

The North American

Informant

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NUMBER 6

Allegheny Conference Biennial Report

[The President's report delivered at the third biennial session, held at Pine Forge, Pennsylvania.]

SOMEHOW as I begin my report for the close of this biennial period, my mind dwells on the first few words of the thirty-ninth verse of the twenty-sixth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew: "And he went a little farther."

Jesus, the Son of God, who created all things by His power and by His might to the glory of His Father, had left the courts above, turned His back upon the praise and adoration of the holy angels, and given up the ivory palaces. He who thought it not robbery to be equal with God, made Himself of no reputation, humbled Himself, and came down to this fallen, sin-scarred world, to be born of a woman. He took upon Himself the nature of man, in order that He might save man and redeem His lost dominion, which had been taken over by the devil back in the Garden of Eden.

His mission was fraught with hardship, toil, difficulties, disappointments, heartaches, pain, and death. For three and a half years He labored tirelessly. The foxes had holes, the birds of the air had nests, the Son of God had not where

ay His head. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." Though at one time multitudes had followed Him, at the time of our text barely a handful of believers remained; and to make it worse, there was strife among them. In the closing hours of the Master's min-



J. H. Wagner, President

istry it appeared outwardly that His mission had been a failure. As He left the upper chamber with the few faithful disciples, He exclaimed, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death." The weight of the cares of all the earth was bearing Him down.

The Bible says that after asking the disciples to tarry and pray, although alone, "he went a little farther" to pray. The term "a little farther" means that He made progress toward a certain objective. The objective in this case was one of humiliation, suffering, and death; however, Jesus was resolved to advance on through the terrible ordeal and drink the bitter cup in order to atone for your sins and mine. Our Christian experience should be one

of advance, of going forward, of making progress to a certain goal, or objective, that will glorify God. We are not supposed to be stationary Christians. We are to add to our faith, grow in grace and knowledge, and walk in that light that shineth more and more to the perfect day. The same experience that attends the real Christian in this respect should also be manifest in any institution or planting of God.

In December of 1944 a new institution was organized under the plan of heaven. It is true that it was born amid a storm of misapprehension and false predictions; but, feeding on the sincere "milk of the word," it has grown to such an extent that everyone must confess, "The Lord is in this place; and I knew it not." Christ said, "He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit. . . . If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

At the close of 1947 we had a membership of 4,108; at the close of 1949 we had a membership of 4,776, a net gain of 668. During the first eight months of the present year we added by baptism and profession of faith, enough to safely say that our membership exceeded the 5,000 mark. We have had a net gain of over 1,000 members since the day the Allegheny Conference was organized. Although we have stressed evangelism and soul-winning efforts, I do not believe that our workers

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have produced an inflated membership. We have a good, solid, working membership in our conference. The finances of the conference will testify to this.

The tithes for the two-year period ending in December, 1947, came to \$474,271.01, and tithes for the two-year period ending December, 1949, amounted to \$544,119.73, or a gain of \$69,892.72. Mission offerings for the two-year period ending December, 1947, totaled \$181,977.40; and mission offerings for the two-year period ending December, 1949, came to \$200,627.74, or a gain of \$18,650.34. The Allegheny Conference rates as giving the highest per capita per tithe dollar to missions of any conference in the Columbia Union. We now are able to count 51 churches and companies throughout our territory, with prospects of more coming in quarterly. The new interests develop faster than workers can be supplied to keep pace. There were 612 baptisms during the past biennial period and 31 were received on profession of faith, making a total of 643 additions for the term. We had 36 conference workers in December, 1947. At present we have 47 workers, an addition of 11 workers during the last two-year period.

F. L. Bland, secretary-treasurer at the beginning of the term, accepted a call to the presidency of the Central States Mission Conference. The vacancy has been ably filled by M. S. Banfield, who is not only kind, genial, and sympathetic, but also very careful in the expending and handling of conference funds. His coming into the conference office has added sunshine and happiness as well as inspiration to the entire office staff and the field as a whole.

The Sabbath school department, under the efficient and capable leadership of W. R. Robinson, is making rapid strides ahead. New schools are springing up regularly. Sabbath school offerings for 1946-47 were \$113,454.79; for 1948-49 they were \$118,812.13, a gain of \$5,357.34. The home missionary department, under Elder Robinson, raised \$64,070.64 during 1946-47.

