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Reflecting Christ In Our Lives



COVER STORY

THE BETHLEHEM HERALD

by Jonathan Thompson

We have entered what is undoubtedly the most celebrated holiday season in Christendom. In spite of the joy bells, the mirth and excitement in the air, one must ask: "What relevance does the Bethlehem Herald hold for us today?"

Our society has adopted another gospel. It is a secular gospel—the gospel of financial success, material gain, ethnic and national supremacy. The far-reaching effects of this not-so-new "faith" are evident in our national emphasis on getting ahead, being first and acquiring the most.

This doctrine, however, is deceptive in that it ascribes the language and symbolism of Scripture to the values and goals of secular philosophy. It is not merely a highly competitive society which espoused this national-material, success-oriented gospel, but also a sharply polarized, antagonistic society which adheres to it.

Our zeal for its triumph has pitted us against each other racially, politically, economically and religiously. So deeply has it divided us that often the enemy is not merely those outside our borders, but those on the other side of the pew or the workbench, or even those next door.

While the words and symbols we use to affirm our loyalties may be similar, the meaning and intent we attach to them are vastly different. Accordingly, we can read the same pledge, affirm the same creed, then face each other as the bitterest of enemies because in purpose we are worlds apart.

How unfortunate that this gospel has no redeeming strength. Once the lines have been drawn, the hostilities expressed and the wounds inflicted, how impossible it seems to forgive and come together.

Our dilemma is compounded by the fact that a corrupt interpretation of the Gospel has tarnished our concept of the image of man.

The twenty-first century concept of humanity does not recognize man as servant and God as Master. In Bible times, news was often heralded by the blowing of a trumpet. In the case of Bethlehem, it was more than trumpets, it was an angelic choir accompanied by a

divine orchestra that sounded the good news:

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Twenty-first century man is no longer content to listen to the trumpet. He is intent upon blowing his own.

Is it any wonder that the good news for today's society does not come from the Word of God, but rather the *Wall Street Journal* or a lottery ticket? Hope is no longer derived from anticipating the second coming of Christ, but rather from research labs and the halls of academia.

The more man tries to master his problems, the more problems he creates. The more he struggles to free himself from God, the more entangled he becomes. The more he fights to march forward, the deeper he sinks in the mire. If there were ever a time man needs to rethink the Bethlehem Herald, it is now.

The only good news today is the divine communique from Bethlehem: "Christ is come! He brings peace to the earth! He offers good will toward men! Glory to God in the highest!"

Jonathan Thompson is pastor of the Faith SDA Church in Hartford, Connecticut.

PUBLISHER'S PAGE



E. E. Cleveland.

CLEVELAND'S COMMENTARY: THE ISSUE!

The issue of separation of church and state has now come to center stage. Now is the time for Christians to clarify their views on this matter.

As a matter of history, this nation was founded by people whose stated purpose was to build a nation where citi-

zens were free from civil and religious coercion. Persecuted in Europe by a relentless hierarchy, they came to this country on anything that would float and the new nation was born, "conceived in liberty" and dedicated to the proposition that "all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with rights inalienable."

However, the newly free forgot this definition of freedom. There are laws in our history making Sunday observance mandatory, with civil penalties for violation. The situation on this continent began to rival Europe as men were forced to work in "chain gangs" for insisting on freedom of religion or freedom from religion.

It was Roger Williams who set the nation straight, with the help of James Madison and Thomas Jefferson. Thus it appears in our Constitution that "Congress shall make no law concerning religion or the exercise thereof." Nevertheless, the pressure is on to get laws enacted that are essentially religious in nature.

Geraldine Ferraro stated that she is against abortion, but would not want to impose her views by law upon others. In this she is in conflict with Catholic bishops and the Pope, but Geraldine is right. Her personal religious views must not be forced on others.

The Moral Majority, Roman Catholic bishops and the President of the United States are wrong in seeking legislation in religious matters. The Constitution expressly forbids it. America has prospered since adopting the doctrine of separation of church and state.

It is no secret that some prominent political and religious leaders wish things changed. Sunday legislation is now on the books in 41 states. An ambassador has been dispatched to the Vatican by this government. An amendment to the Constitution authorizing prayer in public schools has been proposed and seriously pressed. High public officials have been actively reinterpreting the church-state issue to indicate more participation of the church in state affairs. Though this trend toward church-state union has its history in pagan and papal history, we will not review this now.

What do we mean by the separation of church and state? We do not mean that political leaders must be godless or non-churched persons, nor do we decry morals in government and law. We do

not criticize voluntary prayer in public schools. Let it be understood that Seventh-day Adventists believe in prayer "without ceasing," but what we strongly decry is *the legislating of anything pertaining to religion.*

History reveals that legislating religion inevitably leads to oppression. Pagan Rome shed the blood of millions on religious grounds. Papal Rome did worse over a longer period of time and since religious oppression has already existed in this country, we do not consider it unlikely that such can happen again. You remember, of course, the strict laws of the Puritans which assessed civil penalties to non-churchgoers. There were also public floggings of "Sunday breakers."

In the name of emergencies our civil and religious liberties may even now be suspended. Considering the fragile state of the economy, crises of horrendous proportions may be upon us at any time. Also, in the fervently religious atmosphere that now pervades politics, nothing should surprise you and, if you read "the little red books," nothing will.

Jerry Falwell credits Martin Luther King, Jr., with opening his eyes. When King was conducting his non-violent protests against unjust laws, Falwell admits that he was one of King's most outspoken critics. He now claims that he learned from him.

This, however, must be taken with more than "a grain of salt." The truth is that King was fighting for civil rights, the lifting of the bondage of a people. "Preachers should stay out of politics" clearly does not apply here. The fight for human dignity must be pressed in every arena: political, social and economic.

In this, the church cannot and has not been exempt. Roger Williams, George Fox, William Edmunson, Anthony Benezet are but a few Christians whose consciences would not be compromised on this question. John Wolman, Benjamin Rush and others preceded King in his quest for the total emancipation of blacks. The freedom of man is God's business, and the true Christian church cannot "wash its hands" of its responsibility.

