



The North American

Informant

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RETIREMENT of G. E. PETERS

BY W. H. BRANSON

It was with genuine disappointment and sorrow that the General Conference Committee found themselves obliged, on March 19, to concur officially in the request of G. E. Peters for retirement. We had known for some time that the physical health of Elder Peters was not the best, and had urged that he spare himself in every possible way, so as to prolong his service in the cause of God. He conscientiously endeavored to follow our advice, and we had hoped that he would be able to continue his active labors indefinitely, or at least until the time of the 1954 General Conference session. Unfortunately this has not been possible. Elder Peters finds that the duties of his office continue to overtax his strength, so that he feels compelled to plan definitely on a change as of June 30.

I know I speak for the entire constituency as well as for the General Conference family when I express our sincere regret for the necessity of retirement on the part of one who has so ably served the denomination in positions of steadily increasing responsibility for forty-five years. We unite in wishing Elder Peters many additional years of pleasant retirement, while he continues to make felt among us the blessing of his positive influence for good.

C. E. Moseley, Jr., succeeds Elder Peters as General Conference field secretary and secretary of the Colored Department. He was warmly welcomed to this responsible position by unanimous action of the recent spring meeting of the General Conference Committee. We bespeak for him the same loyal cooperation that was always given to Elder Peters by our workers and believers throughout the world field.

President's Report, Liberian Mission

PERMIT me to preface this report with the following words of inspiration: "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord Thy God is with thee withersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:8, 9.

With humbleness of heart and recognizing full well my incapacibilities and imperfections, but trusting in the power of this great promise of God, I have undertaken the solemn and sacred responsibility of leading out in the work of God in Liberia. It was just four months ago, while I was still in America, that this burden was placed upon me. With 50 per cent of our foreign staff of four on furlough, you can well understand that I cannot report that tremendous forward strides have been made. But I do praise God that, despite the change in

leadership and foreign workers' furloughs, some progress has been made under the labors of our African workers.

Ingathering

Liberia's economic prosperity is altogether dependent upon the sale of her agricultural products, such as palm oil, piassava, palm kernels, rubber, and cocoa. This past year the foreign market price for these commodities dropped nearly 50 per cent. Despite all this, by diligent and faithful effort, the mission has reached and passed its goal. More than a third of the goal was raised during Brother Chappell's visit to this field. We thank God for his leadership and the inspiration given by his visit. The membership of the Monrovia church deserve commendation because they raised over half of the \$1,177.48 given this year.

The example of one of our African women, Sr. Rachel Crowe, is responsible for much of this. By very hard work in the heat and the rain, plodding up the hills and rocks of Monrovia, she succeeded, by God's grace, in gathering in the amazing sum of \$180. That is more

than sixty-four pounds! What a challenge to all our members in West Africa and to our foreign workers as well. Surely the spirit of sacrifice is seen also among our native believers.

Baptisms

We regret that our baptisms this year were lower than since 1946. This was due, however, to furlough by our foreign workers, who carry the greater responsibility in evangelism. One great need is to have more consecrated, loyal, hard-working, and well-trained evangelists and teachers. Liberia must have consecrated workers. Our baptisms for 1952 were eighty-nine. We look forward with great anticipation for bigger things for God in 1953. We are thankful that our full foreign staff will be in the field this year.

Evangelism

We had carefully laid plans for spearhead evangelism during the months of December and January, 1953, using all our evangelists and teachers; however, this was upset by a sudden change in the date and length of time for the teachers' institute. Attendance at the institute is compulsory for all teachers.

In spite of this, we are at present conducting spearhead evangelistic services at Palmberg, Mount Findley, New Cess, and Kakata.

Let me speak briefly of the latter. Brethren Giddings, Simons, and I are conducting these meetings four nights weekly. The interest is great. There has not been a single meeting at which less than 250 have been in attendance. The Sabbath was presented on December 28 and 29. Our first Sabbath service was held on January 3. There were nine besides our members present. These included an entire family of four, who walked four miles to keep their first Sabbath, and the former mayor of the city, a man of great prestige and influence. We believe by God's grace that he and his family will join remnant people.



Church Building in Monrovia, Liberia, Nearing Completion. Seating Capacity 250

Kakata

Our great problem, which we have been unable to solve, is a place for worship for Kakata. We are meeting presently in the city hall, which is simply an open room containing the post office, court, and police headquarters. Perhaps the place where we now meet is the cause of the poor Sabbath attendance. We wish to lay on your heart our need for a place of worship.

