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Informant

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FOURTH BIENNIAL SESSION, SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE

[President's report delivered at the fourth biennial session, held at Birmingham, Alabama, May 16-18.]

To the delegates assembled at the biennial session of the South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and to others who have come to be present at this meeting, greetings. It is a bit historic to return to the city of Birmingham for the conference session, for it was in this city in the closing days of 1945 that the conference was organized. Since this is true, it would be well for us assembled here tonight to reflect on the activities of these passing years to see what great things God has wrought.

There are two barometers by which we can get a fair measure of the spiritual growth of a conference. One is the activity and results in soul winning, and the other is the spirit of faithfulness with which we support the gospel cause by faithful tithe paying and liberal gifts to foreign and home missionary work.

As we examine the soul-winning activities for the biennial periods 1946-1951 inclusive, we find the total accessions to the faith since our organization are 1,585; making our present membership 3,100. During that period our constituents paid in tithes the sum of \$683,570.70. We thank the Lord for the liberality of His people.

The challenge of the words of Jesus, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every crea-



H. R. Murphy, President

ture," has been answered in the spirit of mission giving by our people.

The total of \$386,337.09 given by our constituency to foreign missions is in addition to the thousands of dollars given for local enterprises. Foreign mission funds and tithe received since the organization amount to \$1,069,907.79. For the past several years the South Central Conference has led all newly organized conferences of our group by being the highest in per capita giving for missions and also for Ingathering. We also stand at the head of the

list of all other conferences in the United States in giving more mission funds per tithe dollar received than any other conference.

Our home missionary and Sabbath school departments have done splendid work in training our people for soul-winning activity. We have organized nine Dorcas Federations throughout the conference, each one being composed of several societies. It is encouraging to hear the testimonies of those who have been relieved of physical suffering as a result of the food and clothing distributed by our members. Many boxes of goods have also been shipped to the needy overseas.

A great deal of the progress of training qualified Sabbath school officers and teachers can be attributed to the Sabbath School Area Associations, of which we have nine organized. We also have thirteen branch Sabbath and Sunday schools with excellent attendance. Recently at one of our churches five were baptized from one of the schools.

The educational and young people's work of our conference have been going forward in a strong way. We should be thankful to these faithful workers who to a large extent help to shape the future of our children.

Right in our midst is a great institution, Oakwood College. The administration and faculty of this school, under the leadership of Elder F. L. Peterson, are putting

forth a noble effort to give our young people a Christian education.

We are proud of the fine young people we have in our conference. We have held youth congresses during the last two years, and they have really been an inspiration. Two wonderful junior camps were also conducted. Conference leaders and church school teachers combined their efforts to make them a success.

One of our great needs is for more consecrated, full-time colporteur evangelists. The delivery of our colporteurs amounted to \$424,141.99 from 1946-1951 inclusive. With three million judgment-bound souls in our territory among whom we must work, we realize that these cannot be warned without many more full- and part-time workers. Our colporteurs are doing a wonderful work among the people. All over our field there are individuals won by the colporteur evangelists.

Lay evangelists have been busy everywhere. Brethren Walter Jones and Robert Seard are conducting weekly radio broadcasts of the message in Clarksdale and Greenville, Mississippi, respectively. Many of our members are conducting cottage meetings and Bible studies from week to week all around the circle.

We wish to thank the Southern Union Conference for the service of Elder E. E. Cleveland, union evangelist, who, through his efforts and those of his co-workers, baptized more than 130 believers in Mobile last year.

It would be profitable to pause here and consider the effect of our financial gifts to the churches and our investment in the conference office and conference apartment building to determine what effect this has had upon the financial standing of our conference. Since our organization we have given to churches out of our funds \$55,271.83 for new buildings, remodeling, and additions. We have given to Oakwood College to assist them in their program there at the school \$11,718.59. We invested in an apartment building, to house a few workers' families because of the critical housing shortage in Nash-

ville, the amount of \$14,500. We spent to purchase and improve our conference office building \$16,700, of which \$7,500 was a gift from the General Conference. The total amount of all of these investments was \$98,190.42.

In addition to the foregoing amount spent, we have given, since the organization, to churches operating church schools, \$31,565.43 to help them in meeting the salaries of our teachers.

Since the conference began we have called to the ministry in our conference twelve young men, all ministerial graduates of Oakwood College.

The Riverside Sanitarium, a General Conference institution in our territory, and situated on the banks of the beautiful Cumberland River, has proved to be a haven of rest for many people in our conference territory. Dr. C. A. Dent, medical director, and his staff of workers are working untiringly to serve those who come to this place. We hope that our members will do more to help make this institution known in their local communities.

We also wish to speak a word here of the wonderful work being carried on by Elder L. B. Reynolds through the *Message Magazine*. This is a very attractive journal and is being circulated to a wide extent in our territory.

There are many who have labored to help make this report possible. Those associated with me in the conference office are V. Lindsay, B. H. Ewing, M. G. Cato, L. A. Paschal, P. C. Winley, J. H. Harris, Ruby L. Jones, Martha P. Owens, Dorris Merideth, and Mrs. Martha Graham. Those associated with me in the field work are B. W. Abney, Mrs. C. L. Baker, R. C. Brown, C. E. Dudley, C. R. Graham, E. J. Humphrey, Josephine Johnson, H. L. Jones, J. A. James, W. E. Lester, N. A. Lindsay, Odell Mackey, E. T. Mimms, W. J. Mitchell, C. S. Myles, L. G. Newton, G. H. Rainey, J. N. Richardson, A. D. Shorter, and F. B. Slater. We appreciate the loyalty of these workers and their faithful service.

We sincerely appreciate the encouragement and support of our union conference officers, Elder V. G. Anderson, union president; Elder H. E. Schneider, union secretary-treasurer; and Brother A. P. McDow, union auditor. The other union officers in the persons of Elders E. L. Cardey, A. O. Dart, W. A. Higgins, H. S. Hanson, L. M. Nelson, and R. H. Wentland have also been quite helpful to us in all the various departments in our conference.

