

The North American



Informant

VOLUME VIII

WASHINGTON, D.C., SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1954

NUMBER 51

Singing and Preaching in the Land of the Midnight Sun

By Elder F. L. Peterson

FROM July 19 to September 6 it was my privilege to sing the song of God's saving grace in strange lands among strange people. Strange in customs and languages but not strange in love, in kindness, in hospitality, and in devotion to the cause of Christ.

On July 18 at one o'clock in the afternoon I boarded the Pan American Clipper *Freedom*. I got a little comfort out of the name *Freedom*, and was soon off for London, flying at an altitude of fifteen thousand feet. We made one stop at Stephenville, Newfoundland, and arrived in London 7:30 A.M. Monday, July 19.

I went to the Northern European Division office and found all the division officers away. I contacted Elder Armstrong, president of the

British Union Conference. He came for me and took me to the union office at Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts., England. After having been shown through the union office, the printing establishment, and the health food factory, I had lunch with Elder and Mrs. Armstrong. At four o'clock I boarded a British plane for Oslo, Norway, where I attended the East Norway Conference session.

Everything possible was done to make my stay in Norway comfortable and pleasant. One intriguing thing during my stay in Norway was that it never got dark at night.

Oslo is a typical continental city some nine hundred years old. Today it is in the transition period from the ancient to that of a modern city. It was the home of Quis-



ling. Since 1891 it has been the mecca for skiing. Some 120,000 spectators gather there to witness this winter sport.

When I arrived in Oslo, Brother Mensah, of Africa, was there. He gave excellent help during the conference session. The hall that was engaged for the Sabbath services proved too small to accommodate all who were present. On Sabbath afternoon four young men were ordained to the gospel ministry.

I was pleased to meet with our people in this section of Norway and to participate in their conference session. They expressed their delight in having me there and in hearing my messages.

My visit on the Continent included the British Union Conference session at Watford, Herts., England, the West Finland Conference session at Yvaskyla, the Finland Swedish Conference session at Helsingfors, and the South Netherlands Conference session at Rotterdam, Holland.



Finland Swedish Conference session, Helsingfors, Finland.



Preaching in Finland.

I also visited the following institutions: Vejlefjord, the Danish mission school; Toivonlinna, the Finland mission school; "Oud-Zandbergen," the mission school for the Netherlands; Ekebyholm, the Swedish junior college and seminary; Hultafors Sanitarium and Nyhyttan Sanitarium in Sweden; Skodsborg Sanitarium in Denmark; Stanboroughs Hydro in Watford, Herts., England, and the Stockholm Publishing House in Stockholm, Sweden.

While on the Continent I traveled by plane, by bus, and by train. The enjoyable thing about a plane ride to me is its smooth landing. I was also pleased to visit the New Gallery on beautiful Regent Street. This truly is a strategically located evangelistic center for proclaiming the Advent message in the great city of London. I preached at the eleven o'clock hour, one Sabbath, to the congregation of the Central church, which meets in one of the halls in the New Gallery.

Everywhere I went I was graciously received. I can now better understand how wonderful it is to belong to the Adventist family. God's people are wonderfully kind and the Advent people are a wonderful family to be a part of.

I returned home September 13 with gratefulness to God for the

blessed privilege that was mine to visit in the Northern European division.

A New Missionary Goes to Africa

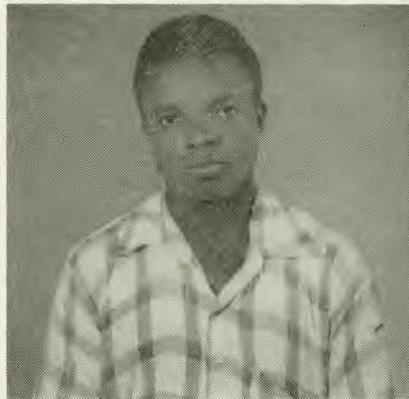
ON September 29 Miss Ruth Faye Smith sailed from New York on the S.S. *Queen Elizabeth* for West Africa. Miss Smith is joining the faculty of the Bekwai Training School on the Gold Coast, and we wish for her God's guidance and much of His spirit as she begins her work with the students in this school.