In 1948-49 the amount in Ingathering was \$78,126.34, or a gain of \$14,055.70. Our Ingathering for the present year already exceeds that of last year by a thousand dollars. Elder Robinson supervises the work of 42 Dorcas Societies and 5 federations. He also conducts our correspondence Bible school with an enrollment of more than 2,000, with excellent prospects and fine results.

During the two-year period the leadership in the publishing department has changed hands. L. R. Preston has taken up the work of pastoring in Newport News, Virginia, and is doing a grand work. H. D. Warner was called back into the department. At the end of 1947 there were 47 colporteurs. At the end of 1949 there were 57, and at present we have 95 colporteurs. The 1946-47 deliveries reached \$215,361.54. Deliveries in 1948-49 totaled \$182,627.88, which is a decrease; but already this year up to July, deliveries have amounted to \$81,793.49, and the Allegheny Conference is leading the Columbia Union. The associate secretaries in the publishing department are J. R. Britt, E. D. Brantley, Virgil Gibbons, George Anderson, and magazine leader, Arletha Wallace.

H. T. Sautler not only does a most efficient job in the Book and Bible House but is also serving as the progressive and lovable pastor of the Harrisburg church. Net sales in the Book and Bible House for 1946-47 were \$114,985.16. Net sales for 1948-49 were \$115,218.12, a small gain. Up to July of this year \$43,148.02 had come in. This shows a healthy trend in the right direction.

A. V. Pinkney is another of the office workers carrying extra work along with the regular departmental assignments. He heads up the Missionary Volunteer department, educational department, temperance department, publicity department, industrial relations department, and War Service Commission, and also pastors the Elmwood church of Philadelphia. He reports 12 church schools for the period ending 1947, with an enrollment of 494. There were 14 church schools for the

period ending 1949, with an enrollment of 518. In 1947 there were 2 teachers; in 1949 there were 30.

There were 46 Junior and Senior societies in the Missionary Volunteer department, with a membership of 1,106 in 1947. At the end 1949 we had 44 societies, both Junior and Senior, with an enrollment of 2,295.

Temperance oratorical contests and youth's federations have been held in various parts of the field, and the work of the publicity department has been exceptional, locally, nationally, and denominationally. The Pottstown Mercury is considering giving Brother Pinkney a press card because of his outstanding reporting.

Pine Forge Institute is on the upward march under the leadership of Prof. R. L. Reynolds. His affable, broad, and sympathetic attitude, together with his ability to do the job well because of his extensive preparation, has injected a fine spirit into the morale of both teachers and students. The enrollment for the year 1949-50 was the largest since the school began—taking a very big jump over the enrollment of the year before. Improvements have been made. The boys' dormitory has been practically made over and newly furnished throughout, a large and commodious new home has been provided for the principal, and at present work is going forward to improve the appearance of the chapel building. Pine Forge Institute has been accredited by the Board of Regents of Seventh-day Adventists, and is on the list of schools and colleges approved by the Common-

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wealth of Pennsylvania and the state of New York.

The faculty of the school is exceptionally qualified, and we are justly grateful for the services of each teacher and worker on the staff.

The prospects of a very large enrollment for the next school year is evidenced from the applications and calls coming from as far as California, Bermuda, and Africa.

When we look back five and a half years to the days of our small beginning, with limited and meager facilities, inexperienced leadership,

and a wave of misapprehension as to the success of this daring step forward, we are led to exclaim, "What hath God wrought?"

Mr. Chairman, fellow workers, and constituents of the Allegheny Conference, I return to you today the charge that you have entrusted to my care. I confess that I have not pleased everyone, nor have I even dared to try, but I thank God that I can say with a clear conscience, "I have done my best."

May God greatly bless and lead as we carry on the work of business in

this session. May His Spirit guide and direct, that all decisions will redound to the glory and honor of His name and the promotion of His work not only in this territory but throughout the world field, to hasten His coming and usher in that glorious event when the camp meetings will be eternal and time shall never end. Then let us continue to go a "little farther" with Jesus until these hopes have become a reality.

J. H. WAGNER, President,
Allegheny Conference.

Allegheny Teachers Institute at Baltimore Academy



ATTENDING the Allegheny Teachers Institute representing the church school teachers of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination in that

conference were educators from seven States and the District of Columbia.

