

FUTURE NEWS

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Time of Trouble

The time of trouble has already begun. We hear continually of riots and accidents, of murders and robberies. Human life is no longer safe unless under the protection of God. God's servants must not be surprised that they meet with great difficulties and persecution at this time. In His day, the world's Redeemer, the Son of God, was shamefully treated by the people He came to bless. He had to go from city to city to ensure His safety, and this persecution followed Him until His work on earth was accomplished.

—Manuscript Releases, Volume Twenty One, page 101.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 Colombian Report
- 4 Future Events
- 5 Mission Report
- 6 Your Letters
- 7 Timelines
- 13 Columbian Christians Suffer
- 14 How To Survive A Heart Attack
- 15 Campus Missionary Volunteers
& Training School

By Sebastian Teh

Future for America

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Future for America has come into existence so that meat in due season may reach the flock at this time. . . It is present truth that the flock needs now. We look to add our flavor to the many ministries available today.

Future for America is a self-supporting 501-C3 nonprofit corporation and is funded by readers like you. We exist to assist those who are striving to be among the 144,000—through the Prophetic Word and the Health Message—by the power of the Holy Spirit. We hope to help God's people teach our Health Message by using the effective teaching and learning tools which we will provide. We also hope to inspire lay persons to do this by arousing them to the lateness of the hour through the Prophetic messages found in this publication, in seminars, and available in books and on both audio and video tapes.

The cost of this newsletter and audio tape reaching a home is approximately \$3.50.

This publication is sent out free of charge. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Future for America

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Mission Statement

The ministry of *Future for America* is to proclaim the final warning message of Revelation 14 as identified within the prophecies of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The end-time fulfillment of Bible prophecy is no longer future—for it is taking place before our eyes. The historic, prophetic understanding of Seventh-day Adventism is now *present truth*. We are the final generation. Our emphasis on the **prophetic word** includes all the counsel of God's Word. To know what lies ahead is useless if we do not possess the experience to stand during these solemn times. Through obedience to God's law, and faith in the promises of God's Word, we are to receive that experience.

Coupled with the prophetic message, *Future for America* emphasizes all aspects of the **medical missionary work**. The "entering wedge"—medical missionary work—must be practiced by those who are to finish God's work in these final hours.

During this time period, **country living** becomes more essential with each passing moment. *Future for America* upholds and promotes this end-time truth. God's people must prepare for the coming storm, and that preparation includes the experience of learning how to survive in a simple fashion, away from the great centers of population.

Future for America intends to print and distribute **truth-filled literature**, while helping to establish lay-printing operations in parts of the Lord's vineyard where faithful brethren do not have the means to raise up a **printing operation** with their own resources.

COLOMBIAN REPORT

In the last newsletter I mentioned my recent trip to Colombia. The trip lasted for eleven days and we spoke in seven cities or towns. The first of these cities was Cali, where we spoke in the university to about 150 brethren; the second was Medellin where we spoke to about 75; then on to Armenia where I spoke to the brethren who work in Tico Restrepo's ministry. Next we visited Supia, where there were about 300 in attendance. After Supia we went to a country setting in San Juan where we spoke to about 400 brethren. We then finished our trip in Barrenquilla with about 500 in attendance.

Colombia is a country which is coming apart at the seams. There are three major guerrilla forces in the country, several paramilitary groups, many vigilante groups, the Colombian army, and at least two major drug cartel forces. The guerrilla groups are in existence because of political convictions. If you have been watching the news in the past few years you will know that one of those groups, (FARC) already controls a large part of Colombia, even to the extent that they already have their own elections in that area. They only allow people of their own political persuasion to run for office.

While I was in Colombia they went into Cali one Sunday morning, and kidnapped over 100 people who were attending a Catholic Church. Kidnapping is the second highest revenue source for the guerrilla groups in Colombia. On that same Sunday another guerrilla group captured a small town and ordered everyone in the town to leave their homes and businesses. When everyone left the guerrillas placed bombs in the homes and businesses and then blew up the town.

Recently, the President of Colombia entered into negotiations with the FARC guerrillas. The negotiations were confidential. The president did say he was working out a plan for the guerrilla group, to take permanent control of the land they now occupy. The recent trouble with the guerrillas, including last weeks assault on the city of Bogota, is the guerrilla attempt to demonstrate their power prior to the negotiations where the potential of annexing certain parts of Colombia to the different guerrillas is designed. The violence is simply their posturing for power.

The current president of Colombia is a staunch Roman Catholic who believes that the Virgin Mary is guiding his presidency—through messages he believes she is giving to a Colombian mystic. The 'Virgin Mary' has told

the president that he is the president that will usher in peace to Colombia, through her guidance. A recent Colombian magazine highlights the Virgin's influence in Colombia and with this president. The president's political party is a carryover from the last civil war, which took place in Colombia about fifty years ago. The war was fought between Catholics and Protestants, with the Protestants suffering a tremendous bloodbath in which thousands died. The general who managed the Catholic warfare during that time period was the current president's father. Political analysts say that in the election before last one, the current president was defeated because he promoted a Catholic government. This last election, when asked about this subject, he refused to comment. Since he was elected this time he has submitted a bill in Congress which would officially change Colombia into a Catholic nation. In theory, a Catholic nation is subject to Catholic law.

