

From the G.C. President

October 16, 1995

Robert S. Folkenberg

O STEWARDSHIP: The General Conference committee, in a special October 10 meeting, elected Dr. Pardon Mwanza, president of the Zambia Union, as the associate director of the General Conference Stewardship department, a position which remained vacant when the individual elected during Annual Council declined the call.

O BATTLE CREEK CELEBRATION: Battle Creek, Michigan, rich in Adventist heritage, was the site of the North American Division's year-end meeting of its executive committee. The celebration continued over the weekend with a series of meetings and seminars focusing on the Sabbath and Spirit of Prophecy truths. It was 140 years ago, in 1855, that the little flock of Adventists, scorned by many, decided to accept a clear "thus saith the Lord" over conventional wisdom, and keep the Seventh-day Sabbath from sunset to sunset. The Sabbath assumed a larger part in our teaching from that time on and would eventually even find its way into our name. Ellen White's visions had virtually stopped prior to 1855 since many of the leaders had become closed to her counsel. In Battle Creek, in 1855, the leadership acknowledged her work as a manifestation of the gift of prophecy to the church and the visions returned.

After attending a brief, early Sabbath morning prayer and praise service in the home of James and Ellen White, I joined the 5,000+ believers who braved cold weather to attend morning and afternoon meetings, held in a 100+ yard-long (100 meter) tent pitched on the grounds of Battle Creek Academy. The afternoon activities were divided into two programs. The first was an inspiring program featuring music and seasons of prayer. The second ninety-minute afternoon program was uplinked by satellite to viewers all across North America and featured a 28-minute synopsis of historically significant events in Battle Creek central to Seventh-day Adventist heritage, music of our pioneers—sung by the Andrews University singers, and a challenging message by Pastor Alfred C. McClure, North American Division president.

O THE LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY constituency met Sunday, October 15 and, after listening to reports of the University's progress and challenges during the past five years, elected a new Board of Trustees. The Board convened earlier today and elected Dr. Lyn Behrens to serve as University president for another five years.

O SARAJEVO RADIO STATION APPROVED: Adventist presence in the region surrounding war-torn Sarajevo will be enhanced by a new, "Voice of Hope" radio station authorization which was recently signed by the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina. According to Sarajevo pastor, Ivan Brechelmacher, the plans are to build a 250 kw, FM station which will transmit 12 hours per day to the 600,000 people of that community. The government expects our station to be in operation within six months. The Sarajevo Seventh-day Adventist church has been very active, in spite of the war

raging around them. As a result of our church's humanitarian activities, including radio programs which informed the citizens about the arrival of mail and international aid convoys, the citizens of Sarajevo developed high respect for Seventh-day Adventists, as the people of hope.

O AWR BEARS FRUIT IN MANCHURIA: Eugene Hsu just shared an exciting account of a active AWR listener in Manchuria. In 1992, she began listening to the AWR programs which are broadcast from Guam. When she wrote to Hong Kong, indicating her desire to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church, she was put in touch with the local church. By the time she was baptized she had invited 151 others to listen to the broadcasts, and they were baptized with her. Eugene told me that he just received word that so far 600 precious souls have been baptized as a result of her invitation for them to listen to the "Voice of Hope" broadcasts.

O GLOBAL VILLAGE - DENVER: October 12, was a day of discovery for more than 1,800 school children who visited the opening of Global Village, set up in two huge hangars in Denver, Colorado's old Stapleton airport. The students arrived by busloads Thursday morning to find out for themselves what it is like for children who live in cultures very different from their own. In NBC's Thursday evening national news broadcast this unique village was described as giving children the opportunity to "walk a mile in another person's shoes."

The exhibit, developed by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), is a full-size recreation of 10 habitats built by Hollywood set designers. It displays how many people in developing countries live. Visitors walk through an African mud hut; they touch it, sit in it, and smell it. They board a refugee boat, and explore a South American favela, and a tortora reed house, like those on "floating" islands on Peru's Lake Titicaca.

At "teaching stations" children grind grain and process rice; they operate wells and learn how clean water is brought to a village. At the "beasts of burden" stop, real animals liven up the village and show children the important relationship between people and animals. Global Village, which will continue through October 27, is expected to attract more than 20,000 student visitors.

O GLOBAL MISSION PIONEERS: In Kasimov, Russia, after a small Bible study course conducted by Global Mission Pioneer Sergei Kemyashov, a group of 11 people are regularly meeting to study the Bible on Sabbath mornings. At present they are studying the "New Life" lessons. Among those attending is a young man, age 17, a Satanist, who decided after much prayer and a personal struggle, to leave devil worship. He brought to the Bible study group all his books about black magic and the knives which he used for offering sacrifices to Satan and burned them during the meeting. In the presence of Global Mission Pioneers Sergei Kemyashov and his wife Helen, he asked God for forgiveness and entrusted himself into God's hands, asking for courage to rid himself of

any occult dependence.