The teachers attending were as

follows: Martha Bell, Maggie Montgomery, Catherine Peterson, Baltimore; Catherine La Verne Gibson, Camden, New Jersey; Hurley Phil-

lips, Cincinnati; Jocelyn Jackson, Mae Laurence, Willard Lewis, Cleveland; Ethel Phipps, Columbus; Rebecca James, Dayton; Lucile Thoms, Millsboro, Delaware; Florence Williamson, Ruth Mayfield, Newark; Alta Farrow, Norfolk, Virginia; Lillian Pinkney, Charles Dickerson, Philadelphia; Jessie Wagner, Pine Forge; Louise Davis, Ceola Jones, Pittsburgh; Jacob Justiss, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Bliss, Frances Henry, Malita Phipps, Washington, D.C.

Appearing as guests on the program were Dr. Nick Aaron Ford, of Morgan State College, who presented the topic "Developing Attitude Through Literature." Mr. Barron L. Ashbaugh, of the State Department of Research and educator of Solomons, Maryland, gave an illustrated lecture on the "Resources of the Chesapeake Bay and Its Watershed" and also presented the philosophy "Conservation Education." Dr. John King, from the biological department, Morgan State College, discussed the importance and advantages of field trips. Dr. J. M. Howell, of the Columbia Union, presented the subject "Improved Textbooks," "Tests and Measurements and Present-Day Trends in Education." Mrs. A. M. Williams, of the General Conference, discussed "The Importance of the Home and School Association, Parental Care and Guidance." Dr. Clarence Monroe, educator of the department of biology, Morgan State College, demonstrated the importance of visual aids in education. During the devotional hour held each morning J. E. Farrow presented "The Importance of the Work of the Teacher in Character Training." J. G. Dasent emphasized spiritual values and position of attainment through the channels of the classroom.

Prof. G. M. Mathews, from the General Conference department of education, said, "You teach what you are." "Boys and girls are not easily fooled; you cannot live one thing and teach another." He held up highly the ideal to which every teacher should strive—a close pat-

tern of the Great Teacher, Jesus. Mrs. Ernestine Roberts, teacher of music at the Baltimore Academy, presented "Music Can Be Fun," expressing the different moods and how they are expressed musically. She made music a living and fascinating thing for the boys and girls.

J. H. Wagner, president of Allegheny Conference, expressed greetings to the teachers assembled and assured them of full and unstinted conference support in the program of education. Dr. Socrates Saunders, from the department of mathematics at Morgan State College, also extended greetings to the institute and assured the teachers that Morgan was happy to be associated with them as educators.

Miss Ethel Young, supervisor of elementary education in the Columbia Union, developed a series of teaching aids for the modern teacher. Miss Young expressed her regrets, indicating that this would be the last institute she would be able to attend in America, having accepted an appointment to assist in planning a curriculum for the schools in Java. Dr. Charles E. Weniger, of the theological department at the Seminary in Takoma Park, D.C., presented, "Expression of the Classroom Teacher."

Others who were guests at the institute and appeared on the program were Professor Smith, science department of Morgan State College, and Dr. Fraser also of the science department.

We were happy, during a break in the program, when conversation brought out the fact that Mr. Ashbaugh's wife is a Seventh-day Adventist and attends the Cumberland, Maryland, church.

Members of the Allegheny Conference committee, who held their session in the building concurrent with the institute, were J. H. Wagner, M. S. Banfield, W. M. Fordham, Carlos Street, J. G. Dasent, W. L. Cheatham, J. T. Dodson, R. T. Hudson, J. H. Laurence, J. H. Lester, and C. A. Morgan.

