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THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY CONVOCATION

The sixtieth anniversary convocation and commencement exercises, May 16-20, drew more than two thousand constituents to Oakwood College campus to celebrate, enjoy, and participate in the services and meetings designed to commemorate sixty years of growth and development in the history of Oakwood College, and to plan for future progress and expansion.

"Past Love, Present Faith, Future Hope" was the poignant theme selected for the convocation, which was officially opened May 16 at seven-thirty with a formal welcome address given by President Garland Millet. This touched off the Oakwood spirit for the entire series of convocation activities.

Thursday, May 17, at the 10 A.M. session, Elder V. G. Anderson, president of the Southern Union Conference, and Elders H. W. Kibble, W. L. Cheatham, H. D. Singleton, H. Wagner, and W. W. Fordham were the conference presidents who participated in an animated, interesting, and informative conference leaders' symposium. The Oakwood College constituency meeting followed at three o'clock.

The activities of Thursday evening were spurred by a singspiration at 7 P.M. which was followed closely by a memorable speech by Dr. Emile Watson, well-known consulting actuary of Columbus, Ohio. Then came the history of Oakwood in a pageant, picturing vividly some of the scenes in the progress and development of Oakwood. Two of the original sixteen students who en-

rolled in 1896, Mrs. Frances Lynch and S. A. Thompson, were present for participation, also three presidents, Elders J. A. Tucker, J. L. Moran, and F. L. Peterson. Miss Anna Knight, Mrs. E. I. Cunningham, Mrs. Julia Baugh Pearson, historic workers in the developing days of Oakwood, also played their roles.

The Friday services began with the 9 A.M. devotional conducted by Elder E. C. Ward, Southern Union evangelist. The Christian education symposium followed at ten o'clock, with Dr. Richard Hammill, of the General Conference Department of Education, Elder N. E. Ashby, principal of Northeastern Academy, Miss N. E. Burrell, head of the department of elementary education of Oakwood College, and the regional conference educational secretaries, Elder C. Cunningham, South Atlantic; Elder J. Roache, Lake Region; and Elder L. Davis, Northeastern, as members of the panel. Principal J. T. Stafford of Oakwood College Academy was the moderator. The afternoon campus tours, guided by Miss J. Lewis and Miss I. Merideth, made it possible for many interested visitors and prospective students to see a tiny snatch of what Oakwood has within her gates.

Six-forty-five on Friday evening marked the beginning of the traditional Oakwood sunset vesper service. Mother E. I. Cunningham, author of *Make Bright the Memories*, and valiant worker on the Oakwood staff for more than forty years, was introduced by Editor L. B. Reynolds of the *Message Magazine*. She then

gave the vesper message before the time of the graduating seniors' consecration service.

After the processional of seniors at 8 P.M., Elder C. E. Moseley, associate secretary of the General Conference Regional Department, gave an appealing consecration address, which inspired the seniors and parents to respond by reconsecrating and dedicating themselves to the God-appointed tasks ahead.

Sabbath, May 18, Elder W. R. Robinson, Allegheny Conference evangelist, and pastor of the Cleveland church, set each heart in tune for a Sabbath day's blessing through his message at the early morning devotional hour at six o'clock.

The Sabbath school session, at nine-fifteen, was directed by a guest superintendent, Elder Maurice Battle, Sabbath school and home missionary secretary of the South Atlantic Conference, and president appointee of the Liberian Mission in West Africa.

Elder F. L. Peterson, former president of Oakwood College and an associate secretary of the General Conference, gave a thought-provoking, challenging baccalaureate address entitled "Arise and Take Your Journey" at the eleven o'clock service. The youth rally followed at 3 P.M., arranged by Miss J. Lewis.

The delightful music festival, which was the big feature of Saturday evening, was planned and directed by Mrs. J. Pierre Louis, Mrs. L. Herron, and Mrs. I. Booth. The college choir, the Aeolians, Mrs. Alyne Dumas Lee, Charles Brooks,

a trio from Washington, D.C., Miss Vivian Cervantes, and Miss Joyce Bryant thrilled the waiting audience with their performances.

The round of activities for Sunday morning began at seven o'clock with the alumni breakfast, which brought hundreds of Oakwood alumni members together for their annual meeting. Elder E. E. Rogers and Mrs. R. N. Stafford directed the session.

The next scheduled meeting was the civic ceremony, held on the lawn of Peterson Hall. The Honorable R. B. Searcy, mayor of Huntsville, was the chief speaker. Governor James Folsom of Alabama sent his greetings.

The final feature of the grand sixtieth anniversary and convocation was the scenic commencement service, staged on the campus, with the renowned Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard University, as speaker. He gave a challenging address, which was a real directive to the graduates of Oakwood College.

This final service was concluded with the parade of 600-60's for the sixtieth anniversary year of Oakwood. This was but the beginning, for Oakwood is counting on every church, and every alumnus and well-wisher of Oakwood to give in sixty dollars, one dollar for each year of Oakwood's existence, before the end of 1956, the anniversary year.

During the sixtieth anniversary convocation the two thousand constituents, alumni, well-wishers, and friends present verily spelled out their "Past Love, Present Faith, and Future Hope" for Oakwood College.

RUTH MOSBY, *Dean of Women*
Oakwood College

Message Magazine

Message Magazine made its initial appearance in the family of Seventh-day Adventist journals in 1934, as an undated special issue of twelve pages. Today it is a monthly publication of thirty-six pages with a circulation of more than sixty thousand, and is rated as one of the

best religious publications available.

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, director of the United Nations Trusteeship Division, said, "In promoting Christian fellowship the *Message* serves well the interests of our society."