The guerrillas in Colombia are many times more sympathetic—though not always—to the local residents than the Colombian army. Many Adventist brethren have grown up as friends with men who now are in the ranks of the guerrillas. Perhaps the most ominous story surfacing from the guerrillas through the Adventist brethren who have friends in the guerrilla group FARC, is that in the recent negotiations with FARC the president agreed to certain conditions with FARC. In order to be able to set up its own nation FARC had to accomplish certain tasks for the Colombian government. There is wide speculation that FARC will be allowed to create its own country if it will eliminate the other two guerrilla groups. More ominous though, is that some Adventist brethren are now being driven into exile as the guerrillas capture territory where they live. The brethren who have friends in the guerrillas have learned that part of the trade-off between the president and FARC is that the FARC was to clamp down on Seventh-day Adventists. The guerrilla soldiers have not heard any explanation as to why their leadership has given the recent orders, but they do admit that immediately after the negotiations with the president, their orders were to drive Adventists out of any area which they controlled, and not to let them return. This is already happening.

I wanted to share a little of the current environment in Colombia because it seems like a microcosm of what is just ahead for the entire world. I wanted to share it, too, so you could keep the brethren in Colombia in your

prayers. Particularly remember Tico Restrepo's ministry in Armenia. The print shop we have mention over the last two years is up and running, though the first job is not yet complete. The brethren there have received some training on printing and the machines are all working.

Tico is now building a sanitarium on his property. He has budgeted \$5,000 for completion of the building, and if you are impressed to help you could send funds marked "Colombian Sanitarium."

Your funds have helped several Adventist brethren there rebuild their homes that had been destroyed in the earthquake in February, and they send their heart-felt thanks.

ENGLAND

We have just returned from England where we had planned meetings in London for nine straight days. This was the first time our prophetic message had been taken to Europe personally. They asked us to speak an additional three days, and the message was very well received. We ask for your prayers that the Holy Spirit will impress their hearts with the nearness of time.

A COUNTRY HOME

Recently the Lord opened the doors for my wife and I to purchase our country home in Arkansas. While I was in Colombia, Tico's wife Ivonne was encouraging me that she believed the Lord would lead us to some property soon. As I responded to her I sensed a conviction which I had never had before. I told her that I was certain that the Lord would show the correct property very soon. I had been trusting that this would take place for a long time now, but had never felt a sense that locating the land was close.

Since moving to Tennessee, we have had several doors open on property there that eventually would close. It sometimes appears in my mind to be a contradiction to be presenting the message that probation is about to close and that God's people should be in the country, when you do not have that country home yourself.

Another connected concern was that when I am out traveling with this urgent message—and the requests to come and share keep arriving—when will I have time to build the country home once the land is purchased? The land we have considered in Tennessee has been simply raw land that we would have needed to develop from the ground up—and time is slipping away. Do you know that feeling?

About the time that Ivonne was speaking to me in Colombia a close sister in Arkansas, with whom we have worked in the ministry for five years, called my wife, Kathy. Three years ago she had bought country property in Arkansas and set up her living quarters there,

along with an office where she sent hundreds of books around the world. This sister will be 80 years young next year and although she is still in excellent physical and mental shape, her children had recently asked her to move where she would be closer to them in Minnesota.

She called Kathy just for fellowship and mentioned that she had placed her property up for sale. After the phone call, later that evening, she was impressed that her land would be ideal for Kathy and I. She called Kathy the next day. She was asking more cash than we had, but she would be willing to carry the papers. She asked for me to call when I returned from Colombia.

When I returned, I called her. I had seen the property, but my wife never had. I told her that Kathy and I did not want to be in debt. For me to consider a loan, which she would carry, I would need a Sunday-law clause which stated that if a point arrives where we can no longer buy and sell due to Sunday laws that the debt would be eliminated. She had no problem writing that into the contract.

Within the next few days Kathy and I visited the property, which is about five hours from the Wildersville area. We were impressed that this was where the Lord had led us. We were all three impressed that the Lord had taken this sister to this property three years ago to help prepare the land in a fashion which I would have been unable to do myself, because of all the traveling I have been doing during that same time period. We praise the Lord for His marvelous leading.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have completed our move to Bonnerdale, Arkansas. In addition to moving ourselves to the new property, the Future for America board voted to move the office also. So the new address for Future for America is in Bonnerdale, Arkansas. However, the literature evangelism work—headed up by Steven Spencer—will continue operating from the Spencer property in Wildersville, Tennessee.

FUTURE EVENTS

There will be meetings held during the following four Sabbaths in four different churches throughout California.

In September we are going to the Dominican Republic with the Restrepos and there are other invitations which are under consideration.

We solicit your prayers that the Lord will grant us extra wisdom to accomplish these things in an efficient fashion that works for His glory and honor.

MISSION REPORTS

FUNDACIÓN DE LAS DELICIAS—VENEZUELA

We had the privilege of having Tico and Ivonne Restrepo here for the Future for America board meeting the first of August. They reported that the print shop is up and running. They still need a printer to go to Armenia, Colombia to train their people on the press. We have found a printer to go there, but we still need funds to pay for his travel and expenses while there.

Tico and Ivonne also told that they are commencing building a sanitarium there on the property. They have been taking people into their homes and helping them. Right now they have three homes on the property—and 70 people are living in them! There is a great need for a sanitarium.

If you wish to donate to these projects, please mark your donation either "Colombian Printer" or "Columbian Sanitarium."

LEAVES OF LIFE

From the South West Tanzania Field area where in May of this year Pastor Mtenzi distributed over 40,000 tracts and booklets. Follow up has been made and [July 5] Pastor Mtenzi was here to tell us that up to now 73 souls have joined the remnant church through distribution of the tracts. He shared with us an interesting story as he was summoned by a Roman Catholic priest who wanted to know who was behind all of this. As Pastor Mtenzi spoke with him, he was told that "what you Adventists are doing **you will not be doing for much longer**. . . . You will not be stopped because of local pressure or even because of national rulings, but you will be stopped from an International level. You Adventists do not realize what you are doing." Pastor Mtenzi had always read about such threatenings, but now for the first time heard it with his own ears.