The Moral Majority is something else. They are into the business of electing candidates who will enact essentially religious legislation. They work to defeat candidates who differ. The Constitution presently forbids the enactment of religious legislation. Jerry and his "crowd"

The Editor's Desk



Participants of the play presented by members of the Des Moines church in the North Central Community Services Federation. Back row, left to right: Pastor Dick Judson, personal ministries director of the Iowa-Missouri conference and guest speaker, Pastor Hyatt and Marrietta Williams, federation president.

SUNSET CALENDAR

| | Dec. 28 | Jan. 4 | 11 | 18 |
|----------------------|---------|--------|------|------|
| Boston, Mass. | 4:19 | 4:25 | 4:32 | 4:40 |
| New York City | 4:31 | 4:37 | 4:44 | 4:52 |
| Buffalo, N.Y. | 4:48 | 4:54 | 5:01 | 5:09 |
| Atlanta, Ga. | 5:37 | 5:43 | 5:49 | 5:55 |
| Miami, Fla. | 5:39 | 5:43 | 5:48 | 5:54 |
| Charlotte, N.C. | 5:19 | 5:25 | 5:31 | 5:38 |
| Birmingham, Ala. | 4:47 | 4:52 | 4:58 | 5:05 |
| Jackson, Miss. | 5:04 | 5:09 | 5:15 | 5:21 |
| Memphis, Tenn. | 4:56 | 5:01 | 5:08 | 5:14 |
| Louisville, Ky. | 5:30 | 5:36 | 5:43 | 5:50 |
| Detroit, Mich. | 5:09 | 5:15 | 5:22 | 5:30 |
| Chicago, Ill. | 4:27 | 4:33 | 4:40 | 4:48 |
| South Bend, Indiana | 5:22 | 5:28 | 5:35 | 5:43 |
| Minneapolis, Minn. | 4:39 | 4:45 | 4:53 | 5:01 |
| St. Louis, Mo. | 4:47 | 4:53 | 4:59 | 5:07 |
| Kansas City, Mo. | 5:03 | 5:09 | 5:16 | 5:23 |
| Denver, Co. | 4:43 | 4:49 | 4:55 | 5:03 |
| Little Rock, Ark. | 5:06 | 5:11 | 5:17 | 5:24 |
| Dallas, Texas | 5:29 | 5:34 | 5:40 | 5:47 |
| New Orleans, La. | 5:09 | 5:14 | 5:19 | 5:25 |
| Albuquerque, N.M. | 5:03 | 5:08 | 5:14 | 5:21 |
| Oklahoma City, Okla. | 5:26 | 5:31 | 5:37 | 5:44 |

Add one minute for each 13 miles west; subtract one minute for each 13 miles east.

would amend the Constitution to permit such legislation.

This is the issue. Does America now wish to turn back the clock and seek Old World solutions to New World problems? Dare we forget what Europe passed through during the Middle Ages, when religion-dominated governments wallowed in the mire of blood-letting and oppressions? Have we so soon forgotten the inquisitions and Saint Bartholomew's massacre? Does Jerry Falwell understand that he is opening doors that are not easily closed? That good men died to achieve the separation of church and state, and that this principle has been under assault since its achievement? That those who work for a religion-dominated government in this nation will undermine its integrity more effectively than Communism ever would or could?

We are approaching the moment of decision. The stakes are high. We shall certainly deserve what we get, for *the choice is ours!*

E. E. Cleveland

ALLEGHENY EAST

A CELEBRATION PROMPTS A RENOVATION

The ladies of the Bladensburg Seventh Day Adventist Church of Bladensburg, Maryland, celebrated Women's Day on May 19, 1984, with "Build" as its theme. The women organized, planned and set a financial goal of \$5,000, and exceeded the ultimate goal by raising more than \$5,300.

The Women's Day Celebration consisted of Sabbath School Program, Divine Worship Service, and Adventist Youth Service. The programs were totally conducted by Bladensburg's female members ranging from the Cradle-Roll department to the Adult department.

The Divine Worship Service was highlighted with Sandra Cantau as guest speaker followed by a tasty luncheon exclusively prepared and served by the men of the church.

The Adventist Youth Service focused upon a short musical program climaxed with the announcement of the Copper-Drive Winners, which involved contestants from the Cradle-Roll, Kindergarten, and Primary departments of

the Sabbath School. These departmental contestants raised more than \$1,000 in pennies as a supplement to the financial goal. Consequently, one can truly say that *all* ladies were supportive in the fulfillment of the Bladensburg Women's Day Celebration.

The result of the Women's Day Celebration leads to the launching of a renovation program currently in progress at the Bladensburg S.D.A. Church.

Jean B. Crismon
Communication Secretary

EIGHTEEN BAPTIZED IN MIZPAH EFFORT

On July 29 the Mizpah church of Philadelphia "launched out into the deep" as they began a three-week public meeting, the Revival Bible Crusade. Members faithfully supported the effort by bringing interested visitors.

The church's pastor, William Linthicum, was the speaker-director, assisted by Charles Jenkins and Roberta Davis, conference Bible instructors, as well as lay Bible instructors from the church. Gwendolyn Foster, Allegheny East Conference health/temperance director, supplied the health feature. Appeal songs were sung nightly by the featured soloist, Margaret Thomas.

The diligent effort put forth by the church was richly rewarded with eigh-

teen souls being baptized. Since the church building had originally been purchased in July of 1983, this yield made a fitting anniversary present to the congregation.

William Linthicum
Pastor

PRAYER SERVICE HELD AT MEMBER'S HOME

The regular site for a recent prayer meeting was changed from the Annapolis church to the home of Daisey Snowden and her niece, Margaret. She is known affectionately as "Aunt Daisey."

Recently hospitalized and now confined to her home, Aunt Daisey is at least 95 years old and blessed with a clear mind and determination to make it into God's kingdom. She provides inspiration for those who visit with her as she witnesses of God's goodness to her.

After the singing of "Old Time Religion" and the reading of Psalm 36:25, Pastor George Thornton served Aunt Daisey with communion. Thus this congregation looks after the elderly and infirmed. Other prayer services are planned for the homes of other sick and confined members.

Samoa Green
Communication Secretary



Pastor William Linthicum and Bible instructor Charles Jenkins (in black robes) prepare eighteen for baptism.



Ruby McElroy receives the Outstanding Citizen Award from members of the Park Hill church.



Pastor W. C. Scales, Jr., was the guest speaker for Communication Day at the Park Hill church.