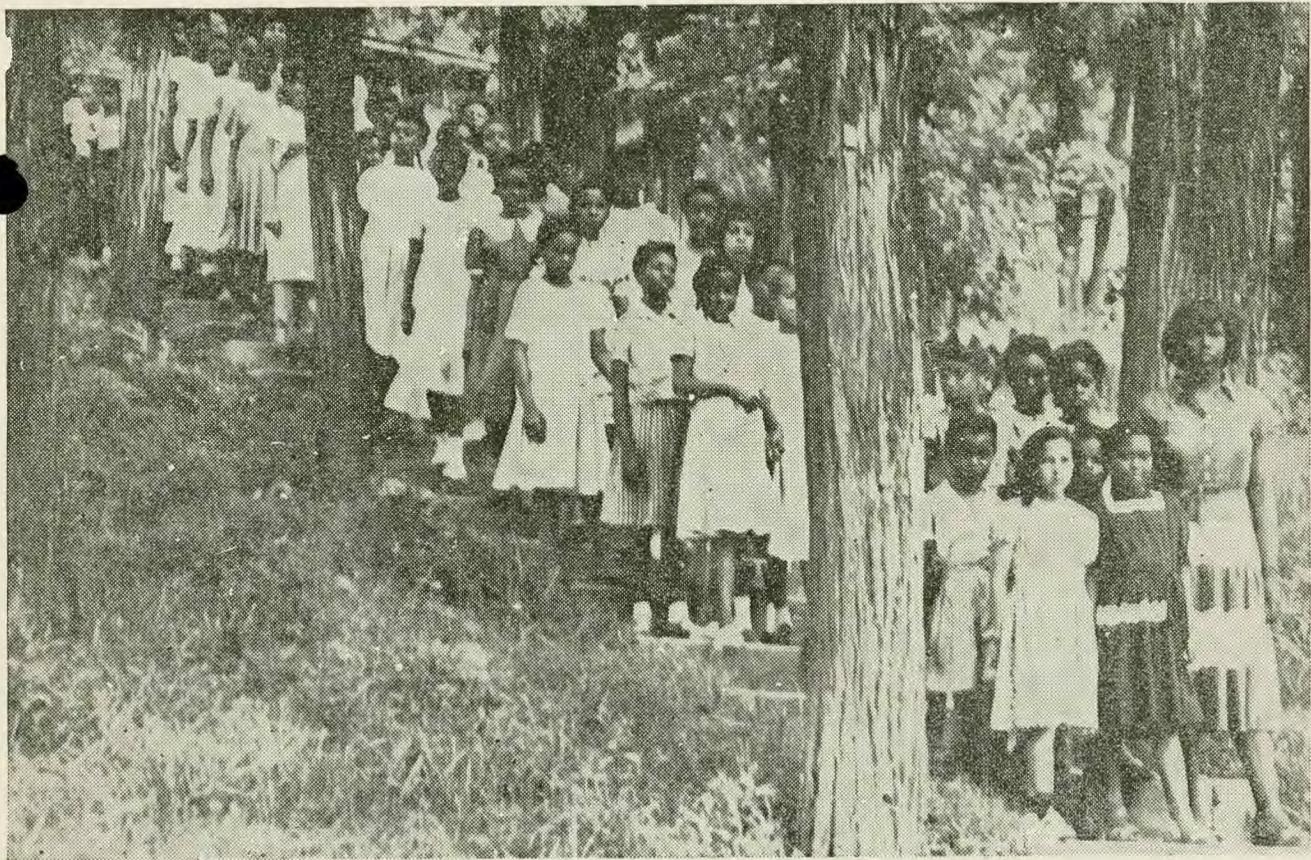
A. V. PINKNEY, Reporter,
Allegheny Conference.

Religious Revival at Camp Manatawny

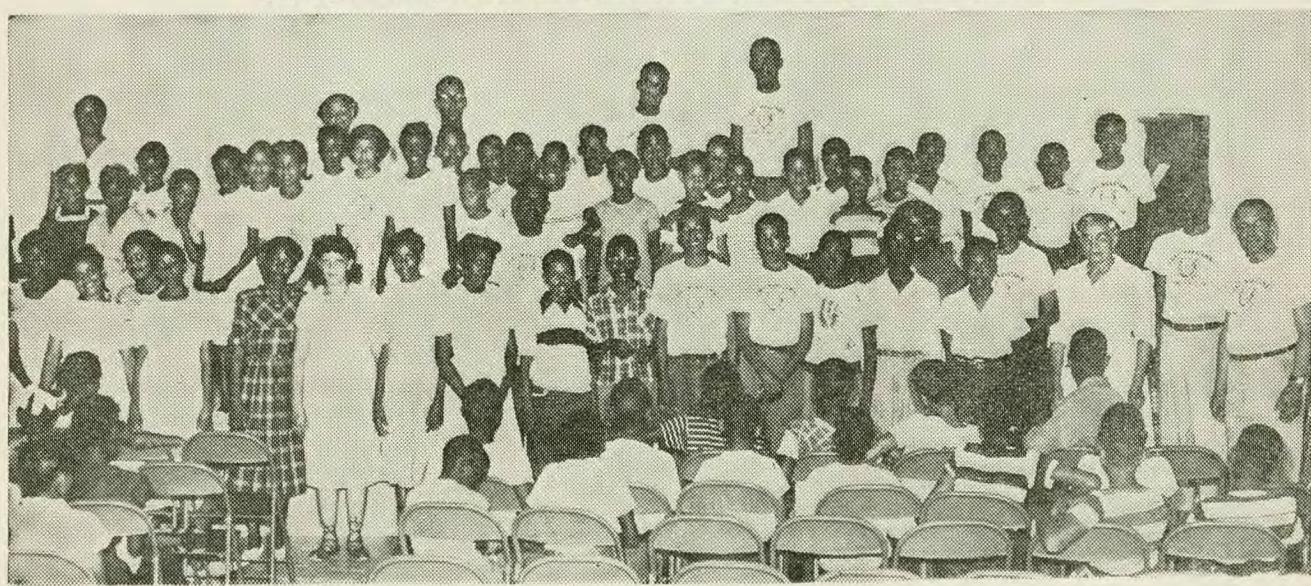
A RATHER interesting program of activities made up the daily routine of our Junior camp. Beginning with the rising signal at 7 A.M., the campers would tidy their persons and show their skill in housekeeping in the arrangements of their tents, assemble for the flag-raising salute and pledge, and go moving on to form a circle around a white flag with a blue cross, which they called their prayer flag. It was here that the camp chaplain read a select verse of scripture for the morning, which was later memorized by all the campers. They then marched on to the Pine Forge Institute cafeteria, the facilities of which were used in the camp project. Only vegetarian foods were served in this cafeteria, and the campers said that they enjoyed the meals immensely. Mrs. H. Hartie, of Philadelphia, was the dietitian.

