

W. W. Fordham, Newly Elected President, Southwest Region Conference, Renders Mission Report at Session, January 17, 1950

I WOULD like to preface my report with a portion of Scripture recorded in 1 Samuel 7:10-12:

"As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the Lord thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel. And the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them, until they came under Bethcar. Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."



W. W. Fordham

This is the story of a thrilling victory for the children of Israel wrought by the hand of God over their ancient enemies, the Philistines. The odds were stacked heavily against Israel winning the battle. In fact, their chances of victory were so slim that even the most optimistic held a pessimistic view of the outcome. Recognizing their dilemma, Samuel, the prophet of the Lord, cried unto God for aid. God heard his cries, and came to the rescue of His people. The record states that there was a great clap of thunder which had a terrible effect upon the enemy, so much so that they were "discomfited" and "were smitten before Israel." After the smoke of battle had cleared away "Samuel took a stone, and set it

between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

In preparation of this report I have been reminiscing over the high lights of achievements since the memorable day of December 16, 1946, when the departments of the colored work in the Southwestern Union were cemented together into a unit and designated as the Southwestern Mission of Seventh-day Adventists. This mission began to

function on January 1, 1947. It was with some apprehension that I assumed the leadership of mission president, for I realized not alone the scope of our responsibilities but the great expanse of territory covered by this infant organization, which I would have to nurse and guide in her efforts to span successfully the gap between infancy and maturity.

I would like to take a symbolical stone and set it between December 16, 1946, and January 17, 1950, and call it Ebenezer, for "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

At the same time of the organization of the Southwestern Mission, December 16, 1946, the membership of the colored constituency stood at 1,584. Today we are happy to report a membership of 2,081—a net gain of 497. During this three-year period covered by this report it is worthy of note to point out for sober reflection that the year 1947 was our banner year in evangelism. During that year 325 souls were baptized. With the exception of 1946, the baptisms of 1947 surpassed the number of baptisms of any previous five-year period. Our net gain for that year alone stood at 270. Here are the baptisms and net gains for the ensuing years:

	1947	1948	1949
Baptisms	325	156	192
Net Gain	270	85	92

As you can readily see, our re-

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sults in evangelism declined during the years 1948 and 1949. In an analysis of this trend I have concluded that it was the joy and thrill of having a new organization in 1947 which served as an impetus to marshal all our efforts in one great united program of soul winning under God. If that analysis is true and the past is any indication of the future, the year 1950, which is being widely hailed as the mid-century year, should witness the greatest surge of evangelism ever seen anywhere in the Southwestern Union. Believing as we do that we have come to a momentous hour, the beginning of the second half of the most spectacular century in this world's history, and that it is later than we think, we are urged to exclaim that unless the flame of evangelism is kept burning brightly in the heart of every worker and in the souls of our dear people, our coming together to perfect a new form of organization is in vain.

As I view the towns and cities throughout the Southwest ranging in colored population from eight thousand to fifteen thousand without a single Seventh-day Adventist, I confess that we have nothing of which to boast in the light of the magnitude of the task that yet lies ahead.

New Church Organizations.—During the past three years four new churches have been organized in the following cities: Austin, Nacogdoches, Wichita Falls, and Lubbock, Texas. Companies were organized at Kenner and Covington, Louisiana.

Building Projects.—We feel justified in taking pride over the building program now under way in the Southwestern Mission. It will be of interest when I state that prior to the year 1946 only two colored churches were built during the period 1930-46. I have checked the records rather carefully, but could be in error. If so, I stand ready to be corrected. In other words, for a period of sixteen years the building program among the colored churches was negligible to say the

least. This means that the growth of our work during that period was practically stagnant, a fact which our highly esteemed union conference president has emphasized time and time again. This is not intended as a reflection on the leadership of that period, but is given as a picture of the progress of God's work during these days of atomic power—days challenging each of us to more provocative action in soul winning.

From 1947 to the present the following church projects either were completed or are nearing completion.

New Orleans.—A modern fire-proof brick structure with a seating capacity of eight hundred, valued at approximately eighty thousand dollars, will be ready for dedication in the spring. The building program in New Orleans is directly due to the strong, aggressive program of evangelism conducted by Pastor W. S. Lee. This has resulted in the New Orleans church holding the unique position of the largest colored church in the South, numerically speaking, and the strongest financially.

Baton Rouge.—The church in Baton Rouge is a beautiful stucco cement-block edifice dedicated on Sabbath, November 26, 1949, valued at twenty-five thousand dollars with a seating capacity of three hundred.

Again we see the results of evangelism, for this building program is due directly to a large increase in the membership of the local church. Words of commendation are due Pastor Charles Bradford, one of our young licentiates, for the stalwart leadership he has given the work in that city.

Dallas.—An attractive tabernacle-type building, with ample room for church activities, will soon become a beehive of activity for God in all phases of public evangelism. It is valued at forty thousand dollars and will have a seating capacity of five hundred. During the past few months over seventy souls have united with this church by baptism.

Other Building Projects

Roswell, New Mexico.—A new little stucco church building, completed with a seating capacity of approximately one hundred, is valued at approximately six thousand five hundred dollars.

Nacogdoches, Texas.—A frame building will soon be completed with a seating capacity of 150, and is valued at approximately four thousand five hundred dollars.

Covington, Louisiana.—A neat little building was practically completed by the hands of a layman, Brother Dyles.

Enid, Oklahoma.—We purchased the church building of our sister church with attached schoolroom, and moved to the new location. This change has added dignity to our work in Enid.

Extensive church remodeling programs are under way in Oklahoma City, Shreveport, and Wichita Falls. Work is being done on school buildings in Houston and San Antonio.

Plans are definitely being formulated for new church buildings in Lubbock, Texas; Lake Charles, Louisiana; Alexandria, Louisiana; and Fort Worth, Texas.