COMMUNICATION DAY AT PARK HILL CHURCH

Communication Day was a time to remember this year. Several churches were invited to the Park Hill church in Denver, Colorado, to participate in a musical program and receive recognition for their service to the community.

Awards were given to Pastor J. Harris of the Pentecostal church of Denver and Rhonda Williams for organizing singing bands that visit the aged at nursing homes. Rhonda is a member of the Park Hill church. Members of the band were encouraged to adopt some of the patients as uncles and aunts so that personal attention can be given to the patients.

Other awards were given to Ruby McElroy as an outstanding citizen in the community, the Massey twins for their contribution in the music field, Daddy Bruce for his yearly food distribution to the poor and needy during Christmas and Thanksgiving, and Thelma Butler and her son for their clothing distribution to the needy.

Guest speaker for the day was Pastor

W. C. Scales, Jr., associate secretary and NAD representative of the ministerial association of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Pastor Scales gave an inspiring sermon.

IT'S ALMOST MIDNIGHT

"It's Almost Midnight" was a beautiful program designed to awaken the members of our churches to the nearness of Christ's return. The Strings of Harmony from St. Louis presented a beautiful program through songs, skits and poems illustrating the coming of the Lord.

The participating societies were from the Kirkwood, Kinloch, Park Avenue, Northside and Berean churches in St. Louis, Missouri. "It's Almost Midnight" is a beautiful reminder of our earthly mission.



Community children participate during Vacation Bible School closing exercises in one of the St. Louis crusades.

THREE CRUSADES IN ST. LOUIS

God's word invaded the metropolitan St. Louis, Missouri, area during the summer of 1984. It was a time of spiritual renewal.

Three successful tent efforts were conducted at three strategic locations in the city by pastors B. T. Rice of the Northside church, O. A. Jackson of the Park Avenue/Kirkwood churches and N. Miller, youth director of the Central States Conference, along with R. F. Warnick. The meetings featured songs, slides, health lectures, screenings, three Vacation Bible Schools, gifts and Bible quizzes. The Real Truth lessons helped prepare many souls for baptism. The city-wide meetings brought many precious souls to the Lord.

DEAR FELLOW MEMBER:

God expressed His love by giving—first His only Son, and then the promise of His continuing presence with us.

There is no place on earth we can go to get away from His love, but we can lose sight of it if we aren't careful. Each one of us must respond to God's love by giving our best—even though it can't measure up to His love. That means being faithful to His church. It means regular attendance and accepting additional responsibilities.

Responding to God's love means being faithful stewards of all God has given. It involves regularly and systematically giving tithes and offerings.

As we come to the end of 1984, would you please examine your giving record thus far this year and bring it up to date? If you have fallen behind on what you believe God would have you give, you will certainly want to catch up. That will enable your church and conference to move forward confidently to end this year in the black.

Let us make the remaining weeks of this year a time to bring giving up to date in the church family.

We need your help!!!

Your brother in Christ,
S. Haywood Cox, President

NEWS NOTES

Pastor E. A. Hyatt and his wife Marva, formerly of the Philadelphia church in Des Moines, Iowa, were transferred to the Grove Heights SDA Church in Wichita, Kansas.

While pastoring the Philadelphia church, Hyatt implemented a number of soul-winning projects that increased the membership. It is certain that his new membership will greatly benefit from his dedication.

James White, Jr., was recently welcomed as pastor of the Linwood SDA Temple in Kansas City, Kansas. Pastor White, his wife Barbara and children Jamelle and James III are now serving the congregation.

Stephen F. Gibson assumed the pastorate of the Bethesda church in Omaha, Nebraska, on September 22. Pastor Gibson and his wife are working towards a number of goals to strengthen the church.

Several persons were baptized as a result of a summer evangelistic crusade held in Springfield, Missouri, conducted by Pastor Jay Winston.



One meeting of the Revelation Seminar at the Capitol City church in Indianapolis, Indiana, is conducted by J. David Parker, pastor. Evelyn Robinson, a Bible worker, assists him.

REVELATION SEMINAR BANQUET

In Luke 14 the parable is told that "A certain man made a great supper and bade many." This could easily have been the scenario in Indianapolis at the Capitol City church when Pastor J. D. Parker closed the Revelation Seminar he had been conducting with a grand banquet.

The fellowship hall was beautifully decorated in fall colors and soon the seminar attendees arrived. Approximately 130 persons were seated awaiting the program of the evening.

Parker hosted the gala event and opened the evening with prayer. Soul-stirring music was provided by Praise, a group of six women.

The pastor grasped this opportunity to introduce a healthful, vegetarian meal to the seminar attendees. The menu consisted of prime steaks with mushroom gravy, fresh green beans, corn, harvard beets, macaroni and cheese, whole wheat rolls and strawberry supreme and walnut torte cake.

After enjoying this delicious meal, recognition awards were presented for attendance and high test scores on the nightly quizzes.

Pastor and Mrs. Charles Joseph were the honored guests of the evening. Joseph, who is the Lake Region Conference president, presented a very interesting and vivid account of their recent trip to Zimbabwe, Africa. Some individuals commented that they felt as if they had actually traveled across the ocean to what is commonly called the "dark continent."

Twenty-seven precious souls have been baptized as a result of the Revelation Seminar.

Charli Cartwright
Communication Secretary



Pictured here is part of the overflow banquet held at the close of the Revelation Seminar in Indianapolis, Indiana.

A GENEROUS GARDENER

Fred Simpson doesn't buy that green-thumb myth.

His thumb is brown from working the soil and his ancestry. He spells development of an immaculate garden of vegetables W-O-R-K and F-A-I-T-H.

If there is more involved than his muscles and brains, Simpson would say it this way: "You set the table and let the Lord do the rest. The main thing in raising anything is be faithful with the Lord," he said.

A visitor to Simpson's patch of ground in the Mayor's Garden Plot on North Tibbs (in Indianapolis, Indiana) would have to be on hands and knees and have mighty sharp eyes to spot a weed.

The food from his six 25-by-25-foot plots won't feed just anybody. "I give it to people who need it and are not lazy. If they don't help themselves, but could, I don't give it to them. If he don't want to work, he ain't gonna make it. That's the way it oughta be."