Handicrafts such as reed work, molding, and hand-loom weaving were engaged in by the various units. Swimming, hiking, and the campfire rounded off the activities.

The merchants of Pottstown graciously feted the campers to ice cream, ice-cold fruit juices, watermelon, peanuts, pies, and cold milk. The religious activities of the camp were materially pointed up this year when nineteen girls and thirty-one boys came forward indicating their desire to be baptized. It was a very impressive service, and there were few, if any, dry eyes in the auditorium as these young people gave their hearts to God. Elder J. H. Lester, of Columbus, Ohio, and Prof. J. T. Powell, of Pine Forge Institute, conducted the religious services in connection with the camp program. Prof. R. L. Reynolds, principal of Pine Forge, conducted a special nature study course and class met daily from 10:15 to 11:00. The youngsters enjoyed this work and now declare that whenever they ride out along the highway they are able to identify the specific breeds of cows, horses, pigs, sheep, and chickens.



Above: Allegheny Junior Campers Marching to Chapel
Below: Junior Campers Who Gave Their Hearts to God Standing With Their Instructors



The camp was ably staffed with qualified counselors and instructors. Working with the girls were Mrs. A. Buchanan, division leader, and Mrs. Lillian A. Pinkney, counselor. Other leaders were Miss L. Wainwright, Miss Emyth Giddings, and Miss Marion Gresham. Prof. N. E.

Ashby, registrar and teacher of foreign languages at Pine Forge, was division leader for the boys. The counselors were Ellis Young, Samuel Ferguson, and Elder J. H. Lester, swimming instructor; Prof. J. T. Powell, adviser, and Robert Lester, counselor. A. V. Pinkney,

educational and Missionary Volunteer leader of the Allegheny Conference, was camp director, and Dr. Daniel Lee, of Pottstown, was camp physician. Mrs. Carrie Davis, of Philadelphia, was camp nurse.

*A. V. PINKNEY, Director,
Camp Manatawny.*

LAKE REGION

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

Lake Region Junior Camp a Success

BEAUTIFUL Camp Sagawau, nestled on three sides of Cook County Forest Preserve, 35 miles southwest of Chicago, was the site of the 1950 Junior camp for the boys and girls of the Lake Region Conference, held during the week of August 25-31. Camp Sagawau afforded excellent facilities for swimming, boating, hiking, nature study, crafts, and all outdoor games and indoor recreation.

A total of 120, including the staff, attended the camp. There were fifty boys and forty girls in attendance. Many thanks are due our staff of workers and the organizations with which they are connected for having so freely donated their services. Our workers and unit counselors were as follows: Mrs. Ida Johnson, Pastor James Dykes, Mrs. Violet Rhinehardt, Mrs. Ruby Threat, Mr. Ernest Peterson, Mrs. Adella Staten, Mrs. Ethel Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Clement Lumley, Mrs. Stephen Lilly, Mr. R. Watts, Mr. Reuben Duckworth, Mrs. Mary E. Dixon, Miss Thomasine Longware, Mrs. Loueva Longware, Miss Marvene Jones, Miss Josephine Dunn, Mrs. Mary Graham, R.N., Mr. Cecil Johnson, and Miss Pauline Bailey.