Steward Mgeni is a traveling literature who has been getting tracts and books from Leaves of Life ever since we started. He gave us the results of the large literature distribution, which was done in December of last year. "A committee was formed in Shinyanga where they supervised the distribution of tracts. Each person was given a tract and follow up was made to see if he

or she understood what was presented. About 100 laymen were involved with over 20 SDA churches. As a result **over 400 souls** were joined to the SDA church in the Shinyanga region and 68 souls in Mwanza through literature and follow up." This gives us courage to keep on with the work of distribution of these silent messengers. We simply praise the Lord for His manner of working through the printed page in this land. This type of soul winning has never been attempted before on this scale. We appreciate the labors of Moses Mwamalumbili, our translator, who made many of these tracts available in Swahili.

For the first time we have tracts available to the Maasai people. We presently have three titles. The Northeast Tanzania Conference has invited us to help conduct two efforts in the Maasai country later in August. This is right after the Maasai Campmeeting, which is to take place the second week of August. We are planning to participate in this event as the Lord leads.

Kibidula has been asked by the District pastor of Songea to conduct an effort there in the Southern part of Tanzania the second week in July. Our own evangelist, Frank Mwykoma, will be conducting the preaching service nightly. We solicit your prayers as we go out once again.


Rudy Harnisch


Note: It is the mission of Leaves of Life—International to provide truth-filled literature to the people of Africa in their own language, and at a price that they can afford. Although they provide much of the tracts and literature free, they also supply books and tracts to many of the African colporteurs at a much lower price than is usually available.


If you would like to assist in this most worthy work for the Lord, please mark your donations for "Leaves of Life" or send them direct to:

Rudy Harnisch / Leaves of Live International
P. O. Box 17
Mafinga/Iringa, Tanzania, East Africa

YOUR LETTERS


 Thank you again for the tapes. They are the "light" that I've been looking for. It's strange but many of the passages given are some I had already underlined while reading in the past. . . . GC—TN

 I love your news pamphlet and thank the good Lord for your efforts towards His work. Time is quickly running out. May God continue to bless you all. You are in our prayers. . . . JBC—SC


 Thank you for your informative and educative articles. . . . I am so interested in these last events (eschatology) which are just before us. I want to know how the prophecies are being fulfilled to be ready and make others the same.

I kindly request you to send materials that can make us stand firm in the Lord and envisaged crises. As a gospel worker we are encountering a lot of challenges in the ministry—especially problems within the churches. Definitely Christ is coming very soon. . . .


GKK—Kenya

 I saw one of your magazines with one of our church elders. . . . I think it would be good if [you] can place this magazine and other materials which would alert the people about the impending conflict in the hands of as many people as we can. So I would be glad if you could send me some magazines and other booklets for distribution to the people here in my area.

May God richly bless you all. GDV—Ghana

 It is my greatest please to write you this letter. I am a lay preacher. I have many people whom I learn with. The area I live is unentered area dominated by Catholics. . . . By His grace God's Word is penetrating smoothly. My problem is the material for the people to read as they like reading for themselves to see the truth. Kindly support me to carry on the work of God for He is soon to come.


Thank you very much. EA—Ghana

 I don't know who you are or even how I started getting your information, but I can tell you I think God is using you. . . .

These tapes you are sending out "The Crowning Act" are most definitely present truth that needs to go to every Adventist in the world. I feel sure this is going to happen very soon, and in a most spectacular way. If you could just get copies to the ministers of all the churches so they could present it to the people.


I wish I had more money to help you with this.


EB—TN


 God bless you in all you are doing for Him. This is just a quick note to let you know the material you

send is very much appreciated. We'll keep you in our prayers. LB—CA

 May our God richly bless you each one as you bring the truth-filled messages to God's people. Thank you. AB—WI

 We really enjoyed the audios we got from you. Thanks for the ministry. AJC—TN

 Thank you so much for your recent newsletter of July 1999. An elder from our church read portions of it to our congregation and we distributed key pages to our people, all took one. God is really working and opening hearts and doors. Thank you for your ministry that God has given to you. SM—by e-mail

 I am interested in receiving your newsletter. The volume I took a quick look at on Sabbath reveals some interesting info. Tell me how I may receive it for myself [a Pastor] and other church members. . . .

Thank you for the up to date status of affairs in the world. Most of our people and churches are still asleep on the matter of the new world order and the advances of the Papacy. I pray God we do not sleep forever.

May God continue His wonderful blessings in your Ministry. DB—NY



THE FINAL RISE AND FALL OF THE KING OF THE NORTH

This is a five-part, ten-hour presentation covering Daniel 11:40—45. Each video is \$10.00. For a limited time we are offering the entire series for \$45.00.

TIME LINES

In The Stream Of Time Near The End Of The Line.

Federal Court of Appeals Rules in Important Sabbath Case

The Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals filed a decision last week in favor of Lisette Balint, a member of the Worldwide Church of God, who challenged the Carson City Sheriff Department's decision to withdraw an offer of employment when it found out she could not work on Sabbath. Carson City had argued that the existence of a neutral rotating shift system, pursuant to a seniority system, was itself a sufficient accommodation, and that they had no legal obligation to attempt any further accommodation.

The Court rejected that argument, holding that a seniority system did not remove the requirement that further accommodation be attempted.