One thousand dollars from the Church Extension Fund plus our own resources and gifts from the new members will result, with God's blessings, in a representative church and school building in Kakata, Liberia's second largest city.

Voice of Prophecy and Bible Hour

Despite several interruptions during the year, we are happy to report that both the Voice of Prophecy and the Bible hour broadcasts are on the air again. The Voice of Prophecy is on Sunday at 8:30 P.M. Liberian time, and the Bible Hour on Thursday at the same time. Our enrollments for the correspondence course have increased from 21 in September to 225, and they continue to come in. The president's social secretary has told us personally of his government's appreciation for both programs and has expressed the desire that we remain permanently on the air.

Konola Training School

We quote from Pastor Giddings' report: "Our hope for trained workers rests on our Konola training school. Besides two dwellings, we have only one school building. The equipment for our only building is quite limited, poor, and inadequate. We have not been able to supply enough beds for the boys, a dining table, school desks, or blackboards. The temporary buildings, built several years ago, have fallen one by one. The chapel, constructed mostly of mud and sticks, where classes have been conducted for many years, is fast coming to its end, being

sisted by the termites and the more than two hundred inches of yearly

rains. The expense involved for the repairs of this building would not justify our doing so. This leaves us with only one building to take care of our training program. Our greatest present need is, therefore, a building and facilities for the training of workers. We are blessed with a beautiful site that lends itself in many ways to further development as a campus for the type of institution we desire."

We are thankful for the arrival of R. W. Simons and his family, whose help will be invaluable to our school. His many skills in vocational as well as in educational lines will mean much to this training center.

We are grateful to our division and union for the present plans and appropriation to provide a dormitory for girls.

Our MV, Sabbath school, school, and church work is also showing improvement. The Sabbath before Easter a new group of Gio natives joined our Sabbath school. This group was led by one of the tribe who had been trained in the Catholic mission. This young man has been coming to the mission for Bible studies, and was convinced that he ought to keep the Sabbath. He did not hesitate to teach his people what he learned, and thus brought sixteen with him to join the church. Ever since that day they have been faithful in their attendance and tithe and offerings. This group also raised twenty-five dollars for Harvest Ingathering. I might add that these people are all in the baptismal class.

Gratitude

We thank a benevolent heavenly Father for the accomplishments of the past year. We look confidently to the future. "There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed," but if God be with us there can be no failure.

We are grateful to the division for the visit of T. J. Bradley, who gave us invaluable service during our first constituency meeting and evangelistic council.

To the union we express great appreciation for the presence of Pas-

tor Cowin and the union president Pastor Gibson, who were also present to give counsel, inspiration, and guidance during the same meeting. And our thanks to all our union, division, and General Conference brethren who through letters showed their marked interest in the work in Liberia. A special word of thanks to Pastor Gibson for responding to our S O S and hurrying over to give us counsel concerning our new administrative duties. Although we long to see greater accomplishments for God in the Liberian Mission, we realize that the degree of success so far attained must be attributed, first, to our heavenly Father, and then, to our foreign and native workers. We especially refer to the faithful and untiring labors of Pastor Giddings and Brother Simons.

We request your continued interest and prayers as we move forward under God in Liberia.

C. D. HENRI, *President,*
Liberian Mission.

God Knows

By J. R. MILLER

He knows the bitter, weary way,
The endless strivings day by day,
The souls that weep, the souls that pray,
He knows.

He knows how hard the fight hath been,
The clouds that come our lives between,
The wounds the world hath never seen,
He knows.

He knows when, worn and faint, we sink;
How deep the pain, how near the brink
Of dark despair we pause and shrink,
He knows.

He knows. Oh, thought so full of bliss!
For though on earth our joys we miss,
We still can bear it, knowing this:
He knows.