Miss Smith took the first two years of her college work at Oakwood and completed her course in home economics at Emmanuel Missionary College, graduating with the class of 1954.

Africa—

Abraham's Faith Wins Others to Truth

By Pastor E. Onumaegbu
East Nigerian Mission



Abraham's faith was tested.

IN the little church of Akanu-Ngwa in the Aba district is a boy by the name of Abraham. This boy became a Sabbathkeeper after he had heard the Advent message, although his father and his brothers were heathen. They thought it strange that Abraham should become a Christian, so they began to persecute him.

One Sabbath day, finding that Abraham had left for Sabbath school, his older brother went and

dragged him from the Sabbath school to his home. The following Sabbath Abraham's clothes were hidden from him, but he went to Sabbath school, where he was provided with clothing.

The third Sabbath persecution became hotter than before. Abraham was locked in a room in order to prevent him from running to the Sabbath school. His brothers had gathered special fuel and set a smoky fire in the room so as to produce suffocation, by which they could force him to renounce his new-found faith. When that Sabbath was over, the door was opened for him to come out. He still held to his faith in Jesus. (Thank God that all the persecution could not make him renounce and forsake Christ.)

Abraham's firmness in his new-found faith still worried his brothers. One Sabbath day as he got ready to go to Sabbath school they threw palm wine on his clothes. This was done with the hope that when he got to the Sabbath school with the bad odor of palm wine in his clothes he would be driven out by his leaders. Abraham was not daunted, neither did it happen as his persecutors expected.

Today Abraham is a baptized member in the church, and as a result of his faithfulness eight people of that compound are Sabbathkeepers. Five have been baptized into the faith.

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." But thank God that nothing "shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

PACIFIC UNION

Owen A. Troy, Departmental Secretary
Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day
Adventists
P.O. Box 146, Glendale 5, California

Ethiopian Emperor Visits California Adventists

READERS of the *Informant* will be happy to know that the millions of Americans who have followed the fortunes of Emperor Haile

lassie in the United States have had their attention focused upon the medical and institutional work of Seventh-day Adventists in Ethiopia.

On his recent visit to America the Emperor and his party were guests of the Adventists, with missionaries who had served in his country, at a gala meeting held at the Glendale Sanitarium and Hospital in Los Angeles. His Imperial Majesty spoke in glowing terms of the hospitals and schools that Seventh-day Adventists have founded in his country, and that have contributed "so much toward the development of Ethiopia."

Newsmen from all over Southern California were present for the only press conference held by the emperor on the West Coast, and reported on his friendliness toward the Adventists and of the work done in Ethiopia by the Adventist missionaries.

Seldom has a church had its exploits for God brought before the public under such favorable circumstances as the reporting of the remarks of the emperor. This publicity is missionary work of the highest order and makes lasting friends for the mission program. Prayers are requested for the ruler of Ethiopia and for the work and workers in that foreign land.

One of the emperor's subjects, and a minister of our church, Dessa Kassahun, is studying at the Seventh-day Adventist Seminary in Washington. He was a delegate to the World Conference of Seventh-day Adventists held in San Francisco, and is now enjoying a visit with his American brethren, despite his busy study program.

Lay Evangelistic Work

FROM an article written by Mrs. E. Van Nockay Porter, Bible instructor of the Northern California Conference, I quote:

"In the summer of 1951 Elder R. W. Nelson caught a new inspiration for lay evangelistic work, as he, with several other ministers, visited in the Caribbean Union.

Elder Nelson returned to

Northern California with a burden to see members of the Market Street church catch a new vision of the possibilities of soul winning here in the Bay Area. Seminar classes were held with the young men of the church while classes in lay Bible work were being conducted for the women. Our widespread territory was then divided into seven divisions: East, Central, West, and North Oakland, South Berkeley, and Alameda. A layman was placed in charge of each division and was assigned helpers which included an assistant, a Bible instructor, a song leader, a pianist, a projector operator, and film agent. The duties of each individual were pointed out by the pastor at two weekly meetings held for this purpose. Groups were put to work in each division to find a suitable meeting place. Then the work really began: cleaning halls, making signs, painting, and decorating.

