

# From the G.C. President

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**O EDITOR APPOINTED:** Dr. Philip Samaan, associate professor of Christian Ministry and director of the Doctor of Ministry program at Andrews University Theological Seminary, was called by the General Conference Committee to serve as editor of the adult Sabbath School lessons.

**O ROSE OTIS**, was invited to serve as General Field Secretary of the General Conference, this in addition to her responsibilities as director of the department of Women's Ministries.

**O MASS EVANGELISM PLANNED FOR PHILIPPINES:**

The Voice of Prophecy is leading out in a nationwide, coordinated evangelistic thrust in the Philippines during 1996, according to Pastor James Zachary. To reach the objective of baptizing 50,000 souls (1,000 for each of the 50 years that The Voice of Prophecy has served the Philippines), 30,000 lay evangelistic teams are being organized to enroll 350,000 persons in Bible courses. Five hundred meetings are planned by local pastors, two hundred more by lay evangelists in addition to guest evangelistic teams coming from Australia, Papua New Guinea, Romania, Canada, Korea, Costa Rica, Japan, and the United States. Pastor Lonnie Melashenko, with two additional VOP teams will attend 14 mass baptisms which will close these meetings throughout the country.

The evangelistic campaign is being coordinated with a national drug education program in which the Philippine government is printing 30,000 copies of an educational picture roll provided by the North Philippine Union which will be used by the Bible study teams. Loma Linda University is providing a professor to work with Philippine President Fidel Ramos and Pastor Bienvenido Tejano in launching the nationwide drug education program. The Andrews University Gymnics will help lay the groundwork in 12 cities.

**O NEW YORK'S MADISON SQUARE GARDEN** has been selected as the site of a Spanish language evangelistic series to be held in August 1996 by Alejandro Bullón, ministerial director of the South American Division, according to Charles Griffin, president of the Greater New York Conference. Hispanic members in New York committed US\$62,000 toward the cost of this project during an October 21 evangelistic rally.

**O MULTIPLE DISASTERS DEVASTATE MEXICO:**

Between September 15 and October 11, Mexico was hit by three hurricanes and one earthquake. Hurricane Ismael, with its 100 mile-per-hour winds, affected 35,000 people, leaving 91 dead, hundreds missing, and

80 families homeless. On October 5, less than three weeks later, Hurricane Opal roared in with winds reaching 180 miles (290 Km) per hour. Then an earthquake and after shocks rattled Mexico's west coast on October 5. Finally, hurricane Roxanne slammed into the cities of Ciudad del Carmen and Campeche not once, but twice—on October 11, then returning on October 14 through 17. The resulting flooding affected more than 475,000 people, leaving 190 known dead, with 300 still unaccounted for. More than 125 miles of coastal roadway has been washed out, isolating the city of Ciudad del Carmen and the bodies of an estimated 290,000 dead animals are everywhere, contributing to an explosion of cholera, malaria and diarrhea.

ADRA's 300 volunteers have distributed 3,000 bags of food, each containing sufficient rations to sustain five or more people for one week and are preparing and serving 1,500 hot meals per day.

**O PORTUGAL:** Sabbath, October 28, 17 people were baptized in Lisbon, Portugal, from among the Angolan refugees, first fruits of the labor of Global Mission Pioneers sent to work among the refugees.

**O THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA UNION** just completed a four-week training program for 37 Global Mission Pioneers under the direction of Brad Kemp. The Pioneer orientation, held at the Omaura Training School in the highlands of Papua New Guinea, was the first meeting of any kind conducted there since the school closed four years ago due to tribal fighting.

**O DONATION FOR AFRICA:** An ASI member donated US\$901,500 worth of pharmaceuticals and US\$8,500 worth of new shoes and paid to ship them to medical clinics in Africa. The 40-foot container is en route to Tanzania and Zambia where the supplies, including urgently-needed antibiotics, will be distributed to a large number of clinics.

**O AWR UPDATE:** ✓**Bulgarian, Farsi and Punjabi** are three of the new languages that will be added to the AWR international program schedule for late 1995 and early 1996. Bulgarian is to be aired daily from transmitters located at Velke Kostolany, Slovakia while Farsi and Punjab programs begin in early January 1996.

✓**A new AWR studio** has opened in the city of Lae, in Papua New Guinea. The studio will produce programs in Pidgin English and Motu, to be broadcast by AWR as well as on National Radio.