We wish to express our appreciation also for the services of Elder G. E. Peters, world field secretary of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, whose visits to our field and whose spiritual help have been a great blessing to our people.

Through the years our heavenly Father has blessed us in an abundant way. We need more of His Spirit to guide us for the present and future. Our zeal must never slacken for the mission field abroad or for our neighbor next door. We are living in the closing scenes of the history of a passing world. There is nothing stable to earth except the Rock of Ages. Men are now seeking for a shelter in a time of storm. We have a hope and we have a message. In a confused and bewildered world, with men's hearts failing them for fear, we can be peaceful and calm, because we know that our day of salvation is nearer than when we first believed. Within a short while our Saviour will return. Let us arise to the task before us. It is now time to obey the instruction

The North American Informant

*Representing the colored work of the
Seventh-day Adventist Denomination*

Editor - - - - - George E. Peters
Associate Editors - W. B. Ochs, C. E. Moseley
Editorial Secretary - - - - - Evelyn Mays
Editorial Committee: J. H. Wagner, L. H. Bland, H. D. Singleton, H. W. Kibble, H. R. Murphy, Louis B. Reynolds.

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c. the prophet Isaiah, who said, "Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; for thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited." Isa. 54:2, 3.

Respectfully submitted to the Fourth Biennial Session of the South Central Conference.

H. R. MURPHY, *President.*

SOUTH CENTRAL

H. R. Murphy, Pres. L. E. Ford, Sec.-Treas.
Box 936, Nashville, Tenn.

Biennial Session South Central Conference

BECAUSE of a burden for an All-Out Evangelism during 1952, the president, H. R. Murphy, and his committee planned an early start in 1952. It was therefore deemed advisable to forego the regular camp meeting and hold a week-end constituency meeting for the biennial conference session.

The session convened in the beautiful new church edifice of the Ephesus Birmingham Seventh-day Adventist church, May 16, at 7:30 P.M. Representing the union were V. G. Anderson, president; H. E. Schneider, secretary-treasurer; H. S. Hanson, educational secretary; and W. A. Higgins, publishing department secretary. G. E. Peters and C. E. Moseley, Jr., represented the General Conference.

H. R. Murphy, president, rendered a very comprehensive and most inspiring report. His report showed gains in membership, tithe, and missions giving.

The nominating committee rendered its report as follows: for president, H. R. Murphy; secretary-treasurer and Book and Bible House manager, L. E. Ford; publishing department secretary, P. C. Winley; associate publishing department secretary, M. G. Cato, W. E. Lester, and Odell Mackey; educational,

Y.P.M.V., and temperance secretary, L. A. Paschal; home missionary and Sabbath school departments, B. H. Ewing; religious liberty secretary, H. R. Murphy. The members of the executive committee elected were as follows: H. R. Murphy, L. E. Ford, B. W. Abney, Sr., F. B. Slater, C. S. Myles, E. T. Mimms, A. D. Shorter, Robert Seard, and I. H. Hudson.

We wish for the South Central Conference and its many workers a large share of God's blessings and guidance as they go forward valiantly to "make ready a people prepared for the Lord." G. E. P.

Dedicatory Service Birmingham, Alabama

ON Sabbath, April 19, 1952, the Birmingham Ephesus church, a new and beautiful structure, was dedicated to the service of God. This church was completed in 1949. The

urer of the Southern Union Conference.

Construction of the church was begun in 1946 under the leadership of J. G. Thomas. He was followed by J. N. Richardson, and the building was completed under the leadership of D. B. Reid. C. S. Myles, the present pastor, was successful in paying off the remaining obligation to the building, and installing pews and other church furniture. This church now has a membership of 446. It is situated on the corner of Sixth Avenue and First Street, North, in a very representative neighborhood. The church is valued today at more than \$100,000. One interesting feature of the financial phase of the new building is that the congregation has not resorted to the sale of the old church property to apply on the new building. They still own the old building, which is free of debt and is now being used for a church school.

The
Birmingham
Ephesus
S.D.A.
Church



dedicatory sermon was given by G. E. Peters, field secretary of the General Conference; the dedicatory prayer was given by V. G. Anderson, president of the Southern Union Conference. Others participating on the program were H. R. Murphy, president of South Central Conference; C. S. Myles, pastor of the Birmingham church; J. N. Richardson; B. H. Ewing; D. B. Reid; P. C. Winley; and H. E. Schneider, treas-

This is the fourth Seventh-day Adventist church building to be dedicated in the city of Birmingham. Three successive times the congregation has outgrown its church building. The beginning of this congregation was in 1897, when Elder M. C. Sturdevant started house-to-house Bible studies among the people of Birmingham. After his work there Elder Sidney Scott, assisted by Elder J. H. Laurence, con-

tinued the work. Next to follow was Elder J. G. Dasent; then came Elders T. B. Buckner, T. S. Tate, D. Blake, C. M. Kinney, W. L. Bird, A. C. Bird, and Randall Johnson. In the year of 1929 Elder W. H. Baker came to the scene of action in Birmingham, and it was under his leadership that the present old church was built. Since then the following men have served as pastor: F. A. Osterman, J. S. Green, Sr., W. E. Adams, E. Wilkings, F. L. Bland, H. R. Murphy, J. G. Thomas, J. N. Richardson, D. B. Reid, and C. S. Myles.

This edifice ranks as one of the most attractive churches in the denomination. Elder V. G. Anderson said on the day of dedication: "This church is the greatest single achievement by any colored church in the Southern Union Conference." The seating capacity is over seven hundred persons.

We must not omit a word of appreciation for the faithfulness of the members who have so cheerfully sacrificed to make this church become a reality. We feel that a new day has dawned in this city, and that with such an edifice as this we will be able to attract a fine class of people to our church.

H. R. MURPHY, *President,*
South Central Conference.

NORTHEASTERN

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

New Chapter Alumni Association

By J. E. ROACH

Educational Superintendent, Northeastern Conference

SABBATH, March 22, 1952, will long live in our memory when more than one thousand five hundred people gathered at the Ephesus church at the eleven o'clock hour to hear Elder G. E. Peters, field secretary of the General Conference, as he began the alumni day with a

sermon most fitting the occasion. The speaker appealed to the parents and guardians to come out and bring the boys and girls along with them. He cited Moses, who led the children of Israel, and his pronouncement to Pharaoh stating, "we will go with our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds will we go; for we must hold a feast unto the Lord."

