

church leader, recently spent a week in Brazil meeting with Adventist leaders in South America. In the past two years small-group evangelism has proved unexpectedly successful in South America, which ranks as one of the largest and fastest-growing Adventist territories in the world.

"These small groups are their secret," says Kaminsky. "We can learn from their experience because Russia has much in common with South America—the openness of the people and their willingness to meet together and pray together. We both have sociable societies."—*Adventist News Network*.

## International Experts Develop Religious Education Strategy

The International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA) board of experts met in Spain May 17 to 21 to develop a strategy for freedom of religion in education. IRLA's recommendations, which will be considered at a United Nations-sponsored conference in Madrid, Spain, include reaffirmation of the right to receive religious education, the importance of limiting state intervention according to international norms, and the respect for freedom of conscience and religious convictions in state-directed education.—*Adventist News Network*.

## Religion in the News

### Researchers Find Faithful's Internet Interests Rising

The growing confluence of religion and cyberspace is leading Americans to predict that more of them will use the Internet for specific religious experiences in coming years, the Barna Research Group (BRG) reports.

Currently eight percent of adults and 12 percent of teenagers use the Internet for spiritual or religious experiences. Two percent of teens and fewer than 1 percent of adults say they use the Internet instead of a physical church.

But when asked about the likelihood that they will use the Internet for religious experiences in the future, more than two thirds of those surveyed said they were likely to do so on a regular basis within the decade. Those experiences might include reading online devotional material, buying religious products online, and listening to archived religious teaching.

"By the end of the decade we will have in excess of 10 percent of our population who rely upon the Internet for their entire spiritual experience," predicted George Barna, BRG president.—*Religion News Service*.

## N E W S B R E A K

vice president Armando Miranda, April 25-28.

Assisting Miranda was a group of Bible instructors. Local leaders built interest in the meeting by conducting small group ministries.

"I feel touched and grateful to God for allowing me to be an instrument in this cause," Miranda said. "I could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of hundreds of people and in how the local pastors and members worked to reach other people."

At the end of the meetings 441 persons were baptized. Peruvian leaders have set a baptismal goal of 810 individuals this year.

### Former GC Publishing Official Dies



Charles Milton Willis

Charles Milton Willis, a longtime literature evangelist and publishing leader, died May 30, 2001, at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Maryland. He was 87 years old.

Born in Spartanburg, South Carolina, in 1914, Willis became a literature evangelist at a young age. In June 1952 he was ordained to the gospel ministry. He organized churches in Chicago, Illinois, and Queens, New York, and later became a publishing leader in the Northeastern

and Allegheny East conferences.

Willis also held positions at the Review and Herald and Southern publishing associations before he was elected as an associate publishing director of the General Conference in 1975. He served at the General Conference for 10 years before retiring with 45 years of denominational service.

Willis is survived by his wife, Ruth; three sons, Daniel, Joseph, and Stephen; and four stepchildren, Joy Brown, Hetha Dixon, Robert Hannum, and Stanford Hannum.

### Academy Basketball Team Takes Top Honors in Philadelphia

The varsity basketball team (below) from Larchwood Adventist School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, won the

