

# NORTH AMERICAN Regional Voice

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCES OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS  
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## Regional Voice Celebrates Ten Years



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## COVER STORY

### MOMENTS IN BLACK SDA HISTORY—NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL VOICE

Almost 10 years have come and gone since the first issue of the North American Regional Voice came off of the presses. The days were very exciting but challenging. The discussions regarding the formation of the Regional Unions for the Regional Conferences had ended (formally); although the Black leadership knew what they felt would help to strengthen the work of the church in their communities, the major number of voters (mainly White and some few Blacks) had voted the proposal down. "Hereto shall thou come and no further!" they were told by the church leaders. When Regional Conferences were organized in 1945, a great difference was seen in the income of the established conferences. Another separation at the Union level could spell a greater drop in the income. The controls must be kept. We must stay together! There must be no further separation in the ranks. "Let us press together, press together!!" Let us open more doors and positions of leadership to the Blacks. The thrust had begun in 1978.

A goodly number of Black members in North America and elsewhere little understood what the struggle was all about, and Black leaders were reluctant to tell them lest they lose faith in the structure of the organization. There had always been a confrontation put forth by these leaders in order to secure meaningful goals for the onward progress of the work in their sector of the organization. Communication had been a problem since the days of slavery when two members of the same African tribe were not allowed to live on the same plantation. The ability to share viewpoints with each other was considered threatening. It was also against the law in those days to teach a "slave" how to read. This would help him/her to become enlightened to the realities of life. Even then the media was controlled by telling them what they should know and withholding from them concepts that would change their lifestyles and make them "anxious and unruly"...and begin to search for a "better way."

During the days of slavery, the uniqueness of the Black helped him to discover a way to communicate. He did it through his

singing while in the fields at work and later in the evening when back on the plantation. Many messages were sent, although many could neither read nor write. When the days of emancipation were ushered in, the spirit of ignorance and denial was still very much alive. Booker T. Washington founded the Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee to help to "lift the veil of ignorance and superstition" from the eyes of his people. They must be able to communicate if they are to achieve.

Although he met with great opposition from without and within, Edson White's entering wedge to getting the message to the "colored" people of the South in 1898 was through the use of a book called the Gospel Primer which he sought to use in the training of this down-trodden people on his "Morning Star" school boat that he bought to Vicksburg. At a later time he published a periodical known as the Gospel Herald to communicate with the people and to keep them informed as to how the work was progressing. "The object of the Gospel Herald was threefold: educational, industrial and evangelistic; and it served this balanced purpose very well.

When he moved his headquarters to Nashville, Tenn., Edson established the Southern Publishing Association from which literature was to be printed and distributed among Blacks and poor Whites like the leaves of autumn. The Gospel Herald was changed to The Southern Missionary in 1905. Very little news for the Blacks was to be found in the journal at this time; thus in 1906 Edson sought to set in motion another journal that would be beamed toward the Black community. The name was to be Message Magazine, but the idea did not materialize.

By 1910, after the organization of the Colored Department by the General Conference leaders in 1909, once again, the Gospel Herald received a new birth as the official organ for the news of the Colored work. Very little was placed into the Review and Herald about the work among this group, except when Ellen White spoke of such.

Message Magazine made its debut on the world scene at a time when hope in the hearts of mankind was at a low ebb. The nation and the world were gripped in the throes of the great depression. In a clear-cut statement, the first editor of Message, Robert Bruce Thurber, expressed the objectives of the journal. "The man with a message," he wrote, "is the man we want to hear. The magazine with a

message is the magazine we want to read...The Message Magazine is, in a sense, a successor to the two earlier papers called the Gospel Herald and the Southern Missionary. The Gospel Herald publication ended in 1923 and in 1935, 28 years after its name was first proposed, the Message Magazine was launched." The people needed a journal through which they could communicate with each other. This they did.

The Message Magazine was sold to those who were outside of the church, but a journal was still needed through which the Black membership could talk to each other—communicate. In 1941 dear Elder George Edward Peters, secretary of the Colored Department, began to mimeograph a department bulletin that was named The Informant and sent it monthly to the workers of the department. J. H. McElhany, General Conference president, called a small committee at the suggestion of the Regional Department secretary, which recommended the printing of this bulletin by the Review and Herald under the name of the North American Informant, to be mailed out to the entire constituency of the Regional Conferences and churches. The first issue appeared in 1946. Later editors for the journal were: F. L. Peterson, C. E. Moseley, H. D. Singleton, W. W. Fordham and W. S. Banfield Jr.

When the Regional Union discussions were ruled out, not only was the Office of Regional Affairs disbanded, but also the North American Informant. This was 1978. The Regional Conference presidents felt that they had been cut off from their people with the stopping of this journal by the brethren in the General Conference. This should never be for it meant severing of communication lines. We must keep in touch with our people! But the brethren were steadfast and immovable. There would be no more North American Informant for the Black people. The leaders called a caucus to discuss the problem. When the Message Magazine was published from month to month, the articles had to receive the approval of the brethren before it could be published. And even the Informant had become not the voice of the people, but the voice of the brethren saying what they wished to say, and to withhold what they chose to withhold.

When the Black leadership came together to discuss the plight, it was agreed that "we must publish our own journal and keep our people informed as to what was taking place. The demise of the Informant may have been a blessing in

disguise for now we could tell the people about many things that they would not hear as it related to the work in the Black sector of the church. Financing became a problem, but in addition to paying the Unions for their monthly paper, these conference leaders had to provide an additional amount to help to get the paper published. The General Conference placed \$9,000 per year into its annual budget for the Informant, which no longer existed, but refused to give these dollars to help with the Regional Voice. But the Lord blessed.

Elder L. A. Paschal was selected to become the editor; Elder R. C. Brown was named editor in chief; Stephanie Johnson was to become the assistant editor; C. E. Dudley became the administrative advisor and board chairman, and Stennett Brooks became the treasurer. Michael Paschal designed the masthead, and John Bauer is staff artist. E. E. Cleveland serves as contributing editor. Each conference sent news from month to month. Some felt that it would not last very long, but the Lord has led all the way. The Regional Voice is now in its 10th year of publication with a monthly circulation which goes to every state in the United States as well as Canada, Inter-America, Africa and the islands of the seas. There are over 100,000 readers each month. Some of the conferences, because of financial reasons, have had to put the journal on hold for its members but plan to return in the near future. Putting this journal together from month to month has not been an easy task, but the Lord has blessed tremendously. To God be the glory. We must be able to communicate, if we are to achieve and succeed in getting the message to all of mankind.

## PUBLISHER'S PAGE

### NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE LAYMEN'S FEDERATION ON THE MOVE

The Northeastern Conference Laymen's Federation under the leadership of Elder Henry Wilson has worked untiringly along with the ministers to spread the gospel and finish the work. The Laymen's Federation is composed of seven districts covering the areas of Westchester/Rockland, Queens/Long Island, Bronx/Manhattan, Brooklyn/Staten Island, New England, Hudson Valley and Western New York.

Each district has a president whose function is to coordinate the work in his area. The district president works along with the Personal Ministries Department in the local churches to organize outreach programs in an effort to evangelize the communities. Programs include such activities as the Prison Ministry, Revelation Seminars and Street Meetings.

The motto of the Laymen's Federation team has been and will continue to be "With Christ We Can, We Will, We Must Make the Difference." Pastor Norman Snipes, Director of the Northeastern Conference Personal Ministries Department, has been the guiding force behind the federation. The laymen will be celebrating their 20th anniversary on Sept. 23-25, 1988, at Camp Victory Lake. Plan now to attend. The laymen are counting on your support.

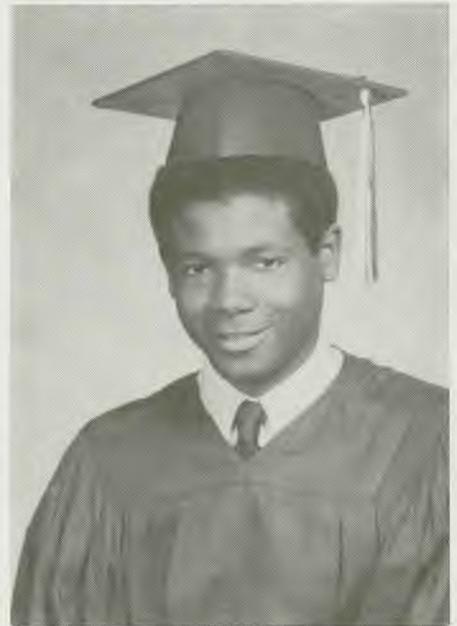
Elder Earl Pickett  
Laymen's Federation  
Public Relations Secretary

## ALLEGHENY EAST

### FIRST CHURCH OF TEANECK, N.J. YOUTH HONORED

David Ibitoye is an active member of the First SDA Church of Teaneck, N.J. He is also an excellent student. His hard work and persistence rewarded him with a place on the Highest Honor Roll for four consecutive years, and as a member of the National Honor Society at the Dwight Morrow High School in Englewood, N.J.

