

From the G.C. President

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O ADVENTIST GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK TARGETS THE GLOBE (AGCN)! Though it sounds egocentric, I believe one of the most important meetings on this globe took place in a committee room at the General Conference last Monday. After earnestly pleading for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Pastors Mark Finley, Doug Batchelor, Mike Ryan, and Brad Thorp, and businessmen from as far away as Germany and Australia, joined the General Conference vice presidents and world division presidents to consider how best to use the Lord's financial and human resources to carry the Three Angels' Messages to every nation, kindred, tongue and people.

Pastor Finley presented "**ACTS 2000**" -- *It Is Written's* plan to target the globe by conducting a culturally sensitive evangelistic effort in seven or eight of the world's major cities and broadcast each by satellite to a specific region. **Amazing Facts** speaker, Douglas Batchelor, described his outreach plans, to begin in a few days, and several division presidents have agreed to distribute his video tapes.

As a result of these and other initiatives we conservatively estimate that between ten and fifteen thousand churches around the world will have satellite receivers by the end of 1999. After such an investment, and following these events, the congregations can legitimately ask, "What next?"

So, at the close of the meeting the group charged the General Conference administration to present a comprehensive plan to the '98 Spring Meeting of the General Conference: 1) to provide television programming 24 hours a day to the globe in up to 40 languages simultaneously, that 2) will include continuous evangelism, nurture, and lay training, 3) which will provide multiple audio channels by which AWR can distribute programming in multiple languages to affiliated short-wave, AM and FM stations, and 4) utilize the wealth of human resources in our global educational system, and the interactivity provided by the Internet, to develop multi-level distance-learning programs for (a) Global Mission Pioneers, (b) basic pastoral and other educational programs, and (c) continuing education leading to degree completion.

Though feasibility is still incomplete, the group felt we should target the launch of this system in early '99 in order for it to be available to transmit each of the "**ACTS 2000**" events to the globe rather than to one satellite area alone. Two more additional points:

FINANCE: Though the costs vary from one satellite to another, as a general rule renting a satellite transponder for four hours at their full card rate is usually more expensive than renting that transponder for an entire day! So, financially speaking, we're far better off broadcasting 24 hours a day rather than renting a transponder for a few scattered hours.

COMPRESSION: Today's "5 to 1" compression technology enables us to transmit a college course lasting 30 hours to the globe in 6 hours in forty languages, and even include the (encrypted) printed material which may be necessary in each language. Soon "12-to-1" compression will be available!

The best news is that we can broadcast programming targeted both in content and language to the areas of the world that are almost impossible to reach by other methods. And with the programming in hand, we can distribute it not only by satellite, but by the Internet. University students in virtually all the

countries of the world, even those that prohibit satellite receivers, can receive video, audio and printed materials developed with them in mind.

Please pray for the team that is laying plans to put AGCN on the air, 24 hours a day, **to target the globe for Christ!**

O CHAPLAIN BARRY BLACK, has been announced as the new Deputy Chief of Chaplains for the U.S. Navy. Pastor Black (a graduate of Oakwood College and Andrews University) is one of 43 Seventh-day Adventist active-duty chaplains, and will be promoted to Rear Admiral in early October and assumes his new assignment as the number two leader over nearly 1,000 active duty Navy Chaplains. According to Pastor Dick Stenbakken, Director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries at the General Conference, this is the first time we have had any Adventist serve at this level in any branch of the military.

Off the Back Burner

SEGMENT 82: *(Continuing our study of the Great Controversy Theme as unfolded in Steps to Christ.)* The issue is: Who is to be trusted, God or Satan. We have noted the emphasis placed on Christ's Incarnation--that its chief purpose was to tell the truth about God. Satan has been misrepresenting that truth since his rebellion in heaven.

In Luke 4, Jesus laid out His job description: "to preach the gospel to the poor ... to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised" (4:18). After quoting this verse, Ellen G. White wrote: "This was His work. He went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed by Satan" (SC:11). She went on to describe how He did this assignment. He "did not suppress one word of truth ... exercised the greatest tact, and thoughtful, kind attention ... never rude, never needlessly spoke a severe word, never gave needless pain ... denounced hypocrisy, unbelief, and iniquity; but tears were in His voice as He uttered His scathing rebukes. ... His life was one of self-denial and thoughtful care for others ... In all men He saw fallen souls whom it was His mission to save" (SC:12).

After this lovely description, so practical, so desirable in all human beings, the author wrote: "Such is the character of Christ as revealed in His life. This is the character of God" (Ibid.). Note that this description is exactly the opposite of the false picture of God that Satan has been projecting. This distorted picture of God has been portrayed by the world's philosophers from earliest times to the present, by pagan religions, and even by many "Christian" thinkers. Jesus came to show the falsity of Satan's slurs that God is "severe and unforgiving ... [that His] chief attribute is stern justice,--one who is a severe judge, a harsh, exacting creditor" (SC:10, 11). Our task as Seventh-day Adventists is to do in our day what Jesus did in His--tell the truth about God in what we proclaim and how we live: "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world" (John 17:18, NKJV). What a privilege!

No wonder one of the appeals of Revelation 14 is to "worship Him." No one can truly worship a God who only commands allegiance. God can be truly worshiped only when He is truly admired, trusted, and loved.