

# From the G.C. President

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**O I REGRET** that the pressures of travel, and posting to the Internet a daily pictorial report of the Biblical Field Conference in Israel, made it impossible for me to complete last week's edition of "From the GC President." However, you might enjoy visiting that home page and reading the papers presented by just a few of our biblical scholars. The Internet address is: <http://www.adventist.org/GC/Presidential/> Click on "travel highlights" for a listing of the reports and index of the papers.

**O DON'T SEND YOUR CHILD TO AN SDA COLLEGE UNLESS...** Last week while in Israel a father shared his concerns about some things he alleged were taking place on the SDA college campus attended by his daughter. He thought I could "fix" the problem if he shared the anecdote with me and was perplexed when I pointed out that the solution was in his hands.

I reminded him of the '96 Annual Council Action on "Total Commitment to God" and the rights to which that action entitled him. He can now ask any Seventh-day Adventist college for: 1) The college's spiritual master plan [in which all the truths and values are identified which the faculty have identified and are committed to sharing], 2) The comprehensive outcomes assessment process by which the faculty will evaluate their effectiveness in transmitting these truths and values to the students, and 3) A copy of the last report given to the Board of the State of Spiritual Life on Campus. I not only urged him to request this of every college which his daughter was considering attending, but urged him NOT to send his daughter to any college that could not provide him at least the first two of these items (and excluded number three since insufficient time has elapsed for this to have taken place).

It is important to note: 1) Authority and oversight in our church and institutions resides in the membership—or, in this case, parents and/or students—but it must be exercised in order to exist, 2) Assumptions that our colleges are first-rate (spiritually and academically) are appropriate, but they deserve affirmation by means of testing—which is the norm within academia and the life-blood of accountability. (Please find information regarding the Document on "Total Commitment to God" in the GC Presidential Home Page—see segment #1 above—under the section labeled, "Objectives.")

**O NEWBOLD COLLEGE** sent an evangelistic team, led by Dr. Jeff Brown, to conduct "Expect a Miracle" evangelistic campaigns in the beautiful KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa and a revival in Johannesburg, at the close of which 113 were baptized.

**O WESTERN CITIES—TARGETED:** Although the 10-40 Window (Asia, North Africa and the Middle East) remains the high priority for Global Mission, the increasingly secular cities of the west are also important Global Mission targets. Terje Bjerka, East Norway Conference president, and Peter Roennfeldt, TED Global Mission co-ordinator, are working to establish a

new congregation in Oslo, Norway, while Pekka and Ritva Tahti, who until recently led the work in Albania, are working toward planting a new church in Vantaa, Finland.

**O THE FIRST OUTREACH PROGRAM IN MONGOLIA** began just days after the Seventh-day Adventist Church became one of the few officially registered Protestant churches in that country. Pastor Gerald Christo reports 20 non-Adventists are now attending this series. "We did no advertising," reports Pastor Christo, "but encouraged our own members to invite their friends and many of them responded so gallantly." Please continue to remember Mongolia in your prayers.

**O WHAT A LETTER!** A student from a fundamentalist Islamic country who had been listening to AWR programs recently sent the following letter: "Dear Sir. We are 15 students who live in [an Asian country]. We listen to your programs very eagerly and we really enjoy them, especially beautiful hymns and songs. Your programs are very informative and can attract anybody. We want to know about Adventists since 14 of us are Moslem and one of us is a Jew who knows the Old Testament well. All of us are fond of knowing about Christianity. Could you please send us a volume of the Holy Bible in [native language]? By the way, is there an Adventist church in [this city]? If there is, we would appreciate to know its address. And also, please send us a complete list of your programs since we want to inform others about them. Truly yours [Name withheld]." Thank God for the ministry of Adventist World Radio!

## Off the Back Burner

**Segment #78:** This segment concludes our series on testing the weight of evidence when considering the divine credentials of either the Bible or the writings of Ellen G. White. The weight of evidence points decisively to the trustworthiness of Ellen G. White's twin witness—her life and ministry. The integrity of her character was recognized by contemporaries, whether Adventists or not. The intense focus of her ministry in revealing the charm, reality, and power of Jesus was recognized by those within and without the church. Any attempt to accept either her life without her ministry, or her ministry without her life, seems irrational. A reasonable person will not place a high value on her character and a low value on her writings.

The attempt to praise Ellen G. White for her devotional contributions but to deny her role as a theological messenger separates her life from her ministry. Her theological contribution is precisely the reason why Adventists have had an integrated world program of evangelism, education, and health ministries. It was her visionary insights into the fullness of the everlasting gospel and God's plan for a world movement that inspired a few hundred people to become the vanguard of a world movement.

The weight of evidence of this remarkable cohesion of theological insights that clarifies the everlasting

gospel (Rev. 14:7) and unifies the purposes of the Adventist world network of educational and medical institutions has been conclusive for an ever growing number who find Ellen G. White trustworthy.