Sports equipment and food valued at several hundred dollars were donated by various companies in Chicago. After all expenses had been paid, a balance of more than three hundred dollars has been set up in a Junior Camp Trust Fund for next year. The camp was financially self-supporting.

A well-ordered daily routine was maintained at the camp. Whether in prayer bands or general devotional periods, during rigid camp inspection or at such field activities as baseball, volleyball, croquet, or medical cadet drills, the emphasis

throughout was placed on the development of sturdy Christian character.

There were twelve campers from non-Adventist homes. Some of these did not know how to pray. We were impressed with one Catholic girl who prayed for the first time. Another little girl had never heard of the second coming of Christ. We were grateful to have these little ones with us to teach them the wonderful story of Jesus and His love. The evenings at the campfires were most impressive and inspiring.

It is regretted that, because of prior engagements, no union or General Conference personnel could attend the session. However, good help was received from Elder T. M. Fountain, president of the Lake Region Conference, who spoke on the Sabbath. Other ministers present were Elder C. B. Miller, missionary to China for twenty-two years; Elder J. O. Iverson, Missionary Volunteer secretary of the Illinois Conference; Elder F. N. Crowe, Lake Region Conference treasurer; and Elder T. M. Rowe, pastor of the Shiloh S.D.A. church of Chicago, Illinois; also Brother L. B. Baker, Home Missionary and Sabbath School secretary, and Brother Cardey Laurence.

After the experience of this year we are eagerly looking forward to next year, when broader plans can be laid for such an appreciative and worthy group of youth.

L. H. DAVIS,
Missionary Volunteer Secretary,
Lake Region Conference.

Correction:

In our last issue on page 4 under "Concerning the General Conference," paragraph 5 reads, "A quartet composed of Elders W. C. Webb, W. W. Fordham, H. Lindsey, and George Earle rendered very effective numbers." This should have read Elders W. C. Webb, R. W. Nelson, H. Lindsey, and George Earle. We sincerely regret this error.—ED.

SOUTH CENTRAL

H. R. Murphy, Pres. V. Lindsay, Sec.-Treas.
Box 936, Nashville, Tenn.

Evangelism

For the past twelve weeks we have been conducting seven evangelistic campaigns throughout the field. These meetings are conducted by the following:

Pastor C. R. Graham, Greenville, Mississippi; Pastor H. L. Jones, Indianola, Mississippi; Elder E. T. Mimms, Louisville, Kentucky; Evangelist B. W. Abney, McComb, Mississippi; Pastor E. J. Humphrey, Meridian, Mississippi; Elder A. D. Shorter, Mobile, Alabama; Pastor R. C. Brown, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. These efforts are drawing near a close, and the interest has been running high. As a result we are expecting a goodly number of baptisms.

Sabbath, September 23, a baptismal service was conducted in Clarksdale, Mississippi, by Elder B. H. Ewing. This service was a direct result of the work of Walter Jones, lay evangelist of that city, who conducts a weekly radio broadcast each Sunday morning. There were five persons baptized.

Vacation Bible School Conducted

THIS past summer the Sabbath school of the Meharry Boulevard church in Nashville, Tennessee, conducted its first Vacation Bible School. The interest was good from the outset, and the attendance increased daily for the two weeks that it was in session. Mrs. M. Walton and Mrs. P. Wilson, instructors, conducted the school according to the program suggested by the General Conference Sabbath School Department.

There were about forty students in attendance the day the school closed. Many of the children and their parents wanted to continue longer, but it was necessary to close.

The program included Bible lessons, handcraft, singing, and other interesting features. The chil-

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dren were delighted with their part in the school's activities. They were especially enthusiastic about the singing and the handcraft.

As a result of the influence of the vacation Bible School, the way has been prepared for the organizing of another branch Sabbath school in Nashville. Those responsible for conducting the work in this Bible school were Emma Jordan, Rebecca Nix, Mattie Haley, E. F. Carter, Dr. T. H. Bullard, and several Missionary Volunteers of the church.

We look forward to another school to be conducted in 1951 with even greater success.