David was nominated as a Congressional Scholar representing New Jersey in the



David Ibitoye



Laymen's Federation Officers for 1988 (left to right). Seated: Pastor N. Snipes; Mr. C. Williams; Mr. H. Wilson, federation president; Mr. S. Alford and Mr. M. Bronson. Standing: Mr. V. Davis; Mr. F. Roberts; Ms. R. Andrews; Mr. L. Phillips and Mr. J. Britton.

National Young Leaders Conference, Post Graduate Program. He was also the recipient of the Young Citizens Award for the state of New Jersey, sponsored by Senator Bill Bradley, in recognition of unique leadership abilities as well as academic excellence. He was also accepted to the following prestigious colleges: Cornell University, Yale University, Oberlin College and Rutgers University. He was offered scholarships at these schools as well as a full four-year scholarship to Rutgers University.

Other organizations awarding David include: Delta, Sigma, Theta; Alpha Kappa Alpha; Allied Signal; United Methodist Church; 100 Black Men; Sojourner Truth; Henry Post; First Baptist Church; National Association of Negro Business and

# The Editor's Desk

## OFFERING FOR OAKWOOD COLLEGE

The annual offering for Oakwood College is to be lifted in all of the churches across North America on Sabbath, Aug. 13th. Let every congregation in the South Central Conference give liberally to this offering. Oft times, the churches in the Regional Conferences are charged with not supporting this program. Let the word go forth that the times have changed and

that we did give liberally to help our school.

With the coming of integration, the discussions arose concerning the "need for the predominately black" institution. There will always be a need for these institutions that have served this people in growth, development and leadership capacity through the years. Future generations will be blessed with the services that Oakwood and other Black schools will provide in this area. Give liberally on Aug. 13th.

## SUNSET CALENDAR

|                      | August 26 | September 2 | 9    | 16   |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------|------|------|
| Boston, Mass.        | 7:29      | 7:16        | 7:05 | 6:53 |
| New York City        | 7:39      | 7:27        | 7:15 | 7:03 |
| Buffalo, N.Y.        | 8:00      | 7:48        | 7:38 | 7:24 |
| Atlanta, Ga.         | 8:11      | 8:02        | 7:53 | 7:43 |
| Miami, Fla.          | 7:46      | 7:39        | 7:32 | 7:24 |
| Charlotte, N.C.      | 7:59      | 7:50        | 7:40 | 7:30 |
| Birmingham, Ala.     | 7:20      | 7:11        | 7:02 | 6:52 |
| Jackson, Miss.       | 7:33      | 7:24        | 7:15 | 7:06 |
| Memphis, Tenn.       | 7:35      | 7:26        | 7:16 | 7:06 |
| Louisville, Ky.      | 8:22      | 8:12        | 8:01 | 7:50 |
| Detroit, Mich.       | 8:18      | 8:06        | 7:54 | 7:42 |
| Chicago, Ill.        | 7:34      | 7:23        | 7:11 | 6:59 |
| South Bend, Indiana  | 7:29      | 7:17        | 7:06 | 6:53 |
| Minneapolis, Minn.   | 8:02      | 7:49        | 7:36 | 7:23 |
| St. Louis, Mo.       | 7:40      | 7:30        | 7:19 | 7:08 |
| Kansas City, Mo.     | 7:58      | 7:48        | 7:37 | 7:26 |
| Denver, Co.          | 7:41      | 7:30        | 7:19 | 7:08 |
| Little Rock, Ark.    | 7:44      | 7:34        | 7:25 | 7:15 |
| Dallas, Texas        | 8:00      | 7:51        | 7:42 | 7:33 |
| New Orleans, La.     | 7:30      | 7:22        | 7:13 | 7:05 |
| Albuquerque, N.M.    | 7:42      | 7:32        | 7:22 | 7:12 |
| Oklahoma City, Okla. | 8:06      | 7:57        | 7:47 | 7:36 |

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

Professional Women, and First SDA Church.

David was also the recipient of President Reagan's Presidential Academic Fitness Award and the Student Organization Service Award.

In addition to his academic achievements, David has demonstrated an unselfish, caring attitude towards his fellow students. His active involvement in the AJY Society, the Bergen Chorale, the Dwight Morrow H.S. Yearbook, the Law Club and Model Congress and volunteer work at Englewood, N.J., Hospital is evidence of David's well-rounded personality.

Alva Jean Spence Ibitoye Jones  
Correspondent

**But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.**

Psalms 5:11.

## CHERRY HILL CHURCH OPENING

After years of much self-sacrificing and intense fund raising, the Cherry Hill SDA Church of Baltimore, Md., under the leadership of Pastor Arthur A. Ward, celebrated the official opening of its new \$375,000 church building on June 11.

Speakers for the special services were Elders M. C. Van Putten, President of Allegheny East Conference; Alvin Kibble, Vice President/Ministerial Affairs, and Bennie Mann, Conference Treasurer. Representatives from the General Conference included Elder Frank Jones, Associate Treasurer and Dr. Victor H. Griffiths, Associate Director of Education. Visiting area ministers present included Elders Henry Fordham of Berea Temple, William Linthicum of Edmundson Heights, Vern Joyner of Sharon, St. Claire Phipps of Brinklow, W. A. Thompson of Bladensburg and Harold L. Lee of Dupont Park. Soloists Paul Rolling and Jeanette Nelson, accompanied by Ellen Sakai, enhanced the occasion.

Baltimore's Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke declared June 11 Baltimore Day for the Cherry Hill Church in a proclamation read by representative Wayman Henry, Jr., as well as a message of greeting from the Cherry Hill district representative Cathy Brown.

On behalf of the Central Community Federation, Pauline Vest, president, presented a set of offering plates to the church, and well-wishers of the First Church of Washington, D.C., including Mae Stewart, Pauline Best, Selena Kirby, Edward Smith, Barbara Stiff and Maudia

Patterson, presented new church hymnals to the church. The combined choruses of the Dupont Park Church, directed by Esther Roten and W. Terrell Danley, rendered a concert Sabbath evening, accompanied by Earnest Hargrove on the organ.

Denominational builders, The Win-Dess Building Services, were responsible for the construction.

Arthur A. Ward



An interior view of the new Cherry Hill SDA Church sanctuary.



Dr. and Mrs. Donald L. Mullett

### DR. DONALD L. MULLETT

Dr. Donald Mullett, a member of the Board of Trustees of Oakwood College, serves as Vice President for Fiscal Affairs and Treasurer at Lincoln University, Penn., a position he has held since 1969. For the period 1985 to 1987, he served as Interim President of Lincoln University.

A native of New York City, he holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lincoln University, a Master of Business Administration degree from New York University, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Delaware. He has served as a consultant to numerous colleges, universities and foundations and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He has been an evaluator for the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Inc., Philadelphia, Penn. In that capacity he has served as chairman and member of evaluation and accreditation teams for colleges and universities in New York, New Jersey,

Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico.

In addition to Oakwood College his appointments include serving on the advisory board of the Pennsylvania Department of Education and numerous private and non-profit boards of directors and trustees. As an active member of Rotary International, he is president of the Rotary Club of Oxford, Penn., and a member of the Gundaker Foundation, District 745, Rotary International.

A third-generation Adventist, he was baptized in 1941 by Elder T. M. Rowe at Ephesus Church in New York City. His faith was reaffirmed in 1983 by rebaptism by Elder R. L. Willis at the Dupont Park Church in Washington, D.C.

He is married to the former Mildred James, a teacher in the New York City public school system. He has four children, one of whom, Donna, is graduate of Pine Forge Academy and Oakwood College.

