

From the G.C. President

January 13, 1997

Robert S. Folkenberg

O LEADERSHIP CHANGES: ! *Adventist Review*: Last week the General Conference Committee invited **Myrna Tetz** to join the *Adventist Review* staff as managing editor. Mrs. Tetz, currently vice-president for Advancement at Canadian Union College, is highly regarded for her organizational and communication skills and will be an asset to the *Adventist Review* team. She replaces Kit Watts, who is joining La Sierra University as director of the Women's Resource Center. W.G. Johnsson and I also hope to shortly complete a search for an associate editor to replace Myron Widmer who moved to Pacific Union College last September to teach in the religion department.

! NSD Secretary: Pastor Richard Liu was elected by the General Conference Committee as secretary of the new Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) after Pastor Eugene Hsu declined. Richard Liu's broad experience includes pastoral work, chaplaincy, and hospital and college administration. Stationed in Hong Kong, for the last seven years, Pastor Liu was associated with producing radio broadcasts for China.

! GC Communication: A call has been placed to **Dr. Jonathan Gallagher** to serve as assistant Communication director of the General Conference with primary responsibility as news director. A native of England, Dr. Gallagher, currently secretary of the British Union and a prolific writer (with six books to his credit), was invited to fill the vacancy created when Richard Kajiura accepted a position with ADRA-International.

O '96 AWR HIGHLIGHTS: •Eleven languages added to the broadcast schedule (Dari, Farsi, Javanese, Chin, Kiswahili, Somali, Malagasy, Punjabi, Nepali, Kannada, Dyula)—an increase larger than any other single year, •US\$1.3 million in donations for broadcast expenses (an increase of 25 percent), •celebrated its 25th anniversary, and •received official permission to broadcast from Italy. **AWR objectives for '97 include** •adding new languages (Turkish, Tibetan, Georgian, Armenian, Lithuanian, Kurdish, Khmer, Housa, Kazakh, Tadzhiik, Uzbek), •obtain zoning approval and begin construction of the station in Italy, •negotiate leases for mega-medium-wave broadcasts into extremely sensitive areas, and •obtain increased funding to underwrite the expanded broadcast schedule.

O ON A PERSONAL NOTE: I covet experiences which keep me in touch with "reality." Last Wednesday and Thursday's visit with the ministers of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference was not only informative but the excellent spirit they radiate and their commitment to our message and mission was inspiring.

! Dr. Benjamin Reaves and I spent some time together last week to consider strategic objectives as he takes up his responsibilities as director of the Center for Global Leadership and field secretary of the General Conference. It was exciting to better understand his vision of this vital task.

O GEM: Last Sabbath my mother handed me a slip of paper with the following nugget. In June, 1878, Ellen White wrote her husband, then president of the General Conference: "The obligations resting upon us are not small. Our sense of dependence will drive us closer to God, and our sense of duty to be performed will summon us to [make an] effort, combined

with our earnest prayers--works, faith, and continual prayer. **Power! Power! Our great cry is for power without measure!** It awaits us. We have only to draw; to take God at His word; ... **Learning is not essential; genius is not necessary; eloquence may be lacking; but the prayer of the lowly and contrite heart God hears, and when He hears no obstacles on earth can hinder. The power of God will make us effectual**" (*This Day With God*, p. 187—emphasis supplied).

I beg of you, join me and pray for "power without measure!"

Off the Back Burner

Segment #50: In the last segments I have focused on Ellen White's various extraordinary predictions. As I begin to "wind down" this series I call your attention to the equally interesting predictions she made regarding the expansion of Seventh-day Adventists, long before her colleagues could see any evidence for her optimism. For example—

! November 1848, Dorchester, Massachusetts: Ellen White, during great financial stress appealed to about 100 sabbatarian Adventists, predicted that her husband should begin a periodical, "small at first," but eventually its "streams of light" would go "clear round the world" (LS:125). Today, Seventh-day Adventists operate more than 60 publishing houses, produce literature in over 185 languages (though Adventists work in more than 620 languages) and is sold by more than 7,000 colporteurs. Oh, for that faith and courage today!

! Speaking from a chair at the opening of Melbourne Bible School (predecessor of Avondale College), August 24, 1892, Ellen White said: "The missionary work in Australia and New Zealand is yet in its infancy, but the same work must be accomplished in Australia, New Zealand, in Africa, India, China, and the islands of the sea, as has been accomplished in the home field [USA]" (LS:338). Young A.G. Daniells, one of the first American workers in Australia, was astonished to hear this prediction and wrote later of feeling "overwhelmed."

All present felt that this prediction "seemed like the wildest kind of speculation ... But some who were present have lived to see these staggering predictions strikingly fulfilled" (*The Abiding Gift of Prophecy*, p. 309-1936). Imagine how delighted and amazed those present in 1892 would be if they could see the remarkable work of Adventists in the South Pacific today.

In 1894, Ellen White urged the Adventist constituency of barely 500 to plan immediately for a college to train workers for the Adventist mission to the South Pacific. She envisioned a college that would learn lessons from the difficult experiences at Battle Creek College. Few, even of her closest advisers, saw wisdom in her counsel. Ellen White's vision of what the South Pacific needed was instrumental in founding Avondale Missionary College (and many other initiatives) in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific islands.

Each time I open the pages penned by Ellen White I thank God for His messenger. Without her I believe we would have gone the way of the other groups born of the Millerite awakening. On the other hand, I also believe we might well have been in the Kingdom by now if we had only followed the

counsel He gave us.