The North American Informant

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NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT 1952 STATISTICAL REPORT

Union	Churches and Companies	Members	Baptisms	Tithe	Sabbath School	Ingathering	Total Mission Offerings	Weekly Per Capita	Total Local Church Expense
ATLANTIC UNION									
Northeastern	22	3,611	163	\$303,869.39	\$55,622.92	\$30,559.61	\$ 87,105.88	.48	\$143,538.87
CENTRAL UNION									
Central States	19	1,408	172	95,044.74	18,083.41	12,110.00	30,552.62	.491	33,464.30
COLUMBIA UNION									
Allegheny	55	5,626	416	397,729.49	75,975.41	53,177.34	130,962.42	.446	150,000.00
LAKE UNION									
Lake Region	34	3,565	312	248,453.67	52,143.63	31,911.89	85,780.86	.523	9,000.00
NORTHERN UNION									
Minnesota (Minneapolis)	1	61	6	5,105.92	1,005.58	606.00	1,642.43	.51	*
NORTH PACIFIC UNION									
Oregon (Portland)	1	121	15	5,330.38	1,454.78	503.43	1,993.05	.316	1,049.32
Washington (Seattle)	1	67	14	5,958.09	1,023.57	490.43	1,697.65	.49	*
Total	2	188	29	11,288.47	2,478.35	993.86	3,690.70	.38	1,049.32
PACIFIC UNION									
Arizona	2	107	8	9,409.21	2,370.62	1,057.75	3,484.25	.63	*
Central California	5	567	30	27,660.44	10,676.90	3,932.05	15,009.50	.45	14,271.35
Nevada-Utah	1	29	4	2,401.06	742.40	691.00	1,710.06	1.17	1,221.68
Northern California	4	682	75	56,824.34	10,324.83	4,534.95	15,768.46	.444	16,790.93
Southeastern California	6	566	51	48,101.67	12,127.94	4,301.08	17,414.75	.593	15,277.46
Southern California	7	1,674	123	138,474.40	36,468.02	12,606.96	40,730.99	.468	*
Total	25	3,625	291	282,871.12	72,710.71	27,123.79	94,118.01	.50	47,561.42
SOUTHERN UNION									
South Atlantic	85	6,078	612	253,226.46	59,974.52	61,534.06	123,144.34	.392	736.69
South Central	52	3,160	448	146,086.47	32,625.51	36,131.72	71,462.99	.556	*
Total	137	9,238	1,060	399,312.93	92,600.03	97,665.78	194,607.33	.405	736.69
SOUTHWEST UNION									
Southwest Region	47	2,269	170	125,336.16	34,118.36	34,602.88	58,678.64	.497	22,647.10
GRAND TOTAL									
	342	29,591	2,619	\$1,869,011.89	\$404,738.40	\$288,751.15	\$687,138.89	.45	\$407,997.70

ote: Membership reported to December 31, 1952

* No report

**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT
NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT**

	1949	1950	1951	1952	<i>Increase of 1952 Over 1951</i>
Tithe	\$1,339,221.39	\$1,393,808.21	\$1,693,496.31	\$1,869,011.89	\$175,515.58
Sabbath School	323,530.60	329,150.44	375,586.39	404,738.40	29,152.01
Ingathering	209,979.78	231,646.32	258,773.77	288,751.15	29,977.38
Total Mission Offerings	551,188.68	574,141.99	648,254.36	687,138.89	38,884.53
Total Local Church Expense	353,388.54	381,194.20	392,357.60	407,997.70	15,640.10
Churches and Companies	279	328	338	342	4
Membership	25,041	26,526	28,171	29,591	1,420
Baptisms	2,223	2,334	2,885	2,619	266*
Ordained Ministers	97	97	110	118	8
Licensed Ministers	68	76	70	90	20
Bible Instructors	30	30	28	30	2
Teachers: Church School	138	133	129	144	15
Colporteurs	250	231	223	225	2
Approximate value church buildings and other conference properties:			\$4,399,423.42	\$4,469,849.53	

* Decrease

GEORGE E. PETERS, *Secretary,*
North American Colored Department.

SOUTHWEST REGION

W. W. Fordham, President
 A. R. Carethers, Secretary-Treasurer
 P.O. Box 6289, Dallas, Texas

Conference Workers' Meeting

THE officers and workers of the Southwest Region Conference recently enjoyed an inspirational meeting in New Orleans. The keynote message was given by President F. L. Peterson, of Oakwood College. The workers were joined by a large number of the church members in this opening meeting.

Most of Thursday was devoted to departmental items. Elder Fordham led out in the devotional hour. He ably presented our need of greater faithfulness as workers for God. He showed how impossible it is for us to be more productive unless we let God's Spirit do a real work of cleansing in our hearts. A fervent testimony and prayer season closed the devotional period. The departmental secretaries were assisted by the conference officers and President Peterson as they presented plans and promotional items for 1953. The workers pledged themselves to the support of the various activities of the departments.

