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F. L. Bland, Newly Elected President, Central States Conference, Renders Mission Report at Session, November 9, 1952

THE time has come for me to report on the progress of the work among the Seventh-day Adventist churches in the Central States territory during the past biennial period. Before bringing to the delegates assembled this report, I wish to call your attention to the scripture that is found in Isaiah 60:1-3: "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising." This text sounds forth with a special glory because it causes one's chest to expand, his heart to beat a little faster; his vision to broaden, and it makes him stand on tiptoe for the things of God.

It is a beautiful scene—the dark, terrible night of sin is about to end. The glorious truths of God's Word are represented as the rising sun with all of its brightness and beauty. Now we find the rays of truth piercing the hearts of many who previously had not known His name, and into the church of God marches a constant line of believers.

Today God says to you and me, "Ye are the light of the world." Brethren, if we will accept this chal-



Elder F. L. Bland

lenge and opportunity, God will use us to prepare for Him a people who will be ready to welcome His return to this world for His jewels.

The territory of the Central States Mission is made up of the six States nestled in the heart of the United States of America: Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado, and Wyoming. The colored population in these six States is 423,565. Our task is to tell these people of the love of God. To accomplish this task, we have seventeen churches

and two companies, with a combined membership of 1,377. We employ twenty workers to care for the varied duties—pastors, church school teachers, Bible instructors, and office personnel.

The past four years have been years of progress. All phases of the work have been promoted, evangelism being our dominating interest and watchword. We rejoice to say that evangelism is the impelling theme throughout the Central Union. Through the combined efforts of our ministers and lay members 661 have joined the church by baptism and on profession of faith. The net gain in membership for the four-year period is 321.

During the past year and a half we have been blessed with the services of Elder and Mrs. J. G. Thomas, who have served about forty fruitful years in the Southland preaching God's Word. Since retiring they have joined forces with us to work for souls, and God has rewarded their efforts abundantly. Just recently we called to this field Elder C. E. Bradford to serve as conference evangelist. He and his team of workers just terminated a successful evangelistic campaign in Kansas City, Missouri.

All our pastors, evangelists, and Bible instructors have given loyal, cooperative service in winning souls,

and many persons sitting in this audience today can testify to the joy that thrills their hearts because of the knowledge they received of the great Advent message through the preached Word.

For this great evangelistic offensive in the past four years we have spent \$26,753.86, and \$2,537.79 was received in offerings. In other words, we baptized 661 persons with a net cost to the conference of \$24,216.07.

We are happy to tell you that new lights are being turned on in dark counties. Recently a new company was organized in Sikeston, Missouri. Our lay workers in Sikeston are doing a fine job, and someday we will have a strong church in that part of our field.

Just recently Brother and Sister Robert L. Ryles moved to Des Moines, Iowa, to do self-supporting missionary work. I am glad to state that the work in Des Moines is now being stimulated with new life, and we feel that it will not be long before additional souls will be added to the Des Moines church.

Churches dedicated during this two-year period are Wellington and Leavenworth, Kansas. The Bethel church in Kansas City, Kansas, was

rebuilt and dedicated. We have recently purchased a fine brick building in Lincoln, Nebraska. This is a very modern church home with various auxiliary rooms, which will add greatly to the progress of the work in Lincoln. Several weeks ago three beautiful lots suitable for a church building were purchased in Omaha, Nebraska. These lots are on a corner of one of the most colorful boulevards in Omaha. Elder G. H. Taylor and our brethren in Omaha are working strenuously toward building an attractive edifice of worship on this land. Plans are well under way for a church home in Independence, Kansas. In all our other churches a large amount of remodeling has taken place. We stand today without any debt on any church property.

In order to make it possible for some of our workers to have a place to live, we have purchased three homes at a total cost of \$20,480. Today these three houses are free from debt, and the workers are paying rent to the conference association. Surely it would be good if we owned parsonage property in every place where we have a church building. It would assure the pastor

of a place to live and bring into the church treasury the money we are now paying to the world in rent.

The conference office building has been renovated. It now lends adequate space for the office work. Its fine appearance inside and outside makes a favorable impression upon all who pass our way. Permanent bins have been built in the basement to accommodate the storage of tents, chairs, and other evangelistic equipment. All this equipment was purchased in the past three years. Prior to this time Central States did not own any such equipment. Today we own two large pavilion tents, one thousand chairs, two public-address systems, and two picture machines. In order for us to hold camp meetings for our people we must add to this equipment just as fast as possible.

The members of the Central States field have loyally supported the work of God both at home and in the mission fields. During this biennial period the tithe turned into the treasury reached the all-time high figure of \$156,985.32. During this same two-year period we have given \$56,212.39 for the support of the work in the mission field. In addition to this we have spent thousands of dollars in the building, remodeling, and buying of church homes.

Four years ago our Book and Bible House was nearly five thousand dollars in debt. Today our Book and Bible House is free from debt. It is doing a small but thriving business and shows a bank credit of around one thousand dollars. Although we are not operating a fully manned publishing department, two of our young people worked during the summer placing our message-filled books in the homes of the people in Kansas City. One earned the equivalent of a full scholarship; the other a part scholarship.