The Southwestern Mission is one of the leaders in North America in subscriptions and bulk sales for the *Message Magazine* largely because of the inspiration of Mrs. M. Dunn. We appreciate the excellent job Brother and Sister Dunn have done during the past period, directly contributing to the surge in business in

The North American Informant

Representing the colored work of the Seventh-day Adventist Denomination

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Printed monthly for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, Takoma Park, Washington 12, D.C., U.S.A. Fifty cents a year 5 cents a copy; add 20 cents for yearly subscriptions to countries requiring extra postage.

our publishing department. We have now employed a full-time assistant in our Book and Bible House in the person of Brother Hilliard Pettway, a graduate of Oakwood College, class of '49.

We are happy to report that even though we have had no full-time home missionary secretary, the interest of this department has not been neglected. Several laymen's institutes have been conducted during the past biennial, stimulating a wide interest in soul winning among our churches. Several light bearers' classes have been conducted, and scores of our people are actively engaged in the art of giving Bible studies and conducting cottage meetings. Quite a few have purchased film projectors during the past year. We are now operating a small Bible correspondence school, and have already had good results from this venture.

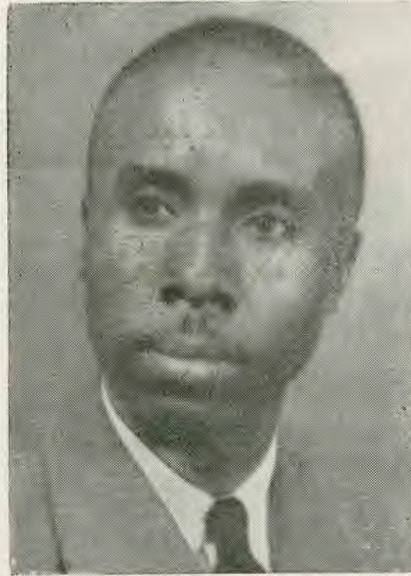
One of the outstanding accomplishments of the home missionary department has been the successful promotion of our Ingathering campaign. The results are: 1947, \$10,938.05; 1948, \$12,164.93; 1949, \$14,666.57; and 1950, \$7,884.11 (raised to date, January 17).

Brother Fred Parker, our intern, has given excellent service in helping with the correspondence school and in promoting the activities of the home missionary department.

Our tithe for 1947 amounted to \$70,773.59; 1948, \$79,871.71; and 1949, \$89,068.75. The tithe for 1949 came within a few dollars of reaching \$90,000. For a constituency of 2,000 people I think that this is outstanding when we remember that quite a few of our members are children and many are not wage earners. Incidentally, this figure represents an income of \$890,687.50 for our people. For eleven months ending November 30, 1949,

stood second in actual amount of tithe gained in the Southwestern Union, fifth in tithe per capita. We are among the few conferences in North America showing a substantial gain in the tithe income over the previous year.

Now, a look at our mission offer-



V. L. Roberts, Secretary-Treasurer,
Southwest Region Conference

ings including the Sabbath school offerings. Here again we see the sacrificial spirit of our people in support of our worldwide mission program. In 1947 our combined mission proceeds amounted to \$30,584.01; in 1948, \$34,151.39; in 1949, \$41,030.56. For the eleven months ending November 30, 1949, we stood first in gifts to missions in relation to the tithe, the exact amount for every dollar of tithe being \$0.47. We were third in gifts through the Sabbath school per week, and stood fifth in missions per week per member in the Southwestern Union.

We are happy to state that, under the enthusiastic leadership of Prof. C. Cunningham, the Sabbath schools of this conference are reaching out to high and lofty heights of attainments for God and humanity. Our educational program is a forward-looking program. We are blessed with teachers who are both consecrated and trained to meet the demands of the hour. Our school plants are beginning to show signs of modernization. The interest of the youth of this conference has weighed heavily upon the heart of Professor Cunningham. We can see tangible results of his leadership in this direction.

We sincerely thank the General Conference brethren for their liberality in supplying funds for assist-

ance in our operation and the erection of our new churches. We thank loyal and faithful believers for their devotion to the cause of God and each worker for the role he has played in making this report possible; above all we give thanks to God for His manifold blessings in our behalf, and with Samuel of old we exclaim, "Hitherto hath God helped us."

CENTRAL STATES MISSION

F. L. Bland, Pres. J. H. Jones, Sec.-Treas.
2528 Benton Blvd.
Kansas City, Missouri

News From Beacon Light Church, Kansas City, Missouri

THERE is one word which is our motto for 1950—"Souls." We have marshaled our forces, and are making an all-out drive in Kansas City.

Let me begin with the church at study, the Sabbath school. Our new superintendent, Mrs. Arthelia Alexander, with her assistants, has completely revolutionized the old machinery by shifting teachers and classes; and the junior division of the Sabbath school, under the leadership of Miss Pauline Jones and Miss Frances Holmes, is organized to bring the story of Jesus' love to the children in a more definite way. A soul-winning Sabbath school for 1950 and every member of the church a member of the Sabbath school are our aims.

The Ingathering fever is running high. Thermometers fail to register because there is too much heat—our aim, every member a Minute Man. We have in hand now more than half our goal.

Sunday night evangelistic services are well attended. The response is wonderful even beyond expectation.

Prayer Meeting.—People are flocking to the lighthouse for oil in their vessels. Ringing testimonies are being given, and victories are being won.

Lay Preachers' Class.—Beacon Light trains preachers to go into

homes and open God's Word to those who need it. Our Bible instructor, Mrs. E. Van Nockay Porter, leads out in this great evangelistic endeavor. The work of the Lord is being accomplished!

The Young People's Missionary Volunteer Society.—Under the leadership of Maurice Valentine, our society is being organized to do greater things for God during this mid-century year.

With the help of our heavenly Father, and under the leadership of our president, Elder F. L. Bland, Beacon Light will do great things for God. Pray for us, fellow comrades.

During a recent Sunday night meeting at the Beacon Light church I gave the report of two of our juniors, Owen Valentine and Bert Reid, who went on foot and worked hard for three hours, returning to the church in time to report their success in Ingathering. These two small lads together reported twelve dollars.