"That there might be a oneness of planning a general theme, 'God's Judgment Hour Message'; a theme song, 'What If It Were Today?'; and a closing song, 'I Want to Be Ready When Jesus Comes' were chosen. Several weeks before the meetings began each leader was assigned a night to practice a sermon on the congregation at the church. He and all his helpers had the opportunity of doing what they would have to do when their meetings began in their various locations. With a list of all church members within their territories in hand, each leader began soliciting the members for help in distributing invitations to the meetings. The experience was a thrill to many members who had wanted to do something but had lacked confidence in their ability.

"On Sunday night, August 15, the seven meetings started simultaneously, with church members supporting the meetings in their respective sections. On the first night Elder Nelson visited all seven meetings, spending a few minutes at each one. The Bible instructor covered four meetings on the opening night, and the other three the sec-

ond meeting night, giving suggestions here and there to the women workers. Now the pastor and Bible instructor are spending an entire evening at two different meetings each night.

"Our seven evangelistic teams and our church members had a more appreciative and understanding spirit of what it means to work for souls. Some leaders of districts have already expressed a desire to continue in their divisions on through the year."

Is not this a good plan for all of us to follow? Is it not time that we hold a commitment service in all of our churches, when every member will consecrate his saved life to God and yoke up with the pastor and church elder in an all-out soul-winning campaign? Our time, our talents, our personality, and our material possessions should be placed on the altar of consecration and devotion to the cause of Christ.

Mrs. E. G. White has said much regarding organizing our church membership for service. "If there is a large number in the church," she says, "let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members, but for unbelievers. If in one place there are only two or three who know the truth, let them form themselves into a band of workers. . . . As they pray and work in Christ's name, their numbers will increase."

I believe we would all do well to follow Elder Nelson's plan of setting the church to work. F. L. P.

The North American Informant

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

Editor - - - - - F. L. Peterson
Associate Editors: C. E. Moseley, W. B. Ochs
Editorial Secretary - - Mrs. Evelyn Johnson

Editorial Committee: J. H. Wagner, H. D. Singleton, H. W. Kibble, H. R. Murphy, Louis B. Reynolds, F. L. Bland, W. W. Fordham, W. L. Cheatham, Garland Millet, O. A. Troy.

Printed bimonthly for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, Takoma Park, Washington 12, D.C., U.S.A. Fifty cents a year, 10 cents a copy; add 20 cents for yearly subscriptions to countries requiring extra postage.

ALLEGHENY

W. L. Cheatham, President

M. S. Banfield, Secretary-Treasurer
P.O. Box 21, Pottstown, Pennsylvania
Pottstown 3844

Elder Cheatham Reports Gains in Allegheny

AT THE recent biennial session of the Allegheny Conference, W. L. Cheatham, who recently succeeded J. H. Wagner as president, reported that in spite of the worsening of world conditions the conference had made progress. An attempt to finish the work, which must be finished rapidly, he said, has brought about financial pressure, but the Lord is providing.

The membership of the conference increased from 5,291 to 5,821. There were 912 persons baptized into the church; however the net gain was only 530. New churches were organized in Canton and Ash-tabula, Ohio, and East Beckley, Virginia, increasing the total to fifty-seven churches and two companies.

In order to take care of the fifty-nine congregations, Elder Cheatham reported, there are thirty-seven ministers and ministerial interns, six Bible instructors, and thirty-two schoolteachers. The conference also employs seven secretaries and ten members on the Pine Forge Institute faculty.

M. S. Banfield, the secretary-treasurer, was commended for his faithful service. His accounts showed that tithes for the last two years exceeded \$840,000, and more than \$295,000 was contributed for missions, \$135,468 of which was raised in the Ingathering campaigns.

The publishing department, under H. D. Warner, four associates, and a magazine leader, was very successful. With 118 colporteurs and 20 student colporteurs, thousands of truth-filled books and copies of magazines flowed into the homes of the people. For almost two years the conference led the world literature field. The Book and Bible House, managed by L. W. Brantley, is operating at a gain.