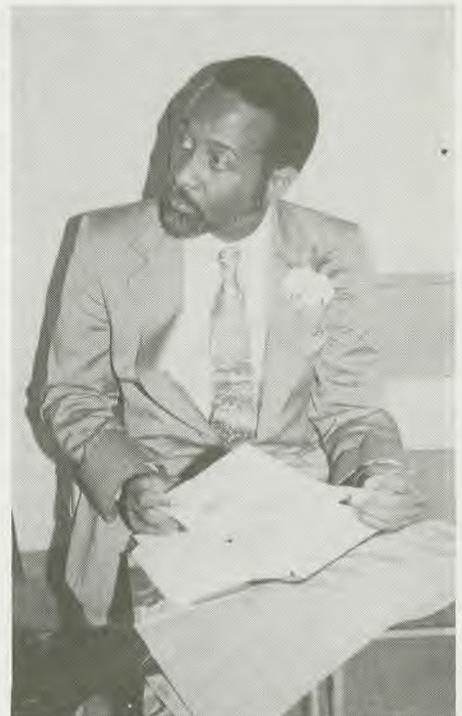
### PSYCHOLOGIST PREACHES TEMPERANCE

Newton Hoilett, a pastor and clinical psychologist from Michigan was guest speaker for a recent Temperance Day at the West Philadelphia, Penn., SDA Church. He explained that failure to follow God's lifestyle leads to stress and other illnesses. In the afternoon, he was joined by a doctor and nurse for a panel discussion on "Should sex education be the

responsibility of the church or the school?"

Following this, displays and literature to further educate were shown. There were also blood pressure tests and vision screening available.

Mark Frog Harris  
Communication Secretary



Mr. Newton Hoilett, guest speaker for Temperance Day at West Philadelphia Church.

## CENTRAL STATES

### MOTHER'S DAY AT PARK HILL

The Denver, Colo., Park Hill SDA Church celebrated Mother's Day not long ago. Certificates were given to the youngest grandmother and the oldest mother and other mothers of the church for special recognition.

The guest speaker for the program was Dawn Patrice Bookhardt. Dawn, who grew up in Denver, received her B.A. degree from Oakwood College in 1982 and her law degree from the University of Denver in 1987. Her message was entitled, "Joyful in Christ."

Ivory Chalmer  
Communication Secretary



*Dawn Patrice Bookhardt greets parishioners.*

### BETHEL NEWS NOTES

The Bethel SDA Church Community Services members of Kansas City, Kan., displayed new colorful uniforms during Community Services Day. Attired in cranberry colored suits, the ladies were an attractive group.

Elder G. H. Taylor was the guest speaker for the day. He commended the group for the outstanding work they had done. In the afternoon, a workshop conducted by Elder Taylor gave added information on how to reach out and help members of the community.

Mae Pearl Batre is Bethel's Community Services leader, Marge Crobarker serves as secretary, and approximately 20 members work consistently with the group.



*Bethel's Community Services members display new uniform.*

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Under the leadership of Patrice Webb and officers, the Week of Prayer at Bethel was outstanding. Elder D. C. Hatcher presented topics which caused the youth to convene nightly. He passed out slips of paper and asked each one to list three special blessings they planned to receive during the week. He informed the congregation that all needs may not be met during the week, but to continue to pray and believe and watch God work.

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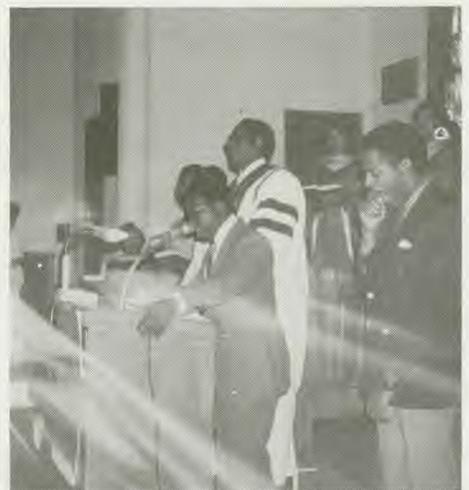
The Bethel congregation watched as the choir marched in wearing new black and gold robes. The choir, which is

composed of approximately 25 members, is under the leadership of Shirley Platt as president, Beverly Robinson as directress and Ruby Robinson as organist.

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The deaconesses of Bethel recently celebrated Deaconess Day in brand new uniforms. Veronica Grayman serves as head deaconess. Pastor Donald McPhaul was guest speaker for the occasion.

**The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust...** Psalms 18:2.



*Pastor G. Webb greets the Bethel congregation, guest speaker Elder D. Hatcher in background (robed).*



Bethel's choir performs in newly acquired robes.



Pastor Donald McPhaul

### HEALTH AND WELFARE SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

The Linwood Boulevard Church Health and Welfare Society, Kansas City, Mo., has received new life under the leadership of Sylvia Tyson and has now become a viable and effective working unit of the church. Although their efforts are aimed primarily toward the poor and needy, they have reached beyond these groups. They have established a regular visitation

schedule to comfort and cheer the sick and shut-in. They have also developed a plan in which the senior citizens of the church are checked on with regularity and given appropriate assistance when necessary. A food pantry has been established at the church and many hungry individuals and families from the inner city have been blessed as a result of this endeavor.

Walter Fordham  
Communication Secretary

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men." | Timothy 2:1

### DIXON FAMILY GRADUATES

The end of the 1987-88 school year was an exciting time for the Dixon family. Not one or two, but three members of the family graduated during the months of May and June, two receiving bachelor's degrees and one completing senior high school.

Rena Dixon, a working mother with three sons, received her degree in business administration from Avila College in Kansas city, Mo. Rodney Dixon, her eldest son, graduated with honors from Southern College in Collegedale, Tenn., earning his degree in computer science. Another son, Reginald, graduated from Ruskin High School in Kansas City, Mo., and plans to become an architect. A third son, Ryan, has just completed the sixth grade.

Rena is married to Henry Dixon, a graphic designer, who holds a master's degree from the University of Western Michigan. The entire family attends the Linwood Boulevard Church, Kansas City, Mo.

Walter Fordham  
Communication Secretary

## NORTHEASTERN

### CIVIL RIGHTS LAWYER HONORED

The Riverdale Avenue SDA Church in Yonkers, N. Y., recently observed Community Guest Day.

The highlight of the day was when Pastor Charles E. Creech and Sabbath School superintendent Phyllis Scott presented a plaque to Attorney Michael H. Sussman, civil rights proponent and lawyer for the NAACP. Attorney Sussman successfully argued an important civil suit against the city of Yonkers, N.Y., proving that there had been a long-standing practice by city planners to keep Blacks and other minorities confined to the west side of town and unlawfully excluding affordable public housing from the nearly all-white east side.

The day's activities were well attended. Other visitors were guest ensemble M.Q.M. from a local Baptist church; Mrs. Betty Holmes, guest soloist from the Ephesus SDA Church, New York City; Mr. Herman Keith, County Legislator; NAACP representative Mr. Bartram Wallace; Ms. Patricia Sadler of the Yonkers YWCA, and Elder Luther Evans, pastor of the Community Memorial Baptist Church, New York City, and president of the Westchester area Ministerial Association.

The day ended on a musical note with a mini-concert planned by musical co-ordinator Elder Harold Simpson with Elder John Springer serving as master of ceremonies.

Community Guest Day was the beginning of an all-out effort mounted by the Riverdale Avenue SDA Church to heighten awareness in the Yonkers community. Along with weekly operation of a soup kitchen, the church has begun door-to-door outreach and has Sunday night meetings, telephone evangelism and "felt need seminars" in the planning stages.

### BACCALAUREATE EXERCISES AT BRONX TEMPLE

The Westchester Area School in New Rochelle, N.Y., held its Baccalaureate ceremony at the Bronx Temple SDA Church, Bronx, N.Y., on June 18. The graduating class consisted of 20 students. Musical guests during the service included Jeffrey Reese, the Westchester Area Bell Choir and the Westchester Area School Choir.



(Left to right) Sabbath School Superintendent Phyllis Scott, Attorney Michael H. Sussman and Pastor Charles E. Creech.

Pastor H. M. Reid presented the Baccalaureate message in which he encouraged the graduates to "keep rising to the top."

Alicia Massop, a member of the graduating class received the award for highest scholarship, Charlene Morris received a monetary award from the New York Chapter of the Oakwood College Alumni Association for outstanding achievement and scholarship. Both graduates are members of Bronx Temple.

Kathleen Hughes  
Communication Secretary



Charlene Morris, recipient of special Oakwood College Alumni Association Award.

### MR. FRED D. WILLIS HONORED

Elder Fred Willis, a member of the Emmanuel Temple SDA Church in Buffalo, N.Y., was recently honored by his children during the celebration of his 70th birthday. Six children, two sons-in-law and nine grandchildren traveled many miles to be with him and shared their talents with the church during divine worship service.

A concert was held in the afternoon resulting in donations of \$1,500, which were given to the church to help meet expenses for a van.