Four years ago the Central States employed a total of thirteen workers with a great amount of difficulty in meeting the payroll. Today we have in our employ twenty workers whose pay is commensurate with the workers in any of our sister confer-



Central States Conference Building



Workers Attending Meetings of the Central States Conference

ences. In the past three years we have placed in the employ of the Central States eight young people who have graduated from our colleges. Today these young people are successfully filling places of responsibility as pastors, church school teachers, and office workers.

The work in the various departments of our field is in a healthy condition. We realize the need of more workers so that these departments can enjoy the leadership that is needed along all lines. We pray that the day will soon come when additional departmental workers can be employed. However, we are happy to report that the brethren who took these extra responsibilities have done a good job. Elder D. B. Reid led out courageously in the educational work. He will make his report, and may I add that I am happy over the progress made in the educational department. Elder R. L. Woodfork led out in the Missionary Volunter department, and surely the Lord has blessed in that work. We are proud of the young people we have in this field; we believe that they are a capable and a responsive group of potential workers for God.

It has fallen my lot to sponsor the home missionary and Sabbath

school departments along with my many other duties. Every pastor and church officer has given splendid cooperation. Elder D. E. Reiner, of the union conference, has come to help, advise, and encourage us at all times. Today let me say, brethren, I thank you.

Since Elder Bradford has come to the field he has been busy with the evangelistic work. However, he will be devoting a large amount of his time now to the home missionary department. Since our last biennial session Elder H. T. Saulter has come to serve as secretary-treasurer and Book and Bible House Manager. He is doing a good job. His coming to us was necessitated by the vacancy made when Brother Jones resigned his duties to enter Union College preparatory to doing a greater work for God. Brother Jones will be finishing Union College this coming June, and I hope it will be possible for the Central States to place him again in the activities of God's work.

To the glory of God I present this inspiring report of progress. God has richly poured out His blessings—spiritual and temporal—upon us, for which we give grateful thanks. It has been my privilege now to serve as your president for four

years. These have been years filled with a large amount of happiness mingled with a portion of sorrow usually found in the work of leadership—years of working, planning, praying, and associating with you and our faithful church members.

I wish to pay special tribute to the conference workers and church members who have labored unitedly to advance the work of God in this part of the vineyard. We have loyal ministers, evangelists, Bible teachers, church school teachers, and office workers. We are blessed also with those who are doing part-time colporteur work.

We are eternally grateful to the Central Union Conference for its financial help, to Elder M. V. Campbell and his staff of workers for their sympathetic and cooperative spirit in helping us solve our numerous problems. We give thanks to the General Conference for the liberal financial help given to us and for the splendid counsel rendered at all times by Elder G. E. Peters.

This is a late hour in the history of the world. Our plans must, therefore, call for an accelerated campaign of progress. Our souls must be stirred as we realize anew that God has called us to labor for Him during these days of earth's crucial hour.

The call of the hour is to evangelize. Soul winning must ever be the center of all our activity. As we labor in the churches, in the schools, in the different departments, and in the office, the one supreme objective of our service must be soul winning.

With 423,565 judgment-bound souls in our territory for whom we must work, we realize anew the need of divine power. In order to accomplish this large task we must keep very close to the side of our Master. The greatest need of us all today is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Elder Campbell and brethren, two years ago you entrusted me with the leadership of this field. Today I have given an account of my stewardship and return to you with increase that which you entrusted to me.

May I say again, I thank you for your loyal support. We thank God for His marvelous blessings as *Central States marches on!*

A New Conference Organized

SUNDAY, November 9, was a high day in the history of the Central States Mission. The time had arrived for the organization of a conference.

Five years ago the Central Union Conference submitted a request that the General Conference authorize the organization of a mission in the union territory composed of a colored membership of 789. This was voted by the General Conference Committee. The new setup included a mission superintendent, a secretary-treasurer, a Book and Bible House manager, and two stenographers. All other departmental activities were served by the superintendent of the mission, the secretary-treasurer, and two pastors of districts. At the close of 1946 the tithe for that year was \$39,608.77, and the mission offerings amounted to \$14,040.22.

God has wonderfully blessed the leadership of Elder Frank L. Bland, who was called to the leadership of the mission about two years after its organization. The membership during his leadership has grown rapidly, now numbering nearly 1,400 believers. We noted with great gratitude to God that the tithe for the biennial period amounted to \$156,985.32.

Present at the conference organization from the union were M. V. Campbell, union president; W. B. Mohr, secretary-treasurer; D. E. Reiner, home missionary and Sabbath school secretary; C. G. Cross, publishing department secretary; G. R. Fatic, educational and Missionary Volunteer secretary. Present from the General Conference was G. E. Peters; from Oakwood College, President F. L. Peterson; from the Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital, C. A. Dent, M.D., medical director; and from the Southwest Region Conference, W. W. Ford-

ham, president. The following officers were unanimously elected: president, F. L. Bland; secretary-treasurer, H. T. Saulter; conference evangelist and home missionary secretary, C. E. Bradford; and educational and Missionary Volunteer secretary, J. H. Jones, Jr. Other departments for the present time are to be carried by the president and secretary-treasurer. Those elected as members of the conference committee were F. L. Bland, H. T. Saulter, L. J. Pryor, D. B. Reid, C. E. Bradford, J. F. Allison, and S. D. Meyers, the new pastor of the Kansas City, Kansas, church, who will shortly assume his duties. Reports were rendered and adopted by the plans, constitution and bylaws, and credentials and license committees. During the entire session God wonderfully blessed with His presence. At its close the entire congregation of delegates and others present joined in singing heartily the doxology.