If they truly need it, Simpson's a soft touch—a generous fellow trying hard, he said, to please God. He's a long-time deacon at the Capitol City Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"It's been a good year so far, but a little dry lately," he said.

If six plots aren't enough, he has another well-filled garden at his home, not far from the Tibbs site.

A hoe and an old hand plow are Simpson's tools after spring tilling. Right now he has a wide variety of vegetables, including red and white potatoes, black-eyed peas, cantaloupe, watermelons, beans, cucumbers, onions, cabbage, corn, okra, peas, lima beans, sweet potatoes and more.

He thinks people don't eat enough raw vegetables. "I don't like them done too much," he said.

He thinks the bitterness common in carrots and celery might be the soil.

"Sandier soil might make them sweeter," he said.

To trim expenses, Simpson uses as many of his own seeds as practical. "People could save money that way; they sure can," he said, adding that he uses his own okra seeds and others.

He mentioned a two-week retirement trip he and his wife, Thelma, made to Hawaii.

"Those people (in Hawaii) have little 5-by-5 plots and raise all the vegetables they need, all year 'round," Simpson said. "There's no frost there, and no land either. They can plant all the time. Food's very expensive; it sure is."

For nearly 40 years, Simpson has had at least one garden each year, including Flanner House plots near Bush Stadium.

"Gardening's not that hard," he said. "It's one of the beautiful things in life. Gettin' up early, puttin' in the seeds and seeing plants come up. We can't see God; it's all faith. But He's there."

Simpson was born on July 4 in Charlotte, N.C., served three years in the Army Air Force and settled in Indianapolis after World War II. He was a group leader and iron pourer at FMC (Link-Belt).

He and Thelma have, in their nearly 45 years together, reared four sons and three daughters. "All the girls went to college," he said. "I think girls ought to have more education than a man. I think a man can find the jobs, but a woman without a job would have to be on welfare."

(Adapted from the *Indianapolis News*)



Shown with the produce of his home garden is Fred Simpson, Sr., of Indianapolis, Indiana.

SENIOR CITIZENS SERVED DINNER

On the last Sabbath in September, the senior citizen committee, chaired by Ruth Gray of the Capitol City church in Indianapolis, Indiana, served dinner to senior citizens.

The dinner, which was prepared by Boyd Hill and served in the fellowship hall, consisted of candied sweet potatoes, macaroni and cheese, green beans, vegetarian meat loaf, corn bread, lemonade and carrot cake.

There seemed to be a tremendous feeling of togetherness. After the dinner many seniors joined in a testimony service, giving thanks and praise to God for the blessings they had received. Many seniors shared with the group that they were well into their eighties and they expressed joy to be present for such an enjoyable occasion.

Charli Cartwright
Communication Secretary

STOP SMOKING PLAN HELD AT BURNS AVENUE CHURCH

Dr. James McGriff, a member of the Burns Avenue church in Detroit, Michigan, recently conducted a Five Day Plan to Stop Smoking. The seminar was held at the church.

On the last evening of the program, McGriff showed a movie sponsored by the American Cancer Society and entitled "The Feminine Mistake." The movie pointed out the dangers of smoking and the increase in the number of female smokers.

Attendees included Zadock Reid, pastor, and Dr. James McGriff, Belinda Childress and children, Shirley McAdory, Juanita Kirtley, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Nevitt, Irene Chambers and Carol McCary.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Thomas recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They were joined by many relatives and friends.

Fifty years ago the Thomases were joined in wedlock at the Hartford church, mother church of the City Temple congregation in Detroit.

One of the highlights for the afternoon was a newspaper clipping reporting the original wedding. This account was read by Lillie Calloway, a guest from California.

A number of members from the original bridal party were present at the anniversary celebration.

The renewal of marriage vows was conducted by Samuel Flagg, steward-



Left to right: Pastor Zadock Reid, Belinda Childress and children Shirley McAdory, Juanita Kirtley, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Nevitt, Irene Chambers and Carol McCary. Back row: Dr. James McGriff.

ship director for the Lake Region Conference and formerly the Thomases' pastor.

Special music for the occasion was performed by Esther Lowe, sister of Mrs. Thomas.

The couple's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were present. The celebration was planned by the Thomases' daughters, Nellie Monroe and Roberta Brezzell.

The couple has served Adventist churches in Washington, D.C., and the Detroit area. They are now members of the City Temple church in Detroit.



Participants in the Revelation Seminar during one of the classes.



Receiving trophies for high scores on the nightly quiz are, left to right, James Franklin, Mildred Jeter (now baptized and a literature evangelist), Joan Pumphrey and Grace Harris.



Dr. C. E. Bradford, vice-president of the North American Division, speaks during the New Rochelle church mortgage burning.

NEW ROCHELLE CELEBRATES MORTGAGE BURNING

On April 10-14 the New Rochelle SDA Church in New Rochelle, New York, held its mortgage burning celebration. Many months prior to the celebration, members were organized into "the twelve tribes of Israel" to raise the funds necessary to pay off the mortgage. Under the direction of Sydney Samuel, the tribes reached their goals and raised \$44,000.

Pastor J. Milton Thomas had the foresight to begin plans for the mortgage burning. Louis Bland was named mortgage liquidation chairman. Approximately \$9,000 was raised before Thomas's departure to a new congregation.

He was followed by Pastor Leacroft Green, who diligently worked with Sydney Smith and the leaders of the twelve tribes—Roy Hayden, Franklin Cromartie, Lillian Lawrence, Rosella Saunder, Genevieve Young, Gwendolyn Bland, Lillie Arterberry, Veronica Martin, Otis Searcy, Sr., and Dr. Wesley Campbell.

A number of ministers from the community, as well as within the conference, participated in the celebration. Also present were many former pastors and members.



Three former pastors of the New Rochelle church—Raymond Saunder, Leacroft Green and J. Milton Thomas—singing during the mortgage burning celebration.

SHILOH CHURCH HONORS GRADUATES

On June 9 the education department of the Shiloh SDA Church in Springfield, Massachusetts, under the direction of Michele Miller-Groomes, honored those members who graduated from various schools and colleges.

The speaker for the occasion was Sandra Herndon, superintendent of schools for the Northeastern Conference. The graduates were: Sandra Brown, Juanita Johnson, associate degrees; William Eberhart, Butch Daniels, Paul Harris, Ricky Talbert, Derrick Hatten, Lisa Britt, Tracy Davis, high school graduates; Dorothy Vaughan, practical nursing; Ann Alder Henry, master's degree in education.