B. H. EWING, Secretary,
Home Missionary and Sabbath School Departments.

Twentieth Century Bible School

At the present time the work of the 20th Century Bible School is moving forward encouragingly. Enrollments are pouring in every day. Many of those already enrolled in the course have enrolled their friends, and so the enrollments mount up.

Every day the mail brings inspiring testimonies which prove to us that people are really receiving blessings as a result of the Bible school.

Here are a few of the testimonies such as we so often receive:

"This course has come to mean a great deal to me, and I want to see it go on so that others may be benefited. I am therefore sending you a contribution."—MRS. S. L. W., Birmingham, Ala.

"Thanks for the Bible lessons. I enjoy each lesson better; in fact, I love to read my Bible and am praying for a better understanding. I am doing my best to get members of my Sunday school to join in and help

enjoy such good instruction. . . . I am very anxious to complete the course and receive a certificate. I desire your prayers."—MRS. D. E. T., Birmingham, Ala.

"Just a line to let you hear from me and know why I have not written. I am now in Korea somewhere

on or near the front lines. I would like to continue my lessons while here. . . . I am holding up the blood-stained banner wherever I go. . . . We had a wonderful Bible session yesterday. Thanks to the 20th Century Bible School it enabled me to conduct the class."—C. I. P. c/o F. P. O., San Francisco, Calif.

These people will soon be completing the course, and the time will come for them to make a decision as to their stand for Christ. We have just sent some 300 names to our workers in the field. Our workers will give them personal aid in their studies.

We ask that you pray in their behalf and for all the Bible school students, that they may see light in accepting Christ fully. By the end of this year we are looking forward to a great harvest as a result of our Bible school.

S O S Call for Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital

ACCORDING to the plan of God as outlined in the Spirit of prophecy, sanitariums are established to stand as memorials for Him. Our sanitarium, therefore, should serve a twofold purpose—evangelical and medical. That means that when rightly conducted there will be spiritual as well as physical healing. We are happy to state that this is true of Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital.

The sick in this institution are directed to the Great Physician and are treated with the most-approved and scientific methods known to the medical profession. The physicians endeavor to help in the removal of the cause of disease, give health education, and use natural healing agencies, including proper dietary combined with modern and scientific diagnosis and treatment.

Riverside Sanitarium is a registered medical institution with skilled physicians and a well-qualified staff of workers. The nurses and technicians are all registered. The new plant is modern in every detail and free from fire hazards. It is equipped for diagnosis and complete treat-

ment. This new building, which was occupied April, 1948, contains eighty-four beds and sixteen bassinets. A school of nursing is planned and will begin just as soon as the patronage, which is steadily climbing, meets the monthly average of State requirements.

The present medical director, Dr. Carl A. Dent, succeeds Dr. J. Mark Cox, now on leave of absence, taking a residency in the Provident Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Dent and the staff physician, Dr. Rayfield Lewis, are carrying on strongly.

Riverside Sanitarium is completely staffed by colored physicians, nurses, and personnel and is open twelve months of the year to serve our church members and general public. We are ever mindful of the generous gift by our General Conference of almost \$500,000 to make available this new plant. We are also grateful for the sacrifices our people have made in the past to provide equipment and furnishings for the building. But we cannot stop! We must continue to give!

It was at a recent board meeting that the medical director presented a list of modern medical and surgical equipment urgently needed. Ten thousand dollars should be made available at once. It was voted to request each member of our colored constituency in every section of the North American Division to give liberally on Sabbath, November 4, when a special offering will be taken in all our colored churches.

Brethren and sisters, your cooperation will provide the answer to this urgent and pressing need. We must not fail the work which God has placed in our hands at this time. As our work expands there will be calls for means. The offering should be taken Sabbath, November 4, at the regular worship hour. Plan now to give one dollar or more. The treasurer of the church should forward this offering to the conference treasurer, marked plainly *Riverside Sanitarium Offering*. This will then be sent to the General Conference according to our regular organized policy.

G. E. P.



CARL A. DENT, M.D.
Medical Director

The Place With the Touch of Healing Hands

RIVERSIDE furnishes the ideal physical environment for health and recovery. This is visualized by its medical and skilled personnel and its beautiful location on the banks of the tranquil Cumberland. When in need of medical attention and care think of RIVERSIDE—a place that is—

RESTFUL
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REVIVISCENT
SERVICEABLE
INSPIRATIONAL
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