The union president and all visiting ministers expressed their commendation for the very fine accomplishments of Elder Bland; the secretary-treasurer, Elder Saulter; and each worker who had a part in building up the mission, which had now become a conference. Elder Bland was also complimented on his becoming the first president of the Central States Conference.

The following day carried a very full and well-planned program. A workers' meeting was held, which lasted from 9:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. The time was largely devoted to talks and discussions on greater evangelism. A spirit of earnestness and solemnity pervaded the meeting. It was truly evident that each worker realized the importance of arising to the call of the hour: "More Holy Fire!" "More Souls for Jesus!" The meeting adjourned with unanimous expressions that "it was good to have been here."

G. E. P.

★ No one has ever yet climbed the ladder of success with his hands in his pockets.

PACIFIC UNION

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

Senior Youth at Camp Wawona

Yosemite nature camp is now history! But what unique history! Three California churches thought to reward the faithfulness of its Senior youth with a three-day outing in colorful Wawona. Other church groups hearing of the plan petitioned a share in the outing for their young people. This desire to share spread over the Pacific Union like a prairie fire, and scores of applicants could not be accepted because of the limited facilities of the camp.

More than three hundred Senior young people, camp directors, and counselors motored to Yosemite National Park and Camp Wawona, and the outing was off to a successful start. Three days were packed with never-to-be-forgotten periods of worship, nature studies, campfire storytelling and songs, mission stories, pictures, games, swimming, camp duties, and good eats galore!

The trip to the Mariposa Grove of big trees, the awe-inspiring view from Inspiration Point, and Sabbath services were among the high points of the encampment.

Guests at the camp included C. D. Henri, missionary on furlough from Liberia, West Africa; President and Mrs. H. W. Kibble, of Lake Region Conference; O. A. Troy, departmental secretary of the Pacific Union Conference; and C. E. Moseley, Jr., of the General Conference. The camp committee of sponsors included R. W. Nelson, chairman; W. E. Galbreth, camp superintendent; H. A. Lindsey, business agent; and Mrs. O. A. Troy, camp secretary.

The camp broke with a moving farewell service and a vote to conduct an even larger and longer outing next summer.

C. E. M.

Good News From Fontana, California

ON September 13, at 9:15 A.M., Sabbath morning, a small rip was noticed in our tent. At 9:30 A.M. a crew of well-dressed Sabbath school masculine attendants were on hand at the tent grounds seeking desperately to prevent the further destruction of our fabric canopy. But because of sun rot and the high winds of north Fontana, the two end sections of the large tent were ripped apart, leaving unharmed only the middle section and the side walls.

On the same afternoon at 4:00 P.M. fourteen new believers went down in the watery grave at the San Bernardino K Street church as trophies from our evangelistic effort.

Sunday night, September 14, was scheduled to be our last night under the tent, but due to its destruction, this meeting was transferred to the church, which was entirely too small to accommodate the attendance.

The over-all results from our effort have been seventeen. We are continuing our Sunday night meetings for a while, seeking to bind off the interest.

We greatly appreciate all the blessings God has bestowed upon us throughout our campaign. All our workers and assistants have served in this campaign with untiring efforts and with profound faithfulness. We praise God for the willingness and diligence of His people and for the fruitage He gave.

BERNARD CAYTON, *Pastor,*
North Fontana S.D.A. Church.

LAKE REGION

H. W. Kibble, Pres. F. N. Crowe, Sec.-Treas.
619-621 Woodland Park, Chicago, Ill.
Boulevard 3331

Lake Region Conference Youth Congress

FROM north, south, east, and west they came, to attend the first Lake Region Conference Youth Congress, held at the newly purchased Shiloh church, at the corner of 57th



Elder Lucas Giving the Morning Message

and Michigan, in Chicago, Illinois. The meetings were convened in the Parish Hall to accommodate the tremendous crowd, estimated at twelve hundred.

Elder L. H. Davis, conference MV secretary, and his associates spared no possible efforts to make the true objectives of the congress a reality. Mrs. Bessie Shelton, clerk of the Shiloh church, did an outstanding job of locating the many young people who came from the four States of the Lake Union.

The Oakwood College Male Chorus, directed by Mr. Samuel Jackson, furnished unforgettable music during sessions. From Oakwood came Elder F. L. Peterson, president of the college, and Dr. Eva B. Dykes, of the college teaching staff, who gave to the congress invaluable assistance. With Mr. Gaines Partridge, from Union College in Nebraska, came seventeen students to share in the congress activities. Johnny Johnson, Malcolm Phipps, and Harold Kibble visited from Emmanuel Missionary College.

The theme of the congress was "All for Christ—Christ for All." The meetings opened Friday evening with a consecration service in

the beautiful church auditorium, which was crowded to capacity. The response of the youth in attendance was excellent. Elder Davis was chairman of this meeting, and Elder T. M. Rowe, pastor of the Shiloh church, gave the welcome to all the delegates and friends. The Oakwood Male Chorus sang effectively and was followed by Dr. L. E. C. Joers, Naval captain and author of the book, *God Is My Captain*. He gave the message "The Power of Prayer and the Providence of God."