The General Conference field representative concluded the service with a dramatic appeal to his audience for a complete surrender. It was a beautiful sight to see the response.

Among the overflow audience were some two hundred former students and graduates of Oakwood College and more than one hundred former students of Harlem and Northeastern academies. The Harlem Academy Alumni Association was stimulated, and plans were made for enrolling the later graduates.

That Sabbath afternoon was dedicated to the formation of the Northeastern Chapter of the Oakwood College Alumni Association. More than two hundred former students and graduates of the Oakwood College gathered in an overflow audience to hear the college president deliver a most timely address, entitled "We Must Build a Well Here." Elder Peterson showed the need of establishing an alumni club, which might serve as a well that might be the means of helping some youth on his way to a better life.

Highlighting the musical phase of the afternoon's program was the Oakwood quartet of former days, Lester Valentine, J. Roy Davis, Pastor George Earle, and Robert Jackson. Several expressed the hope that this quartet will not disband but continue to sing songs of praise to cheer the hearts of others.

That day when the services were concluded, an alumni chapter was organized with the following officers and representatives:

President Elder Eugene Carter
Regional Vice-Presidents
1. Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo District
Mr. Judge Brummell

2. New England States
Mrs. Zeola G. Allston
3. Westchester County
Pastor George Earle
Secretary Miss Merlin Edwards
Assistant Secretary Miss Julia Goss
Treasurer Elder Thaddeus Wilson
Assistant Treasurer
Mrs. Eva Gibbs Strother
Chaplain Mr. Vashni Davis
Membership Chairman
Miss Jessie Mary Godley
Ways and Means Chairman
Elder W. S. Lee
Sergeant at Arms Mr. A. S. Rashford
Parliamentarian Miss Helen Horton

Church Representatives

Bethel, Brooklyn Miss Gloria Norman
Bronx, New York Mr. Wesley Cartwright
Berea, Boston, Massachusetts
Mrs. E. A. Lockett
Bridgeport, Connecticut
Mrs. Elacey Howard
Berea, Nyack, New York
Mrs. Esther Collins
Brownsville, New York
Mr. James Edgecombe
Christian Fellowship, Brooklyn, New York
Mr. Convey Thorpe
City Tabernacle, New York
Mr. Robert Jackson
Ephesus, New York Mr. J. Roy Davis
Hartford, Connecticut
Elder John S. Greene
Linden Boulevard, Jamaica, New York
Mr. John Anderson
Mount Vernon, New York
Mr. Preston Alexander
Mount of Olives, Brooklyn, New York
Elder T. X. Perry
New Haven, Connecticut
Mr. Thomas Douglas
New Rochelle, New York
Miss Theresa Flippers
Rochester, New York Mr. Charles Eaton

Among our other colleges Oakwood holds a very unique place. God gave His approval to the location where the Oakwood College was founded, through His messenger, Mrs. E. G. White.

Missing Issue of the Informant

WE sincerely regret that we failed to publish the May issue of the INFORMANT because of lack of help in our office. Our former secretary, Miss Daphne Nebblett, who served faithfully and efficiently both on the INFORMANT staff and in the department, left our office May 8 to become the bride of Pastor Meade Van Putten.—EDITOR.

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"OUR greatest glory is not in ne falling but in rising every time fall."



The First Class of Practical Nursing Students, Riverside Sanitarium, Nashville, Tennessee

Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital Opens School for Practical Nurses

ON February 4, 1952, the Riverside School of Practical Nursing welcomed its first class of student nurses.

This school offers a twelve-month training program that is designed to prepare young women for true Christian service and to enable them to become licensed practical nurses.

The course is divided into six-month periods. During the first six months the student is engaged in intensive classwork. The following classes are offered: a Bible course, personal health, food preparation and nutrition, home management and home nursing, nursing ethics, hydrotherapy and massage, and elementary nursing procedures, which include special courses in mother and child care; care of the aged and chronically ill, and recreational therapy. Four hours each day are spent on the wards to correlate the principles of nursing care with actual patient experience.

During the last six months adequate clinical experience is emphasized. The student is given opportunity to develop nursing skills in obstetrical and pediatrical nursing, medical and surgical nursing, home nursing, and preparation of special diets for the sick.

The students enrolled at this time are Mary Brown, of Nashville, Tennessee; Anna Woodson, of Topeka, Kansas; Marjorie Scales, of Greenwood, Mississippi; Dorothy Jones, of Mobile, Alabama; and Odell Harris, of Sylacauga, Alabama.

There is a great demand for the practical nurse. Also there is a definite trend toward the preparation of the practical nurse in order to relieve the acute shortage of nurses.

Classes will be admitted twice yearly, February and August. For all information concerning the school, write to Riverside School of Practical Nursing, 800 Young's Lane, Nashville, Tennessee.

KAMALEE HIGGS, *Director,
School of Practical Nursing,
Riverside Sanitarium and
Hospital.*

Wedding Bells

ON Sunday, May 18, at 4:37 p.m., in a beautiful setting, the wedding of Daphne Udalee Nebblett and Meade Carlson Van Putten took place at the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist church, Washington, D.C. The ceremony was performed by Elder C. E. Westphal, chaplain of the Washington Sanitarium and long-time friend of the bride's family.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, Edwin Nebblett, who had come from his home in Spanish Honduras to attend the ceremony. Matron of honor was her sister, Mrs. Zenobia Davis, of New York City. Dr. Robert Schoop, of Washington, D.C., was best man. The bridesmaids were Grace Matthews, Shirley Johnson, Carolyn Whitaker, and Martha Wideman. The ushers were Milton Nebblett, brother of the bride, Aston Davis, Ernest Bradham, Milton McFarlane, Leonard Johnson, and Ernest Schoop. Greer Walker was the flower girl, and Cedric Davis, page boy. The wedding was directed by Miss Marion Stafford.