This is an important victory for religious freedom, as a loss in this case would have devastated the ability of Sabbath observers to obtain religious accommodation from large employers who have seniority systems. . . .

The case is now remanded to the lower court for further proceedings to determine whether, under the appropriate legal standard, Carson City could have accommodated Ms. Balint.—Pacific Union Conference, Department of Public Affairs & Religious Liberty, *News Flash*, June 23, 1999.

Catholics Kidnapped in Colombia

MIAMI, Florida—Religious and political leaders are saying that there is no sanctuary from Colombia's worsening guerrilla war after 60 members of the National Liberation Army (ELN) kidnapped more than 140 members of a Roman Catholic church on May 30.

Worshippers at La Maria church in an upscale Cali neighborhood were herded into trucks after being told by the rebels masquerading as security officers that there had been a bomb threat. . . .

Eighty-four of the hostages managed to escape or were freed, as ELN commandos eluded government troops and melted back into nearby mountains. Five more hostages, all in poor health, were released June 5. But 54 remain in captivity.

Colombia has the highest incidence of kidnaping in the world, with about 2,500 abductions reported in 1998. Three American missionaries have been held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas for more than five years.—Kenneth D. MacHarg, *COMPASS DIRECT*, June 18, 1999.

Colombian Pastor & Family Murdered

MIAMI, Florida—Unknown assailants murdered an evangelical pastor and his wife on May 8 in their Cali, Colombia, home. A neighbor was also killed in the shooting. Police said that the motive for the killing was unclear and they were searching for suspects. It was the third murder of a family in the city in the past two months. . . .

Several pastors and missionaries have been murdered as Colombia's violence continues to spiral. Two years ago a priest and lay worker were killed by poisoned juice given to them during the Lenten season. In March, a Roman Catholic priest was found dead two days after being kidnapped by presumed guerrillas.—Kenneth D. MacHarg, *COMPASS DIRECT*, June 18, 1999.

Plaintiffs to Appeal Maine Ban on Parochial School Aid

The American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), a legal advocacy group founded by religious broadcaster Pat Robertson, plans to appeal a federal appeals court decision upholding a Maine law barring voucher payments for religious schools to the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of a group of parents who wanted to use public tuition benefits to send their children to a Roman Catholic school.

Currently, Maine families who live in towns without public secondary schools may send pupils to any public or nonsectarian private school—but not religious schools—with the state paying for at least part of the tuition.

The ACLJ had sued the Maine Department of Education, but the appeals court rejected the ACLJ's argument.—*Christian News*, July 5, 1999.

The Voucher Wars

Within a seven-day span, opponents of school vouchers enjoyed one of their biggest legal victories ever when the Maine Supreme Court ruled that voucher funding of religious schools is unconstitutional, and then suffered one of their biggest legislative defeats when the Florida legislature passed the first ever statewide voucher plan.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court upheld a voucher plan in Milwaukee in June 1998, and that ruling was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which declined to hear the case, but the Wisconsin ruling is alone in its support of voucher funding of religious schools.

Though the Supreme Court has not yet heard a voucher case, the justices examined three private school tuition reimbursement programs in the early 1970's, and in each instance, the program was found to be unconstitutional.

Out of six voucher cases at the state level, and two at the federal level, not including the three tuition reimbursement programs, the overwhelming opinion of courts at the state level is that vouchers are unconstitutional. However, the battle goes on....

- The **Florida** program will be the first, and largest, statewide voucher system. According to . . . the *St. Petersburg Times*, 2,587 students will become eligible for vouchers this year, and up to 155,615 within the next two years.

- **New Mexico** Gov. Gary Johnson (R) has demanded a statewide voucher program, but the House and Senate overwhelmingly rejected it. Further wrangling with the governor is expected.

- **Texas** Gov. George W. Bush (R) is asking the state legislature to consider a voucher plan. The plan passed the State Senate's education committee, but now appears stalled.

- **Pennsylvania** Gov. Tom Ridge (R) has announced that a state voucher program is his "top

priority." His plan is similar to the Florida program. Students in public schools categorized as "academically distressed" would be given vouchers to transfer to private schools that accept them.

- **New York City** Mayor Rudy Giuliani has escalated his campaign to set up a voucher program, but the Rev. Jesse Jackson, speaking in New York on May 4, opposed the scheme.

- **The Chittenden, VT.**, school board has reversed a policy favoring vouchers. The city does not have its own high school and pays to send students to non-sectarian private schools. In 1996 the board agreed to include religious high schools as well, a proposal that was blocked by state officials. Board members subsequently filed suit. A state court ruled against the board, and an appeal is pending before the Vermont Supreme Court.—*Church & State*, June 1999.

"When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result."—GC 445.

Amway Chief Bankrolls Michigan Drive for Religious School Aid

In Michigan, Richard DeVos, president of Amway Corp., has pledged millions to an effort to repeal a section of the Michigan Constitution that bars taxpayer aid to private religious schools.—*Church & State*, June 1999.

One Billion Dollars for Vouchers in the '90's

A 42 page study, "\$1 Billion For Ideas: Conservative Think Tanks In The 1990's," issued recently by the National committee for Responsive Philanthropy in Washington, D.C., examined the 20 largest right-wing think tanks according to budget size.

Reads the report: "Overall spending by these institutions between 1990 and 2000 is likely to top \$1 billion." . . .

The report also notes that corporate support of right-wing groups is becoming increasingly common. In 1996 for example, the pro-voucher Cato Institute received money from more than 100 corporations, including Exxon, Bell Atlantic, Microsoft, Phillip Morris, Citicorp, Netscape, R.J. Reynolds and General Motors.