Elder D. B. Simons, conference Sabbath school secretary, acting as the general superintendent conducted a most interesting Sabbath school session. The lesson for the day was presented in the form of

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Elder Hancock Passes the Torch to Elder Davis

a symposium by four young ministers: Pastors Van Putten, Warren, Kelly, and Elder C. E. Howell. The morning message was given by Elder T. E. Lucas, associate secretary of the General Conference Missionary Volunteer Department. The large congregation was moved by his stirring message urging and challenging all to share their faith. The speaker living up to his pet name is rightly called "Elder Share-Your-Faith Lucas." Music for this service was provided by the Shiloh Young People's Choral Society, under the direction of Robert McKenzie, and the Oakwood College Male Chorus.

Twelve young people of the Lake Region Conference were dedicated by prayer to go out and share their faith during the lunch hour, and were requested to report their experiences at the afternoon Share Your Faith hour. These twelve were interviewed by Elder Lucas in the afternoon session, which brought great inspiration to those present. This impressive service closed with the passing of the torch from Elder Lucas to Elder J. H. Hancock, then to Elder Davis, and to the young

people. The day's activities closed with an evening fellowship social.

Sunday morning between two hundred and three hundred remained for a Share Your Faith workshop, which was conducted by Elder Hancock. Ways and means of witnessing for Christ were presented and discussed, which served to stimulate our MV's to more active missionary work.

Mrs. Loueva Longware, Shiloh Home and School leader, and her assistants deserve high commendation for the tasty meals they prepared.

This special meeting ended at noon Sunday, leaving many hearts fresh with inspiration and zeal to do more than ever for the saving of souls. With this the first Lake Region Youth Congress became history.

To the readers of the
INFORMANT

*Merry Christmas and
a joyous New Year*

PERSONALITIES IN THE NEWS

"A Great Voice Arrives"

ALYNE DUMAS LEE, Chicago soprano, made her debut in New York's Town Hall on the night of October 27, 1952. According to critics, this hard-working soprano has made a sensational arrival.

A point of special interest and value to report to the readers of THE INFORMANT is the fact that Miss Lee has come up through the ranks to achieve artistic greatness. Born of Adventist parents in Knoxville, Tennessee, and trained at Oakwood College, Emmanuel Missionary College, and Detroit University, Miss Lee has given capable and consistent service to the churches. Through the years she was pianist, organist, and chorister for many churches; and she brought the choirs of Hartford Avenue in Detroit, Shiloh in Chicago, and Capitol Avenue in Indianapolis into public prominence while she continued her vocal studies in those cities. Miss Lee took several first honors and prizes singing with symphonic orchestras in Chicago and Detroit, be-



Alyne Dumas Lee

fore making the Town Hall debut.

When this quiet and unassuming woman visited our departmental offices en route to her next concert appointment at Oakwood College, she had just left the scenes of her most recent triumph. She was jubilantly pleased over the achievement, but was entirely unaffected, which trait is so characteristic of true greatness. We may all take just pride in Miss Lee's great accomplishments, but just what the music world thinks of her can best be told in their own language. Their critique follows:

"A GREAT VOICE ARRIVES—
SOPRANO ALYNE D. LEE

By Louis Biancolli

"Yesterday may well go down in local music history as the Sunday that Alyne Dumas Lee, Negro soprano from Knoxville, Tennessee, made her debut at Town Hall.

"It was quite an experience hearing the lady, even for a hardened concert-goer like myself. A great deal of vocal talent comes along every season—but great voices are still few and far between. Miss Lee's is one of the few.

"The thing that struck me most was the joy with which she sang song after song. Each of them seemed to be a testament of life—warm, human, pulsing with generous feeling. The music came as naturally to Miss Lee as the air she breathed.

"Also, she had a way of cradling a song, cuddling it to her, till it became her very flesh and blood. I had the feeling that this was one singer who lived to sing, rather than the other way around.

"I also came away convinced that Miss Lee was singing long before she learned to talk.

"The voice was clear and full and vibrant. It reached up high like a bird and sang down like the hush of night breeze in summer. I suppose there are things still to do with style and technique, but they are nothing beside the wonder of this gift."—New York *World-Telegram and Sun*, Oct. 27, 1952.

"ALYNE LEE MAKES DEBUT, CHICAGO SOPRANO OFFERS CYCLE BY SCHUMANN AT TOWN HALL

By R. P.

"Alyne Dumas Lee, Chicago soprano, made her New York debut last night at Town Hall. She proved to be an intelligent and sympathetic artist who sang with such sincerity and inwardness that nearly all her interpretations had a touching quality.

"Schumann's *Frauenliebe und Leben* was her major undertaking and she sang the beautiful cycle with such intensity of personal feeling that it was almost as if she were revealing her own life story. The long song, *Suesser Freund*, was done with especially fine effect.

"Miss Lee's voice is light and sometimes just a little thin tone, but it is true, clear and pleasant, and she has it under such secure control that she can use it to trace the curve of a melody with a long flowing line of exceptional clarity."—New York *Times*, Oct. 27, 1952.