Music was provided by Miss Sylvia Deal, soloist, singing, "I Love Thee" and "The Lord's Prayer." A ladies' sextette sang "In the Garden" and "O Promise Me." Both were accompanied by Mrs. Alma Blackmon, organist, who also played the wedding march.

A large attendance of friends and well-wishers were present, including a number from out of town. Immediately following the ceremony a reception was given for Mr. and Mrs. Van Putten at the home of Mrs. Retha Howard.

Pastor Van Putten is on the ministerial staff of the Lake Region Conference. He has charge of the Inkster, Michigan, district. The bride served as secretary to Elder G. E. Peters in the Colored Department of the General Conference for approximately one year and one half.

We wish these young people much happiness, and pray that God will richly bless them as they establish their home in the city of Inkster.

The Twelve Modern Apostles of Evangelism

By GEORGE E. VANDEMAN

Associate Secretary, Ministerial
Department

No more thrilling work has been committed to the church of God than that of reclaiming lost men for the kingdom, and to think, my brother and sister, the Lord has deemed each of us worthy to cooperate with Him in this glorious task. I have often wondered why the Lord passed so many by and gave me the privilege of dealing with human hearts. I thank Him for it, however, and daily strive to do that work better, better, better. In this brief series of articles I desire to share the challenging possibilities inherent in the *twelve modern apostles—of evangelism*. Will you not, dear reader, prayerfully peruse these words, examining your own heart to discover the avenue or avenues of service in which your talents most surely lie? I shall begin with one of the most important:

Personal Evangelism

God says, "Personal influence is a power." This is true—everlastingly true. The man who reaches hearts publicly can best reach them privately, and the laymen find in this avenue a never-failing success. But why is personal work the hardest to do? I could list four reasons: (1) timidity, (2) deference to age and years, (3) secularity in our natures, and (4) lack of experience.

Timidity.—We are all timid. Even the most bold of us is just timidity covered up. When I learned this secret I became a more efficient soul winner. There was a time when I wilted in front of a strong, bold personality. But when I discovered that beneath this rough exterior was a heart that was warm and longed to be understood, I threw back my shoulders and bravely faced him, and discovered him just as human as I. Are you timid? Remember, the other fellow is too. So why allow this to keep you from soul winning?

Deference to age and years.—This deference on the part of younger

men and women holds many back from faithful service. Why should I, a young man, direct the thinking of older people? It is well to recognize age, and one needs to be polite and kind, but although the other may have years of experience in this world's business, you may have years of experience far ahead of his in the things of the kingdom. Why then let this hold you back?

Secularity in our natures.—Do you find it easier to talk about the new car, politics, et cetera, rather than the second coming of Jesus Christ? In this last tragic hour certainly we ought to so surrender these natures of ours as to make them no deterrent to our soul-winning program.

And lack of experience.—Why should this delay us? There is only one way to overcome this excuse, and that is to move ahead. The greatest and most lasting soul-winning efforts have been made through personal contacts. As a businessman, or office secretary, or day laborer, or housewife, you wield a tremendous influence on someone. And my pastor brother, you too have learned that power in the pulpit, and those best and most helpful sermons have come from personal evangelism.

Medical Evangelism

How wonderful God is to give us a well-rounded message. Through influence and example we may lead men to possess clean, sound, healthy bodies and clear minds. The doctor is not alone the medical evangelist, nor even the nurse. Is it not possible to rediscover the medical evangelist approach that the Lord desires the laymen to utilize to the full? The messenger of God says in *Counsels on Health*, page 533: "I wish to tell you that soon there will be no work done in ministerial lines but medical missionary work."

And to the minister she says on page 390: "Every gospel worker

should feel that to teach the principles of healthful living is a part of his appointed work."

Simple treatments, the planning of healthful meals, and as humble a service as neighborly care to those who are ill or unfortunately poor will do much to relieve prejudice and lead souls to the kingdom. A friend of mine, Mrs. Mary Hobbs, wrote these lovely lines entitled—

Magdalene

"I cannot spill the perfume
Upon the Holy Head,
But I can smooth some weary brow;
Perhaps 'twill do instead.

"I cannot wash those tired feet
With my repentant tears,
But I can bathe the helpless ill
And quiet nameless fears.

"I cannot sit and listen
To that dear, loving voice,
But I can weep with those who weep
And with the glad rejoice.

"O Christ, my loving Saviour,
I ask one thing of Thee,
The Spirit of the Magdalene
To live again in me."

Then again God desires to exercise His healing power in behalf of His children and through His servants. Why do we not see more answers to prayer? In a crowded city hospital a woman worker prayed quietly for the healing of one afflicted with an incurable disease. At the close of the prayer she reverently lifted her eyes in time to see a ray of soft, radiant light rest upon the afflicted bed to heal—completely. May God help us to see more healing among us.

Public Evangelism

What a thrill it is to read those early records of new churches, new congregations, new territories opened, new cities explored. Are we resting, satisfied to build the large city churches and carry on comfortable pastorates? Why not take a lesson from the bees, and swarm? Right here in Takoma Park, our dear Brother Nichol, editor of the *Review and Herald*, as busy man as he is, led laymen in an effort

Hyattsville, Maryland. Today one of the most lovely churches of the area, with a congregation well over two hundred stands as a memorial of that work, and a medical clinic as well. Our Brother Delafield followed the same procedure in Silver Spring, Maryland. The church is a beautiful monument to the cause, and I discovered that the other churches in the area are just as full, waiting for someone else to swarm. Why not follow the same procedure in every city? This challenge comes to the people of God in *Evangelism*, page 31:

"A great work is to be done. I am moved by the Spirit of God to say to those engaged in the Lord's work, that the favorable time for our message to be carried to the cities has passed by, and this work has not been done. I feel a heavy burden that we should now redeem the time."

And on page 35 is the promise: "The millions living in these congested centers are to hear the third angel's message."

