

From the G.C. President

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O LEGISLATION APPROVED: In a previous issue, I informed you about a class action lawsuit in Texas in which the General Conference Corporation and many other religious and charitable organizations are defendants. Legislation has been pending for several months that would exempt religious and other charitable organizations from U.S. federal antitrust laws and certain federal securities laws in the issuance and management of charitable gift annuities and certain charitable trusts.

Our church has actively supported this legislation. I am pleased to report that the legislation has been approved by unanimous bipartisan consent in both the United States House of Representatives and the Senate, and we expect the U.S. President to sign it into law in the next few days.

Space does not permit me to tell you about the thrilling instances of divine intervention and guidance. I would like to thank those of you who have made this a matter of prayer, and your support of the legislation. I would like to acknowledge the special efforts of Wintley Phipps, of the department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, Tom Carter of the Trust Services department, and Richard Caldwell of the Office of General Counsel.

While the lawsuit is still pending at the current time, we are hopeful that this legislation will help in bringing the suit to a timely and favorable conclusion. The Office of General Counsel is continuing to monitor the suit and is providing assistance to our outside legal counsel

O THE COURT OF APPEALS for the Canton of Bern, Switzerland, has prohibited two former church members from using such identifications as “Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Remnant,” “Lay Members of the Remnant of the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” or “Free Church of Seventh-day Adventists” in publications or meetings. The court said those usages violate Swiss trademark laws by usurping the name of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and producing confusion in the minds of unbiased third parties.

O GLOBAL MISSION PIONEERS-REPORT: Jackie Ordelle Smith, director of the *Global Mission Pioneers* initiative, just returned from Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Irian Jaya, Indonesia, and sent me some highlights of her visit. **Papua New Guinea:** ✓“I met a man who attended the Pioneer lay training course and started a new congregation - and he isn’t even baptized yet! He has 20 people, including himself, ready for baptism. He will be going out as a Pioneer missionary

this next year. ✓I visited a village where two young men learned about the Sabbath from reading their Bibles. They kept it secretly before sharing it with others — in spite of beatings. Now there are 11 baptized people in that village, with more than 100 interested attending on Sabbath, a full time pastor living there and is in the process of building a new church. ✓One Pioneer taught a group of boys for three months how to play the guitar, and 20 of them ended up being baptized. In another village he taught them a song which touched their lives, and three weeks later four people were baptized and 23 took a stand for Christ. He uses his guitar as a means of telling people about Christ.”

Indonesia: ✓“A former Pentecostal pastor is now training to be a Pioneer. He was contacted by someone in the first group of Pioneers. Once he learned about the Sabbath he said, ‘This is it!’ and accepted all our beliefs. ✓The chief of a Catholic village has donated land within the village for the Global Mission Pioneer to build an Adventist church. The chief, surprised at the cordiality of this Pioneer and willingness to help his village, has appointed the Pioneer as ‘the Adventist teacher of the village.’ ✓Thirty-nine people have been baptized as a result of the first group of Pioneers sent out from the Irian Jaya lay-training school.”

O BRONZE GOOD SAMARITAN SCULPTURE DEDICATED: A new bronze Good Samaritan sculpture, centerpiece of the Loma Linda University campus, was unveiled during a Sabbath afternoon dedication service. Environmental conditions damaged the original stone sculpture over the past years. The sculpture was designed and implemented by Alan Collins, a former professor of art at La Sierra University and a well-known Seventh-day Adventist artist.

O PHILIPPINES HOLDS BLIND/DEAF CAMP: Forty-nine blind campers and twenty-eight deaf campers recently spent a week at the 4th annual National Camp for Blind and Deaf held by Christian Record Services International/Philippines (CRSI/P). Held on the campus of Philippine Union College, campers enjoyed swimming, singing, physical exercise programs, devotionals, and workshops. Over 20 have been baptized since CRSI/P was formed in 1990.