"ALYNE DUMAS LEE

By F. D. P.

"Alyne Dumas Lee, a soprano from Knoxville who has won major awards in the Chicago area gave her first New York recital last night in Town Hall, singing a Mozart motet, Schumann's *Frauenliebe und Leben* cycle, and excerpts from Kurt Weill's *Street Scene*, songs by Faure, and a group of songs and spirituals by Negro composers. Her voice gave an impression of notable quality and volume throughout its compass, despite occasional unevenness in tonal clarity; with top notes of marked power, she also showed a command of intimacy of mood and fine points of dynamic shading."—New York *Herald Tribune*, Oct. 27, 1952.

"ALYNE LEE A SENSATION

By Miles Kastendieck

"Discovered: A truly gifted singer with an exceptional voice. Her name is Alyne Dumas Lee. She made her

Town Hall debut last night before an enthusiastic audience.

"Her soprano has a wide range, even scale and lovely quality. Her high notes come clear and pure, her low notes free and full. The voice has a natural beauty. When allowed to float freely, it makes exciting listening.

"She sings with a great deal of feeling. In undertaking Schumann's *Frauenliebe und Leben*, she faced an acid test. Though her singing was cautious, she lived the songs impressively. More experience would bring her greater ease, a faster pace, and more variety of expression within each song, but they stamped her as musically aware of their worth.

"She was freest in the Weill. She simply let go and allowed her voice to soar naturally. It was a treat to hear her. The same thing happened, of course, when she came to her final group. She could prove to be a top-flight recitalist."—New York *Journal-American*, Oct. 27, 1952.

C. E. M.



J. Mark Cox, M.D.

Congratulations, Dr. Cox

DR. J. MARK COX, former medical director of Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital, has just finished two and a half years of intensive special sur-

gical training in Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., which completes five years of special training in surgery above the internship. This special training met the requirements of the American Board of Surgery. He is now in the process of taking the examinations of this board, which are given in several sections. He has just opened offices at 1130 Maryland Avenue, NE., Washington, D.C., for the practice of surgery. He has been appointed clinical assistant in surgery on the faculty of the Howard University Medical School and a member of the surgical staff. He is consulting surgeon and one of the active staff surgeons at the Nichols Avenue Hospital, a new Seventh-day Adventist institution just opened in Washington, D.C. He is also on the staff at the Adams Hospital in Washington, and was appointed assistant editor of the *Journal of the National Medical Association*.

Dr. Cox is a product of our schools. He went to Union Academy in Washington, D.C., until 1933, Oakwood from 1933 to 1935, finished Pacific Union College with the A.B. degree in 1938, and the College of Medical Evangelists with the M.D. degree in 1942. He spent two years in advanced clinical training at the Howard University Medical School Hospital. After being discharged from the Army, he went to Riverside as medical director in 1944 and remained there until 1950. He served as a clinical assistant in surgery and as director of the physiotherapy department at Meharry Medical College in Nashville from 1945 to 1950, and spent the year 1949-50 also as a school physician to the A. and I. State University at Nashville.

Dr. Cox is a loyal member of the Ephesus church of Washington. We wish for him a large share of God's blessings in his greater preparation to serve suffering humanity.

G. E. P.

Achievement!

DR. VALERIE O. JUSTISS, member of the Ephesus church, Wash-



Valerie O. Justiss, Ph.D.

ington, D.C., was born in Texas but received most of her education in Ohio. A product of the Toledo, Ohio, grade and high schools, she was graduated from Howard University with a A.B., *magna cum laude*, majoring in psychology and sociology. Returning to Toledo, Miss Justiss became associate editor of the local colored paper, the *Toledo Press*. While attending the University of Toledo and acting as graduate assistant in the social work curriculum, she was appointed director of women's activities at the YMCA. Upon graduation from the university with an M.A., *summa cum laude*, she became supervisor in the Toledo area of the vocational education and guidance survey for the United States Office of Education.

The following fall Miss Justiss became professor and head of the department of English at Lane College, Jackson, Tennessee. There followed work on the Ph.D. at the University of Chicago and a position as senior case worker with the Chicago Welfare Administration. During her student days at the University of Chicago she was research assistant in social work in the School of Social Service Administration. Her Ph.D. degree was awarded in March, 1949, at Ohio State Univer-

sity in research and administration in social work, with special reference to psychiatric problems of children. Her doctorate dissertation, *The Unmarried Father*, is considered one of the most comprehensive works done on the subject. It is scheduled for publication.

Throughout her educational career Dr. Justiss received numerous awards, among which was a four-year tuition scholarship at Howard, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority scholarship awarded the Negro college girl exhibiting the greatest scholastic promise for the year, and election to *Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges*.

Miss Justiss returned to Washington shortly after earning the doctorate to accept a position as research assistant in social work in the public schools. In January, 1951, she became a consultant in business research for a national advertising agency. Currently she is also employed at public opinion sampling for a national poll.

Besides her church activities, which include teaching of a Sabbath school class, church press secretary, and recording secretary of the church school building association, the doctor is a member of many professional and cultural organizations such as: the International Conference of Social Work, the American Association of Social Workers, the National Conference of Social Work, the American Council of Learned Societies, the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences, the National Association of College Women, and an associate member of International Student House.