Pastors and people alike are to unite in one thorough-going campaign to share present truth with the multiplied thousands who are eagerly, anxiously longing for help. In one of the great cities recently a Roman Catholic woman decided she would set out in search for truth. For eight long years she visited the various churches, and then returned and confessed her wanderings to the priest. "Why," he said, "did you leave us? We are the only true church." "No," she said, "I am not sure of that, but it is the best I have been able to find." About that time an announcement was dropped at her door. She said to herself, "Lord, should I try again?" She did. As she walked into the auditorium that opening night her coat was drawn tightly about her in an attitude of reserve and distrust. She simply wouldn't be taken in. Listening to the lovely gospel songs helped her to relax, and the certain ring of the Advent message caused her to lay aside her coat in midservice and breathe out loud, "Home, at last." Ah, my brother and sister, is there more satisfying task than to lead people home?

(To be continued)

Reflections From the Field

● ELDER E. E. CLEVELAND, Southern Union evangelist, is now conducting an effort in Mobile, Alabama. The effort that he conducted last summer in this same city yielded one hundred and thirty souls. Surely the Lord blessed his labors.

● THE members of the Meharry Boulevard Seventh-day Adventist church, Nashville, Tennessee, were happy to have had Miss Georgia Laster in concert the week end of May 3, 1952. The many friends of the church expressed their appreciation of Miss Laster's outstanding ability and the privilege of hearing her. Miss Laster is a celebrated soprano of Los Angeles, California, and a member of the Long Beach Seventh-day Adventist church.

● A. D. SHORTER, district pastor of Mobile, Alabama, was confined to bed for several weeks at the Riverside Sanitarium. We are praying that our brother will be fully restored and able to resume his work. Kindly remember Elder Shorter in your prayers.

● Two tiny young ladies have recently united with the working force of the Southwest Region Conference. Cassandra has joined the family of Elder J. E. Cox, and Gwendolyn Yvonne has settled in the home of Elder and Mrs. D. J. Dixon. Several weeks earlier, a young man, Charles Weldon, joined the family of Pastor S. D. Meyers. We wish God's blessings on the proud parents and the new arrivals.

—C. C. CUNNINGHAM.

● DR. C. A. DENT, medical Director of Riverside Sanitarium, was the speaker at the Meharry Boulevard church, Nashville, Tennessee, on the Medical Missionary Day, which was sponsored by the Home Missionary Department. His message was effective and greatly appreciated.

● PASTOR AND MRS. E. J. HUMPHREY are now located in the Knoxville, Tennessee, district. Pastor Humphrey has been serving in the Meridian, Mississippi, district for the past nearly four years, where he

labored faithfully. His new district includes Knoxville, Greeneville, and Morristown, Tennessee.

● A BRAND-NEW, ideal site has been selected for the camp meeting of the Southwest Region Conference. The meeting this year was held on the campus of Jarvis Christian College near Hawkins, Texas.

—C. C. CUNNINGHAM.

The Journey's End

● WE were shocked to learn of the death of Elder T. H. Coopwood, who passed away Friday, May 23. Our hearts respond in deepest sympathy to Sister Coopwood and all members of the family.

● NEWS of the accidental death of Joyce Carrol Wagner, age one year and ten months, brought great sorrow to our hearts. We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to the bereaved parents, Pastor and Mrs. J. H. Wagner, Jr.

"Concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope."—1 Thess. 4:13.

Transfer of Workers

● ELDER J. H. LAURENCE, of the Allegheny Conference, has accepted a call to labor in the Washington Conference, in the North Pacific Union.

● ELDER W. J. CLEVELAND, of the Washington Conference, has accepted a call to labor in the Southwest Region Conference, in the Southwestern Union.

● ELDER LEON G. COX, of the Southwest Region Conference, has accepted a call to the Allegheny Conference, in the Columbia Union.

New Secretary

OUR present secretary, Miss Evelyn Mays, took up her duties June 3. She comes to us from Champaign, Illinois, and well recommended by her immediate supervisor at the University of Illinois. She discontinued her secretarial position there to accept this position in the Lord's work. We extend a hearty welcome to Miss Mays,

G. E. P.

Oakwood College

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

Building Progress

The new library, which will be dedicated in the fall as the W. H. Green Memorial Library, is nearing completion. With the exception of the lighting system the building will be completed about July 1. August 1 has been set aside as moving day. The new structure will have offices for the college administrators as well as a reading room, stacks, workroom, teachers' lounge, and restroom facilities.

The central heating plant is nearing completion, and will be in operation before the winter sets in. An addition to the college laundry has begun and should be completed within two weeks. With this additional space it will be possible to operate the cleaning and pressing plant on a first-rate basis. Plans for the new science hall and additional teachers' cottages will be discussed at the next board meeting, which will be held in July.

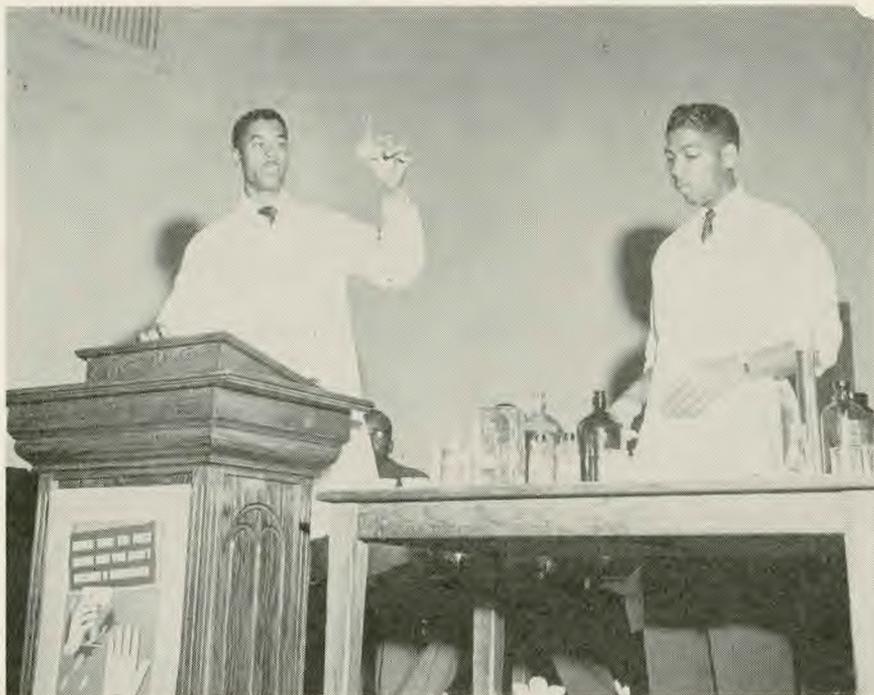
Faculty Focus

President and Mrs. F. L. Peterson left for New York City on June 2 in order to witness the graduation of their daughter, Katherine, who has completed requirements for her Master's degree in history at Columbia University.