Though being nearly thirty blocks away from the church, they refused to take the streetcar because they would have had to use a part of their Ingathering money to pay their carfare, so they walked.

A woman at the service, not a member of the church, after having been stirred by the sermon and greatly impressed with the nearness of the coming of the Lord and the report that the two juniors gave, very early the following morning came to my study. She brought forty dollars, asking me to see that these two boys be given enough to make their Minute Man goals and the rest be placed in the Ingathering.

Truly we are in the days of marvelous happenings, and God is impressing our people as never before to give not only their means but their lives as living testimonies for Him. The Ingathering program in Beacon Light goes forward.

D. B. REID, *Pastor.*

News Notes

ON a recent Sabbath morning the Beacon Light members enjoyed a

very timely and heart-warming sermon delivered by Pastor Richard C. Brown, of the South Central Conference.

Members of the Missionary Volunteer Societies of Beacon Light, Kansas City, Missouri, church and Rosedale, Kansas, church were guests of the Kansas City Bethel Missionary Volunteer Society at a musical program given in the Bethel church auditorium under the sponsorship of Mrs. Jean Woodfork. Featured on the program were the 1950 Missionary Volunteer Reading Course books. Miss Evelyn Gay, of the Rosedale Society, and Miss Betty Bradford, of Oakwood College, were guest soloists on the program.

Elder F. L. Bland reports that the members of the Saint Joseph, Missouri, church are cooperating in a very fine way with their new pastor, Elder R. L. Woodfork. He states that it was a thrilling experience on the opening date of the 1950 Ingathering drive to pin Minute Man buttons on fifteen members of the Kansas City, Kansas, church. These buttons had been previously selected by the pastor who leads the way thus far with four Minute Man goals.

Elder L. J. Pryor, of the Saint Louis Berean church, reports a recent baptism in which seventeen persons were baptized. We pray God's continued blessings on these new members as they go forth walking in the Master's footsteps.

Myself

I have to live with myself, and so,
I want to be fit for myself to know;
I want to be able as the days go by
Always to look myself in the eye.

I don't want to stand with the setting sun

And hate myself for the things I've done.

I can never hide myself from me;
I see what others may never see.

I know what others may never know;

I never can hide myself, and so—
Whatever happens I want to be

Self-respecting and conscience free.
—Author Unknown.

LAKE REGION

T. M. Fountain, Pres. F. N. Crowe, Sec.-Treas.
619-621 Woodland Park, Chicago, Ill.
Boulevard 3331

Activities of the Lake Region Conference, 1949 Prospects for 1950

"WHAT shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?" These words of the psalmist are certainly applicable to the Lake Region Conference workers as we view the blessings of the Lord during 1949.

We have a fine staff of office workers who have the interest of the work of God at heart. This is being demonstrated by actual accomplishments.

The home missionary department, under the leadership of L. B. Baker, is making outstanding progress. Our mission offerings are showing an increase of more than two thousand dollars compared with last year's records. For the first three quarters of 1949 our per capita of giving was the highest, compared with other colored conferences.

Elder L. H. Davis, Missionary Volunteer and educational secretary, is doing praiseworthy work in the educational department. His first teachers' institute, during the month of October, was one of the best ever held in the conference, as expressed by our union educational secretary. Our publishing secretary, J. F. Lee, just closed our annual colporteurs' institute, and prospects are bright for a good year in this field.

Commendable work is being done through our Bible correspondence school. Many are coming to a knowledge of the truth, and are being baptized as a result of school. In this issue of the INFORMANT you will find the picture of a group who recently took their stand in the Shiloh church, Chicago.

Our Bible instructors, Sist Smith, Bailey, and Kelly, are doing splendid follow-up work for the



Group Who Recently Took Their Stand as a Result of the Bible Correspondence School, Shiloh Church, Chicago, Illinois



Investment Rally Group, Shiloh Church, Chicago, Illinois

school. This we feel is the main reason why the work of the school is so successful.

The Investment rally group (shown on this page) in the Shiloh church, under the leadership of Mrs. Julia Bell, gave more than \$1,500 in Investment in 1949 and over \$1,600 in 1948, making a total of more than \$3,100 for a two-year period.

The spirit of sacrifice is moving on the hearts of the laity in our conference. A few days ago a woman came to the office and left a cashier's check for \$3,500—\$1,000 to be used for the advancement of the work, \$2,000 to be held in trust, and \$500 to be given to one of our churches for improvements.

During 1950 we plan to launch

one of the largest programs in evangelism ever held in the conference. Every tent will be placed in the field this summer.

The conference president, with the assistance of Brother L. B. Baker of the home missionary department, held an evangelistic effort for the Morgan Park district. A good interest was aroused, scores of interested people have enrolled in the Bible course, six have been baptized, and others are expected to follow. We were able to return to the treasurer of the conference more than one hundred dollars over the expenses of the effort.

On Sabbath, January 7, 1950, the home-coming idea was initiated in the Shiloh church for the Sabbath school department, and over 500

were present including the children, the largest number it has been our privilege to see in the Sabbath school. The offering amounted to \$193. Our courage is good. We solicit your prayers that God will continue to bless the work in this field.

T. M. FOUNTAIN, *President.*

NORTHEASTERN

L. H. Bland, Pres. L. O. Irons, Sec.-Treas.
560 W. 150th St., New York, N.Y.
MO. 2-9353

Progression of Ephesus Church, New York City

WITH half of the 1900's gone by, all of us at Ephesus in New York feel a thrill in our veins when we say that this is 1950. We joyously hail the dawn of this new year, but with the joy there is a little sadness.

We were sitting twelve hundred strong in Sabbath services on January 14, 1950. Before us on the rostrum were our local conference president, a General Conference representative, and Elder A. E. Webb with his associates. The reason for the presence of our conference officials was to announce the transfer of Elder Webb from New York to California. It was only fitting that he tell us himself. Elder Webb said that he and his wife had prayed to God for guidance in their answer to the General Conference. The answer was to go.