Dr. Justiss has contributed articles to *Message*, *Youth's Instructor*, *Sabbath School Worker*, *Church Officers' Gazette*, *Family*, *Ohio Sociologist*, *Outdoor Life*, *Columbian Educational Journal*, *Journal of the College Alumni Club*, and THE INFORMANT.

Miss Justiss joined the Ephesus church of Seventh-day Adventists while she was a student of Howard University.

G. E. P.

Commendation

BROTHER LAERTES GILLIS, a deacon and choir member of the First S.D.A. church of Washington, D.C., holds the position as letterer and grainer in one of the factories of the Government. Our brother recently received the following very fine commendation in the factory's journal: "One's first impression of Mr. Gillis is that he is quiet, poised, gentlemanly. Upon engaging him in conversation, another quality becomes obvious, he is intelligent."

Shortly after Brother Gillis had completed painting the large murals that beautify the walls of cafeteria No. 2 in building 191, our brother was publicly commended by the superintendent for his art work in a ceremony that took place in the dining hall of the cafeteria on the first floor. It is gratifying when we find our brethren, in their business relations, carrying out the admonition of the apostles: "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." Rom. 12:11.

Wedding Bells

ON September 14, at the First S.D.A. church, Washington, D.C., at two-thirty o'clock, Lois J. Upshur, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mark N. Upshur, of Washington, and Airman Second Class Paul V. Steward, of Baltimore, Maryland, son of Mrs. Angela Steward and the late William Davis Steward, were united in holy matrimony, and a new Christian home was instituted. A large number of relatives and friends witnessed the ceremony, with Elder G. E. Peters, field secretary of the General Conference, officiating. The bride's attendants were her sister, Carolyn, maid of honor; Rosalee Best, matron of honor; Angela Steward, the groom's sister, Adolphene and Jean Horn, LaVerne Johnson, Jean Brooks, and Shirley Johnson, bridesmaids. The groom's attendants were Nelson Bliss, best man; Major Evans, Larates Gillis, Walter Cooper, Fraizer Davis, Addison and Eugene Pinkney serving as ushers. Lottie Horne and Hugh

Crarey rendered the musical numbers, accompanied by Dickie Mitchell, of New York City. The bride's father gave the bride away. After the ceremony a reception was held at the bride's home. The wedding was directed by Marion Stafford. The bride is residing with her parents, and the groom returned to Elgin Air Force Base in Florida.

☆ The marriage of Marie Weathington and Pvt. Melvin Cox was solemnized at the residence of Elder and Mrs. George E. Peters, Sunday afternoon, October 26, at two-thirty o'clock. Elder Peters, uncle of the bride, officiated. The bride was given in marriage by her father, George Weathington, Sr. Attending the bride as matron of honor was Montrose Matthews. Little four-year-old Hannah Tabscott was flower girl. James Weldon Cox, the groom's brother, was best man. Preceding the ceremony Lottie Horne sang "I Love Thee." She was accompanied by Lucille Herron, who also played the wedding march. The prayer was offered by Elder W. A. Thompson, pastor of the Washington Ephesus church. A reception followed the ceremony. Among the out-of-town guests were Mr. and Mrs. George Weathington, parents of the bride; Mr. and Mrs. Moody Dwight, parents of the groom; Lenor Cox, the groom's sister; and Elmo Weathington, the bride's brother.

Private and Mrs. Cox will make their home in Washington where Mr. Cox has been reassigned to his former Government position.

☆ Other recent weddings involving youthful workers are as follows: Sunday, September 7 at Oakwood College chapel, in a beautiful ceremony, Cathrine Peterson became the bride of Luther R. Palmer. Elder W. S. Lee officiated, and President F. L. Peterson, the bride's father, gave the bride away.

☆ Sunday, September 14, at the Ebenezer S.D.A. church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Walterine Wagner and Pastor Charles Brooks were united in the bonds of holy matrimony, with the bride's father, Elder

J. H. Wagner, officiating. Pastor J. H. Wagner, Jr., the bride's brother, served as best man.

We wish for each of these newlyweds an abundance of God's richest blessings as they share their lives together.

Items in the News

*GRADUATED.—Among the recent graduates from the S.D.A. Theological Seminary are Robert Carter, Milton Nebblett, and Samuel Stovall, of Oakwood College, and Bertran A. Straker, of Emmanuel Missionary College. The INFORMANT congratulates these potential ministers.

C. T. Richards, of the Oakwood College staff, completed his work for a higher degree at the Seminary this November.

COMMENDED. — Chaplain Joseph T. Powell, formerly of the Pine Forge teaching staff, is en route to Korea. Records show that he is an asset to his unit. Congratulations, Chaplain Powell.

WORKERS' MEETINGS.—Workers' meeting for the South Central Conference was conducted at Nashville, Tennessee, October 12-14. President H. R. Murphy and his corps of ministers experienced the greatest gain in accessions to the church in one year since organization of the conference. Before the year closes more than five hundred baptisms will be counted.

