

From the G.C. President

September 25, 1995

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O ADRA TEAM VISITS NORTH KOREA: In response to requests for assistance from the UN to alleviate excessive rainfall and flood damage in North Korea during the month of August (estimated loss of property is about US\$15 billion), ADRA made contact with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's delegation to the UN and embarked on a historic first - a visit to DPRK. The ADRA delegation included R.S. Watts, President of ADRA/International, Maitland DiPinto, and Kenneth Flemmer. The team brought 24 cartons of medicines valued at US\$60,000, funded in part by the General Conference. The medicines were turned over to the Ministry of Public Health for distribution to the clinics and hospitals in the affected area. The ADRA team was repeatedly told that this was the first material aid given by any delegation. ADRA also agreed to ship a container of milk powder valued at US\$200,000 and a container of medicines and medical supplies valued at US\$500,000.

During the visit, ADRA was able to negotiate and sign a Cooperation Agreement between ADRA and the Medical Association of DPRK. This agreement indicates that ADRA is able to assist the DPRK with relief supplies and technical assistance. ADRA visit brought a positive response of the state officials who, in the words of one official, stated that "a friend in crisis is a friend forever."

O A REMINDER: You are invited, no, you are urged, to participate by satellite (interactively, if you have a computer and can access a CompuServe address) in the opening night and first two days of the '95 Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee. The program is as follows:

- 1) October 1, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. (Eastern Time), opening program--Telstar 401, Channel 17.
- 2) October 2, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. (Eastern Time) part one of the first day's program--Telstar 401 Channel 16.
- 3) October 2, 2 p.m.-4 p.m. (Eastern Time) the Annual Council continues --Telstar 401 Channel 16.
- 4) October 3, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. (Eastern Time) part 1 of the second day's program--Telstar 401 Channel 16.
- 4) October 3, 4 p.m.-6 p.m. (Eastern Time) Annual Council uplink series ends with live write-ins via CompuServe and a wrap-up--Telstar 401 Channel 17. Videotapes of all the proceedings will be available to divisions who do not have satellite reception capabilities.

O EBONY EVANGELISM is an evangelistic program in which all the Regional Conferences pool their resources to launch an evangelistic thrust in a smaller conference. Two conferences have benefited from this program in previous years. This year the Southwest Region Conference was targeted. Robert Lister, conference president, reports that so far this year 1,600 have been baptized, including seven clergymen of other denominations, and nine churches have been planted. This is the highest number of baptism in one year in the history of the Conference and represents a ten percent increase in membership. We rejoice in the success in this successful evangelistic thrust.

O EVANGELISTIC HIGHLIGHTS: During my pre-Annual Council interviews with division officers I've gleaned some exciting bits of news. Here are a few: ✓ **"1000 Missionary Movement,"** the Philippine-based initiative in which young laymen and women are trained and then give (volunteer) one year to reach the unreached with the gospel, has been an extraordinary success since it was launched in 1991. According to Elder V F Bocala, Secretary of the Asia-Pacific Division, thus far 573 volunteer missionaries have been trained and given a year of service in one of 12 countries and have prepared 3,448 souls for baptism and built 35 chapels.

✓ In one largely-Muslim country, where during the past 86 years only 20 souls from an Islamic background accepted Christ as their Savior, during the past three and a half years over 1,250 have been baptized and 800 more are studying the Bible preparing for baptism!

✓ In Cambodia, where three years ago we had no baptized members, today we have 46 congregations, over 1,300 baptized members and double that number attending church each Sabbath.

O GLOBAL MISSION PIONEERS, Vladimir Dolmatov and his wife, are serving in the town of Kyzyl, in Tuva Republic where there are no Seventh-day Adventists in the population of one million people. Vladimir and his wife go to the market every day trying to start conversations with people, most of whom are traditionally Buddhists. But God by His Holy Spirit finds those who are seeking the truth. Two ladies working at the hotel where the missionaries are staying, became interested and are reading literature provided by the Dolmatovs. Please pray that by God's grace a spark will be lit in that city.