Willis continues to be an active church member. He serves as elder, Sabbath School teacher, choir director and teaches a Spirit of Prophecy class. He is also a recognized contributor to the community, being among 25 persons honored during the 15th annual Black Achievers in Industry dinner in Buffalo, N.Y. He was cited for creating neighborhood block clubs to develop consumer lobbying-advocacy groups; coordinating the pilot project M.I.N.D., an experimental programmed learning project and forerunner of the Concentrated Employment Program for Buffalo; helping to develop a youth employment placement program, and directing the Erie County Department of Mental Health Program.

Willis is currently assistant to the vice president and director of planning for the Buffalo General Hospital.

Clara Powell Reed  
Communication Secretary



Dr. Rosa Banks

### LADIES' DAY AT BETHEL

Dr. Rosa Banks, Vice President of Development at Oakwood College, was guest speaker for Ladies' Day at the Bethel SDA Church, Brooklyn N.Y. recently. She addressed issues relating to womanhood.

Dr. Banks, who spoke at Bethel on a previous occasion, also encouraged the women to understand the rules of independence, self-sufficiency, challenge and commitment.

The Sabbath School period was devoted to tributes on behalf of mothers.

Winston V. Perry  
Communication Secretary

### EXCELSIOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EVALUATED

When Elim SDA Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., was organized, the challenge to have their children obtain the best in Christian education was of utmost importance. With this in mind, members rallied to the task of organizing a school so that the children's God-given powers could be developed. Eight years ago Excelsior came into being, and it experienced its first evaluation April 28.

The Northeastern Conference Education Department Visiting Committee assigned the Excelsior school four years of approval during an interim visit.

The Evaluation Committee, comprised of nine members, made assessments in the following areas.

1. Philosophy and Objective. 2. Administration and Finance. 3. Facilities and Services. 4 Curriculum.

The school received high commendations in each area, as well as recom-

mendation in an effort for the school to aspire towards total excellence. "The School has a very high morale and hopes by God's grace to maintain its prestige and dignity so that the students will continue to develop in an atmosphere of spiritual, moral and scholastic ideals. very much in conformity with the tenets of Christian education," explained Mr. Rudolph Hinds, principal.

Maylyn Ambrose  
Communication Secretary

### SPELLING BEE WINNER FROM EXCELSIOR

Congratulations are in order for the Excelsior Elementary School in Brooklyn, N.Y., the winner of the Spelling Bee Contest sponsored by Northeastern Conference. Grades involved in the contest were 5 through 8 years old.

The new champion, Micheal Cornwall, is a seventh-grade student from Excelsior Elementary School. Under the able guidance of dedicated teachers and the leadership of Principal Rudolph Hinds, Excelsior is moving forward to higher heights.

Maylyn Ambrose  
Communication Secretary

### PATHFINDER INDUCTION AT BRONX CHURCH

The Bronx SDA Pathfinder Club, Bronx, N.Y. held their annual induction ceremony in which eight Pathfinders were welcomed. The inductees were: Warren Thomas,

Joycelin Williams, Cassandra Sweeney, Terri-Ann McLean, Joanne Blundman, Nicole Brown Johnson and Damon Jackson.

Kenneth Limerick, former deputy director, assumed the role of club director in Jan., 1988, with Hermalee McLean and Asta Richards serving as deputy directors.

Limerick is not a newcomer to the Pathfinder work. He became a Master Guide in 1979 and since that time served as Pathfinder Director and Guides Master for the West Antigua District Association.

Ms. Barbara Pogue, former club director received a plaque from the Pathfinders for outstanding leadership during the six years that she served. Though small in stature, she wielded a powerful influence in the Pathfinder Club. Her leadership strength was apparent as she led the club to victories in the Olympics and in parades.

The goals of the Pathfinder Club as outlined by Mr. Limerick are as follows:

1. To develop the true spirit of Pathfinders.

2. To have a Temperance Parade jointly with the Temperance Department; to educate the public to the dangers of drugs, alcohol, etc., and to formerly introduce the Pathfinders to the community.

3. To help those Pathfinders who are not yet totally committed to the beliefs of the church to take that giant step towards baptism.

Myrtle Pickett  
Communication Secretary



Pathfinder director Kenneth Limerick (right) and deputy directors for the Bronx Church Pathfinder Club; former director Barbara Pogue (far left).

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT RECEIVES GIFT

A completely illustrated Children's Bible was presented to Mrs. Edna Grizzle, Education Secretary for the Jamaica SDA Church, Jamaica, N.Y., during a recent celebration of Education Day.

Miss Mere Thompson, Communication Secretary for the church, made the presentation on behalf of Mr. Garrie Smith, a Jamaica church member.

Mr. Smith requested that this Bible be used in relating stories to the children during the weekly story time segment of the 11:00 A.M. worship service.

Merle E. Thompson  
Communication Secretary

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**Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. | Timothy 4:12**

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## CAMPMEETING CHOIR ORGANIZED

For over 20 years Elder Garnet M. Riddick served as song leader during the early morning prayer services at North-eastern's campmeeting. After having relocated to North Carolina, Elder and Mrs. Riddick still continue to attend the campmeeting.

This year the Riddicks entertained the idea of creating an early morning prayer meeting and after contacting Elder Leon Cox were encouraged to do so. Under the direction of Mrs. Marion Riddick, the first early morning choir was formed. It is hoped that this tradition, begun by the Riddicks, will continue.



Mr. and Mrs. Garnet M. Riddick.



Third and fourth grade class present special welcome on Education Day Sabbath.

## CHURCH HOSTS CALENDAR TEA

The women of the Magazine Street Church in Louisville, Ky., hosted a Calendar Tea this year. Under the leadership of Audrey Maupin and Elaine Lipscomb, participants with birthdays in the same month were organized into bands. For several weeks each band used its own fund-raising methods to reach monetary goals. The grand finale included a musicale featuring talents of both church members and local artists.

Afterwards guests selected from a wide variety of refreshments in the lower auditorium. Twelve tables, decorated with themes appropriate for each month, lent a festive atmosphere to the room.

The women's efforts yielded \$4,000, which will assist in the purchase of computers for E. L. Minnis Jr. Academy.

## SOUTH CENTRAL

### CHURCHES CELEBRATE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DAY

All five Memphis area churches joined together Sabbath for the second annual celebration of Education at the Longview Heights SDA Church in Memphis, Tenn. Students from the Alcy Junior Academy were highlighted during the Sabbath School Hour.

Mrs. Sammie Shorter, a member of the Breath of Life Church, served as the

Sabbath School superintendent. The program focused on the lives of Gomer and Hosea. Students in grades four through six depicted the major characters of the lesson.

Elder T. Marshall Kelly from the Oakwood Academy in Huntsville, Ala., was the speaker for the Divine Worship hour. The Alcy Junior Academy Choir presented two special selections—"Jacob's Ladder" and "Holy Ground."

The AYS hour featured an oratorical contest that was coordinated by Michael Tompkins, 7th and 8th grade teacher. Students had written and presented their orations during a preliminary session at school during the previous week. Those selected during the preliminary session presented their winning orations during the finals. The topics presented were: "Career Choices," "School Spirit," "Our Black Heritage," "Peer Pressure," and "Say No to Drugs."

Winners selected during the finals were: lower grades—first place, Richard Fordjour, 4th grade; second place, Keschelia Harris, 3rd grade; upper grades—first place, Charla Folsom 8th grade; second place, Lynn Watkins, 7th grade. All participants received certificates with the first and second place winners also receiving trophies. An eighth-grade student, Derek Fordjour won the slogan contest by submitting "This eagle has been an eaglet too long!" He received a monetary award for his efforts.



*Upper grade participants in the preliminary oratorical contest.*

Highlight of the weekend activities was the initiation of the AlcyGold, Silver and Bronze Club, the Beginning of Alcy's Building Fund Drive. Over 180 individuals have pledged themselves to give from \$1 to \$10 a month and more to begin a much needed expansion drive that will eventually develop a full K-12 school program for the Memphis constituency.

Alcy's current building has served its constituents and students well. Continued growth necessitates a new building that will provide not only growth for the current K-8 program, but the additions of grades 9-12, whereby all Adventist children in the city of Memphis can obtain a Christian education from grades K-12.

Thus far over \$3,000 has been received by the school through the monetary commitments that have come in during the first quarter that the building drive has been in progress. Students, faculty, parents and school board members solicit all former Alcy students and interested individuals to become a member of one of the "Clubs." For more information you may write:

The Principal  
Alcy Gold, Silver and Bronze Club  
Alcy Junior Academy  
1325 Alcy Road  
Memphis, TN 38106 or you may call  
(901) 775-3960 or 345-8329.