NOTEWORTHY.—Intern George Rainey and Teacher Earl Howard and their wives were responsible for sixty-one baptisms, with fifteen more in a baptismal class at Leland, Mississippi. The INFORMANT thinks that God honored these *in-terns* because they *turned in* some long hours of hard work.

The Allegheny Conference convened its workers' meeting at the Pine Forge Institute, November 11-13. Excellent gains were revealed in the 390 baptisms reported for nine months, with more baptisms scheduled before the end of the year. The fine spirit of Christian fellowship of this meeting was con-

tagious, thanks to President J. H. Wagner and his alert committeemen. The Pine Forge choir led by Director Charles Jones highlighted the meeting with thrilling music.

EXEMPLARY.—The home missionary secretary, William R. Robinson, turned evangelist for the summer, and, assisted by interns J. H. Wagner, Jr., and Edward Dorsey, added fifty-six members to the Youngstown, Ohio, church by baptism. *Be informed, gentlemen; your deeds are exemplary.*

FURLOUGH ENDED.—Elder and Mrs. C. D. Henri and daughter, Burdette, are safely back in Liberia, West Africa, after six months of rest and visitation in the homeland. The elder, who succeeds G. N. Banks as president of the Liberian Mission, writes that his sphere of influence is expanded. After attending a called union session in Accra, Gold Coast, he visited Lagos, Ibadan, and our Ile-Ife Mission Hospital in Nigeria.

PERMANENT RETURN.—This is the new status of Elder and Mrs. G. N. Banks and children, former first family of the Liberian Mission. The education of his children and his wife's health influenced the decision to remain in the States. Presently the Banks are enjoying a well-earned rest in southern California. This family spent six years in the Liberian Mission, he as superintendent.

WOMAN'S DAY.—At Newark, New Jersey, October 25, was a successful annual event. The women enjoyed a heyday, taking over the controls of every service from Sabbath school through the after-Sabbath entertainment. Only exception was the noon hour speaker, who incidentally was the department associate secretary.

Area church women were invited, and brought their husbands to fill the church to overflowing. Represented were Jersey City, East Orange, Montclair, New York City, Brooklyn, and Pine Forge. The object was the consecration of the women of the church, and the raising of money for the building fund.

Funds totaled above \$600. Chairwoman was Mrs. D. J. Calfe.

MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY.—Sunday night services of October 26 included a message by the departmental associate secretary and pictures of our mission work in West Africa. Represented were the Newark and Jersey City churches and local visitors. Montclair is both alert and aggressive in service. Elder J. D. Lester is minister.

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA.—Ethnam Temple church school teachers drew guests from area churches and from as far as Springfield, Oberlin, and Cleveland, Ohio, to witness a special program the week end of October 17-19. The object was to raise funds to beautify the classrooms and to help on the drive for the parsonage. Sabbath speaker was the departmental associate secretary, who also showed pictures on West Africa after a musical on Sunday evening. Funds approximated four hundred dollars. The sponsors were Mrs. Ceola Hagens Jones and Mrs. Louise E. Davis.

Good Press Relations

It is very encouraging to see the good progress that is being made in our denomination's church press relations. The Advent Movement is so large, and has such a variety of interests, that there are possibilities now to make impressions on all classes of people. And by use of modern communications we can witness to the masses as well as to individuals.

Our Press Bureau in Washington is constantly receiving copies of stories about the work of Seventh-day Adventists that are appearing in newspapers in all parts of the world. Local press secretaries and conference workers are responsible for these. They are in touch with their newspaper editors and have established good press relations. Some of these stories are in languages we cannot read—from South America, Malaya, Central Africa, where French is spoken, and other faraway places. But the people in

those countries can read them, and they are thus learning of Adventist schools, of health institutions, of welfare and other activities, and often about the faith we hold and teach.

We are happy to know of the good relations that our institutions and churches enjoy with the papers in their communities. Elder F. L. Peterson, head of Oakwood College, for example, stated at the time of the Autumn Council that the *Huntsville Times*, a local newspaper in that city, is very interested in the work of the college and the church and gladly publishes whatever is submitted. This is good press relations. This is true of other of our centers where active press work is being done.

We are glad to report that Dr. Valerie Justiss, here in Washington, took responsibility in giving out important information to the *Washington Afro-American* at the time of the Autumn Council. She regularly reports the news of the Ephesus church, and gets good cooperation.

That week she made it a point to cover, at least in part, the council that was in progress, and played up Elder G. E. Peters' report and other features that would be of interest to editors of the *Afro-American*. Into the story she wove in general items of progress of the Advent Movement. This included gifts by members in tithes and offerings amounting to more than \$52,000,000, the number of workers and types of work extending into 194 countries. Personnel changes among leading workers associated with the department were noted, together with high lights in reports from some foreign lands, and reference to actions taken.

The week after the Autumn Council story there appeared, for the *Afro-American* readers, an interesting account of the local church observance of the one hundredth anniversary of the Sabbath schools, with more in way of historical growth and world extent of the gospel work of Seventh-day Adventists.

The Lord is providentially opening the way for the masses of people to be better informed about the work of the remnant church.

Our churches should be alert by having active press secretaries. Let us give thought to this important phase of our evangelism, and pray that through the mighty agency of the press many people will be reached and influenced to learn more of what Adventists believe and teach.