Mr. J. J. Beale has been appointed director of the summer session at Oakwood College, which began on June 15.

Dean and Mrs. O. B. Edwards have just returned from a year's leave of absence, which was spent in study at the University of Nebraska. Dean Edwards is now working on his thesis in order to complete requirements for his Doctor's degree.

Dr. Eva B. Dykes is doing student promotion work for Oakwood College as she visits the various camp meetings. She is also soliciting funds for the new science hall and recreation building.



Lyle Follette and William Weeks Conduct an Experiment, Showing the Damaging Effects of Alcohol. Both are Students in the Science Department at Oakwood

Commencement High Lights

Eighty-one Oakwoodites received degrees, diplomas, and certificates on Sunday, May 25, 1952, in the college auditorium. Twenty-seven Bachelor of Arts degrees were conferred in the following fields: religion, eighteen; biology, three; English, two; history, two; chemistry, one; and secondary education, one. Nine Bachelor of Science degrees were conferred in the following fields: elementary education, four; business administration, three; and home economics, two. Two diplomas were given for the two-year Bible instructors' course, and twenty-seven academy diplomas were given. Sixteen students received prenursing certificates.

Eight students graduated with honors. Naomi White and Richard Lake were valedictorian and salutatorian respectively. Ralph Peay, president of the class of 1952, graduated with high distinction. The following five graduated with distinction; Enid Knight, Clara Peterson, John Simons, Mrs. Lucille Walters, and McKinley Woods.

Very timely messages were powerfully delivered by the three com-

mencement speakers. Elder W. S. Lee, of New York City, delivered the traditional consecration message at the Friday sunset vesper service. On Sabbath morning Elder J. E. Cox delivered the baccalaureate sermon. The commencement address, by Elder Jacob Justiss, was one never to be forgotten. He based his remarks on the Lord's prayer.

The class night exercises for Oakwood Academy were held on May 21. The senior class presented the play "The Keys of Life," in seven parts. Honor students were Herbert Harris, valedictorian, and Manona Sellars, salutatorian.

International Award

Louis E. Jenkins, business education sophomore, took top honors among fifteen thousand participants of the Fifteenth Annual International Bookkeeping Contest. This contest is sponsored by the *Business Education World* magazine. The award was the gold and French enamel Order of Business Efficiency superior pin. It was presented to the three hundred students who submitted the most outstanding

(Continued on page 11)

The Advent Revival Was a Lay Preachers' Movement

(Continued from January-February issue page 8)

By HENRY F. BROWN, Associate Secretary
Home Missionary Department, General Conference

"HE began to present his views in private as he had opportunity, praying that some minister might feel their force and devote himself to their promulgation. But he could not banish the conviction that he had a personal duty to perform in giving the warning. . . . As Elisha was called from following his oxen in the field, to receive the mantle of consecration to the prophetic office, so was William Miller called to leave his plow, and open to the people the mysteries of the kingdom of God. With trembling he entered upon his work."—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 330, 331.

Not many ministers were attracted to the movement, but it caught fire in the hearts of laymen. "There were comparatively few ministers, however, who would accept this message; therefore it was largely committed to humble laymen. Farmers left their fields, mechanics their tools, traders their merchandise, professional men their positions; and yet the number of workers was small in comparison with the work to be accomplished."—*Ibid.*, p. 368. "Hundreds of laymen also traveled everywhere proclaiming the message."—E. DECK, *Founders of the Message*, p. 37.

In his paper *The Midnight Cry* Joshua V. Himes wrote: "Let the believers in Christ's near coming consider themselves *apostles sent forth* to teach. If you have a house, invite your neighbors in and tell them what you know. Hold prayer-meetings and Bible classes. Lose no opportunity of calling attention to this momentous subject. When Christ comes, let us all be found like the faithful and wise servant, who gives to each his portion of meat in due season."—Quoted in *The Home Missionary*, April, 1896.

That this instruction was followed, the early Advent believers is evident from the study of the early

sources. One of the most picturesque of the early Adventist lay preachers was Captain Joseph Bates. He had spent his life on the sea, and retired with what was considered a competence in those days. Having become convinced of Miller's message, he caught the evangelistic spirit, and began to tell the story. He went to the State of Maryland and to the islands off the coast of Massachusetts preaching that Christ would come again. (*Founders of the Message*, pp. 128, 129.) In the South he was accompanied by the blacksmith lay preacher H. S. Gurney. (W. A. SPICER in the *Review and Herald*, Dec. 7, 1939.)

James White was a country school-teacher, twenty-one years of age, when he received a burden to preach the message of Christ's soon return. He says of himself: "I had given up all to teach the doctrine to others, and to prepare myself to do this was the great object before me. I had purchased the chart illustrating the prophecies of Daniel and John, used by lecturers at that time, and had a good assortment of publications upon the manner, object, and time of the second advent. And with this chart hung before me, and these books and the Bible in my hands, I spent several weeks in close study, which gave me a clearer view of the subject. . . . I felt that I must immediately go out into the great harvest-field, and do what I could in sounding the warning. I therefore prepared three lectures. . . . I had neither horse, saddle, bridle, nor money, yet felt that I must go. . . . But my father offered me the use of a horse for the winter, and Elder Polley gave me a saddle with both pads torn off, and several pieces of an old bridle. I gladly accepted these, and cheerfully placed the saddle on a beach log and nailed on the pads, fastened the pieces of the bridle together with malleable nails,

folded my chart, with a few pamphlets on the subject of the advent, over my breast, snugly buttoned up in my coat, and left my father's house. . . . In January, 1843, I left on horseback, thinly clad, and without money, to go more than a hundred miles among strangers."—*Life Incidents*, pp. 72-75. James White was ordained to the gospel ministry by the Christian denomination some time later, but he began his work as an enthusiastic young lay preacher.