Friday was given over to a school of evangelism. President Peterson had the devotional, and he led our minds into planning great things for God. "When you leave a place, leave a well of living water rather than a ditch," was a salient point of his message. Elder W. J. Harris from the General Conference Sabbath School Department showed us how to attract and hold our youth in the Sabbath school. The Sabbath school is a very potent source of evangelism and is a great holding organization for the church. By having better organized Sabbath schools we can have better churches.

We were very appreciative of the excellent help in evangelism given us by Elder Earl Cleveland, union evangelist of the Southern Union. He first of all gave us the necessary requisites in spiritual preparation for

an evangelistic meeting. Then he outlined in detail the plans for a tent effort, giving us the organization and steps in presenting the message. A typical evangelistic sermon by Elder Cleveland brought the Friday meetings to a close.

Sabbath morning at seven-thirty the workers partook of the ordinance of humility and of the Lord's house. Oh, how the Spirit of God came down as we joined in rededication of our lives to God's service.

Elder G. E. Peters, field secretary of the General Conference, brought a thrilling message at the eleven o'clock hour. The entire church joined the workers in the earnest reconsecration prayer at the conclusion of the service.

In the early afternoon an impressive ordination service was held. After the exhortation by President Peterson, Pastor L. B. Baker, of the Lake Charles district, was ordained to the gospel ministry. The Sabbath meetings closed with a workers' symposium. It was a real inspiration to hear of the blessings of God in the various districts and to hear the challenging goals in soul winning that were set by the workers. We pray that God will honor our faith and help us reach our objectives.

During the meeting a report of the amount raised for Ingathering was given. The records show that our conference has raised nearly \$35,000 in this campaign. Although this far exceeds anything accomplished heretofore, we are not satisfied. Our goal is to be a Minute Man conference, and we pledged ourselves at this meeting to reach it before the end of March.

As proof of their determination, the workers joined hands with the New Orleans church in a field day. From the combined efforts, more than seven hundred dollars was realized for the week end.

On Sunday morning, the publishing department had a very successful institute. Besides Pastors Jones, Smith, and Andre, Elder Strahle of the union was present to assist in the institute.

Though we missed Elder Evans, our union president, we were

cheered and benefited by the counsel of Elder Kephart, union treasurer. We are praying that Elder Evans will speedily convalesce from his illness.

The workers left this meeting with a renewed determination to go all out for God during '53.

—C. C. CUNNINGHAM.

NORTHEASTERN

L. H. Bland, Pres. V. L. Roberts, Sec.-Treas.
 560 W. 150th St., New York, N.Y.
 AUdubon 6-0233

Northeastern Conference News

Hartford, Connecticut

Sabbath, February 7, is a day long to be remembered in the minds of the believers of the Hartford, Connecticut, church, and other New England States. This date marked the official "kick-off" of a drive by the church under the leadership of Elder John S. Greene, Jr. Elder C. E. Moseley, Jr., associate secretary of the General Conference Colored Department was the guest speaker. Elder Moseley exhorted them to build a house for the honor and glory of God. It was a rare privilege to have Elder Moseley on this occasion, for this was his first visit to New England since taking up residence in Washington, D.C.

Believers from Boston and Springfield, Massachusetts; Bridgeport and New Haven, Connecticut; along with visitors from New Rochelle, Mount Vernon, and White Plains, New York, contributed to the success of the day's program. At the afternoon service it was announced that more than one thousand dollars had been raised for the building fund. Among the visiting ministers were Elders L. H. Bland, R. T. Wilson, G. Earle, E. A. Lockett, F. H. Fletcher, and the writer.

New Rochelle Pushes for School

The New Rochelle church, ¹⁻¹ by their energetic Home and Sc leader, Mrs. Christine Lee, is work-

ing diligently for a church school building. The pastor, Elder George Earle, reports that every member of the church is behind the program. To indicate the interest of the church in this important program, Elder Earle pointed to a recent church musical program, at which time more than one thousand dollars was raised for the church school fund. It is most gratifying to see the interest this church is taking in making sacrifices that their boys and girls, along with the boys and girls of the community, might receive a Christian education. We solicit your prayers for Elder Earle and Mrs. C. Lee as they work for a church school in New Rochelle, New York.