One outstanding achievement for the conference is the construction of an administration building for the Pine Forge Institute. E. I. Watson, the principal-manager has been in charge of the school for the past three years.

Elder Cheatham commended the members for their past deeds and urged all to continue to support the work so that it might go forward as God desires that it should.

Health Center Operates in City of Brotherly Love

By M. A. Burgess

A LITTLE more than two years ago the Penn-Jersey Federation, a group of societies from the States of New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania, opened a health center in the city of Philadelphia, under the direction of Sister Antoinette Ballard.

The first two years were difficult ones, but under the courageous leadership of Sister Carrie Davis, president of the Federation, and Sister Dora Mitchell, secretary, the work prospered.

During the period, over two thousand garments, eighteen cases of canned foods, and one hundred baskets were given out. Besides this, a work of education and instruction was carried on in evening classes—

first aid, hydrotherapy, and cooking. W. R. Robinson, the former home missionary secretary of the Allegheny Conference, gallantly pioneered the Dorcas Federation work in the Allegheny Conference.

A few months ago a meeting was held by Kenneth Wood, Jr., at the Washington Missionary College, which was devoted entirely to the importance of the health welfare center. C. E. Guenther, O. S. Hershberger, Miss M. Vandermark, and Dr. Clifford Anderson took part. The disaster kit was presented and the film *Operation Ivy* was shown.

With this new light and information in mind, Sister Antoinette Ballard returned to her center and spent several weeks working hard with her associates to improve the center and to make it all that it should be.

On Sabbath and Sunday, September 11 and 12, a Dorcas Federation rally was held at the Ebenezer church in Philadelphia, and W. A. Thompson, pastor of the church, gave the Federation full time for this important phase of our work. C. E. Guenther, of the General Conference Home Missionary Department, brought the morning message based on the good Samaritan. Many hearts were touched and



Left to right: Elder M. A. Burgess; Mrs. Antoinette Ballard, Allegheny Dorcas secretary; Elder W. A. Thompson; Mrs. Willie Warnick; and Elder C. E. Guenther, General Conference Home Missionary Department.

responded with their gifts to help support in a financial way the work of the welfare center.

After a tasty dinner prepared by the local Dorcas Society, a round-table discussion was conducted in the afternoon and evening. The showing of the film *Operation Ivy*, and the display of the disaster kit brought this day's meeting to a close.

Sunday morning Sister Willie Warnick opened the Dorcas Federation, and the devotion was conducted by J. H. Lester, pastor of the Newark, New Jersey, church. A tour of the center was then made, and many Dorcas Society leaders present were more than pleased with arrangement, appearance, and quantity of things found in the center. After lunch there was a round-table discussion on financing the center, and a new working policy was adopted. The election of officers was held for the biennial period. They are Mrs. Willie Warnick, president; Mrs. Bernice Dickerson, vice-president; Mrs. Dora Mitchell, secretary; and Mrs. Minnie Sutton, financial secretary.

Every one returned to his home with a new vision and greater determination to do all in his power to lift up fallen humanity.

Book Salesmen Vital to Work of Church

By A. V. Pinkney

THE magazine and book salesman is an integral part of the culture of rural America, and in the religious ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist church the colporteur, or book salesman, is as necessary for the propagation of the gospel as the evangelist. This year sixty colporteurs and their families attended the tenth encampment under the direction of H. D. Warner, head of the publishing department.

Included in the group of Allegheny Conference workers were men and women who formerly held remunerative jobs. Brother Alfred Arrington, of Philadelphia, already has delivered \$5,000 in books for first six months, assuring him of

\$2,600 pay. A former manager for the A & P grocery chain, Mr. Arrington gave up his job a year after becoming an Adventist.

At eighty-three, Brother James Stewart still works and makes an average weekly salary of forty dollars despite his blindness. The dean of the Allegheny corps is Mrs. Ada B. Thomas, of Delaware, with thirty-five years of continuous experience.