We have many things, from the basement to the steeple, that will ever remind us of Elder Webb. In the basement there is a recreational area for the young people. In the chapel there are loud-speakers which carry the sermon from the main auditorium. Mothers who must tend infants can do so in the chapel without missing any of the sermon. In the main auditorium we see monuments galore since Elder Webb has been with us. We see a new carpet, which has served to cut down noise; reupholstered pews; painted windows; a public-address system, which carries the voice to

every corner of the auditorium; hearing aids on a number of pews to accommodate those who need them; and a seventeen-thousand-dollar organ, with an echo organ in the back of the auditorium. In the steeple there is an address system that plays chimes and music that can be heard a little more than a quarter of a mile in all directions when turned to full volume. The steeple chimes let hearers within a half-mile square area know that there is a people who worship on Saturday.

We are sorry that Elder Webb must go; however, as he goes we have nothing but commendations to send with him. He has kept himself upright, well demonstrating his sermons. He would always admonish us, "Follow me only as I follow Christ."

Yes! With half of the 1900's gone by, all of us at Ephesus in New York feel a thrill in our veins when we say that this is 1950, for now the coming of Christ is closer than when we first believed.

ROBERT BARREIRO.

Oakwood College

F. L. Peterson, Pres.
Huntsville, Ala.

A Visit to Jamaica

ON the morning of December 15 at seven-thirty o'clock Mrs. Peterson and I boarded a plane of the Pan American Airways for Jamaica, B.W.I. This was done in response to an invitation for me to deliver the commencement address to the graduating class of the West Indian Training College on the night of December 18.

At ten-fifteen our plane was on the landing field in Kingston, the capital of Jamaica, after having landed en route for a twenty-minute stop at Camagüey, Cuba. After clearing the customs we took a taxi to the East Jamaica Conference office, which is in the city of Kingston. Knowing that we had left the chilly blasts of the North American winter behind and were now in Kings-

ton, on the beautiful island of Jamaica with its summer-warm weather, we could not refrain from thanking God for making it possible for us to visit a mission field.

The inspiration and the drive that one receives from such a visit put gratitude instead of complaint into his heart and a determination to be faithful in his labors and in his stewardship.

The East Jamaica Conference president and the secretary-treasurer accompanied us to dinner at the Myrtle Bank Hotel. In the early afternoon B. G. Butherus came for us, and took us to the West Indian Training College at Mandeville. We were guests in his home during the week end of the commencement activities.

At the college I found a fine, energetic group of young people, a senior class of sixteen members, enthusiastic over doing something worth while in the cause of God, and an efficient, consecrated teaching staff.

On Friday night, December 16, Pastor H. S. Walters, educational secretary of the British West Indies Union Mission, delivered the consecration message. Dr. John Shone, of the Andrews Memorial Hospital, was the baccalaureate speaker; and on Sunday night I gave the commencement address. President Butherus presented diplomas to sixteen young people, among whom was the son of Brother Raymond Wood, a graduate and former worker at Oakwood.

The weather at Mandeville is similar to that of northern California in the summer. We spent the days after the commencement exercises in attending the West Jamaica colporteurs' institute and in visiting many points of interest on the island. We explored the city of Kingston, shopped on King Street, and visited Andrews Memorial Hospital, Andrews Memorial Clinic, North Street church, Hope Garden, and Castleton Gardens.

An interesting feature of our visit was that we were in Jamaica at the time of the culmination of their political campaign and also during

the Christmas season. King Street the night before Christmas—well this is something to see rather than to write about!

On Sabbath morning, December 24, I preached at the North Street church; at 3 P.M., at the Kencot church; and at 4:30 P.M., in a tent at Greenwich Town. Saturday night we attended a Christmas program at the Kencot church.

Christmas morning after breakfast we left Kingston with Pastor and Mrs. Walters and Miss Mullins. We had dinner at the home of Pastor and Mrs. E. C. H. Reid at Clarendon. We visited Tower Isle en route to Montego Bay where we stopped at the Chatham Hotel.

Christmas night we attended a Christmas program at the Montego Bay church. Pastor E. W. Parchment is in charge of the work there. On Monday night I preached at the Montego Bay church at which time Pastor Parchment conducted a baptismal service. Montego Bay is noted for its beautiful beaches, its seaside resorts, its white sand, and its warm, beautiful, blue green Caribbean Sea.

From Montego Bay we returned to Mandeville via the beautiful Bamboo Road and over Spur Tree Hill. Thursday, December 29, Pastor B. E. Hurst drove us back to Kingston; and Friday morning at six-thirty I conducted the devotional service for the East Jamaica colporteurs' institute, which was held in the Kencot church. Friday night I spoke to the Missionary Volunteer Society at Andrews Memorial Hospital. Sabbath morning we worshiped with the Region Street church, and in the afternoon at three-thirty with the Rollington Town church.

In all these churches we found warmhearted, devoted brothers and sisters, who were glad to hear God's Word and to meet those of like faith from another land. We were made happy to meet so many Seventh-day Adventists in one city, worshipping in such nice, neat church buildings.

The Lord is blessing the work throughout the island of Jamaica, and both the laity and the confer-

...nce workers are uniting their efforts
in a soul-winning endeavor.

On Saturday night, December 31, a few friends gathered at the home of Pastor and Mrs. K. S. Crofoot to bid us good-by; and on Sunday morning, New Year's Day, a group accompanied us to the airport to see us off at 12:55 P.M. for Havana, Cuba.

We spent a night and a day in Havana, and at nine o'clock Monday night, January 2, we boarded our plane, and in fifty-five minutes we were back in Miami. A few minutes later we were in the home of Elder and Mrs. J. F. Street with thanks in our hearts to God and to all the brethren who had made this trip possible. At 8:00 P.M., January 4, we were back at Oakwood College, having completed the most eventful and informative tour we have ever made.

We can now better understand why missionaries on furlough are anxious to return to their mission posts, and we know now that it is only when we have given our all to missions that we have done our duty.