Nyack, New York

The Nyack church, under the leadership of Elder E. C. Atkinson, is making every effort to see that the youth of the church remain faithful to God. The church recently purchased a small building for approximately ten thousand dollars to be used as a youth center, and there appeared in a local newspaper, the following article:

"The Pathfinder Club of Nyack, for boys and girls 8 to 16 years of age, sponsored through the Nyack Seventh-day Adventist Church, will, starting tomorrow, meet in the recently purchased building at 39 Jackson Avenue, Nyack.

"Organized about a month ago, the club has been meeting on Sundays at the Business Men's Club on Depew Avenue. The aim of the organization is to create in the mind of the youth of today constructive thoughts and high aims so that we may all have a better world to live in tomorrow.

"Staff members of the club are Stella Dixon, Theresa Smith, June Keith, secretary; Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Duncan, instructors in art; and H. B. Robinson, E. Smith, E. Forte, counselors."

Our hats should go off to Mrs. S. Dixon, the youth leader of the church, and the church generally, for this noble effort to save the children and youth, by providing them in this much-needed building.

1953 MV Week of Prayer

We are praying for a fruitful and stimulating Week of Prayer for our young people throughout the conference. Plans are made for the youth of the Metropolitan area of New York City to meet at the Ephesus church, beginning Friday night, March 13, for a great spiritual revival of youth. Elder Hubert Nembhard, former pastor of the North Street church, Jamaica, British West Indies, now a student at the Atlantic Union College, South Lancaster, Massachusetts, will appeal to the young people on Sabbath, March 14. The special Week of Prayer will be closed with week-end services at the City Tabernacle church, conducted by Elders L. A. Skinner of the General Conference and R. A. Nesmith of the Atlantic Union Conference.

J. E. ROACHE, *Press Secretary*.

Brevities

D.C. Matrons Entertain Prominent Detroiters

On Easter Sunday Mrs. Edith P. Dixon and Mrs. Retha D. Howard were dinner co-hostesses to Mrs. Phinichie M. Thomas and her sister, Mrs. Esther J. Lowe, teacher, traveler, and leader in civic affairs in Detroit, Michigan. Mrs. Thomas, who is at present a social worker in the motor city, also resided in Washington, D.C., over a period of twelve years and taught, and later worked in the government. She and Mrs. Lowe were graciously welcomed by their many friends who entertained in their honor on several occasions.

Mrs. Lowe, who traveled extensively in England, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and France during the summer of '51, gave a brief but most interesting account of her tour, which was sponsored by the World Council of Churches and the Department of State, Bureau of Intercultural Affairs. Fifteen prominent and capable Negroes with varying professions and businesses were chosen or invited to go on this tour. The three main purposes of the tour were: (1) to acquaint social agencies of Europe with intelligent American

Negroes, (2) to eradicate certain erroneous and false propaganda, and (3) to help build better Christian and social cooperation. Mrs. Lowe stated that because this tour was sponsored by such prominent organizations, they met top brass in both church and state in all countries visited. To illustrate, D. Jesse Jai McNeil, the efficient director of the tour, met and held conferences with all American ambassadors and churchmen in each country. The four ministers in the group spoke in churches in London, England, and Frankfurt, Germany, as guest speakers. Mrs. Lowe was privileged to speak at the University of Frankfurt in Germany. She also visited Stanborough Park, Seventh-day Adventist headquarters in Watford, England. The group met and had audiences and conferences with such prominent persons as Sir Alexander Korda, president of London Films Production Corporation; General Thomas Handy, commander in chief of armies in Western Europe; Mr. Benjamin J. Butterweissen, wealthy New York industrialist, then assistant high commissioner for policy making in Germany; and Dr. Visser 't Hooft, general secretary of the World Council of Churches with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. They visited the old League of Nations building and heard the United Nations in session, and by special invitation they met and shook hands with Pope Pius XII in Rome. In Paris, France, the group were privileged to meet Monsieur Gaston Monnerville, a French Negro who is vice-president of the French National Assembly, and who at that time was acting as president during the political crisis. He maintained office at the Palace of Luxemburg (see *Ebony*, June 1952), and occupies the office and sits at the same desk used by General Bonaparte, who later became Napoleon I.