The graduates received gifts from David S. Glover, pastor of the church. A luncheon was served in honor of the graduates.

Myrtle Miller
Communication Secretary



The Shiloh church recently honored members who graduated from various educational institutions.



Members of the Sabbath school children's division stand with their teachers. The children took part in the 13th Sabbath program.

CHILDREN PRESENT SABBATH SCHOOL

The children's division of the Shiloh SDA Church in Springfield, Massachusetts, under the leadership of Ann Henry and Donna Gunn, assistant, presented the third quarter thirteenth Sabbath program on September 29. The children recited memory verses and poems and sang songs. Keyan Henty, who is six years old, presented a piano selection.

Myrtle Miller
Communication Secretary

DEACON AND DEACONESS DAY AT SHILOH

The Shiloh SDA Church in Springfield, Massachusetts, was filled to capacity on September 8 as visitors and friends came to hear Dr. E. E. Cleveland speak for Deacon and Deaconess Day.

Pastor Cleveland was also the speaker for the Friday night and Sabbath evening services.



Shiloh's deacons and deaconesses and visiting deacons and deaconesses stand in front of the church during their special day.

DECATUR HOLDS COMMUNITY GUEST DAY

Dr. C. D. Joseph, president of the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, was the guest speaker for Community Guest Day on Sabbath, September 22, at the Decatur SDA Church in Decatur, Georgia. Dr. Joseph's subject was "Behold I." According to E. W. Moore, pastor, the honorees were well fed, both spiritually and physically.

One of the eight honorees and the sheriff-elect of Fulton County, Richard Langford (who is also a preacher with a church), demonstrated his musical talent by accompanying himself as he sang the solo, "Ordinary People."

FRANCO-HAITIAN OFFICIALS VISIT CONFERENCE OFFICE

On Wednesday, September 12, Pastor Napoleon Grunder, president of the Franco-Haitian Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, stopped by the South Atlantic Conference office to pay a visit to President R. B. Hairston. He was accompanied by his wife, Hueguette, and Pastor Clarence Thomas, III, treasurer of the Haitian Conference.

Thomas had been a pastor in the South Atlantic Conference before accepting the call to mission service. He labored in Brazil, South America, before going to Haiti.

A native of Haiti, Grunder is the first indigenous worker to be elected to this high post of the church in that union. The Franco-Haitian Union Conference has a membership of 130,000, of which 112,000 live on the island of Haiti.

Franco-Haitian Union College is a thriving institution with more than 2,500 students.

IN TRANSITION

Joseph J. Rodriguez will be a candidate for graduation from Oakwood College in March of 1985. Rodriguez has distinguished himself as a talented intern evangelist by his performance in the seven campaigns he has conducted, including one in Liberia, West Africa, in 1983, when he baptized 600 in a six-week period. In New Orleans, he baptized 129 and has a total of more than 1,000 baptisms to his credit. His wife, Eleanor, is also a student at Oakwood.



Dr. C. D. Joseph, president of the Lake Region Conference, was guest speaker for Community Guest Day at the United Decatur church.



Pictured here are, left to right: President Napoleon Grunder, Hueguette Grunder, Pastor Clarence Thomas and President R. B. Hairston of the South Atlantic Conference.



Joseph Rodriguez and his wife Eleanor will assume duties as intern evangelist for the South Atlantic Conference.



Dr. Benjamin Reaves speaks at the music federation.

MUSIC FEDERATION HELD IN NASHVILLE

The first music federation of Tennessee was held on September 22 in Nashville at the Temple Baptist Church under the direction of Shelton Kilby, music coordinator for the South Central Conference. Church musicians from across Tennessee were in attendance.

What is a music federation? It is an organization of lay persons committed to fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of music and the role it plays in worship.

Kilby pointed out that "music is not only the expression of inner feelings, but is also a tool to mold the feelings of others. Therefore, we should be careful and constructive as we plan for the music of worship."

The federation's theme was "Sing A New Song." The Sabbath program featured three musical selections. A mission story presented by Pastor Kilby told of the uplifting effects of music that he witnessed on a recent trip to South Africa. The Sabbath school lesson traced musical trends in the Bible.

During the worship service the Memphis Mass Choir, under the direction of Claude Jones and accompanied on the piano by his sister, Gail Murphy (federation president), presented a musical selection. A second selection was rendered by Carl Gable from Memphis, Tennessee. At twelve years of age he is already a gifted singer and guitarist.

The guest speaker was Dr. Benjamin Reaves, director of religion at Oakwood College. His sermon was entitled "A New Song."

In the afternoon the Oakwood College Choir, under the direction of Eurydice Osterman, presented a wide array of sacred music—hymns, anthems and spirituals.

The vesper thought was presented by Xavier Butler, pastor of the Riverside SDA Church in Nashville, Tennessee, followed by a music achievement awards concert.

SOUTH CENTRAL HOLDS WORKER'S RETREAT

At the Joe Wheeler State Park in Alabama, where the winding three-tier lodge allows every room a sliding door and private porch overlooking the placid waters of the Wheeler lake, which was formed by a dam in the Tennessee River, the workers of the South Central Conference gathered the last weekend of September for a unique worker's meeting.

The meeting was unique in three ways. The first president, Herman R. Murphy, was a guest, workers studied family relations under Pastor Xavier Butler, and the South Central Olympics were held under the direction of Pastor Joseph McCoy.

The workers were shown how to let their money work for them as it worked for the church in the Southern Union Revolving Fund. This was conducted by Pastor Glen Smith, director of trust services for the Southern Union.

The workers were invited to bring their families to the camps for fellow-

ship, relaxation and inspiration. There was a break from noon until the meeting after supper each day.

The old-time evangelistic preaching by former president Murphy, with the pictures he showed of past activities in the conference and stories he told of experiences he had during the organization and beginning of the conference opened views of new interest. He was president when C. E. Dudley was hired in the South Central Conference. Also present was the pastor Dudley was assigned to work under to get some experience, D. B. Reid.

E. C. Ward carried the workers through the detailed procedure of organizing and promoting every phase of church operations.