Mrs. Thelma Perkins, Home and School leader for the Breath of Life Church served

as the chairperson for the day's activities.

Charles D. Battles  
Principal

### **TWENTY-FOUR STUDENTS MAKE DECISIONS FOR CHRIST**

During the course of the 1987-88 school year, 24 students at the Alcy SDA Junior Academy in Memphis, Tenn., accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and were baptized. Alcy serves as



*A portion of students baptized during the 87/88 school year.*

an evangelistic center during 10 months of the year, and students are introduced to Christ in various ways. Through the morning worships and devotional period, Bible class, class discussions, films, guest speakers, weeks of prayer, community projects, personal conference with their teachers and during daily conversations with their peers, the students' lives are being positively influenced.

The SDA school system serves as a reinforcing agent for the home and church. Do church members truly value the local church schools? A child will spend approximately 150-200 hours a year in church. That same child will spend about 1,250-1,500 hours a year in school! There is no question that the greatest evangelistic effort that churches conduct each year for the youth is the church school!

Charles D. Battles  
Principal

### **ELDER AND MRS. E. C. WARD EXCHANGE VOWS AFTER 40 YEARS**

Elder and Mrs. E. C. Ward came together on June 5 to repeat their pledges to each other after 40 years of marriage. On hand for the occasion were each of their children, Carolyn, Prince, Goldie, Beverly, Linda and Della, along with many of their friends and members of the church. The ceremonies were conducted by Elder R. Hope Robinson, the pastor who officiated at their wedding 40 years



*E. C. Wards celebrate 40th anniversary.*

ago. Also participating were Dr. C. E. Dudley, President of the South Central Conference; Dr. E. E. Cleveland, who started him out in the gospel ministry; Elder C. E. Mosely, senior elder for the Oakwood College Church, and Elder Harold Lindsay, who served as Mrs. Ward's pastor before she was married.

Ward has had a very colorful ministry in the Adventist denomination, having served as a pastor, evangelist, ministerial director for the Southern Union Conference, innovator for numerous soul-winning programs, advisor for the leadership of the church on all levels and pastor of the Oakwood College Church for the past 14 years. Hundreds of students who attended Oakwood are blessed from his ministry and instructions in soul-winning and church administration. Many new congregations have been established because of his leadership in "Outreach Ministries" from the college. In all of his ministries, Gwen has served as a faithful and devoted companion. Each of the children are engaged in their own professions. There are four grandchildren.

### **GRIDER TO EVANGELIZE IN AFRICA**

Elder Joseph I. Grider, pastor of Berean Church in Jackson, Miss., will be leaving for Swaziland, South Africa during the last part of August. He will be conducting evangelistic crusades and visiting SDA installations in the area, according to V. S. Wakaba, president of Southern Union Mission of South Africa. Others of our pastors will conduct similar programs on the continent.

### **DUDLEY SPEAKS AT BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CENTRAL STATES CAMPMEETINGS**

While most of his time is spent in visiting the evangelistic crusades in the South Central Conference each summer, President C. E. Dudley shared some of his time this summer in speaking evangelistically with the members of the Central States and British Columbia Conferences during their campmeetings.

In response to invitations from Elder J. Paul Monk, the president of the Central States Conference and from Dr. N. C. Sorenson, the president of the British Columbia/Yukon Conference, Dudley preached basic doctrinal sermons nightly during the meetings. At British Columbia a baptism was conducted each night.

### **LONGVIEW HEIGHTS SDA CHURCH**

When Community Guest Day was observed at the Longview Heights SDA Church in Memphis, Tenn., on June 4, 1988, one of the high points of the day was the baptism of 54 persons, 35 of whom were children between the ages of 7 and 17.

The baptism of so many children at one time was the result of plans put into effect by the Sabbath School Superintendent, Thelbert Martin, and the Sabbath School Council, who presented their plans to the pastor, Elder Joseph A. Jones.

Early in 1988 the Sabbath School Council discussed the idea of the Decision Day at the church. Teachers in the children's divisions were organized and programmed to teach in such a way that on a certain Sabbath the children would be asked to take a stand for Christ.

First, Mrs. Lillie Buckingham, an assistant Sabbath School superintendent, made a survey to determine how many non-committed children were attending Sabbath School, and it was determined that there were at least 50.

Then Brother Martin met with the teachers and settled on how the children should be taught so that they would be ready to make decisions.

The next phase involved sending letters to parents of the children, asking them to encourage the young people to give their hearts to the Lord.

When Decision Day arrived, Brother Martin explained its object to the church, and when Elder Jones made an appeal, approximately 30 children responded.



*Elder Joseph A. Jones, pastor of Longview Heights SDA Church in Memphis is seen baptizing one of 35 children who gave their hearts to Jesus during Youth Decision Day at the church in an endeavor promoted by the Sabbath School.*

Decision Day coincided with Youth Sabbath, and during the morning service, an appeal was made by the youth pastor, Dr. Isaac Fordjour, and teenagers answered the call.

Prior to the baptisms which took place on Community Guest Day on June 4, the children were taught the doctrines of the church by Sisters Dolores Jones and Lillie Buckingham.

Some 80 guests were present on Community Guest Day and witnessed the baptisms. During the morning service, the Sabbath School's second annual award for humanitarian service to the community was presented to City Councilman Rickey W. Peete by Elder McCann L. Reid.

### **SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE BECOMES SECOND IN K-12 OPERATIONS**

When the K-12 Board of Education for the South Central Conference voted to make Oakwood Academy a part of its regular school program this year, it became the second conference that has a full K-12 system of education in the entire Southern Union Conference. The first to have such a program was the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

This means that instead of the churches in Huntsville, Ala., being responsible entirely for the operation of the school, the

K-12 board for the conference will give their strong support and backing.

Several years ago the Oakwood College Board decided that it could no longer operate the elementary and secondary schools as it had done since its beginnings in 1896. Financial support was withdrawn, and students and parents were left to make it on their own. This placed hundreds of thousands of dollars upon our members in the South Central field. Now we have the full load.

In addition to giving an equivalent of 5% of each of the conference's tithe dollar income for the support of higher education (Oakwood College), the conference will spend over one million dollars to help operate the schools in the elementary and secondary levels. God has been good and has kept us thus far. Continue to pray for the church school programs in this field.

### CAMPMEETING BLESSINGS

This year's campmeeting will go down in history as one of the most "Spirit-filled" meetings of the South Central Conference. Each speaker brought blessings to the hearts of the people. The workshops were well attended and instructive. The pastors were on fire for the Lord. Let us begin to plan for the coming year. Encourage the members to being planning now! This coming together is needful as we move toward the end of time and the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### THE ANSWER TO EVERY PROBLEM

On a sizzling, hot, muggy day in Huntsville, Ala., the excitement that grips an encampment when God's children assemble themselves together was in full blast. In the midst of such excitement beneath the flourishing oaks of Oakwood College, I stood amazed and overwhelmed with a sense of bulging curiosity that I couldn't contain myself any longer, as I stood watching a middle-aged woman pushing a young lady around the campus in a wheelchair.

After observing them for awhile, I finally got enough courage to introduce myself to two individuals who would make an indelible impact upon my life. The lady pushing the wheelchair exclaimed, "My name is Mrs. Bobo, and," pointing to the lady in the wheelchair, "this is my daughter, Angelia. I am a member of the Faith Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church in Batesville, Miss."

"Actually," she said, "Angelia is my daughter-in-law, but I love her as if I had given birth to her myself." Moved by her pleasant demeanor, I asked Mrs. Bobo if she would tell me what happened to Angelia who was paralyzed and virtually physically incapacitated. Also, I was inquisitive as to whether she could see and hear.

Mrs. Bobo said, "She can hear, but she is not able to respond and her eyes are not

able to focus. Well," Mrs. Bobo said with a slight tremor in her voice and tears in her eyes, "Angelia is my baby. She will be 39 years of age the middle of June, but she is still my baby. Angelia was my son's commanding officer in the military, and she later became his wife. They are the parents of one child. It is very sad that she will never be able to function as a mother to her daughter.

"When she was pregnant with her daughter, the doctor found a hole in Angelia's heart. He concluded that the only way to save Angelia's life was to do surgery. While she was on the operating table, Angelia experienced extensive hemorrhaging. During this time she was in desperate need of oxygen. Unfortunately it was 15 minutes before oxygen was provided for her. Hence, because of the lack of oxygen, she slipped into a coma and became what is termed as 'brain dead.' The doctors said that if she lived, it would be a miracle, and she would be a vegetable and would never be able to use her upper and lower extremities."