Philharmonic Glee Club

THE Dorcas Society of the First Seventh-day Adventist church presented the Philharmonic Glee Club of Westchester, New York, radio and concert artists, Saturday eve-

ning, March 21, 1953, at 8 o'clock.

The audience was well pleased with the selection and rendition of the numbers given, under the direction of Frank Parker, his assistant, Philip H. Taylor, and Helen Potillo, pianist. These accomplished singers not only reflected remarkable training but expert musicianship as well. —First S.D.A. Church news service, Washington, D.C.

**Seventh-day Adventist Artist Wins
Naumburg Award**

The Walter W. Naumburg Musical Foundation of New York announced, Tuesday, April 7, in New York, that Georgia Laster, soprano, was one of the three winners for the twenty-ninth annual competition. The trio were selected from among ninety-nine applicants. Each will receive a Town Hall debut. The other winners were Lee Cass, bass-baritone, and Gilda Muhlauer, violinist.

Miss Laster is the first Californian to be chosen for this coveted award. This marked her sixth triumph in major competitions. Among others have been the Atwater Kent, Marian Anderson, and Lotte Lehman awards.

Miss Laster has received her vocal training from Mme. Nadina de Sanctis, a well-known Los Angeles voice teacher. She is the protégé of Lotte Lehman, with whom she has also studied interpretation.

Georgia Laster came to California from Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1945 to attend the University of Southern California. She, however, received more than a Bachelor of Music degree; in 1951 she, her mother, and other members of her family became Seventh-day Adventists. She is now a member of the Philadelphia church, Long Beach, California.

—ROY E. STONE, *Manager*.

**Testimonial Service
for Elder U. S. Willis**

(Cleveland, Ohio)

A TESTIMONIAL service was held at the Glenville Avenue Seventh-day Adventist church Saturday evening, February 28, at eight o'clock

for Elder U. S. Willis, Sr., upon his retirement. Many representatives from the various churches which he had pastored were present for this occasion.

Elder Willis, who is convalescing, remained seated while his son, Robert, a senior at Emmanuel Missionary College, came forward to receive the telegrams and tokens and messages of esteem. First was the telegram from Elder J. H. Wagner, president of the Allegheny Conference, which is as follows, "Sorry I could not be with you for the program in honor of Elder Willis. In behalf of the conference let me say that he is regarded as one of the outstanding workers of the denomination for all time."

Other telegrams, cards, and letters from Brooklyn, New York; Kansas City, Missouri; Cleveland, Ohio; and Inkster, Michigan, were read. Tokens of money were presented by the following churches: Oberlin, Ohio; St. Louis, Missouri; Akron, Ohio; Youngstown, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Inkster, Michigan; and Cleveland, Ohio. A beautiful cake representing a telegram which had the message "Love and appreciation for the many years of faithful service" was also presented to Elder and Mrs. Willis. A poem composed by Mr. Kermit Dobbins, entitled "Portrait of a Man," was read and dedicated to Elder Willis by Mr. Dobbins. To close the program a young woman from Youngstown then sang an enjoyable solo.

Refreshments were then served to the four hundred guests.

This testimonial occasion was sponsored by Mrs. G. Shipps, president of the Northern Ohio Dorcas Federation.

GILBERT BOYD, *Press Secretary,*
Oberlin Seventh-day Adventist
Church.

Portrait of a Man

By Dermit Techumseh Dobbins

(Dedicated to U. S. Willis)

Unsung his deeds, unheralded his fame,
Yet better loved is no other name;
'Twas a decade ago in a distant land
I came to know Elder Willis so grand.

Humble yet fearless, courageous, brave,
He lived for others, to them his talents
gave;
Never for an instant has he faltered or
quavered,
Nor from integrity of purpose has he
wavered.

His devotion, his ambition, his aim, his
goal,
Was the redemption of man, the salva-
tion of his soul;
For this he fought tirelessly, valiantly,
well;
His legion of admirers this story will
tell.

No longer he fights with the vigor of
youth,
Yet still he believes in the principles of
truth.
Grateful can he be for two gifted sons
Following in his footsteps, their ministry
just begun.

We hope, we pray, we fervently implore
The God who lives on yon celestial
shore,
Will bountifully bless your remaining
days,
For we have loved you, Elder Willis,
and shall always.



Farewell Reception for Elder and Mrs. U. S. Willis With Officers and Representatives of Various Churches