On September 30 the workers gathered for a half-day and left the peaceful lake to return to their places of labor with two immediate goals in mind: finish the gathering and complete the election of officers for 1985 in every church. There was the prayer that baptisms would pass the 1,000 mark by the end of the year.



Pastor Xavier Butler lectures on family relations during the worker's retreat.



Pastor H. R. Murphy, first president of the South Central Conference, and his wife Louise were special guests at the conference's worker's retreat.



Dr. C. E. Dudley, president of the South Central Conference for 22 years, stands with his wife Etta.



Pastor Jessie Wilson and his sister, Tara Seay, sing during the worker's retreat.



Pastor Claude Matthews sings the appeal for Pastor Earl Moore at the Community Service Federation in Thomasville, Georgia.

FIRST CHURCH HOSTS COMMUNITY SERVICE FEDERATION

The North Florida and South Georgia Community Service leaders of the Southeastern Conference held their first Federation Day on July 21 at the First SDA Church of Thomasville, Georgia, pastored by Claude Matthews.

Participants in the program included Pastor I. L. Harrell, community service director of the Southeastern Conference, Rosetta Doughtrey, president of the Federation, members of the Thomasville City Commission and Elijah Hill and Earl Williams, who presented the key to the city to Pastor Harrell.

Music was rendered by the Fitzgerald Trinity Temple Choir, followed by James Killens, vice president of the Federation, presenting guest speaker Earl Moore, pastor of the Decatur SDA Church in Decatur, Georgia.

Moore challenged each member to go into the community to help those less fortunate than themselves.

Freddie Joiner
Correspondent

CHURCH MORTGAGE PAID IN FULL

Elim had its beginning in St. Petersburg, Florida, in 1919 with ten members. In 1925 land was purchased on Ninth Avenue and Twenty-first Street South for the purpose of building a small church. As time passed, the membership increased to approximately 550, thereby outgrowing the edifice on Ninth Avenue.

In June of 1976, a very large church with a seating capacity of nearly 1,000, including several auxiliary rooms and assembly halls, was purchased from the First Unity Church.

Under the pastorate of O. J. McKinney, a day-care center was established. McKinney was followed by Pastor W. C. Byrd, who led the church in a major renovation project, installing the church's baptistry and choir loft. Byrd also expanded the day-care program by setting up a kindergarten division.

The church's current leader is J. E. Harris, who assumed the pastorate of Elim in June of 1983 and re-established a church school that had been closed for over a decade. The school will include grades one through eight.

Now, eight years later (August of 1984), the entire mortgage for the church has been paid in full.

Betty Hayward
Correspondent



O. J. McKinney, J. A. Edgecombe, D. A. Walker, W. S. Banfield, J. E. Harris and I. L. Harrell at the mortgage burning of the Elim church, Tampa, Florida.

WORKERS MEETING IN FT. LAUDERDALE

Six hundred and eight baptisms were reported by the pastors at the worker's meeting held on September 17-19 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. In a setting of peace and tranquility, as the waters of the Atlantic Ocean washed the shores, President Edgecombe and his corps of workers had an opportunity to review, recollect and project.

Pastor E. E. Cleveland, dean of evangelism and professor of religion at Oakwood College, and Pastor C. E. Dudley, the regional conference president with longest tenure and a historian, shared many special and vital insights with the workers and their families in the areas of evangelism and church history as they relate to black achievements.

The reports of God's miraculous intervention in the affairs of each pastor's

ministry thus far form a deeper commitment as 1984 winds down. A projected figure of more than 1000 baptisms is anticipated.

After the usual department director's emphasis, the environment with the quiet, placid waters, which transmitted the sense of inner peace, was exchanged for a waiting, bustling world and the demands of a finished work.

R. R. Brown
Communication Director

LOCAL ELDERS AND DEACONS RETREAT

Dr. Mervyn Warren, general vice-president of Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama, gave a discourse on Sabbath, September 8, entitled "Evil's Three Faces." He was addressing the Southeastern Conference annual local elders and head deacons retreat held at the campground in Hawthorne, Florida.

Pastor R. L. Woodfork and his family from the General Conference, who visited briefly, encouraged the lay workers to forge ahead to victory.

Each year officers of the churches look forward with eager anticipation to the seminars and workshops especially geared to their needs.

President J. A. Edgecombe gathered a strong supporting cast to give direction to local leaders throughout the conference. Pastor I. L. Harrell was in charge of Sabbath school and personal ministries, while local elders J. Melton and W. Battles made presentations. Winifred Rivers-Allen was in charge of music and office personnel, while D. A. Walker, secretary-treasurer, K. Dennis, A.Y.S. director, R. R. Brown, communication director, and Valerie Price and Janet Oston, secretaries, served in various capacities.

Dr. Warren, the special guest for the retreat, made the weekend an engaging experience by contributing greatly to the knowledge of church leaders on the matter of worship and its dynamics. Questions were answered on key issues facing the church. This proved to be both stimulating and informative.

The session closed with a special anointing service for the sick who requested that the president, his staff and the elders pray for healing.

R. R. Brown
Communication Director

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE YOUTH FEDERATION

Each year the Southeastern Conference Youth Federation draws upon its entire constituency to share in planning youth affairs.

The Civic Center in Tallahassee, Florida, the state capital, was the site for this year's convocation. Hundreds of members were in attendance.

The keynote speaker, President J. A. Edgecombe, deliberated on: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." He employed the time to bring out many prevailing downward trends, and gave strong emphasis as to what youths can accomplish in a positive sense. The day was not without its distinctive style as molded by Federation President Katie Garrett and her efficient staff members.

Joseph W. Hatchett, a circuit court judge, and Mike Carter, Leon County judge, were among the special invitees. Apart from the strong youth participation throughout the session, beginning with Friday night's sacred concert, a number of others created an atmosphere of delight for the occasion. Fourteen Master Guides were inducted just prior to a musical in the auditorium and vespers by George Murray, a pastor from Ocala, Florida.

A.Y.S. Director Keith Dennis is giving strong leadership to the youths of the conference.

R. R. Brown
Communication Director



D. A. Walker, secretary/treasurer, K. Dennis, youth director, I. L. Harrell, personal ministries director, Joyce Buisson, R. Patterson of Oakwood College and J. A. Edgecombe, president.