The report concludes: "In terms of resources, there is every indication that the funding stream that currently supports the conservative policy infrastructure will continue to grow."—*Church & State*, June 1999.



Voucher Battle in Cleveland, OH

Cleveland began its school voucher program in 1995, giving funding for 1st and 2nd grades, and increasing one grade per year, until this year, when the Ohio Education Association managed to influence the legislature to cap the program at the 5th grade. Infuriated Republican leaders have arranged for closed-door joint Senate and House conference sessions to see who will prevail.—*World*, June 19, 1999.



RFRA Religious Freedom Bills Pass in S.C., Ariz.

State versions of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act have passed in South Carolina and Arizona, and are awaiting signatures from the states' respective governors.

New Mexico also passed a similar religious freedom bill, including a unanimous endorsement in the House, but Gov. Gary Johnson (R) ultimately vetoed the bill, citing fear of lawsuits.—*Church & State*, June 1999.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.—*The Constitution of the United States of America; First Amendment*. (All emphasis added.)



Elderly Adventist Woman Murdered in Kosovo

ISTANBUL—An elderly Adventist church member was killed on the doorstep of her home in Kosovo on Sunday, June 27, while her husband was away overnight guarding the local church building in Pec from looting attacks.

The stabbed body of Mileva Vujosevic, 65, was found by her husband, Branko, when he returned to their home on the morning of June 28, the Adventist Press Service (APD) reported from Basel. When the church elder informed KFOR peacekeeping forces of his wife's murder, they took her body to the cemetery at the ancient headquarters of the Serbian Orthodox Patriarch. The local Orthodox Bishop led a burial service for her that same afternoon.

According to Adventist sources, this was an unprecedented move by the Orthodox Church, which classifies Adventists among other Protestant "sects" and typically refuses to conduct weddings or funerals for their members.

A Serb who had joined the Adventist Church at age 15, Vujosevic had worked as a literature evangelist for the church. One of her three children is a pastor in Yugoslavia.

"I am shocked by this barbaric act on an innocent woman," Radisa Antic, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Yugoslavia, told the APD. "We, as Adventists, condemn any atrocities committed by any individual in Kosovo, either by Serbs or Albanians."

After the incident, the victim's husband and the four remaining members of the Adventist church in Pec left the city and took refuge temporarily in the apartment of the Adventist pastor in Pristina. Some of the Pec Adventists have since returned to their homes, Antic confirmed.

"Everybody knows that Albanians did it," Antic told *Compass* two weeks later. "But as far as I know, there has been no investigation of her murder. It is too chaotic." Antic said the church has one affiliated group of Albanian Adventists, as well as congregations of Serbian Adventists.

In mid April, a Belgrade newspaper published claims that NATO supreme commander Gen. Wesley Clark "was and perhaps still is" a member of the

Seventh-day Adventist Church. Church leaders responded swiftly to deny the allegations.

"With such false information in the newspaper during this time of war, Adventists are at great risk of being targets of hostility and physical assaults in their neighborhoods," Antic declared in the national daily "Vecernje Novosti" on April 19. "We are afraid that our church buildings will be attacked by the local people as a result of this article.

"There are killings every day, in spite of everything that was done," Antic told Compass. "So we can pray, and try to do what we can."

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) has taken an active role throughout the recent Balkan crisis in providing foodstuffs, medicines and temporary refugee shelters. In early July, the United Nations asked ADRA to take the lead in providing community services in Pristina and surrounding regions for returning Kosovars.—Barbara G. Baker, *COMPASS DIRECT*, July 23, 1999.



Underground Priest Murdered in China

LONDON—The battered body of a 33-year-old Chinese priest belonging to the underground Catholic Church in China was found lying on a Beijing street on May 13, only hours after he had been arrested by police. The U.S.-based Cardinal Kung Foundation has alleged that the Chinese authorities murdered Father Yan Weiping.

Ordained in the underground church in 1988, Yan reportedly served six months in prison in 1990 and was a known figure among the pro-Vatican Catholics of China, who number over 10 million. The official Catholic Church in China is not allowed ties with the Vatican. . . .

The Connecticut-based Kung Foundation has alleged other atrocities committed against underground priests this year, including the torture in mid May of Wang Qing, a seminarian from Hubei province. They said he was beaten, hung by his hands for three days, and force-fed a filthy liquid that caused gastro-intestinal illness. The Foundation also reported that recently four men had been caught attending a clandestine Mass in Hubei and were sent to labor camp.—Alex Buchan, *COMPASS DIRECT*, July 23, 1999.



Chinese Christians Forced to Leave Seminary

LONDON—Three top students who were nearing graduation from China's prestigious Nanjing Union Theological Seminary have been ordered to "voluntarily" leave by its president, Bishop K.H. Ding. Ding summoned the students to his office on May 7 and informed them that officials from the government's Religious Affairs Bureau backed his decision.

According to a report in Hong Kong's June 28 "South China Morning Post," Liu Yichun, Li Zhimin and Luo Yunfei quit the seminary in protest. In an open declaration, the students accused Bishop Ding of preaching liberal theology that denied basic evangelical Bible teaching and of running a witch-hunt in the seminary.

The trio also attacked the government-sponsored Protestant Three Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM), which controls the seminary and all registered churches in China, declaring that it had "betrayed the trust of believers and driven Christians underground."

They also supported the unregistered house church movement, which currently is suffering persecution in many parts of China.—Paul Davenport, *COMPASS DIRECT*, July 23, 1999.