Mrs. Bobo exclaimed that by her being a Christian and possessing a strong faith in God, she believed that God could save Angelia's life. Through the effectual fervent prayers of this dear saint, Angelia's life was spared.

Mrs. Bobo continued the story. "Prior to this tragic incident that altered Angelia's mobility, she spoke five languages: Spanish, French, German and two others of which I cannot recall at this time." She has a bachelor of science degree in elementary education and was considered to be an immaculate educator. Angelia was a brilliant young lady with a bright future before her. Her next assignment, after the birth of her child on Dec. 10, 1981, would have been in Germany.

During the 1988 campmeeting session, Angelia warmed the hearts of many. She made friends readily and everyone was eager to help wheel her around the campground. Although Angelia is from Washington D.C., her closest friend is the noble Christian lady standing by her side in the photo above.

Oh how great and marvelous is our God who answers our prayers. Let us continue to pray for Angelia that she will be fully restored to health. Praise God for people like Sister Marian Bobo who gave up her job with AT&T so that she could give someone else a chance to live.

Delores Grant



*Mrs. Marian Bobo and Angelia Bobo.*



*Gail Harlan of Nashville, Tenn., gives Mrs. Bobo a break, taking Angelia for a stroll at Peterson Hall.*

## RONALD SHURNEY HONORED

Ronald E. Shurney, son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Shurney of Huntsville, Ala., was recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture in an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. on June 22, in recognition of heroic actions and risking his own life to assist the pilot of a downed helicopter. The helicopter was entangled by a high voltage electrical power line during a major forest fire in the Los Angeles area.

The Heroic Award was presented by the Secretary of Agriculture, Richard E. Lyng. Awardees and their families were honored in a reception after the ceremony.

Dr. Jean A. Blake

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**I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.** Psalms 16:8.

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## RUFF ACCEPTS CALL TO SOUTHWEST REGION

Elder Steve P. Ruff, the publishing director for the South Central Conference for the past 9 or 10 years, has been invited to serve in the same capacity in the Southwest Region Conference whose offices are located in Dallas, Tex. He began his ministry in this field as a student literature evangelist and later became a field leader in the Memphis, Tenn., area after graduation from Oakwood. When J. W. Hutchinson returned to California to serve in the union office, Ruff was chosen to lead the publishing work for the conference. He was the youngest such leader to serve in that capacity up to that time. The literature sales for the current year will pass the \$300,000 mark during this year.

Diane, his wife, has also served as one of the office secretaries and a teacher in the conference for the past nine years. They have one son, Steve Jr. Our prayers are offered for them as they take up their new responsibilities.

## SECOND QUARTER'S MEMBERSHIP—1988

In spite of a number of clerk's reports that were not sent into the conference office in time to be listed on the conference secretary's statistical report, the report of baptisms for the second quarter stood at 239 and only 74 persons were dropped. The conference membership at the end of the quarter is 18,980. Praise God!

## UN-HOUSED ARE BEING HOUSED IN SOUTH CENTRAL

Last year we spoke of 16 congregations within the South Central Conference that were in need of church homes. Since that time, strong promotion and planning has been given to helping in this area. New church homes have been acquired or constructed in the following areas: Hurtsboro, Athens, Brent, Ala. and Pensacola, Fla. Buildings are under construction in Memphis, Tenn.; New Covenant, Daphne, Ala.; Jackson, Miss. (school); Nashville, Tenn., (F. H. Jenkins School); Campbellsville, Ky., Indianola, Miss. (extension); Nashville, Tenn. (conference office), and Stevenson, Ala. Some are still waiting. The Fifth Sabbath Offering which is to be taken in each church will help with the program.

## SCHOOLS TO OPEN

The teachers of the South Central Conference church schools have already reported for work for the school year 1988-89. In-service programs are now being given by Elder N. G. Higgs, our superintendent of education and students will be reporting for school during the later part of the month.

Every child in this conference should be registered for the program this fall. Building character is most important. E. G. White stated:

"True education does not ignore the value of scientific knowledge or literary acquirements; but above information, it values power; above power, goodness; above intellectual acquirements, character. the world does not so much need men of great intellect as of noble character. It needs men in whom ability is controlled by steadfast principle."

All of this can be realized through the training that the church school offers. Every pastor and church leader should work to help every child of the church to receive his/her training here.

## KILBY SPEAKS AT HAMPTON INSTITUTE/UNIVERSITY

Elder Shelton Kilby, the director of music ministries for the South Central Conference was one of the guest speakers at a music institute that was held at Hampton University during the month of June of this year. His presentations were well received by those in attendance.

## SOUTH CENTRAL LAUNCHES SUMMER CRUSADES

Evangelism is the life blood of the church. The commission that has been given by God to His creatures is to "go into all of the world and make disciples of all mankind." This has been the constant theme of the South Central Conference since its inception and the Lord has blessed in a signal way.

A goodly number of public crusades have been launched throughout the field during this summer. E. E. Cleveland is having tremendous crowds in Mobile, Ala. Jesse Wilson is opening up new work in Opelike, Ala., and the interest grows nightly. Roy Rugless and his members of the Alton, Ala., congregation are holding forth the name of Jesus in that area. Dennis Ross from the Southern Union Conference and Patrick Vincent are heralding the good news in Birmingham, Ala., this summer. R. L. Mann and students from Oakwood are conducting a meeting under a tent just outside of Decatur, Ala. F. S. Hill, the pastor of the Mt. Calvary church in Huntsville, along with his laymen has pitched a tent beside the church and are preaching the "Word" nightly. James Edmond and his flock are running a meeting in Toni, Ala. Timothy Lewis and his team are successfully telling the "story" in Knoxville, Tenn., under a tent, while J. W. Jones is conducting a meeting in his church in the same city.

G. H. Rainey, evangelist for the Southern California Conference and O. E. Rudley are holding a city-wide crusade in Lexington. To the south of them in Campbellsville, Ky., between 50 and 100 people have attended meetings each night in this virgin territory. In Springfield, Tenn., H. L. Cleveland is back to his old style of preaching each night, and there is standing room only from night to night. Roy E. Patterson is conducting a beautiful crusade in the city of Tupelo, Miss.—new territory!

John M. Brown III is realizing successes in Rolling Fork, Miss., this summer while James Young and his workers are bringing the message to the people of Yazoo City, Miss., once again. Prentiss Sorrell and his workers are seeing joyous results in their meeting that is being held in Shaw, Miss. Joseph A. Jones is continuing his year-round evangelistic Bible Crusade under the tent in Memphis, Tenn. E. F. Brown, the manager of the Adventist Book Center, along with his team of workers, is holding the first evangelistic meeting in Clarksville,

Tenn.'s history. Famous Murray and his team are holding meetings in the Overton Park church in Memphis, Tenn. We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves! Pray for the evangelistic meetings that are being held all over the field.

### **NEW CONGREGATIONS ARE PLANNED**

In spite of the financial challenges that we face from time to time, the preaching of the gospel must go onward! Jesus is soon to come again for His people. We are seeking to set "new work" in motion this summer in Tupelo, Miss., Opelika, Ala., and Campbellsville, Ky. The prospects are looking very good. Tent meetings are being held in each of these places, and the reports are that capacity audiences are attending nightly. Pray for the work of the church.

### **GOALS SET FOR EVANGELISM IN THE SOUTHERN UNION**

The leadership of the Southern Union Conference has asked that a 10,000 baptismal goal be accepted among the conference in the union for 1989. Two thousand persons is the goal that has been set for the South Central Conference; South Atlantic: 2,000; Southeastern Conference: 1,500; Florida: 2,000; Carolina: 700; Gulf States Conference: 400; Kentucky-Tennessee: 600, and Georgia Cumberland: 800. Let us ask the Lord to reach the goal that has been assigned to the South Central Conference.

### **JOHNSON TO TEACH AT OAKWOOD**

Miss Janice Johnson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Washington Johnson of Birmingham, Ala., will be joining the staff at Oakwood College this fall as assistant professor of psychology. She holds the M.S. degree in clinical psychology from Alabama A. & M. University (1976) as well as in-service training specialist for staff development from Bryce Hospital in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and has previous instructor experience at Miles College in Birmingham, Ala. Janice's mother is the Bible instructor in the South Central Conference. Her brother, Washington Jr., serves in the Anniston/Gadsden district.