THE ALL-AMERICAN DREAM

"The All-American Dream" was the theme for Southeastern Conference weekend in Hawthorne, Florida, August 31 to September 3.

This occasion is one of the highlights of the conference year. The weekend was filled with a series of social, edu-

cational and spiritual encounters. The well-organized program unfolded with symmetry and dispatch.

The staff, under the capable leadership of Youth Director Keith Dennis, was responsible for the entire spectrum of activities, which included finance, registration, the banquet, recreation, food services, music, audio, security, workshops, horseback riding and nursing care. They made the affair unforgettable.

The guest facilitators were Dr. James Hammond of Columbia Union College, who dealt with domestic violence, the single parent, stress signals prior to family break-up and inter- and intra-family relations. Dr. Norwida Marshall, associate education director of the Southern Union Conference, spoke on faith relations, and Joe Evans, M.D., talked on sexually transmitted diseases.

Conference participants were James A. Edgecombe, president and keynote speaker for the banquet, R. R. Brown, stewardship and communication director, and D. A. Walker, secretary/treasurer.

Joyce Buisson, Pastor I. L. Harrell, personal ministries director of the Southeastern Conference, and Robert Patterson, treasurer of Oakwood College, distinguished for their support of youth, were honored.

More than 300 persons attended.

R. R. Brown
Communication Director

INVESTMENT PROJECTS BRING REWARDS

Mr. and Mrs. Hencle Rahming of the Bethel Seventh-day Adventist Church in Florida City, Florida, were sitting at home counting the proceeds from their Investment project before Investment Day. There was a knock on the door. When they answered the door, their visitor inquired as to what they were doing. They explained that they were counting their investment funds and the purpose of the fund.

The visitor reached into his pocket and gave them six 50-dollar bills. They were shocked at what transpired so quickly. Mr. Rahming, Investment leader for the church, concluded that an angel visited him. He and his wife reported over \$400.

Adriana Dorsett, who is 83 years old,

through her project of homemade bread raised \$569. She is Florida City's Investment Queen.



Left to right: Hencle Rahming, Investment leader, Adriana Dorsett, Investment Queen, and Jessie Crider of the Florida City church.

COMMUNITY CENTER OPENS IN JACKSONVILLE

An open house was held for a new community center operated by the community services department of the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church in Jacksonville, Florida, Theus Young, pastor. Elisa Young is the director.

The center, one of many operated by Southeastern Conference churches, is located at 1515 Logan Street. It will serve as a welfare agency for cases referred by the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and other agencies in Jacksonville. In case of large-scale or individual disasters, the center will render assistance.

Attending the open house were officials from the mayor's office and the city council. The opening address was given by Gwendolyn Yates, director of senior citizens and nutrition centers for the city of Jacksonville. Remarks were made by Warren Jones, city councilman from District Nine. Participating in a ribbon-cutting were Gwendolyn Yates, Warren Jones and Pastor Young.

The center is open Monday through Thursday. On Tuesday and Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m., free health checks, including blood pressure, eye and urine tests, are given. A doctor is available. Tutoring, a program designed to assist in reading and math, is offered on Monday and Wednesday from 5 to 6 p.m. Clothing is distributed daily as the need arises. The children's story hour is Saturday at 4 p.m.

This community-wide service is designed to give assistance to all who are in need without reference to race or religious affiliation. All aid is given by volunteers without remuneration.

SOUTHWEST REGION PATHFINDER CAMPOREE



The team Pathfinder campout at Audubon State Park in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Ten were engaged in this overnight camping, and the next day they took a 50-mile hike. Time was also spent in a class of day/night hiking. During this time graves were discovered of slaves on an old plantation, which was transferred into a park.



Archery was one of the many sports taught at camp.



Pathfinders raising a flag at camp. San Antonio Rangers raising the colors.



Pathfinders of the Hebron church in Houston, Texas, with Jeff Chandler, director.



Water skiing was also part of the camp. Instructor Joseph Thibodeaux and a student enjoy water skiing.



A high diving class was taught at camp.

IN THE NEWS

LAYMEN BAPTIZE SIXTEEN

McArthur Crawford, the first elder of the Berean SDA Church in Jackson, Mississippi, assisted by local elder B. F. Newsome, conducted a lay evangelistic crusade from July 1 through August 4.

Fifteen baptisms and one rebaptism were the results of their labors. They were assisted in the efforts by a number of church members.

CONFERENCE OPENS SEVENTH CHURCH SCHOOL

The Elim St. Petersburg church began its first church school on August 20, with 34 students and two teachers, Doris Hardeman and Doris Pitts.

This is the Southeastern Conference's seventh school. Christian education is a major emphasis of this conference. Attempts to see that all the children should be taught of the Lord is a priority.

R. R. Brown

GORDON VISITS JAMAICA CHURCH

It was with much love and affection that Pastor O. E. Gordon, along with his wife and brother, were received on their September 8 visit to the Jamaica SDA Church in Jamaica, New York.

Before presenting the message of the divine hour, Gordon reminisced of his pastorate in the Jamaica church from 1968 to 1971.

Gordon, who was recently appointed president of the Liberia mission in Liberia, West Africa, chose for his subject, "Lord, You Made the Night Too Long," and for his Scriptural text Isaiah 6:8-10. He stated that as this cry was raised in anguish by the slave of old, men throughout the long reign of sin, throughout 6,000 long years, have been saying, "Lord, how long?"

Patriarchs and prophets have raised the question again and again. It must have been a long night for Adam and Eve when they viewed the body of their son, Abel, slain by the hand of his brother, Cain. When the burden of sin weighed heavily on the people of Israel, Isaiah cried out, "Lord, how long?" David, heir

to the throne and later king of Israel, cried, "How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord?" and "How long, Lord? Wilt thou hide thyself for ever?"

In the history of the church, the people of God have always been in hand-to-hand combat with Satan, as in the time of the fifth seal from 1517 to 1755. When we see ourselves and our families drifting in sin, we ask why God stands by and allows Satan to obstruct our way.

Though sin is a blaster of hopes, a destroyer of vision and destructive of all that is good and worthwhile, as David came to realize, God is a good God and it may be that He is giving us the chance to fight a little harder and hold on a little stronger.