North Korea to 'Ferret Out' Missionaries

LONDON—The North Korean government issued an open warning in May to its population that "Christian missionaries must be reported and ferreted out without fail because they are a cunning wolf that serves as tools of imperialism."

According to an article in the June 24 "Far Eastern Economic Review" (FEER), the warning was targeted at North Koreans who had become Christians after crossing the border into China. There they are encountering teams of South Korean Christians waiting to give them food and shelter, as well as a Bible. Many return to North Korea, taking advantage of more lax travel regulations along the border.

In a further mark of official concern, the North Korean Central News Agency in early May claimed

Seoul was training underground guerrillas disguised as missionaries along China's border.

The FEER article profiled the operations of South Korean missionaries in China. One businessman produces nylon food containers stamped with the logo, "Donated by Christian Families from all over the World." The bags each contain 20 kilograms of grain, a bar of soap, some medicine and a palm-sized Bible. They are dropped at "mission homes" along the Tumen and Yalu rivers that border China and North Korea.

Thousands of North Koreans have fled because of the famine, and many know to make their way to Christian churches where they will be cared for. Also, they can hide among China's two-million-strong ethnic Korean community. Korean Christians are particularly willing to defy the Chinese government's request that all refugees be turned over to the police.

North Korea has been an officially atheistic state since the mid 1950s, and its Stalinist regime under Kim Jong Il remains extremely hostile to religion. However, a severe famine since 1994, which may have killed up to 3 million of the 22 million population, has created a toehold for foreign Christian charities to provide aid.

The government created a church in 1988—called the Korean Christian Federation—with 10,000 members, but it meets only when foreign dignitaries wish to attend. One such dignitary was Konrad Raiser, the head of the World Council of Churches, which has funneled \$10 million in aid to the beleaguered country since 1995. The Catholic relief agency Caritas hopes to raise \$6 million to send grain and fertilizer this year.—Alex Buchan, *COMPASS DIRECT*, July 23, 1999.



Turkmen Police Raid Pastor's Home

ISTANBUL—In a harsh Wednesday morning raid [June 9], agents of the Turkmenistan secret police forcibly searched a Baptist pastor's home in the capital city of Ashgabat in early June. Large quantities of evangelical Christian literature and the identity papers of at least five church members present at the time were reported confiscated.

A statement issued by the church later that day

reported that the officials said they needed no stated reason or authorization to "inspect" the premises, which are also used for the church's worship services. They proceeded to search every room, closet and cupboard, seizing and throwing out into the yard Christian literature and tapes, family photographs and letters, a slide projector and amplifier and other items.

Most of the heap of belongings, which according to the officers' list included 5,085 copies of some 50 Christian publications and 106 audiocassettes of sermons, were loaded onto a truck and hauled away. The confiscated identity documents and personal effects had not been returned to their owners a week later, the church said. . . .

In a more severe crackdown, an ethnic Turkmen who converted to Christianity and joined the Evangelical Baptist congregation in Turkmenbashi was given a two-year labor camp sentence in March.

Although local believers claim Shagildy Atakov was convicted on "trumped-up swindling charges," the imprisoned Christian reportedly now faces a retrial, after prosecutors complained that the court's original judgment was too lenient. Atakov is married with five children.—Barbara G. Baker, *COMPASS DIRECT*, July 23, 1999.



Anti-Christian Campaign in India

LONDON—A Hindu-militant-turned-Christian has revealed details of a hit list of denominational targets compiled by his former organization, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), which has been behind much of India's anti-Christian violence in recent years.

"We targeted those groups mainly involved in evangelism," the convert said. "At the top of the list are the Pentecostals, then come the Brethren and Baptists, then the independent churches among the poorer people-groups."

On the bottom of the list were Roman Catholics and Anglicans, he said, "because they were to be infiltrated rather than attacked."

Speaking to *Compass* in April from a secret location in Andhra Pradesh, the new convert is in hiding because, "No one is allowed to leave the RSS and live."

An attempt was made in late April to kill the evangelist who brought the convert to faith in Christ. Traveling on a train, the evangelist was engaged in conversation by two men who were suddenly joined in the compartment by three other men, who all pulled out long knives to stab him. Only the screams of alarm by two others sharing the compartment brought the soldier on the train to the rescue, who used his stun gun to save the evangelist.

"The RSS is really frightened by the fact that a lot of high caste Hindus are becoming Christian, especially Brahmins, and they are working hand in hand with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to stamp this out," the former militant Hindu said.

He revealed secret plans, tactics and estimates. The RSS believes there are 21,000 "missionaries" in India. They are most concerned with attacking the Pentecostals, who "not only make converts but make such an almighty fuss about it." Next on the list were Brethren and Baptist denominations, also extremely evangelistic, though more low key in their methods. Slain Australian missionary Graham Staines belonged to a Brethren mission, the Evangelical Missionary Society, and had a low key but effective ministry among leprosy sufferers.

Staines would have been under observation for months, revealed the former RSS worker, who was not involved in the murder planning. Staines and his two young sons were burned to death on January 23.

Each attack on a Christian is meticulously planned, with codes worked out, and often sent over the Internet. One unit specializes in the interception of e-mail. . . .

Miss Olive Rogers, a former British missionary in India, returned from a recent visit saying, "I never saw such a strong reaction against the Hindu extremists among the populace. They were disgusted. The media, taxi drivers, journalists—everyone was ashamed of the BJP and the RSS."

She added, "I saw an editorial in the Mangalore papers challenging the RSS to do what the Christians do—work among the poor and the helpless, leprosy patients, street children, prostitutes—and only then would they have the right to criticize Christians."

