

# From the G.C. President

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**O DATELINE FIJI:** The last stop on this month-long itinerary in the South Pacific Division was in Fiji where the population of 800,000 lives on two large islands and 200 smaller islands and enjoys a warm but temperate climate. I visited the tomb of John I. Tay who, according to the Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia, arrived in 1891 on the mission vessel Pitcairn and was the first Seventh-day Adventist missionary to Fiji. But he became ill and died only five months later. In 1896 J. E. Fulton arrived in Fiji and moved his headquarters to Suva when Ratu Ambrose Roko Tui Suva, King of Suva, accepted the Sabbath. Today the Fiji Mission, led by Pastor Waisea Vuniwa, has 17,000 members who worship in 160+ congregations, cared for by 33 ordained and 22 licensed pastors, and operate eleven primary and two secondary schools. Fiji is also the site of Fulton College.

After a news conference on Friday morning, Pastor Vuniwa, Pastor Stenio Gungadoo, president of the Central Pacific Union Mission, and I met with H.E. Sitiveni Rabuka (pronounced "Rambuka"), Prime Minister of Fiji. Aware of some of the turmoil in this nation's recent history, I was happily surprised when Prime Minister Rabuka, a devout Methodist, shared some insights into his own spiritual life with me, including the fact that he reads his Bible through every year.

My Friday afternoon visit at Fulton College coincided with the College's Alumni weekend. Attendees included some students who attended Fulton College in the early 1940s. Before speaking for the vespers program I had the privilege of breaking ground for the new ladies hostel. Funding for this project was provided by the North American Division which selected it as part of its annual Ingathering appeal. I was asked to convey the gratitude of Fulton College to the North American Division for this assistance. Sabbath morning I had the opportunity to worship with the 4,000+ believers at the National Gymnasium in Suva. After lunch Gary Krause (GC Global Mission) and I participated in a Global Mission rally.

✓ A complete report of this itinerary visit to the South Pacific Division (including 53 photographs) can be found under the "travel highlights" section of the GC Presidential's Internet Home Page at: <http://www.adventist.org/GC/Presidential>

**O UPDATE ON DOUG BATCHELOR, KENNETH COX AND "LA RED '97" SATELLITE EVANGELISM:** It looks as if 5,000 or more people may be baptized as a result of "The Next Millennium" SatelliGHT Seminar presented by Amazing Facts on 3ABN and supported by Seminars Unlimited and Adventist Communication Network. More than 1,000 sites registered for the series. Thousands of other individuals probably watched without registering. For example, more than 200 people called in to 3ABN on the night baptism was presented. Doug used Bible stories as a springboard to explain end-time prophecies, and response was very positive. A young man named Darrell wrote: "Doug made the Bible come alive in a simple, easy manner for me." Batchelor's evangelistic meeting is one of three satellite evangelistic series this fall in North America.

"Hope Beyond 2000," presented by Kenneth Cox and jointly sponsored by the North Pacific Union and the Voice of

Prophecy, was broadcast on ACN, and rebroadcast by 3ABN, beginning November 1 and received by more than 300 churches in North America and the Caribbean. The host site for the meetings is the Tacoma, Washington, Southside Church where Cox gave his presentation twice each evening; the first at 5:00 p.m. (Pacific Time) destined for satellite downlink sites and the second at 7:30 p.m. for local attendees. In one location, a group of fifteen Pentecostals—led by their church pastor—are, according to the pastor's daughter, under conviction about the Sabbath.

"La Red '97" a Spanish crusade, featuring South American Division evangelist Alejandro Bullón as speaker, was broadcast from Brazil in mid-November and downlinked in almost 500 sites in North America as well as hundreds more sites in South America and Inter America.

## Off the Back Burner

**Segment #90:** We have been exploring how the book *Steps To Christ* unfolds the Great Controversy theme. In our last few segments we have explored some of the implications of the fact that Jesus returned to heaven in His human nature—locked in time and space forever. All this leads to the question: What is Jesus doing now?

Because of His life and death He earned the right to be our High Priest and now bears "our human form before the Father's throne" (SC:14). What difference does this astonishing physical change make—the change from heaven's glorious King to that of a Palestinian carpenter?

When the angels and beings from the unfallen worlds see their Creator Lord now limited to His human form, they are forever reminded of what He gave up for them as well as for the human race. They are constantly reminded of how He confronted Satan on his own ground, on earth where he had been having his own way for centuries. They continue to live in amazement as they contemplate the Creator of the universe, now Man forever, who "had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest" (Heb. 2:17). They see a Man who fought the "battle as every child of humanity must fight it" (DA:49), silencing every one of Satan's accusations against God—charges that were as old as the beginning of sin in their own ranks, a long time ago. They see the living answer to all of those awful and absurd misrepresentations that God was not fair with His created beings, that He was "severe and unforgiving...harsh, exacting" (SC:10, 11).

Angels and unfallen worlds hear more than God's words alone that He is not the kind of God that Satan has made Him out to be. They see Jesus as Man forever, the embodiment of all God had been saying about fairness, graciousness, kindness, and what love really means. And they see the cost of love in living color, that "suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails" (1 Cor. 12:4-8, NKJV).