

From the G.C. President

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O THE FIFTH “NAPLES CONFERENCE” on Adventist Health Care in North America convenes this week in Florida. The first four consultations primarily addressed issues relating to a changing health care environment and how these trends affect Adventist acute care facilities. The many other issues relative to operating a clearly Christian and distinctively Seventh-day Adventist institution have yet to be fully addressed.

O “UNCLE DAN” PASSES AWAY: Stanley Hill, known to millions of listeners of *Your Story Hour* radio broadcast as “Uncle Dan,” passed away November 30 after a lengthy illness. He will be remembered affectionately as the loving uncle who made the Bible, and other stories, come to life.

O SAMOAN PRINCE BAPTIZED: Afioga Laulusamamaia Nofovanefa Tamasese, son of the paramount chief and the first Samoan of royal descent to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church, was baptized in the South Auckland Samoan Church, during an evangelistic campaign in Manurewa, New Zealand.

O SRI LANKA EVANGELISM: Pastor John Fowler, General Conference Education associate director, recently concluded the first evangelistic series in twenty years in Kandy, a beautiful city in the central highlands of Sri Lanka. Kandy is a Buddhist stronghold. It is remarkable that eight of the 17 who were baptized were Buddhists. John tells me of a Buddhist woman, beaten by her husband and forbidden to attend the meetings. One night as he was about to hit her again she challenged him to come with her and offered to stop attending if the meetings were not good. During that meeting he collapsed with a heart attack. He recognized that if he had stayed home alone he would probably have died and considered his attendance a providential act. Thus he did not oppose his wife when she became one of those Buddhists who was baptized.

O CATCHING THE VISION: Three years ago some friends accompanied me on a trip to Russia. The family had a real interest in mission and looked for a personal opportunity to advance our work in Russia. They caught a vision of placing Adventist teachers in public schools to teach religion during the class periods where previously communist ideology was taught. The results indicate that heaven has blessed this ministry far beyond anyone’s imagination. Three years later, 452 Seventh-

day Adventist teachers are teaching religion in 414 schools, in 2,026 classrooms, and daily influencing the lives of 51,658 students. There are 160,000 public schools in the former Soviet Union and it is the objective of this ministry to place a teacher in as many of them as possible. Just imagine what would happen if every member caught a vision of personal involvement (whether far or near) in Global Mission!

O A “TENTMAKER” REPORTS: We just received word from Francis (not her real name), an Adventist nurse working in a strict Muslim country. Francis decided to help her children with their university expenses in her home country by accepting the contract to work in this country in the Middle East. She also prayed the Lord would provide opportunity to witness to others and support the Global Mission of her church. Carefully Francis started to share her faith. After just a couple of weeks a local girl indicated her desire to study the Bible with her. It is difficult for Francis to live and work in this country far from friends, family, and church support. Yet Francis is of good courage. Her greatest encouragement comes from Adventist World Radio. Every evening as she tunes her little shortwave radio to the frequencies of AWR, she knows that her church is with her—even in the heart of the Middle East. Pray for Francis and the friend with whom she is studying His Word.

O FISHING INDEED: Vernon Putz, pastor of the Moscow International SDA Church, conducted a baptism in the pond not far from what was Gorbachev’s apartment. It’s a rather pleasant part of town, and the park is a nice place for a stroll or swim. The best spot selected was also the place where a Russian man was just settling down in his chair for a relaxing afternoon with his fishing rod. Soon people were swarming around the lake—and the fisherman. Hymns began, candidates lined up in the gowns, prayers were said, sermons were given. Soon the man seemed to have forgotten about the fishing. When, at the close of the service, the pastor invited those who wanted to know the Lord to come forward, the fisherman was the first to respond. He wanted to know where the church was and what he had to do to get baptized. As in Bible times the fishermen seem to be quick to follow!