Most colporteurs are women, but the money they earn is not pin money. Typical of these is Mrs. Helen Handy, of New Jersey, a housewife, civic leader, and holder of the exacting job of treasurer of her local church. She gave up a government job with permanent status to sell the Lord's books. But she is not the only one. Mrs. Cornelia Wright, of Richmond, Virginia, formerly sewed for the FFV's the first families of Virginia, and Brother Armeter, of Cleveland, was a well-paid waiter, who received generous tips.

The present group of colporteurs includes three former public school teachers, a caterer, a mechanic, and a trucker.

LAKE REGION

H. W. Kibble, Pres. F. N. Crowe, Sec.-Treas.
619-621 Woodland Park, Chicago, Ill.
Victory 2-1811

Lake Region Baptizes Twenty-three at Camp Meeting

One of the most important questions that anyone can consider, was raised by the apostle Peter's hearers on the day of Pentecost: "What shall we do?" The answer was "Repent and be baptized."

This question was pondered in the hearts and minds of many dear souls of the various churches of the Lake Region Conference as they listened to the messages presented to them by their pastors. But it was on the last Sabbath of the Lake Region camp meeting that twenty-three persons from Chicago, Calvin

Center, Battle Creek, Cassopolis, Fort Wayne, Chicago Heights, South Bend, and Ypsilanti demonstrated to hundreds on the banks of Stone Lake at Cassopolis, Michigan, that as Christ was baptized in the river of Jordan, so they, too, were willing to follow the Lord in this sacred rite.

It was a beautiful sunshiny Sabbath afternoon, and the place chosen to carry out the sacred rite was secluded. On the board walk of the lake stood the pastoral committee, W. D. Forde, T. M. Rowe, and E. S. Dillett, and other ministers of the Lake Region Conference, together with Calvin Moseley, of the General Conference, to witness the impressive scene.

As the candidates wended their way from the dressing rooms down the hill to the foot of the lake, the melodious voice of Clinton Warren was heard leading out in the words of the hymn, "There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins; and sinners plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains."

Hundreds of voices joined in the songs appropriate for the occasion. We were reminded of that heavenly choir when our voices will unite in singing redemption's story. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that heavenly guests assisted Marshall Kelly as he led each candidate out into the water where R. C. Smith buried them in the watery grave.

To conclude the services, Elder Forde asked of Him who alone knew just what temptations Satan had awaiting these lambs, protection, guidance, a deepening power, and a faith that will keep them within the fold.

We returned to the campgrounds to enjoy the last of our great camp meeting feast, but before introducing the speaker who would bring us our last spiritual meal, H. W. Kibble, our president, expressed gratitude to God for the great manifestation of His presence during the encampment and for the dear souls He had added to His church.

DOROTHY C. SMITH
Bible Instructor

NORTHEASTERN

H. D. Singleton, Pres. V. L. Roberts, Sec.-Treas.
560 W. 150th St., New York, N.Y.
MO. 2-9353

Youth Congress Held in Rochester

THE 1954 youth congress for the Northeastern Conference was held in the city of Rochester from September 3 to 5. The opening address was given by R. A. Nesmith, the youth leader of the Atlantic Union Conference. He admonished the youth to think soberly of the times in which they are living. He implored them to get a vision of what God wants them to do, and once the vision is received, he said the youth should venture out into Share Your Faith activities for Christ. He assured them that if they heeded the biddings of Christ they would gain the victory.

Delegates from nearly all the Missionary Volunteer Societies of the conference arrived Friday evening. Official delegates came from the societies of Brooklyn, Bronsville, Nyack, Boston, Bridgeport, Buffalo, Hartford, the Bronx, Linden Boulevard, Mount of Olivet, Mount Zion, Mount Vernon, Springfield, and White Plains.

Ten ministers were on the platform for the Sabbath morning service. The eleven o'clock sermon was given by C. E. Moseley, associate secretary of the General Conference. Elder Moseley emphasized the three major points that Satan uses to capture youth. They are the doubts, wants, and weaknesses. He dramatically portrayed Christ as He was tempted of the devil when He was hungry. "Christ overcame," he said, "and the youth too will be overcomers if they seek God's help as Christ did."