F. L. PETERSON, *President.*

Minneapolis, Minnesota

I CAME to Minneapolis on January 9, 1946, and took charge of what was then the Beacon Light church. Meetings were held in the Border Methodist church. There were on record twenty-five members, but only eighteen could be accounted for.

In 1945 the tithe amounted to \$1,190.40, and mission offerings amounted to \$699.69. At the close of 1946 tithe amounted to \$1,295.19; and mission offerings, to \$804.68, showing a gain of \$104.79 in tithe and \$104.99 in mission offerings.

Kindly note the comparative report for the following years:

	<i>Tithe</i>	<i>Mission Offerings</i>
1947	\$1,766.12	\$ 965.93
1948	2,461.50	1,089.80
1949	3,250.29	1,245.19

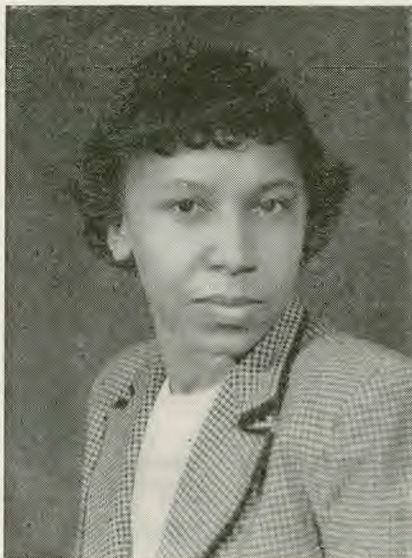
This shows a very good gain in tithe and mission offerings during the three-year period.

Although the gain in membership has not been phenomenal, yet we are grateful for the increase. Seventeen have been baptized; and six added by letter, giving a total of twenty-three. We have sustained a loss of nine by apostasies, death, and letter, leaving the membership at forty-one. The Sabbath school membership totals sixty including children.

In 1946 the Beacon Light church met in rented quarters with four thousand dollars on hand toward a new building. At the close of 1948 sixteen thousand dollars had been raised. The name of the church was changed from Beacon Light to Glendale, and we moved into our own building during that year. Even though the building is not completed, it reveals an investment of twenty-two thousand dollars.

Plans have been laid to raise sixteen thousand, which will pay off our debt and complete the church. The wheels of progress have been moving slowly but, thanks to God, surely. We now have seven people in preparation for baptism. We attribute any success that has come to our work to the help of God and the cooperation of the loyal church members.

A. L. KIRK, *Pastor, Glendale Church.*



Mrs. Daisy E. Knox, Medical Records Librarian, Riverside Sanitarium

Riverside Moves On

MRS. DAISY E. KNOX, medical records librarian at Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital, has recently been accepted as an associate member of the American Association of Medical Record Librarians.

FROM the following interesting comparisons you will observe that the patient list at Riverside for 1949 was nearly twice that of 1948.

	1948	1949
Patient days	5,966	9,156
Average daily census	16.6	25.1
Admissions	454	769
Births	51	77
Laboratory procedures	1,215	3,353
X-ray groups taken	251	374
Physiotherapy	2,868	5,208
Surgical operations	76	120
Outpatients treated	1,423	2,308

Our income, not including donations, for the year 1949 totaled \$109,000; income for 1948 totaled \$62,000. The value of land, buildings, and equipment in the aggregate amounts to \$500,000.

The growth of Riverside is due not only to the present management but to the untiring efforts of past administrators who gave their best to help this institution grow.

The Lord is richly blessing, and we believe that Riverside will continue to make progress with your prayers, so long as the path that God has mapped out is followed.

J. M. COX, *Medical Director.*

A. WARREN, *Business Manager.*

ALL true obedience comes from the heart. . . . And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us. —*The Desire of Ages.*

PACIFIC UNION

Owen A. Troy, Departmental Secretary
 Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day
 Adventists
 P.O. Box 146, Glendale 5, California

An Effort Puts a Church in Gear

TWENTY-FIVE persons were baptized recently in the beautiful elevated pool at Ivy Avenue church of Monrovia to climax a thrilling series of evangelistic meetings conducted in this church by the pastor, Elder Harold A. Lindsey. He was assisted by Elders E. Wilkins, J. W. Allison, and the writer.

The triweekly meetings, called by the local press the Lindsey Lectures, were held in the floodlighted Bible Auditorium from October, 1949, to January, 1950. Community attendance and interest were heartwarming; the cooperation and unified support of the church members were especially praiseworthy. Spaulding Mills directed the music, and Sister Maude Bedney controlled the keyboard for the series.

A premeeting prayer band, led by T. C. Carter, assembled nightly to petition the Lord to give success to the soul-winning endeavors. Elder Wilkins taught a lively Bible class on Wednesday evenings.

Several features provided variety. Occasional motion pictures were shown. As a part of a huge, specially constructed prophetic display, life-size beasts and symbols were used to illustrate some lectures. A "Jury Trial of Mr. X" drew a capacity audience on the night when nearly fifty persons voted in writing to condemn Mr. X for an attempted change of the Sabbath. On December 25 the Los Angeles Academy chorus, directed by Harvey Huggins and featuring solos by Bernice Peterson, presented Handel's *Messiah*.

For the last fourteen weeks a Twentieth Century Bible School was conducted for the community. The auditorium foyer was always a busy corner as new lessons were submitted, filed, and returned from

week to week. Most of the seventeen graduates received their diplomas at a public ceremony on January 29. Garland Millet directed the Bible school, and the commencement address was delivered by Elder J. F. Dent.

Among the new church members baptized on January 1 and January 28 were several families. There were also numerous individuals who have experienced remarkable personal victories through the power of Christ. The whole church was signally benefited. To God be the glory!

Monrovia surely agree that for personal inspiration, for more service invitations, for increased neighbor visitation, and as an incentive for more soul-winning participation an evangelistic campaign is most effectual. Yes, an effort puts a church in gear.

GARLAND MILLET.