At the bottom of the secret list were the least evangelistic denominations: the Roman Catholics

and the former Anglicans, which are now two distinct denominations (called the Church of North India and the Church of South India). They concentrate on social work, and the RSS strategy is to "infiltrate and befriend."

The RSS has approximately 750,000 members dedicated to "Hindutva" - an ideology that insists the Gangetic plain should contain only Hindus, and all other religious adherents should leave or be pushed out. Founded in 1925, it is composed of intellectuals who have worked their way into the highest reaches of society. Members take a chillingly totalitarian oath: "For the betterment of my sacred Hindu religion, Hindu culture, and Hindu community, I will dedicate myself to the prosperity of my Holy Motherland."

RSS founders such as Savarkar, Golwalkar, and Subhash Chandra Bose, all admired Hitler and Mussolini and ran the RSS along similar Fascist lines. Bose worked with Mussolini and wrote a biography of him.

The BJP is its political arm, and the statements of concern by its leaders about the violence has sounded all too hollow in the ears of many Christians, especially when attacks on Christians and churches dramatically increased when the BJP took power in 1997. After 13 months, the BJP was narrowly defeated in Parliament, and new elections are planned for September. In the meantime, the BJP continues to run the country.—Alex Buchan, *COMPASS DIRECT*, July 23, 1999.

Colombian Christians Suffer

By Jeff Pippenger

AUSTIN, Texas—Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels threatened all-out war if peace talks with Colombia's government failed their expectations. But with the talks scheduled to resume July 20, a nationwide rebel offensive initiated July 10 may signal the all-out war has started early.

By July 12, even Bogota, the capital, appeared under siege as intense fighting between government forces and rebel groups flared in the mountains just outside the city. Despite a lull in attacks on July 13, army leaders warned the violence could flare up at any time.

On April 12 another revolutionary group, the National Liberation Army (ELN) hijacked a commercial airliner and took its passengers hostage. ELN rebels held 29-year-old biology professor Grace Morillo for more than two months before releasing her on June 18. A dozen of her fellow passengers on the airliner remain ELN hostages.

Colombia's Christians suffer with their fellow citizens as their land teeters on the brink of anarchy. But its largest guerrilla groups aren't the only menaces to peace. Right-wing paramilitaries, self-defense groups, the Colombian army, narco-traffickers and even satanic cults vie with guerrillas in different regions of the country for the dubious honor of being the group most dangerous to citizens, who are weary from decades of increasing violence.

But advocating peace is a good way to invite danger. Six of the 10 human rights workers murdered worldwide in 1998 were killed in Colombia.

"There is no safe place anywhere in Colombia," said one former pastor whose name cannot be published. "Not in their houses, cars, or streets." Recalling the ELN's kidnapping of an entire Catholic congregation attending Mass in Cali—some 140 people—he added, "And of course, not in a church."

...
In the face of ever-escalating violence, the Human Rights and Peace Commission of the Colombian Evangelical Council has planned the Second Plenary of the Permanent Assembly of Civic Groups

for Peace, July 28-30 in Bogota. Director Ricardo Esquivia of Justapaz, the Colombian Mennonite Christian Church's program dedicated to nonviolent action, peace and education, said that each day of the event, some 1,000 people will meet to sing and pray for the nation's peace. Esquivia said that the council plans to distribute 5,000 Bibles during the event.

"The Colombian people can no longer live with the violent situation that we have suffered for so many years," read a press release from the [Human Rights and Peace Commission] council's, in which Colombia's evangelical leaders request prayer vigils for the nation and the peace event. "To this end, we yearn to construct among all people a country of love, justice and peace. The peace we desire is the peace that God offers us. We need the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us in this process."

...
"We're asking churches in all parts of the world to join us in prayer, to write the Colombian government supporting the process of the Permanent Assembly, and also write letters to guerrilla groups, the paramilitary and other groups," Esquivia said.

Indeed, without divine intervention, Colombia's conflicts appear beyond hope.

"The government and army have answered the FARC, that they, too, are ready for a total war," Esquivia said. "FARC has said they're going to free their people from prison, so the police and army are reinforcing prison security. Self-defense and paramilitary groups have begun a counter-offensive.

"The situation is getting worse, and of course, this affects the sectors where the churches are."

In the northern region of Uraba, the war is worsening because FARC rebels have taken the land. "FARC is going around threatening, so guerrilla warfare has begun and now the self-defense groups have become a force," he said.

None of the groups have claimed responsibility for a new Sunday custom: tossing grenades into churches during worship services. Esquivia said that, while it could be FARC or other guerrilla groups

behind the grenade attacks, it's not necessarily so.

"There are sectors of Colombia where the threats come from the self-defense groups and paramilitaries, and other sectors where threats come from the army, and still others where they come from the guerrilla groups," Esquivia said.

He believes it's the narco-traffickers that toss the grenades into churches.

"They say the evangelical church is directly linked to the United States, that the pastors are members of the CIA, and they're in the service of the U.S. government," Esquivia said. The United States is pushing extradition of Colombia's notorious drug lords for trial in courts that would show less fear of convicting them.

But like the narco-traffickers, the FARC also may view evangelicals as allies of the United States. In a zone twice the size of Massachusetts that the Colombian government has handed over to the FARC, that guerrilla group has closed churches, imposed a 6 p.m. curfew on services where it allows churches to meet, and banned public religious activity, Esquivia said.