An example of the personal work done by the Advent believers is seen in the life of Ellen Harmon, later Mrs. E. G. White. James White says of her: "I first met her in the city of Portland, in the State of Maine. She was then a Christian of the most devoted type. And although but sixteen she was a laborer in the cause of Christ in public and from house to house. She was a decided Adventist."—*Life Sketches* (1880 ed.) p. 126.

Mrs. White says of herself: "I often visited families and engaged in earnest prayer with those who were oppressed by fears and despondency."—*Ibid.*, p. 188.

(To be continued)

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I see from my house by the side of the road,
By the side of the highway of life,
The men who press with the ardor of hope,
The men who are faint with the strife.
But I turn not away from their smiles nor
their tears—

Both parts of an infinite plan;
Let me live in my house by the side of the
road
And be a friend to man.

I know there are brook-gladdened meadows
ahead,
And mountains of wearisome height,
That the road passes on through the long
afternoon

And stretches away to the night.
But still I rejoice when the travelers rejoice,
And weep with the strangers that moan,
Nor live in my house by the side of the road
Like a man who dwells alone.



Newly Acquired Camp Site, South Atlantic Conference

SOUTH ATLANTIC

H. D. Singleton, Pres. N. G. Simons, Sec.-Treas.
Box 4027, Atlanta, Ga.

South Atlantic Purchases Camp Site

SOUTH ATLANTIC has just recently acquired a beautiful heavily wooded forty-acre tract of land in northern Florida, near Hawthorne. In the center of this site, which, incidentally, is easily accessible by public transportation, is a twelve-to-fourteen-acre spring-fed lake. This is an ideal situation for the annual camp meeting, also for junior camp and church officers' conventions as well.

Modern rest rooms and a kitchen have been constructed, also other improvements made, which have facilitated the 1952 camp meeting.

N. G. SIMONS, *Secretary,*
Home Missionary Department.

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No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent.—ABE LINCOLN.

Associate Departmental Secretary Itinerates

C. E. MOSELEY, associate secretary of the Colored Department of the General Conference, is filling appointments at the following camp meetings: Southwest Region, South Atlantic, Lake Region, and Allegheny.

Elder Moseley will also fill appointments during the month of August at regional meetings of the Central States Mission.

Church Dedication in South Central Conference

THE spacious and thoroughly modern church edifice at 523 First Street, North, Birmingham, Alabama, was dedicated free of all indebtedness, Sabbath, April 17, 1952. The dedicatory sermon was given by G. E. Peters; V. G. Anderson, union conference president, offered the prayer of dedication. The act of dedication was given by H. R. Murphy, conference president. The choir furnished appropriate music,

and special selections were furnished by Ephesus' Jewels of Melody.

At the three o'clock hour a highly spiritual message was delivered by V. G. Anderson. Vesper service was conducted by D. B. Reid, of Kansas City, a former pastor of the Ephesus church. This was followed by the laying of the cornerstone. V. G. Anderson and H. R. Murphy led out in this ceremony.

We are compelled to pay a tribute to Elder Murphy, who conceived the idea of this beautiful structure and under whose leadership a large amount of the cost of this building was raised. Elders J. G. Thomas, J. N. Richardson, D. B. Reid, and the present pastor, C. Sampson Myles, are all to be congratulated for their noble part in the completion of this structure.

We feel certain that our readers will greatly enjoy the history of the church, which appears in this issue.

G. E. P.

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TRUE happiness consists, not in the multitude of friends, but in their worth and choice.—BEN JONSON.

S.D.A. Denomination Not in Politics

THE following statement was released by the Associated Negro Press, May 3, 1952, and appeared in the Afro-American of several cities. "Washington—(ANP)—The statement that home rule in the District of Columbia would result in the mixing of the race, recently made by Dr. David Aitchison has been resented by top officials in the Seventh-Day Adventist church throughout the country.

"Aitchison testified before the House District Committee that he opposed home rule in the District of Columbia because it would result in the 'alleys outvoting the avenues.'

"He concluded that it would also lead to the mixing of races, emphasizing that nonwhites must not mix with white Anglo-Saxons. In identifying himself, he told the committee that he was a medical doctor and a minister. When asked what was his faith, he replied 'Seventh-Day Adventist.'

"This brought resentment from top people in that denomination. They declared that he was not an official representative of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. One spokesman pointed out that the church had taken no stand on home rule, because it felt that this was a political matter rather than a religious issue.

"The Seventh-Day Adventist Church also made it clear that it is not in sympathy with Aitchison's political views. Church leaders do not wish the general public to get the erroneous impression that their church has taken any such position.

"Aitchison stated very specifically in his testimony that he was representing no organization but was speaking his own views. His profession and his religious belief was given purely for identification."

EDITOR'S NOTE.—"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they be of God."—1 John 4:1.

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WHATEVER impedes a man but doesn't stop him, aids his progress."

Oakwood College

(Continued from page 8)

papers in the bookkeeping contest problem.

Teachers Get Degrees

Oakwood College teachers are making educational progress in an effort to make the college fully accredited. At the end of the semester three teachers received advanced degrees. Miss L. T. Longware received the Master of Arts degree in home economics from the University of Nebraska in January, 1952. Two teachers participated in the graduation exercises of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in May, 1952. Elder E. E. Rogers received his Master's degree in Biblical languages, and Mr. J. J. Beale received his Master's degree in religion.

Scholarships

After the commencement exercises on May 25 more than seventeen awards and scholarships were presented to Oakwood students for their outstanding services. Leading the list were the presidents of both the college and academy classes. Ralph Peay received a full scholarship to the Theological Seminary. Samuel Rollins received a full scholarship to Oakwood College.