J. R. FERREN,
General Conference Press
Relations Bureau.

Oakwood College

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

Oakwood Starts \$150,000 Drive

Parade of 15 Floats, Contributions of \$500 Highlights Its Opening

(Reprinted from the *Huntsville Times*, Nov. 18, 1952.)

THE drive for \$150,000 for a gymnasium at Oakwood College was started today with a big parade of floats through the city, and a check for \$500 from Dunnivant's Incorporated as the first contribution.

Three bands and 15 elaborately decorated floats presenting Oakwood College and its activities formed the parade. Songs by three college groups were interspersed with speaking during the program on the square.

Leaders of city and county government and businesses pledged support to the college in its first public drive for funds for that school, founded 54 years ago.

In the last seven years alone, the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has provided more than \$350,000 in funds for buildings now on the campus and, in addition, has funds on hand for the construction of two teachers' cottages and a science hall, Dr. F. L. Peterson, president of the college, told a crowd of approximately 2,000 gathered on the square.

He told the group how the col-

lege was first formed 31 years after the Emancipation Proclamation and how it was built around the idea of a "Christ-centered education." He also added that the college's 470 students and teachers "will not let go until the \$150,000 goal has been realized" for the gymnasium.

Rousing cheers greeted the speeches and pledges of cooperation were voiced in talks by Vance Thornton, councilman representing the city; H. R. Rhett, Jr., president of the Chamber of Commerce; L. B. Hundley, manager of Royal Undertakers, representing the Negro business firms of the city; Roy L. Stone, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Stone got a rousing cheer from the Oakwood group with a statement that "when you get your gymnasium completed, or maybe before, we might extend that pavement out beyond your campus."

F. W. Hale, Oakwood professor, acted as master of ceremonies and accepted P. S. Dunnivant's check for the first contribution.

The magnificence of the occasion also inspired Mr. Milton K. Cummings, one of Huntsville's leading cotton merchants, to give \$500.

A police escort and the Double Cola sound truck led the parade, with F. W. Hale telling the crowds along the streets about the gymnasium campaign.

First in the parade came the A & M college band and cars carrying the speakers. A color guard followed.

Floats showed the types of instruction and activities at the college. A car decorated in white carried nurses in white uniforms and blue capes. An "Oakwood Welcome" float in green and white followed. "Oakwood College Instruction" was the title of a large float on which were placed desks and office machines at which girls worked.

Outstanding among the floats was one labeled "Religion." On the front was an open Bible about eight feet high and fashioned with black back, red edges and white leaves, all made from crepe paper. On the back stood a large golden cross be-

low which stood a boy and a girl student and two in foreign dress.

Typical laboratory scenes in biology and chemistry were on a float labeled "A Better Tomorrow."

The Future Teachers of America float had a school table with small children presided over by a teacher. A car for the Oakwood king and queen came next and was followed by the Huntsville white high school band. Small boys and girls with religion signs were next in line.

A float depicting the evils of drink contained portions of a wrecked car and a large replica of a whisky bottle and another of beer.

Athletic activities were signified with a float having a large winged shoe and golden loving cup. A United Nations float held a bank of nations' flags and figures in costumes of many nations.

An "Oakwood Industries" float held a five-foot high tiered cake and a cook and girls in white uniforms threw doughnuts to the crowds. Another float showed the students learning to lay brick; one showed brooms and machines which make them at the college; and another featured farming activities showing the various products produced there and having a boy and a girl in blue jeans beneath a shock of corn stalks.

The school's dairy was featured with a large milk bottle and an orange juice bottle. The Burrell high school band of Florence followed and cheers rang out from a cheerleaders' float in red, white, and blue where megaphones were used to tell why "We Want a Gym." On the back of the float was a replica of the gym which is planned.

A large iron centered the float for the Oakwood laundry and girls were at work ironing.

The Big Spring train of the 40 & 8 ended the parade.

Presiding over the parade as king and queen were Joseph Verdun, Flint, Michigan; Wilma Jackson, Topeka, Kansas. Attendants were Ann Lindsay, Nashville, Tennessee; Roger Von Phul, New Orleans, Louisiana; Frances Davis, Jersey City, New Jersey; and James McClean, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.



A Christmas Thought

OH, Christmas is coming again, you say,
And you long for the things it is bringing;
But the costliest gift may not gladden the day,
Nor help on the merry bells' ringing.
Some getting is losing, you understand;
Some hoarding is far from saving.
What you hold in your hand may slip from your hand;
There is something better than having—
We are richer for what we give;
And only by giving we live.

Your last year's presents are scattered and gone;
You have almost forgot who gave them.
But the loving thoughts you bestow live on
As long as you choose to have them.
Love, love is your riches, though ever so poor;
No money can buy that treasure—
Yours always, from robber and rust secure;
Your own, without stint or measure.
It is only love that we can give;
It is only by loving we live.

For who is it that smiles through the Christmas morn—
The Light of the wide creation?
A dear little Child in a stable born,
Whose love is the world's salvation.
He was poor on earth, but He gave us all
That can make our life worth the living;
And happy the Christmas Day we call
That is spent, for His sake, in giving;
He shows us the way to live,
Like Him, let us love and give!

—LUCY LARCOM.