News Notes From California

IMPRESSIVE graduation exercises were conducted at the Thirty-first Street church in San Diego for the forty-nine who completed the Twentieth Century Bible Course, which was offered in connection with the evangelistic series which Elder D. T. Black held.

Principal J. F. Dent, of Los Angeles Academy, delivered the commencement address. Elder Black and Brother Earl Canson, associate evangelist and Bible course instructor, presented the diplomas to the graduates who wore caps and gowns. Assisting in the service were Elders O. A. Troy, departmental secretary of the union, A. D. Bohn, home missionary secretary of the Southeastern California Conference, and Stanley Jefferson, Sabbath school secretary of the same conference. Brief talks were given by the class president and the valedictorian. Of the forty-nine who received the certificates thirty-one were non-Adventists. Ten of these were baptized on completing the course. Thus far, nineteen have been baptized from the effort, and others are preparing for the rite.

Thirty persons have made application for membership as a result of the effort held by Elder Byron Spears in the Civic Auditorium at Stockton, California. Sabbath services are now being held in the auditorium, and the attendance nearly as large as on week nights.

Elder Joseph Retires

BECAUSE of poor health Elder V. A. Joseph has retired for the present from the active ministry. We regret to see this retirement from active service, but his physician has advised that this is the only thing for him to do. During his short pastorate at Bakersfield the church more than doubled its membership, and definite progress was made.

Report From Freetown, West Africa

By DONALD B. SIMONS,
 Union Evangelist

AFTER our arrival in Sierra Leone on July 27, 1947, our early weeks were devoted to getting settled and acquainted with our members, itinerating among our mission stations in the protectorate, attending workers' meetings and committee meetings, and engaging in the Ingathering campaign.

On Sunday night, January 25, 1948, our first public lectures were launched in the Wilberforce Memorial Hall after a four-week preparatory distribution of literature. The hall, with an estimated seating capacity of seven hundred, was filled to overflow with a very interested and appreciative audience. The subject featured Daniel 2 under the caption "Next World Ruler—Who Is He?" A huge life-sized cut-out symbol of the great image and appropriate pictures on the screen helped to emphasize the subject effectively.

The hall was used for cinema shows, dances, city council meetings, traffic court, and other public gatherings. As a result, our weekly meetings were confined to three lectures a week. Nevertheless we re-

joiced to see most of the meetings well attended.

At the presentation of the Sabbath truth we had occasion to witness a demonstration of God's intercession in behalf of the proclamation of this vital subject. Thinking we had booked the hall for this particular night, we had advertised our subject and arrived at the hall at almost meeting time to find it in total darkness. Fortunately we took our car, located the custodian, and brought him to open the doors of the hall. Hundreds of people had assembled at the hall to attend the meeting. Other hundreds collected in the street, curiously concerned about the crowd outside the dark hall. Thus, when the doors swung open there was a literal stampede into the hall to hear the message. Many could not obtain entrance. Others who were unable to find seats in the hall shared the platform, standing on either side of the speaker as they drank in this testing truth. As a sequel to this narrative, we discovered later that other people had booked the hall for this same night, but for some unexplained reason had not come to occupy it. Thus God interposed for the propagation of the gospel.

During this first campaign our working force consisted of Pastor J. B. Terry, Charles Karmo, Mrs. D. B. Simons, and T. E. Harding. Pastor Terry, district leader in the colony area, rendered indispensable support in playing the piano, directing the ushers, and leading out in our Bible class conducted in the community center each Thursday in connection with the public lectures. The home Bible course was used for this instruction. Brethren Harding and Karmo and Mrs. Simons gave needed support in the personal visitations, and assisted the speaker at each meeting.

The offerings for forty public meetings during our first lecture series averaged more than one pound (\$4 U.S.) a night. Our highest offering for one night was four pounds, five shillings and sixpence (\$17.40 U.S.); thus, our offerings were more

than sufficient to pay for the hall rental.

The list of names in our hearers' class soon grew to more than five hundred. The enrolled membership of our Bible class numbered more than fifty persons.

After this campaign the Freetown church membership and workers became a Minute Man church for the first time in the church's In-gathering history (perhaps among the first in the West African Union).

Sunday night, April 3, 1949, marked the beginning of a second series of meetings in the same hall. However, we were confined to Sunday nights only. Although these meetings were not attended as well as the former ones, the attendance was encouraging, and consisted largely of people who had followed the previous lecture series. Pastor Terry and the writer persisted in these meetings in spite of limited supplies and workers because of circumstances beyond control.

On May 28 we were made happy at the arrival of Pastor D. Agboka, of Gold Coast, and Evangelist J. Adeoye, of Nigeria, who had come to join in the campaign. We appealed for enrollments in the home Bible course during this series also; in one night we received applications for the enrollment of eighty persons.

Sunday night, July 3, the lectures were transferred to our church, and the responsibility of preaching was divided among the workers. Persistent torrential rainfall forced us to conclude our lectures prematurely.

The city has been undergoing a profuse sowing of the gospel seed. It is not ours to predict the harvest. It is our conviction that we have a mighty open door in West Africa through the program of city evangelism.

We thank our heavenly Father for the measure of success that has attended our work here. It has been gratifying to see one of our converts, a carpenter, doing the work of renovation on the Freetown church, another carrying the responsibility

of the secretarial work in the mission office, another teaching in our headquarters school at Bo, another now pursuing studies at Oakwood College in America, and still others making their contributions in some way to the work of the church.

In our contemplation of plans for future evangelistic campaigns we strongly visualize the pertinent need of an attractive tabernacle in which to conduct our meetings to greater soul-winning advantage. Likewise, we keenly feel the need of at least one more couple from the States who could do Bible work and be responsible for the music.

We thank Pastor William McClements and the West African Union Mission committee for their loyal support of city evangelism in West Africa. We also thank the West Nigerian, the Gold Coast, the Liberian, and the Sierra Leone missions for sending men to assist in the work here.

