

# From the G.C. President

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**O AWR IMPACTS CHURCH IN IRAQ:** Hundreds of responses are pouring into the Middle East Media Center from listeners to the Arabic radio programs produced there and broadcast by AWR, according to Bert Smit, MEU communication director. Reports from Baghdad, Iraq, indicate that a group of listeners of Adventist World Radio are attending our church on a regular basis. Most first came to the church to ask for the books promised in the Arabic radio programs. Because of the embargo it is almost impossible to send books and pamphlets in bulk.

**O NEW ASSOCIATE SPEAKER FOR LA VOZ DE LA ESPERANZA :** The Adventist Media Center invited Pastor Frank González, currently coordinator of the Spanish work in the Pennsylvania Conference, to become associate speaker for the Spanish radio program, *La Voz de la Esperanza*. Pastor González is uniquely suited to this ministry. Born in Cuba, he is a "son" of the Inter-American Division while his education and ministerial work have taken place in the North American Division, where *La Voz de la Esperanza* has its home. He will take up his responsibilities on January 1, 1996.

**O ADRA ASSISTS IN HURRICANE AFTERMATH** Last week Hurricane Luis devastated the Caribbean, causing more than US\$1 billion in damage. Thanks to its disaster preparedness plan, ADRA is responding by mobilizing pre-selected volunteers. "I believe ours is one of the best disaster response plans now in effect," says Ed Griffin, ADRA director for the Caribbean Union. According to Griffin, the agency has 52 skilled volunteers from St. Croix and other islands, who are experienced carpenters, electricians, and roofers, busy replacing roofs, rebuilding homes, and cutting down trees. The Puerto Rican Union, whose island territory was spared at the last minute by a shift in the hurricane's course, directed a portion of their disaster funds for their less-fortunate neighbors. In a race against new storms already on the way, reconstruction efforts are underway. On September 13, a 40-foot container filled with tarps, blankets, basic food supplies, and drinking water arrived in Antigua. A second shipment is now being prepared for St. Martin. For more information on the Caribbean hurricane relief program call 1-800-424-ADRA from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST if you are in the U.S.

**O A MAN ARMED WITH A GUN** entered the Griswold Christian Academy in Worthington, Ohio, last Tuesday (Sept. 12). One of the teachers, Mardell Harris, immediately alerted the Worthington police. Teachers at the school quickly moved all 101 students into a protected area. The man apparently left campus before the police arrived. All are safe and unharmed.

**O WILLARD REGESTER, M.D.**, a layman from California, opened an evangelistic series September 10, at a shopping center in San Jose, California. This series brought twice the number of people of any previous

meeting he's conducted, with more than 200 non-Seventh-day Adventists attending on opening night. He was assisted by a team of 30 lay people all of whom were converts from previous efforts.

**O SLIGO CHURCH SPONSORS INDIAN MEETINGS:** Korukonda, and three nearby villages in Andhra Pradesh, India, all communities unentered by the gospel, were the site of evangelistic meetings conducted by Pastor C. Pheirim, of the Southern Asia Division Ministerial Association. The meetings were possible due to the contribution of Rs. 1,000,000 (US\$33,300) provided by the Sligo SDA Church in Takoma Park, Maryland. Thus far, 123 have been baptized and four new congregations organized.

Among the incidents which Pastor Pheirim shared with me are two that I'd like to pass along. Lakshamma is a Brahmin (Hindu) widow. She and her daughter attended the meetings every night. She said, "I've worshipped other gods and idols. I have made several pilgrimages. But, from the beginning your messages have been different from the others I've heard." When they decided to be baptized they faced enormous pressures from their relatives and from the community. But, at the close of the meetings both were baptized and today the daughter is attending the Adventist Tailoring school at Rajahmundry.

At the time of the first baptism in Nallagonda, at one of the sites, a lady by the name of Marianamma came running to the baptismal site and said, "We, the Yenadhi tribal people, would like to accept Jesus Christ and follow him. We too want to be baptized like you in His name." The officiating pastors asked what led them to this decision, since they had not been attending the meetings. She told the story of a young man in her village who attempted suicide one night by taking poison. Though none in the village were Christians, Marianamma had heard that there was power in the name of Christ. As the young man was on the verge of death, Marianamma told everyone present to kneel down and call on the name of Jesus. Every man and woman in the village knelt around the young man and called out the name of Jesus all night long. At 4 a.m. the young man opened his eyes. As a result the village decided they wanted to know more about this Jesus. They felt impressed that those leading out in this baptism could tell them about Jesus. Immediately several pastors traveled the 10 kilometers to Degalametti and conducted Bible studies with the villagers. At the close of the series, 15 Yenadhi tribe members were baptized.