### **CHURCH LEADERS STUDY FINANCES**

The leaders of the church in Washington, D. C. have set up a study commission to help address some of the challenges in the area of church finances at all levels of the organization. The first meeting was held

during the month of July of this year. Pray for the guiding hand of the Lord to give direction in these meetings. The finances of the church has become quite a concern for the operation of the church programs in recent years.

### **SHILOH BURNS MORTGAGE**

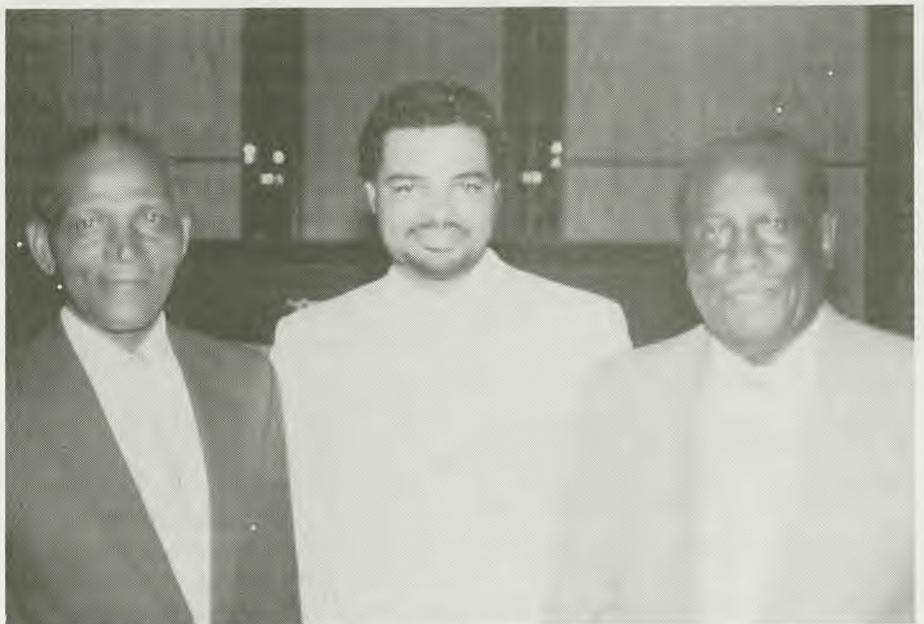
It was a weekend for rejoicing for the members of the Shiloh S.D.A. congregation of Greenwood, Miss., for a goodly number of years had passed since they had constructed their lovely edifice, but April 8 and 9 was the time for the mortgage-burning ceremonies under the leadership of Pastor Aaron Thompkins and Elder Solomon Outlaw, elders of the church.

The history of the church began in 1917 when the first believers held meetings in a storefront on Avenue H after a goodly number was baptized during the cottage meetings that were held by a layman of the Mississippi Conference. Some of those members at that time were Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Gray, Mrs. Maggie Bowl, Mr. Marshall Reaves, Mr. and Mrs. H. Armstrong, Mr. Willie Jackson, Mrs. Lucille Dickerson and Mrs. Daisy Guice.

A number of pastors served the congregation, but it was under the leadership of J. R. Bell that this new facility was erected in the 'heart of the delta.' Aaron Thompkins' leadership during the past nine months has brought the mortgage-burning ceremonies.



*Greenwood, Miss., congregation burns its mortgage.*



*Brother A. Gray, Elder A. Thompkins, Elder Solomon at mortgage burning.*



*Elder O. H. Paul expresses thanks after viewing bronze plaque inscribed on Mt. Sinai's brick church building.*

## **COMMUNITY GUEST DAY AT AVON PARK**

Ridge Area SDA Church, Avon Park, Fla., recently held their Community Service Guest Day. City Councilwoman Gwendolyn Sanders Hill was pleasantly surprised when she was called on to accept the award for "Outstanding Community Service."

Elder O. H. Paul, Education Superintendent and Religious Liberty Director for Southeastern was guest speaker for the occasion.

Carl Walker serves as pastor.

## **IN THE NEWS**

### **SPECIAL ISSUE OF MESSAGE MAGAZINE**

The special issue of MESSAGE Magazine entitled "How to Bridge Cultural Differences" is being used in prayer

meeting series. A Leader's Guide has been published to enable pastors and lay leaders to conduct Bible study groups, mid-week meetings and workshops on this topic.

Copies of the special issue would serve as the student's guide of textbook for the series. The Leader's Guide has materials for up to 90 minutes per meeting on each of the ten cultural groups covered in the magazine. Included is a Bible study on the topic, group discussion questions and the outline of a presentation on that particular cultural group.

The Leader's Guide is being published by the Church Ministries Department of the North American Division. It is the first of a new kind of resource produced in response to a recognized need in the field for topical materials helpful in conducting prayer meetings, small groups and seminars. Many of these will be keyed into special issues of denominational periodicals so as to enhance their value as a

resource for both outreach and nurture.

"We are delighted to work with Delbert Baker, the editor of MESSAGE and the Review and Herald Publishing House in making this new resource available to the field," comments J. Lynn Martell, director of church ministries for the NAD. "There are a growing number of local churches that find themselves with a multi-cultural congregation, and we need to work together to help them see this as God working to enrich them rather than as a problem!"

Copies of the Leader's Guide are available for \$2 through your local conference Church Ministries Department or from NAD Church Ministries 6840 Eastern Ave., N.W., Washington DC 20012.

Monte Sahlin  
Adult Ministries Coordinator  
Church Ministries Department  
North American Division

## ELDER R. HOPE ROBINSON

Many Black leaders in the SDA Church in days gone by have been placed under a cloud that has been accepted as "fact" and left to drift on their own from those whom they baptized into the truth and from those who love them. It is highly possible that this is the case with Elder R. Hope Robinson.

When Robinson came to the United States from Jamaica more than 40 years ago, his preaching took many by storm. It was different. It was challenging. It made one search the scriptures. To some it was controversial and year after year hundreds were added to the church through his ministry.

Upon reaching the age of 65, the elder was instructed by the conference president (west coast) that he must retire and preach no more in any of the churches in that conference, although he was still in good health and of a sound mind.

After sitting idle for more than a year, Robinson was urged by some of his former members to preach again, even at the disapproval of the conference president who threatened to cancel his retirement benefits. Sixty-five is not a time to stop working for the Lord. Robbie began to preach again—that same SDA doctrine, but at his "own" place of worship in Los Angeles, Calif. At the approximate age of 81, he is still "a good Seventh-day Adventist."

At a recent visit to the Oakwood College Campus, he and his wife were greatly inspired by the fellowship of old friends and acquaintances.

## MISSION EXTENSION OFFERING FOR SEPT. 10, 1988

On Sept. 10, 1988, a special offering will be taken in SDA churches to benefit an urgent mission need in the North American Division. Holbrook Adventist Indian School faces an emergency, because of the closure of its boys' dormitory by the local fire marshall. "Many of our buildings are army surplus and date back to the 1940's," said Doug Hayes, principal of the school. "They are just worn out and must be replaced, but we don't have the funds to do it."

Faculty and staff have acted compassionately and sacrificially, taking the boys into their homes. Present enrollment at the school is 80 in grades 1 through 12.

"The school must have new dormitories. Our Indian children deserve to have decent



*Elder and Mrs. R. Hope Robinson.*

living conditions and educational facilities," Hayes continues. "And we dare not send them away. We have worked for years to get this kind of response from native American people" Holbrook is the only Adventist secondary school for native Americans in North America.

Another challenge facing North America is to win the unreached but receptive people groups among the Acadein and Quebecois in eastern Canada and New England.

In the last three years a new responsiveness to the Adventist message has been experienced among these people. Between 1977 and 1984 baptisms in the Quebec province among them averaged 29 per year. But during 1985-87 baptisms averaged 116. That's a fourfold increase.

A health outreach has been initiated recently. Health exhibits set up for a few days at a time in various locations, generate 400 to 1000 interests each time. A French-speaking Adventist physician recently began a practice in northern New Brunswick where there are more than 500,000 Acadeins and not a single church member.

An evangelistic strategy is in place and several proven outreach and soul-winning activities such as Revelation Seminars are waiting for funding.

Members on the Personal Giving Plan who wish to give extra for these projects should mark their offering Mission Extension.

## ALUMNI VICE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Alumnus, (a noun) "A man who has attended or graduated from a school, college, or university." That is how we define an alumnus. For some, that is all there is to it—a state of being. Of course, there is a greater relationship. How would we define it?

Alumnus ( a process) The process begins with separation, both anticipated and desired. Very shortly there comes a dynamic...a realization that being an alumnus is more than an event but a continuous flowing experience.

This relationship that develops includes a sense of mission and purpose which matures into commitment. The institution which generated this experience shares with us the real tasks of life.