Staff Makes Changes

At a special and beautiful testimonial on May 6 special tributes were paid to former Business Manager L. E. Ford, and former Treasurer T. T. Frazier. Prof. G. R. Partridge acted as master of ceremonies as various departments and campus clubs gave tributes and gifts. Music for the occasion was rendered by the girls' chorus under the direction of Dr. Eva B. Dykes. Already Mr. Ford has taken up his duties as secretary-treasurer of the South Central Conference.

On May 1 the new business manager, Mr. Adele Warren, began his services at Oakwood College. He was formerly the business manager

of Riverside Sanitarium. At the same time Mr. D. L. Crosby, formerly of Riverside Sanitarium, began his tenure of service as farm manager at Oakwood College. On July 1 Mr. J. E. Meredith, of Atlanta, Georgia, will take up his duties as chief accountant.

CENTRAL STATES MISSION

F. L. Bland, Pres. H. T. Saulter, Sec.-Treas.
2528 Benton Blvd.
Kansas City, Missouri

Progress in Central States Mission

I recently received a very encouraging letter from Elder F. L. Bland, president of the Central States Mission. I am sharing a portion of the letter with our readers.

"Elder Taylor baptized five individuals in the Denver district this past week end. Two others were baptized on Sabbath while I was there, and one more joined as a result of the altar call which I made. This gives him fourteen in his baptismal class which he hopes to baptize before he will move to Omaha in early June.

"From each district I am receiving a note of encouragement. I believe that this is going to be a good year with us in the winning of souls. We are already ahead of ourselves in comparing baptisms this year with baptisms last year. For the first quarter of this year we more than tripled the number baptized for the first quarter of last year.

"Our Ingathering work was finished in February, and now we are making definite plans for strong evangelistic meetings throughout the field during this summer."

G. E. P.

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IF all our misfortunes were laid in one common heap, whence every one must take an equal portion, most people would be contented to take their own and depart.—**SOLON.**

Concerning the Mid-Summer Offering July 12, 1952

THE work of saving the lost is dependent on the members of the church for its support and progress. God counts on men called and consecrated to Him by the Spirit of Christ to go, and on others to give of their means to extend His work.

In Pentecostal days the believers who had property disposed of it and placed the price in a common fund, which was distributed to provide for the sick and needy believers and those unable to care for themselves.

In those days "the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that aught of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common." This is a report of how the church supported and promoted the spread of the gospel when the Holy Spirit was leading. But all were not true even in those days. Selfishness crept into some hearts. Thus we are told of the sad experience of Ananias and Sapphira, his wife, who attempted to deceive the brethren by holding part of the purchase money of a property they had sold while they pretended to give all. As a result both husband and wife lost their lives. Such a punishment is a warning for us today that we must deal honestly with the Lord.

Our Perfect Example

Christ was a perfect example of all sacrificial giving. What He did in self-denial and sacrifice we can strive to do. In doing for others He found His chief satisfaction.

It was a voluntary act on the part of Christ when He came to this world and took upon Himself man's nature that He might die for the remission of sin.

Thus Christ gave His life a real sacrifice—an offering for sin—that whosoever would believe in Him and confess Him as the Son of God might have eternal life through faith in His name. Paul speaks of this sacrifice of Christ as if it involved

His whole earthly life. He says, "Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." 2 Cor. 8:9.

Liberality toward others is essential and must be a heart quality if our gifts are to be reckoned to our credit in the everlasting kingdom. Every gift, be it small or large, when brought to the Lord's cause with love is precious in God's sight. Christ notices the smallest gift that is made to support the work. This is illustrated by the incident of the widow's two mites, related in Mark 12:41-44. The incident is not a parable but a record of an actual occurrence that evidently took place at the last Passover that Christ attended.

Jesus measures the gift by the sacrifice that is made in parting with it. The spirit of sacrifice in giving is what the Lord appreciates. Those who have more can give from their abundance and the poor from their poverty. Both may be acceptable givers in the Lord's sight, even though not making a donation of the same amount. What the well-to-do can afford to give, the poor cannot possibly give. What the poor give, be it as small as the widow's mite, when the giving is prompted by love, is as acceptable to the Lord as greater gifts from those who have the ability to give larger sums. For many years the General Conference has called for a special Midsummer Offering for missions to augment what has been given during the previous months and in many instances to help make up the deficit of the required goal. The Midsummer Offering this year will be taken on Sabbath, July 12, 1952.

"Upon us rests the weighty responsibility of warning the world of its coming doom. . . . God calls upon His church to arise and clothe herself with power. Immortal crowns are to be won; the kingdom of heaven is to be gained; the world, perishing in ignorance, is to be enlightened."—Volume 7, p. 16.

"Let the gospel message ring through our churches, summoning

them to universal action. Let the members of the church have increased faith, gaining zeal from their unseen, heavenly allies."—*Ibid.*, p. 14.

The blessing that is promised as a reward is given not alone in material things but also in spiritual blessing that the Lord bestows. The Christian who is liberal, who gives freely of his own material things to others, that they may be blessed and helped, will not merely be giving his goods away. His "alms are come up for a memorial before God." Our heavenly Father gave His Son, and in Him He gave us all things. When the offering is taken, shall not each one who professes the name of Christ fulfill his covenant to God by liberality and sacrifice in giving to Him, and to the closing work?

G. E. P.

Degrees Awarded

ON May 27, 1952, at the commencement exercises of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., Milton McFarlane, Ernest E. Rogers, and John Beale received their Master of Arts degree. These were three of twenty-three graduates. Mr. Beale's work was done in the field of religion, Mr. Rogers' in the field of Biblical languages, and Mr. McFarlane's was in the field of church history. Mr. McFarlane plans to work on his doctorate. Mr. Beale has accepted a position in the Bible department at Oakwood College.

It will be interesting to note that Miss Leliafred Ballard, former secretary in the Colored Department, received the Master's degree in history from Howard University, June 13.

Miss Katherine Peterson, a former schoolteacher in the Allegheny Conference, and daughter of Elder and Mrs. F. L. Peterson, received the Master's degree in history at Columbia University this June.

We extend our felicitations to these workers, and sincerely trust that their advanced education be utilized in the closing work of God in the Advent Movement.