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Gerhard F. Hasel

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If this is the first time you have seen a copy of the JOURNAL, we are happy to present you this complimentary copy. We trust you will find it an affirmation of sound Bible teachings, stimulation for your Adventist religious convictions, and deep spiritual blessings that will enhance your mission outreach to a world about to pass away in these dramatic last days.

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You will probably find some of the articles easier to digest than others. Let me beg you to dig your teeth into the most challenging ones!

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The next annual International Convention of ATS is scheduled to meet at Southwestern Adventist College in Keene, Texas, March 7-10, 1991, addressing the area of "Salvation and End-time Prophecies." By invitation from the Southwestern Union Conference, this convention will be merged with the union's quinquennial Union Ministerial Meeting, expected to host 350 pastors from around the union. All ATS members and everyone else who is interested are invited to attend.

Our Society is pleased to serve our church in this capacity. And there are other projects as well that ATS is engaged in. Very recently, the Society had the honor of presenting a CD-ROM computer kit containing all the published writings of Ellen G. White (and costing over $1000.00) to the new Seventh-day Adventist theological seminary in Russia. Thus our ministers in the Soviet Union will now have access to all the Spirit of Prophecy publications during their training period. We hope that under God's blessing people will be impressed to provide funds for additional Ellen G. White CD-ROM computer kits for needy seminaries around the world.

We are also very happy to announce that through God's special blessing over the past six months, donors have been impressed to contribute $38,000 to our Society to assist in the purchase or construction of a Seventh-day Adventist seminary building in or near Prague, Czechoslovakia. The seminary began to function by faith in October, 1990, as an institution without a building. Impressed by this display of courage and by the unique opportunities available just now in Eastern Europe, the ATS Executive Committee pledged to attempt to raise the basic, Western (hard) currency required to get a building program off the ground.

Another major ATS project is a scholarship fund, recently established, to help qualified students from around the world engage in doctoral studies in religion. The needs are immense. Our official church budgets are simply unable to keep up with the expense of educating dedicated persons to serve the seminaries and college religion departments among our rapidly growing world membership. We earnestly encourage donations large and small to this important fund.

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Let us continue to be united with our leaders in earnest prayer and common interests, so the Lord can be glorified and His work can be strengthened.

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