

From the G.C. President

February 2, 1998

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ODiplomats Visit the GC: Throughout last week the GC Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department (PARL) and the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA) was very pleased to host four government officials from the country of Romania. Visiting were Dr. Negrei, special advisor to the President of the Republic of Romania for health, education and religion; his assistant, Dr. Grosu; Dr. Anghelescu, Romanian secretary of state for religious issues, and; Dr. Pop, deputy ambassador from Romania to the United States. These gentlemen met with religious and political leaders throughout Washington. They also had opportunity to learn more about our faith by worshipping at the Spencerville Adventist Church, visiting Washington Adventist and Shady Grove Hospitals, and meeting with church leadership here at the GC. Please pray for the leadership of Romania as they work to deepen their understanding of religious liberty and to support its growth.

Young Adult Service Held at the GC: Another activity of learning and restoration occurred at the GC this week that points squarely toward our future. Young adult employees of the headquarters building held a Friday night vespers that over 200 people attended. The purpose of this once a month worship program is to strengthen the spiritual bond between the approximately 250 young leaders who work at the GC, and to reach out to young adult members who are not attending church.

ICC Needs You: During the past week a portion of my work also focused on young people through my attendance at the annual board meeting of International Children's Care. ICC was established in 1978 to care for the numerous children left orphaned by a devastating earthquake and civil war in Guatemala. At this writing, ICC is now caring for 1,275 children in 13 countries. ICC's approach to care for children can be divided into two categories: adoption and direct care. In the last year several governments have increased the number of children cleared for adoption, consequently ICC now has children who are hoping to be adopted soon. If you, or someone you know, is interested in more information about adoption, please see the box below.

Off the Back Burner

Section 99: We have been "listening" to Ellen White unfold the Great Controversy Theme in *Steps To Christ*. Ellen White

understood the larger concept of salvation, an insight that has escaped many prominent theologians through the years. Without knowing the Greek of the New Testament, she still saw that the word usually translated into English (in the infinitive form) as "to save" also means "to heal." In other words, Jesus is both Savior and Healer. (For instance, see Matt. 9:21, 22; Mark 5:23, 28; 6:56; Luke 8:36; Acts 4:9; 14:19).

She grasped this connection because of her understanding of the Great Controversy Theme. Salvation means "restoration," not only "forgiveness." The whole heart must be yielded to God, or the change can never be wrought in us by which we are to be restored to His likeness.

We are held fast in the snare of Satan; taken captive by him, at his will. "God desires to heal us, to set us free" (SC:43).

In *Desire of Ages*: 824, she wrote: "The very essence of the gospel is restoration." This basic gospel principle permeates her counsel regarding educational principles, uniting her purpose of education indissolubly with the purpose of salvation. "To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized--this was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of education, the great object of life. . . . In the highest sense, the work of education and the work of redemption are one" (Ed:15, 16, 30).

In focusing on the purpose of the gospel, Ellen White lifts us far above the legalism of the limited gospel that does not unite Christ's work as "atoning sacrifice" and "all-powerful Mediator" (GC:488). For her, our redemption is far more than a legal adjustment in heaven's records without a corresponding change in our character on earth. She thinks with the ellipse of truth as John did when he wrote: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). The new earth will be populated with "forgiven" and "cleansed" human beings in whom the "image" of their Maker has been "restored." Otherwise, "...the happiness of the whole universe would be imperiled. The way would be open for sin, with all its train of woe and misery, to be immortalized" (SC:62). Without coercion, without appealing to fear or favor, God will have proven Satan wrong: created beings can be happy, fulfilled, and obedient at the same time.

To Sponsor: ICC desperately needs 800+ individuals who are willing to assist with the \$25 per month partial-sponsorship of each child. ICC will provide the sponsor with the child's life history and a picture. This sponsorship enables ICC to provide children with a "home-like" atmosphere as well as food, clothing, medical care and education. Please contact the ICC sponsorship program by calling the telephone numbers listed below.

To Adopt: ICC is a licensed and internationally recognized adoption agency. Though standards are very high and applicants are screened carefully, those interested in adopting one of these children can send a written request with US \$5 to International Children's Care, 2711 NE 130th Way, Vancouver, WA. 98686. You may also call, fax, or e-mail the following numbers: Toll free in the US, at 800-422-7729;