The entire congregation stood in answer to the appeal. The huge throng was dismissed as each held his neighbor's hand as evidence of the oneness existing at the congress.

The afternoon service was taken over completely by the federations. Each federation presented a chal-

lenge to its youth for greater participation in Youth for Christ evangelism. Everyone pledged to do a greater work on his return home.

A talent program was held in the evening, featuring five participants from each federation. It was an inspiration to see and hear the youth perform. After more than ninety minutes of good entertainment the program ended. The judges awarded the beautiful trophy to the Western New York Federation. Tied for individual honors were the girls' sextet of Buffalo and the mixed quartet from New York City.

Sunday morning a bus tour of the city of Rochester was conducted by Moses Haynes, of Rochester. The bus was crowded, and many cars went along too. The tour was educational. Following a ball game, scores of young people went to Niagara Falls.

Charles Eaton, of the Rochester church, is to be commended for his strong support of the congress and his untiring effort to see that everyone was well cared for. Henry Niles, the youth leader of the church, was of much help in making the congress a success. Others who worked diligently were Miss Dawn Logan, who was in charge of registration; Charles Banks, publicity; Harold Simmons, housing; Ivan Rugless, refreshments; Herbert Shorter, waiters; Miss Theresa Gill, talent show; Samuel James, recreation; and Richard Haynes, music.

J. E. ROACHE, *Press Secretary*
Northeastern Conference

Obituary

Ulysses S. Willis, Sr., who served as a Seventh-day Adventist minister for fifty years, and who during that time pastored the churches in sixteen cities, passed away in Brooklyn on July 11, 1954, four days before his seventy-second birthday. His death was caused by a heart ailment.

Elder Willis was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, on July 15, 1882, and accepted the message at a camp meeting held in Nebraska in 1902. Two years later he entered the min-

istry and was sent to pastor the church at Kansas City, Kansas. In the years that followed he pastored in St. Louis, Kansas City, Missouri; Savannah and Columbus, Georgia; Washington, D.C.; Detroit, Michigan; and Brooklyn, New York. Elder Willis also served as the pastor of eight churches in Ohio.

During the years his wife, Mrs. Zella Davis Willis, whom he married on June 1, 1914, shared in his ministerial work. Four children were born to the couple.

Elder Willis had been suffering from a heart ailment since 1945. He suffered the last attack the day before his death.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Eunice Louise, and two sons, Ulysses, Jr., the pastor of the Chester, Pennsylvania, church, and Robert Leslie, a student at the Seventh-day Adventist Seminary.

SOUTH CENTRAL

W. W. Fordham, Pres. L. E. Ford, Sec.-Treas.
Box 936, Nashville, Tenn.

Conference Officers Elected at Oakwood

By Lee A. Paschal

On August 10 the members of the South Central Conference met on the campgrounds of Oakwood College for the biennial session. W. W. Fordham was re-elected president. He will also serve as religious liberty and press relations secretary.

L. E. Ford was re-elected secretary-treasurer and manager of the Book and Bible House. Brother C. Woods will assist him in the book work. Others elected were W. M. Starks as home missionary and Sabbath school secretary; L. A. Paschal as educational, temperance, war service and Missionary Volunteer secretary; and M. G. Cato, publishing secretary. O. W. Mackey was chosen assistant publishing secretary.

Members elected to the conference committee were W. W. Fordham, L. E. Ford, C. S. Myles, E. T. Mimms, C. E. Dudley, A.

Shorter, W. M. Starks, E. J. Humphrey, and Brothers Walter Jones, William Fort, and Dr. Carl A. Dent.

This year's camp meeting was one of the most successful ever held in the South Central Conference. Everyone attending enjoyed a spiritual feast. The camp meeting choir, under the direction of Dr. Eva B. Dykes, furnished inspirational music. Guest speakers included W. B. Ochs and C. E. Moseley, of the General Conference; V. G. Anderson, president of the Southern Union; W. H. Beaven, American Temperance Society associate secretary; J. H. Wagner, president of the South Atlantic Conference; and E. L. Cardey and W. S. Jesske, of the Southern Union Bible School of Prophecy.