The members of the Freetown church rendered appreciable help in passing out literature, ushering, and singing. We dare not overlook the self-sacrificing, missionary-minded wives of our workers, particularly Mrs. Agboka and Mrs. Adeoye, who kept the home fires burning during the extended absences of their husbands for the benefit of the Lord's work.

In closing this report we share with you the contents of the following unsolicited letter received from a student of the Bible class conducted in connection with our meetings:

"In forwarding my last two lessons I wish to express my appreciation and thanks for the benefits I have derived from your Bible lectures and lessons, and I can safely say that never before has the Bible been as lucidly explained. I am sure many like myself bear this testimony, and look forward to more of these lessons and lectures which are the prerequisites of a regenerated Freetown. To you and Mrs. Simons, Mr. Terry, and other workers I send very best wishes for good health and abundant success in His vineyard."

"Rise up, O men of God!
The church for you doth wait,
Her strength unequal to her task;
Rise up and make her great."

We are impressed with the wonderful yet solemn privilege and responsibility of being co-workers with Christ. These words present anew a mighty challenge to us as laborers in this field, and constitute a call to sober, godly living and for a ministry fired with greater zeal to win souls for Jesus. To this end we rededicate ourselves and solicit the prayers of our brethren and sisters in the homeland.

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

W. W. Fordham, Pres. V. Roberts, Sec.-Treas.
P. O. Box 6289, Dallas, Texas

New Conference Organized in the Southwest

ON January 17, 1950, more than 250 delegates representing 41 churches and companies of the Southwestern Mission met in a special constituency meeting in Dallas, Texas. This meeting was called to dissolve the Southwestern Mission and organize the colored constituency of Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico into a full-fledged conference with all the duties, privileges, and responsibilities pertaining thereto.

After the opening preliminaries a vote was taken from the delegates present as to whether they preferred to organize a conference or would rather keep the mission organization. A unanimous vote to organize the mission into a conference was obtained. Committees were chosen to nominate officers, to make plans and policies, to formulate a constitution and bylaws, and to choose the name of the new conference. The name finally chosen was the Southwest Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

The entire body of delegates unanimously accepted the report of all the committees. It was interesting to

note that the committee on nominations selected the present officers of the mission as the first officers of the new conference. These officers are as follows: W. W. Fordham, president; V. L. Roberts, secretary-treasurer; O. Dunn, publishing secretary; C. C. Cunningham, educational superintendent; H. Pettway, assistant Book and Bible House manager; W. W. Fordham, home missionary secretary; V. L. Roberts, press secretary; C. C. Cunningham, Sabbath school and Missionary Volunteer secretary.

Our union president, Elder J. W. Turner, could not be with us because of illness. Elder J. C. Kozel, union treasurer, was chairman of the meeting and conducted all the business with speed, efficiency, and Christian grace. He was assisted by G. E. Peters, of the General Conference. Elder W. A. Howe, educational and Missionary Volunteer secretary, and Elder H. M. Burwell, home missionary and Sabbath school secretary, were also present and rendered valuable help.

The wise counsel and guidance of the leaders of the union conference have played a great part in our reaching this important milestone. Finally, the love and devotion of each faithful believer to the cause of God have resulted in the progress that we have made.

We solicit an interest in the prayers of God's people as we continue the work, that the Lord who guided the affairs of the mission may lead the Southwest Region Conference on to greater evangelism and spiritual success.

C. C. CUNNINGHAM, *Educational and Missionary Volunteer Secretary.*

IF you wish to please people, you must begin by understanding them.
—CHARLES READE.

EXPERIENCE is what you get while you are looking for something else.

WHEN you are in the right you can afford to keep your temper; when you are in the wrong you can't afford to lose it.—JOHN GRAHAM.

A Glimpse Into Liberia, the Negro Republic

By MRS. C. D. HENRI

(Continued from last month)

JESSE was sent to the mission school. There year after year were unfolded to him truths of the Divine Book and the love of Jesus. He gradually lost the fear of the devil that had controlled him from birth. Then on one never-to-be-forgotten day Jesse joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Somehow he had obtained a devil's mask that had been used in many ceremonies, and he brought that to us, showing that he had lost all fear of the evil one.

Oh, it was a glorious day when my husband baptized him, as well as several others from the school. Jesse knew when he brought that mask to us that if his act ever became known by the society, he would be kidnaped, to be seen no more.

Twenty-two years ago our work had its beginning in Liberia among the Bassa tribe. Our believers from Germany, who were our first missionaries here, went far up into the hinterland, about twenty-eight miles from where we are now living, and there began the first effort to break down the power of Satan on these people, and to bring them the light of the Advent message.

With the aid of the native Bassa men the bush was quickly cut down and burned, and soon houses of mud for dwellings, a church, a clinic, and a school appeared, to lend their concentrated influence to dispel the darkness that surrounded the people. It was slow, laborious work, but at last there were a few faithful believers. After a few years the work branched out; and there were mission stations established at Liiwa, Konola, Lower Buchana; and finally in the capital city, Monrovia.

When World War II began, our German leaders had to leave, and we were the next missionaries to be sent here.

Before being called to mission

service we were thrilled by different experiences that came to those working in those mission fields where hundreds were won yearly to the truth of the third angel's message. We had hoped this would be our experience, but we found the people of Liberia slow to respond to the gospel message. New methods had to be devised for working among the different types. We must preach among the absolute heathen in the bush, among the semicivilized in the towns and villages, and among the educated and cultured in the cities. Our appeal must be made to the Mohammedans and to the nominal Christians, as well as to the actual worshippers of the devil.

Like Paul, we were "made all things to all men, that" we "might by all means save some." In the bush we use the Picture Roll, sing hymns, and when the people gather, do what we can for them along medical lines. Then we tell them the story of Jesus. Among the semicivilized and civilized we use our stereopticon machine and the Bible charts to attract them to our meetings.

These methods seem ineffectual, but somehow God uses them to win souls. We understand as never before the words of the prophet in Zechariah 4:6: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Now we have five organized churches and many Sabbath school groups in many parts of Liberia. Our membership is nearly five hundred, and there are more than two hundred in the baptismal and hearers' classes.