We in turn join with thousands of others to pass on the challenge of ideas, methods, goals, desires and devotion.

We are always changing as alumni. Our lives are enriched as we fulfill dreams.

Oakwood College is also in process... never complete. It is my joy to serve the Oakwood College National Alumni Association as a part of this growing process. We share in the changes that are developing.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of the alumni...as process.

Haywood Cox  
Vice President  
Oakwood College National Alumni

## BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

Elder Albert White, pastor of the Philadelphia SDA Church in Des Moines, Iowa, reports on the local church beautification project recently completed at their church.

This project was done quickly and the spirit of 'brotherly love' shown in the unity displayed during the beautification of the church's exterior. The church was inspired to work by adopting this theme: 'Let us have pride in our church, let's keep it beautiful.'

"A committee headed by Mr. Randle contacted each member about donating to the project, which included a complete exterior paint job, repairs on the roof, the boiler and the air conditioning system. A new stone garden was added to the entrance."

Following the project, Sabbath School Visitor's Day took place. The church was filled with visitors and guests. Many guests remarked on the feeling of fellowship, brotherly love and friendship exhibited from the members and pastor.

Communication Department  
Philadelphia SDA Church

## MESSAGE MAGAZINE EDITOR IMPRESSED WITH AFRICAN WORK

In preparation for a special General Conference commemorative issue on the Adventist work in Africa, Delbert W. Baker, editor of "Message" magazine, after recently completing a 10-nation itinerary of Adventist entities and institutions in Africa, had only positive comments to make about what he has seen and heard.

After visiting the sites of Adventist work, speaking and interviewing scores of church presidents, workers, members, institutional leaders and prominent Adventist leaders in government, Baker commented, "I was overwhelmed with the marvelous way God has blessed the Adventist work in Africa. In spite of unique challenges and complexities we are witnessing unparalleled growth and progress. Under God's blessings there appear to be four key reasons that underline the remarkable success of the work in Africa: 1) divine providence, 2) committed leadership, 3) self-sacrificing workers, and 4) historic timing. The general perception concerning evangelism and church growth on the continent is that the future has never been brighter. God has given the Adventist Church the message and means — Africa is responding!"

Echoing the sentiments of Neal C.

Wilson, president of the General Conference and the two division presidents, Jacob Nortey (AID) and Bekeley Heye (EAD), Baker reported that "the overriding spirit is one of thanking God for the progress that has been made and for the exciting potential that the future holds." Bekeley Heye is reported saying that "the fact that the 1988 Annual Council will be held on the continent of Africa for the first time has provided fresh impetus and emphasis to the work." Jacob Nortey said, "The opportunities for unrivaled advances among the Adventist work in Africa has never been greater. Now is the time for creative and aggressive spiritual action."

The special issue on "The Adventist Work in Africa" is the result of a joint venture among the General Conference, the Africa-Indian Ocean and Eastern Africa divisions. It is being produced by the "Message" magazine staff. The magazine will be presented to the delegates at the General Conference Annual Council to be held in Nairobi, Kenya. Afterward, it will be used for evangelistic purposes throughout Africa.

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**"Be glad and rejoice with all the heart...The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing." Zephaniah 3:14, 17**

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## DORCAS DAY AT PARK HILL

Sabbath, March 5, was Dorcas Day at Park Hill SDA Church, Denver, Colo. The guest speaker, C. Dunbar Henri, former Vice President of the General Conference, presented a message concerning the cares of this world coming between man and God. He called those cares "stuff." Elder Henri, now Ministerial Secretary of the South Atlantic Conference, served over 21 years in Africa.

Another special guest for Dorcas Day was Mrs. Hattie Anthony. Mrs. Anthony operates a center which feeds over 600 individuals a week. She has received two letters of recognition from the President of the United States. The first was received in 1983 in Tulsa, Okla., congratulations her for work done in feeding the needy and an International Award in 1985. Last April she received the Good Samaritan Award in Washington, D.C.

Ivory Chalmers  
Communication Secretary

## DELAYED MAIL IN PHILADELPHIA

The following letter was received from the the U.S. Postal Service in explanation for undelivered copies of the Regional Voice to members living in the Rosen Housing Project, Philadelphia, Penn. "RE: Delayed Mail Found at Raymond Rosen Housing Project, 2308 Diamond St., Philadelphia, PA 19121

Dear Postal Customer

The enclosed United States mail was found at the Raymond Rosen Housing Project, and had originally been intended for delivery between May and October 1986. The person responsible for this delay was charged with violations of federal law and was prosecuted in United States District Court, Philadelphia. His employment has been terminated by the Postal Service and he is presently incarcerated for the crime. Prosecution has been completed and the mail is no longer needed as evidence. On behalf of the United States Postal Service, please accept our apology for any inconvenience caused as a result of this matter. Sincerely, D. A. Planey, Postal Inspector in Charge"

## CLEMENTS SPEAKS AT LAY SOUL-WINNING RALLY

Elder J. Clements, associate Church Ministries Director for Columbia Union, was the guest speaker at the Allegheny West Conference Lay Soul-Winning Rally in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Hundreds listened as Elder Clements challenged Pittsburgh area members to become personally involved in the business of soul winning.

The Lay Soul-Winning Rally under the direction of Elder J. O. Best, Personal Ministries Director of the Allegheny West Conference, was hosted by Elder E. Thomas, pastor of the Ethan Temple church in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Elder Thomas led the conference in baptisms for the month of January 1988. He baptized 12 persons into the Ethan Temple Church in Pittsburgh.

## ALLEGHENY WEST MEMBER FEATURED IN CONCERT

"Tribute to a King" was the theme of a celebration held in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday at the Masonic Auditorium in Toledo, Ohio. The event was sponsored by Pastor Floyd Rose of Family Baptist Church. One of the featured soloists was Allegheny West's own Bessie Ratliff White, wife of Pastor Lacy White, of Parkwood Avenue Temple SDA Church in Toledo, Ohio.

## CLASSIFIED AD

Florida Hospital, in Orlando, Florida needs Medical Professionals to staff 1,071-bed hospital. RN-Critical Care, Medical, Surgical, O.R., E.R., Psychiatry, Orthopedic and Head Injury. (Part or full-time employees can get a B.S. degree in Nursing in NLN accredited school on Florida Hospital campus). Physical and Occupational Therapy, Ultrasound and Radiation Therapy Techs. Contact Employment, in Florida (407) 897-1998 or outside of Florida (800) 327-1914. Florida Hospital, 601 East Rollins, Orlando, FL 32803.

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## CLASSIFIED AD

RNs, LPNs, CNAs, Nurse Practitioners needed for West Coast, Hawaii, Monument Valley, Utah acute hospitals, and home health agencies. Immediate openings, flexible hours, some moving assistance available. Contact Betty Van der Vlugt, Adventist Health System/West, (916) 781-AHSW.

## CLASSIFIED AD

Employment opportunity for Adventist teacher experienced in regional work for September opening of the Elementary Department of Faith Academy, Vandiver, Ala. For further information or to apply, contact: Dr. J. Price Pearson, 2233 Arlington, Ave. So., Birmingham AL 35205 (205) 933-8126.

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## OFFICIAL NOTICE

### NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

### OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

The 19th regular constituency meeting (sixth triennial) of the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at Victory Lake Camp, Hyde Park, N.Y., Sept. 11, 1988. The first meeting is scheduled to convene at 9:00 A.M. The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers, directors of departments and various committees for the coming triennium and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Each organized church in the conference is entitled to be represented by duly appointed delegates on the basis of one for the organization, regardless of size of membership, and one additional delegate for each 50 members or major fraction thereof.

The members of the Executive Committee of the Northeastern Conference, all accredited workers holding credentials and licenses from the conference, members of the General Conference or Atlantic Union Conference committees who may be present are delegates at large.

L.C. Newton, President  
Harold W. Baptiste, Secretary

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

### NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

### OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the regular triennial session of the Northeastern Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in connection with the 19th regular session (sixth triennial) of the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at the Victory Lake Camp, Hyde Park, N.Y. on Sept. 11, 1988. The first meeting of the corporation will convene at 3:00 P.M. The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers and trustees for the coming triennial term and to transact such other business as may properly come before the session. Delegates to the Conference Session are delegates to the corporation meeting.

L. C. Newton, President  
S. H. Brooks, Treasurer

## THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL VOICE

### NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL VOICE

The official organ of the North American Regional Conferences

R. C. BROWN, Sr., Managing Editor  
L. A. PASCHAL, Editor

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