Those who were privileged to attend camp meeting were greatly helped, and returned home to do a greater work for the Master.

A well-rounded program was planned for the children by Mrs. Helen R. Sugland, of Washington, D.C. The youngsters performed beautifully in the senior Sabbath school department, and gave an enlightening temperance program the last Thursday evening of camp meeting.

Workers' Meeting

ON September 21 and 22 I attended the workers' meeting of the South Central Conference, held at Riverside Sanitarium, Nashville, Tennessee.

Throughout the meeting an excellent spirit prevailed, and it was said to be the best workers' meeting ever held in the conference. Well, this is as it should be. Each time we meet we should have closer fellowship with our God and with one another.

Over six hundred souls were reported having been baptized already this year. More than two hundred were in the baptismal classes, and their goal is one thousand souls baptized by the close of the year.

The conference is all out for a rt Ingathering campaign. A

special invitation has been sent to a very-much-desired man to come to the conference by the close of the year. All of the workers voted for the man to come, and they are making all necessary preparation to send him his transportation. Well, I thought you would be interested in his name—it is Minute Man.

Religious Awakening Seen in the South

ONE of the greatest thrills of my life was experienced Sabbath, September 25, when I saw the tent in Montgomery, Alabama, filled with new believers and interested friends. I have never seen anything like it before. It was an inspiring sight to behold, and it was a blessed experience to speak to them.

In the afternoon Elder Cleveland conducted his third baptism of 36 candidates, which made the total as of that date 309. Elder Cleveland plans to conduct a baptismal service each week for the next ten weeks. I am sure by the time you read this article the total number of baptisms will have increased very materially.

Eric Ward is conducting a summer evangelistic effort in Wilmington, North Carolina, and on Sabbath, September 25, his baptisms totaled 251. I am confident that this figure also will change during the coming weeks.

Ralph Hairston, in his first tent effort, has already baptized thirty-six at Fort Valley, Georgia; Calvin Rock, twenty-eight at Sumter, South Carolina; Charles Graham, sixty-one at Meridian, Mississippi; Edgar Mimms, fifty-one in Louisville, Kentucky; Edwin Humphry, forty-three at Prichard, Alabama, and C. S. Myles, fifty-one at Bessemer, Alabama. I am sure all of these figures will increase during the coming weeks, and there are many others conducting evangelistic campaigns from whom I have not heard.

Our only reason for existing as a church is to preach Christ to the world. This is our business, and if we are not winning souls we are not wise.

Oakwood College

THURSDAY night, September 23, I spoke to the faculty and students in the college auditorium. I was very happy to see the new students and so many of the old students registered for the new school year. There were also additions to the faculty.

The new dormitory for men was staked off, and building materials were being hauled to the college.

It was a real personal satisfaction I had in visiting with the students and teachers at Oakwood, and I am sure that the college will experience its best year under President Millet's leadership.

F. L. P.

SOUTH ATLANTIC

J. H. Wagner, Pres. N. G. Simons, Sec.-Treas.
Box 4027, Atlanta, Ga.

Pastors Ordained to Gospel Ministry

ISAAC J. JOHNSON, of Greensboro, North Carolina, and Horace M. Barker, of Orlando, Florida, were ordained to the gospel ministry on Sabbath afternoon July 3 at South Atlantic campgrounds, Hawthorne, Florida. In an impressive afternoon service before the assembled campers the rite was conducted by C. E. Moseley, Jr., departmental associate secretary of Washington, D. C., who also challenged the ministers in his forceful and informative sermon to "do the work of ministry" in the fullest sense of which they are capable.

The wives of both of these young ministers were invited to sit on the front seats facing the altar during the service. Their names were mentioned in the prayer which was offered, when with the laying on of hands their husbands were set apart for the holy work of preaching and ministering to the church.

W. W. Fordham, president of South Central Conference, gave the charge and F. S. Keitts, a veteran minister of Tampa, Florida, welcomed the newly ordained men

into the ministerial brotherhood. J. H. Wagner, president of South Atlantic, who gave interesting and informative historical sketches of the preparation and labors of the men before ordination, led the ministers as they embraced their fully accredited fellow workers.