In closing, the speaker reminded the congregation that "it is almost time for the Lord to come. The night is far spent and the day is at hand. Now it is time to awake out of sleep. Now it is time to stop and listen to the voice of God." The night is soon to be over, the morning cometh and Christ returneth.

Helen Galloway
Correspondent

NEWS NOTES

Pastor Morris Patterson of the New Life church in Nashville, Tennessee, held an evangelistic crusade in Springfield, Tennessee. At the close of the crusade in August, 35 were baptized and sixteen more are waiting to be baptized.

Pastor Roy Patterson was introduced to his new district on August 25 by I. J. Johnson, communication director for the conference. Patterson set a number of goals for members of the Bethany church in Montgomery, Alabama. In Troy, Alabama, he was introduced in the afternoon. During this time, one person joined the church.

Pastor D. Edmonds was introduced to the Breath of Life church in Memphis, Tennessee, by Dr. C. E. Dudley, president of the South Central Conference, on September 1. That same afternoon, Dr. Dudley organized a new church in that district. The former pastor, Roy Patterson, returned for the organization.

Pastor William Monk and members of his congregation in Morristown, Tennessee, held their Community Relations Day in August. Present were the mayor and other prominent government officials. The event received media coverage.

FOUR NEW CHURCH BUILDINGS IN TWO MONTHS

If the only job President R. B. Hairston had to do was to visit districts and open new churches, it would have been enough to keep him busy during May and June of this year.

Pageland, South Carolina

The week that ended on May 5 was a wet one, but that was the Sabbath on which this 60-member satellite of the Charlotte-Berean, North Carolina, church had set for the opening of their church. However, the Lord would not permit those eighteen prayer-filled years to end in disappointment. The sanctuary was packed to overflowing and spilled over into folding chairs on the lawn to accommodate the crowd.

The name of Annie Mae Flowers will ever be on the lips of present and future members, because she was the only black person in that town to accept the message through a literature evangelist eighteen years ago.

Much prayer and the accumulated efforts of the dedicated lay evangelists of Charlotte-Berean and pastors Williams, Parker, Conner, Franklin, Lewis and currently Richard Long led them the rest of the way to the opening of a 200-seat sanctuary in which to worship.

To culminate a day of worship and the consecration of the building, all of which was presided over by President Hairston, Pastor Wintley Phipps, the celebrated singer who brought the 1984 Democratic Convention audience to its feet, climaxed this spirit-filled day with a rousing sacred concert.

Gastonia, North Carolina

For six years a dozen baptized Seventh-day Adventists traveled over forty miles to worship in Charlotte. Ancy Whitaker had done this for over 50 years prior to this, and Very Edwards for over eighteen years.

A young Seventh-day Adventist Christian engineer working in Ohio was praying to the Lord to open a door for him to do something in His cause. The organization for which he worked sent him on a recruiting trip to North Carolina. A scout from another corporation took note of his performance and was so impressed that he set himself out to get this young man—Robert Johnson—at any cost.

Within a few weeks after this expedition, and like Moses ignoring the hefty

increase in salary offered by his employers to prevent him leaving (and seeing nothing but an answer to his prayer), he with his wife, Willett, and children accepted the job in Gastonia. There in 1979 he found the niche that the Lord had carved out for him. Willett, a certified teacher, opened the first and only official home school in the South Atlantic Conference.

Robert started out conducting mid-week prayer services with the group. By September of that year they officially started Sabbath services. He led the little flock under the direction and cooperation of the Charlotte pastors from 1979 to 1982, when the conference sent Herbert Anderson to pastor the now 53-member church that had emerged.

Janet Wood, one of the twelve who formed the nucleus, had built a little mission at the back of her home. Here was one of the places in which they had worshiped and established a home school. Finally, on May 12, 1984, they opened and consecrated their own church building.



Portion of the Pageland congregation. In the back row, left to right, are local leader Bobby Moore, Robert Bennett, the former local leader, President R. B. Hairston, R. Long, the district pastor, and Wintley Phipps, assistant to the president of Oakwood College and guest soloist.



Left to right: local elder Joseph Hill, Pastor Kenneth Moore, Deacon Julian R. Nelson, local elder Herald Waldon, Mayor Pansy Ridgeway of Manning, President R. B. Hairston, Pastor Nathaniel Hollis, Pastor O. J. McKinney, Pastor Joe Hinson and Deacon Joseph Conyers.

New Bern-Ephesus, North Carolina

Not many churches go by the official residence of the President of the United States in order to find Sabbath-keepers. Riddie Godley was reading her Bible, and somehow the Spirit of the Lord showed her that the seventh-day Sabbath was really Saturday and not Sunday. She wrote to the White House to inquire about seventh-day Sabbath-keepers. The White House contacted the Carolina Conference and directed them to her. This started the black work in the little coastal town of New Bern.

May 26, 1984, was the date of the fifth move to 1217 North Pasteur Street of this church in its seventy-third year since Godley started the flame in 1911. Calvin L. Watkins, a fiery young pastor-evangelist, is the twenty-first pastor of that congregation, which numbers more than 350 members. He led this enthusiastic, hard-working congregation into this, hopefully their final home until the Lord comes.

Like most Adventist churches, they started out in a cottage meeting in the home of Richard Huggins. The nucleus of the church was Riddie Godley, Jennie Willis, Richard Huggins, Victoria Huggins, Ms. Faison, Mr. and Mrs. Jones, and Mr. and Mrs. Fields.

Manning, South Carolina, Maranatha

Business as usual is no longer usual at East Huggins and Drayton after June 23, 1984. The reason for this is because the proclamation of the Advent message will henceforth monopolize that corner.

Wilhelmenia Walden, a Head Start school teacher in Sumter, South Carolina, had an area meeting of other Head Start teachers at her office. Hanna Felder of Manning was curious about a tract she saw on Walden's desk. Walden discussed the contents of the tract with Felder and offered to hold Bible studies in Manning if Felder would find a place and invite others to attend with her. This was done. By February 20, 1979, with everything in readiness, Walden and her sister, Susan Wilder, went to Manning and started the Bible study with the group assembled. Strangely enough, Felder had not yet accepted the message, but by December of 1979 a church was organized and five years later a church with a seating capacity of 200 was opened with 80 members, including 32 baptisms from an effort by Pastor O. J. McKinney in July of 1984.

THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL VOICE

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