventist Church" by Fernando Canale—Telstar 401 Channel 16.

4) October 3, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. (Eastern Time) Day two of Annual Council begins with a devotional entitled "I Am Bread of Life" by George Reid, and a look at world views by Juan Viera — Telstar 401 Channel 16.

4) October 3, 4 p.m.-6 p.m. (Eastern Time) Annual Council uplink series ends with live call-ins via CompuServe and a wrap-up from Robert Folkenberg—Telstar 401 Channel 17.

We are urging conferences to facilitate pastors gathering together, in locations where satellite reception equipment is available, and to participate interactively by forming discussion groups (when these are taking place at headquarters) and to send their conclusions, via CompuServe, to an address that will be announced to participants via satellite. Files summarizing the conclusions of group discussions will be sent by CompuServe to all interactive participants (who obviously need a computer with CompuServe capabilities and a printer). Videotapes of all the proceedings will be available to all world divisions who do not as yet have satellite reception capabilities.

**O CHURCH PROPERTIES UNHARMED:** Reports from the French Polynesia Mission indicate that no church properties were damaged or personnel harmed during recent riots and demonstrations against the French Government and nuclear testing. One hundred and twenty cars and 150 shops were damaged or destroyed in the violent riots in Papeete and the international air terminal was gutted by fire and the airport closed to traffic. The demonstrations and riots came as a climax to protests against the testing of nuclear bombs at Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia.

**O PAKISTAN SDA RADIO BROADCASTS CONDEMNED**

The Sunday, August 13 edition of "Khabrain," a Pakistani daily newspaper, condemned as "illegal" the *Voice of Hope* programs broadcast in Lahore in the Urdu language. The article accuses the program of preaching against Islam (an illegal activity in Pakistan), challenges the government agencies to action, and notes that the issue was also raised in the National Assembly.

The AWR production studio, located at our headquarters in Lahore, was built near the end of 1993, with the financial assistance of Global Mission, Adventist World Radio and Trans-European Division, and the first programs were broadcast into Pakistan by AWR on September 24, 1994. The daily, one-hour, magazine-style program, produced by one full-time employee and several volunteers, deals with topics including faith, family, health, and education.

During the last three months the studio has received more than 100 letters responding to the broadcasts, some quite encouraging. One listener wrote, "One of the graces that God has given me is listening to Adventist World Radio. I gain knowledge about the Bible. I am spiritually benefited by your programme. Your programme inspires me to follow the footsteps of the Lord and encourages me to bring good news to all. I request you to send me more literature on the Holy Bible." Another penned, "I have found truth through your AWR programmes. Now, I have received peace of mind. Please pray for me as I pray for you." To quote from a third, "I am receiving spiritual blessings through your programme. I wish to learn more and more about the Holy Bible through your programme. If you have more religious literature please send me." And finally, a listener pleaded, "Believe me I have not seen the Holy Bible as yet. Through your programme I have started liking Jesus. Could you please send me the Holy Bible that I can see and read by myself and be saved?"

Please remember this program in your prayers. Radio may well be the primary means of gospel proclamation in some difficult areas of the world.

**O EGYPT ORGANIZES ENGLISH CHURCH IN EGYPT:** Dr. Claude Lombart, president of Egypt Field, organized the first Global Mission, English-speaking church in Egypt, on Sabbath August 26, in Heliopolis. The group of 29 baptized Seventh-day Adventists, mostly from the Sudan, have been meeting regularly every Sabbath afternoon for nearly three years under the leadership of brother Kennedy Laboke, a Global Mission lay volunteer. More will soon join as Kennedy completes their preparation for baptism.

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