Camp Meeting

SOUTH ATLANTIC'S annual camp meeting was held from July 1 to 11, at a beautiful campsite between two lakes, near Hawthorne, Florida. Amid the tall pines and huge oaks that cover the grounds, 227 tents were pitched, and nearly twelve hundred persons were accommodated. The nightly and weekend attendance reached a peak of more than two thousand.

The General Conference was represented at the session by Frank L. Peterson, associate secretary; Calvin E. Moseley, associate secretary of the Regional Department; W. B. Ochs, vice-president; Earl E. Cleveland, associate secretary of the Ministerial Association; and E. W. Dunbar, secretary of the Young People's Missionary Volunteer Department.

Other guests included W. W. Fordham, president of the South Central Conference; R. W. Simons, missionary on furlough from Liberia, West Africa; and W. A. Fagal with the Faith for Today television group. Representatives from the Southern Union were V. G. Anderson, president; R. H. Wentland, H. E. Schneider, H. S. Hanson, L. M. Nelson, and B. H. Ewing. Elder Ewing recently joined the Southern Union School of Bible Prophecy. Miss Anna Knight, veteran educational worker in the Southern Union and former missionary to India, was also present.

Dr. Eva B. Dykes, Prof. R. L. Reynolds, Miss Ruth E. Mosby, Dr. H. Holness, and Frank L. Jones very ably represented the institutions in the union territory. All the guests rendered valuable aid and spiritual counsel during the entire camp meeting.

The conference biennial session

was held on July 5, 1954. The president's report indicated that God has blessed, making possible continued gains in all phases of the work in the South Atlantic territory. Elder Wagner was re-elected president of the conference and N. G. Simons secretary-treasurer. W. A. Darby was appointed Book and Bible House manager, and Elder Battle will continue as home missionary, Sabbath school, and public relations secretary. Elder Jenkins will be in charge of the missionary volunteer, educational, and temperance work for the conference. Elder McClamb will supervise the publishing work, and Samuel Thomas and J. L. Williams will serve as his associates.

Those appointed to the conference executive committee were: J. H. Wagner, chairman; N. G. Simons, secretary; A. J. Bailey, W. S. Banfield, M. T. Battle, L. E. Daniels, F. S. Hill, F. S. Keitts, J. F. Street, J. P. Winston, and Brother Ed Sumpter.

Believers attending the session testified that great blessings and spiritual gains were received.

Seven Graduate From Riverside

SEVEN young women received their diplomas from the Riverside Sanitarium School of Practical Nursing at the fourth commencement exercise held in August. Mayor Ben West of Nashville was the commencement speaker.

Since its founding, the school, now under the direction of Miss A.

C. Pruitt, has successfully trained twenty-six students, and all are making valuable contributions in the communities in which they are employed.

W. W. Fordham, during the consecration service, urged the nurses to contribute a spiritual as well as a physical service to mankind. On Sabbath W. M. Starks preached the baccalaureate sermon.

This year the undergraduates were included in the exercises, and received inspiration when the graduating class presented them with their caps. Later Mrs. Susie Shurney, a Riverside nurse dressed as Florence Nightingale, lighted the lamps of the younger students in a candle-lighting ceremony.

Dr. Matthew Walker, chairman of the department of surgery at the Meharry Medical School and the Hubbard Hospital, told the group about the duties practical nurses were performing in hospitals and communities, and he stressed the responsibility and seriousness of the work the students had chosen.

Any Seventh-day Adventist between the ages of nineteen and forty-nine with a high school education or its equivalent and a year free from family responsibilities, according to Dr. Carl A. Dent, Riverside's medical director, is eligible to take the course.

Classes begin in August and February, and applications should be made to Miss A. C. Pruitt, director, 800 Young's Lane, Nashville 7, Tennessee.



Mrs. Susie Shurney, R.N., dressed as Florence Nightingale, lights candles of undergraduates during candle-lighting ceremony.