FARC's leadership stated July 7 it was putting off peace talks because it said the United States was preparing military intervention in the Colombian conflict. The U.S. State Department denies the charge. The Spanish-language "El Nuevo Herald" of Miami quoted one FARC leader who expressed the organization's concerns that the United States will intervene militarily in Colombia: "We are not Yugoslavia," he said. "If the U.S. intervenes, blood will run. It will be another Vietnam."

In addition, satanic groups are attacking churches and Christians, especially in Cali. Some churches have suffered repeated attacks, said Consuelo Zuluaga, a social worker of Justapaz. In late June, a pastor in the earthquake-ravaged city of Armenia was wounded and his brother was killed by suspected satanists, she said.

Esquivia said that whole families, pastors and congregations are fleeing the most violent areas. Christian families near the border with Panama are in jeopardy from combat between warring groups. In early July, paramilitaries in Buenaventura in southern Colombia murdered 20 people. Many Christians and their pastors are fleeing into Panama, he said.

The "Miami Herald" cited a recent Gallup Poll revealing that more than half of Colombia's 40 million people have considered leaving. The Associated Press reported that 21 percent of the 2.64 million Colombians who left the country between 1996 and 1998 didn't come back.

All told, there's only one hope for Colombia, church leaders agree.

"Nothing short of a sovereign act of God can save this nation," a long-time Christian worker in Colombia said. "And that is what we are working for and praying for."—Deann Alford, *COMPASS DIRECT*, July 23, 1999.

HOW TO SURVIVE A HEART ATTACK

Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack, this article seemed in order.

Without help, the person whose heart stops beating properly, and who begins to feel faint, has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness. However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously.

A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest. A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs, and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can get to a phone, and, between breaths, call for help.

Tell as many other people as possible about this. It could save their lives!

—From Health Cares, Rochester General Hospital, via Chapter 240's newsletter *And the Beat Goes On...* (Reprinted from The Mended Hearts, Inc. publication, *Heart Response*.)

CAMPUS MISSIONARY VOLUNTEERS (CMVs) & TRAINING SCHOOL

THE CALL: We need missionaries on public university campuses. This is the "Macedonian" call I'm sending out to dedicated young Adventists who are eager to share the Three Angels' Message with university students. We need some young men and women who will walk in the spirit of the Adventist pioneers. We need some missionary volunteers to go on a mission trip to a secular university campus. We need "campus missionary volunteers" (CMVs).

PLACE: The location is the campus of the University of Michigan (UofM), Ann Arbor, Michigan. UofM is one of the leading universities in the USA, with a student population of almost 40,000.

METHOD: Since our purpose is not to entertain, but to save souls for heaven, our method will avoid the use of fads from contemporary culture. Instead, in the spirit of our Adventist pioneers, we shall combine personal evangelism, literature evangelism, and medical missionary methods as our way to reach the students on campus.

WHO SHOULD COME: We need no more than a dozen (12) dedicated young people. Campus Missionary Volunteers (CMVs) must be people who believe in our identity, message, and mission as God's end-time remnant movement. They must be God-fearing, wise, and courteous. They must be excited about Seventh-day Adventism. They must be willing to spend ten (10) weeks doing evangelism on the UofM campus.

CMV TRAINING SCHOOL: As part of the outreach activities, CMVs will be part of a training school, which will include:

- Daily Morning Devotions;
- A course on "The Science of Holiness" (an important subject, dealing with ethical & practical issues of life in the end-time) (3 hours per week);
- A course in medical missionary work (dealing with NEWSTART, lifestyle and cooking) (3 hours per week) Hands-on practical experience on Natural Remedies;
- Guest lecturers to address contemporary issues in the SDA church (a guest lecturer every week);
- Canvassing/Magabooks on campus and university vicinity twice a week;
- Daily Knocking on student doors and Bible studies;
- How to plant a new church;
- Involve in local church, such as preaching and teaching;

- Work with experience pastor;
- Hold evangelistic series.

WHEN: Mid-September to Mid-December (Dates are being worked out)

COST: The tuition cost for the entire 10-week period is \$500.00 per person. Accommodation will be provided. Food and boarding cost will be covered through the CMVs canvassing work.

URGENCY: There are several reasons why this ministry to secular university students is very urgent:

1. The gospel commission into all the world includes the world of secular universities and colleges.
2. Public university and college campuses are unentered territories in North America; somebody must pioneer this line of frontier missions.
3. Students in these non-SDA institutions face tremendous challenges, much greater than those in our own schools.
4. When converted, students and graduates from these secular institutions will greatly benefit the church and today's society.
5. Consecrated young people will be most effective in reaching out to their fellow young people.
6. History tells us that major revivals, reformation, and missionary outreach work have originated on public universities and college campuses.
7. We must expect the Lord to use Campus Missionary Volunteers (CMVs) as an instrument in God's end-time revival work.

BENEFITS TO CMVs: At the end of the 10-week period, CMVs would:

1. Gain a valuable experience in missionary outreach in a very secular environment;
2. Motivate and train Adventist Students on campus to do outreach work;
3. The Training School will provide practical training for life;
4. CMV graduates will be sent out on missionary service and trips overseas;
5. After completion will get a certification.

Those who are interested in this program, please contact Sebastian Teh, (828) 622-9633, or e-mail address sebastianteh@earthlink.net. Send personal resume with two reference.

AUGUST SPECIALS



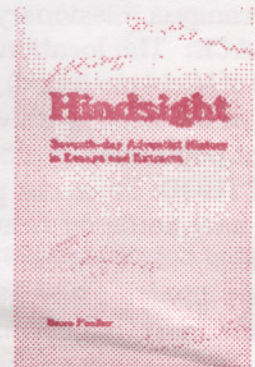
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