Our schools established at Konola, Monrovia, and Bassa are now proving their worth. In the past years we experienced little results, but daily the seed was sown in the classroom, and now we are beginning to see the harvest. Many have been baptized and are proving faithful despite bitter persecutions.

Two years ago the president of Liberia made an official visit to Grand Bassa County, where one of our largest schools is located. The most elaborate preparations were made to welcome him. Each school

planned some entertainment, and the army drilled and drilled so that everything that should characterize an official welcome for the chief executive would move with precision and dispatch. Our church and school boys were in the army drilling with all the others, because Liberian law drafts into the army all youth who reach sixteen years of age. Preparations were completed: houses were painted and white-washed; the grass was cut in the streets; beautiful wreaths decorated each corner.

Then the eventful Wednesday dawned! Our boys donned their khaki, which had been washed and starched to perfection, and from early morning stood with all the other soldiers on the beach awaiting the arrival of the president, who was to come by sea. All day Wednesday we waited, but he did not come. Thursday all day we waited—he did not come. Friday saw the same thing and the president still had not come. But by radiogram we learned that he would arrive the next day, Sabbath!

A great test was before these boys—to keep the Sabbath, according to the commandment, or to obey the command of the government. The next day when Sabbath school began all were in church. Oh, how we praised God for the courageous stand these boys had taken. But our rejoicing was short-lived, for a few minutes later a detachment of military police marched up to the mission compound with orders to bring the boys to the beach.

Then the colonel commanded each of them to take his position in his company. Each in turn respectfully said he could not do it and sin against God, because today was God's holy day. Prayer after prayer of thanksgiving ascended to God from our hearts at this unfaltering witness to His truth. The colonel angrily ordered the lads locked in the guardhouse, and there they remained while the guns boomed and the crowds cheered the arrival of His Excellency the President.

At sundown the boys were released by presidential order. My hus-

band requested, and was granted, an audience with the president and his corps of officers to explain why we were imprisoned. Never shall we forget how God worked for us that day. The scriptures seemed literally to spring before him as he endeavored to present the Bible truth and the solemn obligation that is ours to obey the commandments of God implicitly.

Despite violent opposition by the officials of the army and government, the president granted our request, freeing us from the obligation to perform military duty on the Sabbath, and placing all Seventh-day Adventist boys in the medical corps! All this because our boys were courageous enough to go to prison rather than deny their faith!

The future is bright for our work in Liberia. Trusting divine guidance and with our courage strong in the Lord, we renew our consecration to the great unfinished task of bringing the news of a soon-coming Saviour to the two million people of Liberia who have never heard it.—Reprinted from *The Youth's Instructor*.

"THE good thing about beginning at the bottom is that you always have something solid to go back to."

"IF we can't love our enemies, we can at least treat our friends a little kindlier."

· Wedding Bells

MISS MABLE ROLLINS and Mr. Richard Norman were united in holy matrimony during the vesper service Friday, December 23, 1949, at the Ephesus church in San Antonio, Texas. Miss Mima Runnels and Mr. William Jones were the attendants. The pastor of the church, Elder J. H. Williams, officiated at the ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman teach in the Lubbock and San Antonio church schools respectively.

May God richly bless this young couple as they labor together in service for Him.



C. M. Kinney

Our Oldest Living Minister

ELDER C. M. KINNEY, now ninety-five years old, is still in good physical health. He lives in a private room at the Riverside Sanitarium, Nashville, Tennessee. Elder Kinney was born in Richmond, Virginia, in the year 1855. After the Emancipation he worked his way to Reno, Nevada, where attendance at a series of evangelistic services conducted in a tent by J. N. Loughborough and Mrs. White brought him in touch with Adventist beliefs. He was the only Negro member of the Reno Seventh-day Adventist church. The church welcomed him warmly. He became active in their tract society, and was later appointed secretary.

It is interesting to note that in those years reports of the society's work, signed by C. M. Kinney, secretary, appeared in the *Review and Herald*. Because of a great conviction that he was called to preach, the church and a number of friends financed two years of schooling for him at the Healdsburg College in California.

In 1885 he was sent to Kansas to sell religious publications and to develop church interests. Progress was slow and often discouraging. In a letter to the conference he states, "Ignorance, superstition, and poverty are great obstacles. Large accessions

of Negroes cannot be expected, at least not at the present time."

In 1889 he was assigned by the General Conference to work in Louisville, Kentucky, with the proviso that "the colored brethren there are willing to cooperate with you and assist you financially as far as they are able."

The same year he was ordained to the gospel ministry in Nashville, Tennessee. The living charter members of our churches in Louisville and Nashville quite well remember the powerful preaching and fervent prayers of Elder Kinney.

Because of having to devote much time to the care of his wife who became an invalid, he retired from full duties in 1911. He was among the first to receive assistance from the sustentation fund.

Although our brother is now old and feeble, his hope in the triumph of this movement and the glorious appearing of Jesus is still strong. He

pays his tithe regularly, and is a liberal supporter of missions. It is inspiring to hear him pray during worship hour at the sanitarium, thanking God that he has lived to see the work among Negro Seventh-day Adventists develop into conferences with competent colored leaders, and with a membership in the United States of many thousands of communicants.

Truly it is an inspiration to see this aged apostle of God and hear him express his courage in the Lord.

At the age of ninety-five he still maintains a perfect record for attendance both at church services and at Sabbath school.

G. E. P.

"As a general thing, an individual who is neat in his person is neat in his morals."

"TODAY is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday, and all is well."



Group of Sabbath School Children, Salt Lake City, Utah

ALTHOUGH our church is small we have a fine group of children who are doing splendid memory work and lesson study. During the past year they have participated in many programs. Some of them are

studying music and developing their talent for the Lord's work.

Please offer a prayer for our little company of believers in Salt Lake City.

MRS. JOHN M. GORDON.