On May 21, 1956, the regional conference leaders, together with T. L. Oswald, W. R. Beach, H. T. Elliott, A. L. Ham, C. E. Moseley, O. A. Blake, and G. A. Huse, of the General Conference; I. H. Ihrig, L. B. Reynolds, N. C. Nelsen, C. W. Christian, R. M. Eldridge, and C. W. Higgins, of the Southern Publishing Association, and several union publishing secretaries, met at the Southern Publishing Association, in Nashville, Tennessee, to plan for more extensive use of the *Message Magazine* as a soul-winning agency and to devise ways of increasing its circulation. As the result of this meeting a monthly circulation of 106,000 was pledged by the regional and departmental conference leaders and by all who participated in the meeting.

Message Magazine has proved to be not only an excellent tool in the hands of students who are in search of a Christian education in our schools but also a full-message journal that is making friends for Adventists and is winning souls to the truth.

A leading attorney in one of our large Eastern cities said, "In these uneasy days, when moral stamina and religious fervor are at a low ebb, the *Message Magazine* has a real message for every family." A conference worker writes, "For your inspiration, two persons recently baptized in our church here are on the list of names you sent as *Message* readers in our city. Surely the *Message* is a soul-winning service."

The denominational leaders are satisfied that the *Message Magazine* is filling a real need in the soul-winning program of the church, and to it they pledged their wholehearted support. Everyone present at this meeting was enthusiastic over the fine magazine we now have and was confident that it will long continue to serve the church as a missionary journal. We look forward

to the time when the *Message Magazine* will be in the home of every regional conference member and in the hand of every home missionary worker.

F. L. PETERSON

Special Notice

Let us all remember July 14!!

The unfinished work of saving lost men has been committed to the church. That work will move just as fast, and go just as far as we push it! Then, let us give that extra big push on July 14 when the Midsummer Offering is taken. The Lord is depending upon us!

A Good Example

The time has come when our health message should be proclaimed with increasing fervor. It should be studied, understood, and practiced by every Seventh-day Adventist. God has so designed these messages that we might have physical endurance, mental strength, and spiritual fortitude to stand firm in these closing days of earth's history.

Shiloh church in Chicago was blessed with a health institute in April, and just recently with a health cooking school designed to help the new believers who joined our ranks during the summer tent effort. The class was conducted for five Sunday afternoons with about one hundred persons attending. Mrs. Thelma Harris, dietitian and food editor of the *Message Magazine*, was the instructor, with seven women assisting who had taken the lay-member instructor's course during the health institute. Every member was richly blessed.

MRS. THELMA BRUNNER HARRIS

Obituary

William Clifford Cleveland
Born, Sabbath, April 6, 1890
Died, Sabbath, May 4, 1956
A veteran of World War I—served in France
Accepted the message in 1915
Served as church elder for thirty-eight years in Chattanooga, Tennessee
Leaves to mourn his passing his wife, Mrs. Florence Cleveland, and three sons, Elders William, Earl, and Harold Cleveland.

ALLEGHENY

W. L. Cheatham, Pres.
M. S. Banfield, Sec.-Treas.
P.O. Box 21, Pine Forge, Pennsylvania
Pottstown 3785

March of Evangelism

The Lord has said, speaking through His servant, that young people would do a mighty work for Him in the last days. Youth evangelism is gaining more and more momentum, proving that the youth "rightly trained" can do great things in the name of Jesus Christ.

In Bridgeton, New Jersey, every Sunday morning a group of young people present Messages to Young People. It is a feature program carried by Station WSNJ, 1240 K.C., from eight-forty-five to nine o'clock. The group is under the leadership of Leon Trusty, the speaker. Robert Tucker is the narrator, William Davis, the soloist, and Mrs. Lelia Davis, the pianist. Station manager, Paul Alger, said that the program is meeting a real need and has been carried by his station since January 1, 1956. Pastor Charles Brooks is the spiritual adviser in this section of New Jersey.

Berea Temple in Baltimore is now preparing to launch a spearhead evangelistic effort to reclaim the young people not now in the church. The pastor, W. A. Thompson, is directing this first project of its kind in the Allegheny Conference, an all youth movement.

Their initial work was to pool the names and addresses of all former Adventists now in the city or adjacent communities. The names were arranged on a prayer scroll, and special prayer was offered not only for those whose names were shown but also for the workers seeking to bring them back into the church.

In Dayton, Ohio, C. B. Tivy looks to the young people in his church to be associated with him in a special effort this summer.

Leon Cox, of Pittsburgh, set the framework for a youthful assemblage of young people and young married couples to be tied in with

the effort to be held in Pittsburgh. The musical groups are trained and ready to do their part. The publicity and radio is in the hands of young people, and it is felt that this experience will prepare them for a try for souls on their own.

W. M. Fordham at the Ebenezer church in Philadelphia reports through his coordinator, Ervin Glenn, that the young people are regularly engaged in giving Bible studies. The church has a fine young adult choir directed by Clarence Goulbourne.

Patiently and methodically the literature ministry moves ahead to prepare the way. According to C. M. Willis, publishing department secretary, literature evangelists in the Allegheny Conference delivered more than eight thousand dollars during "Big Week," April 14-21.

Two youthful literature evangelists from the Newark, New Jersey, church delivered \$1,934.83. Herman McKoy delivered \$1,007.20 and C. D. Morris, \$927.63—in a powerful demonstration showing what God will do when we trust Him.

This branch of our work, declared the publishing secretary, is now geared to undergird and support every effort to reclaim the strayed and fallen and to bring conviction to the hearts of men and women seeking a better way of life.

The Oakwood College male quartet, which recently appeared on Strike It Rich television program and won \$685 and an order for new choir robes, were recent visitors to Pine Forge. The quartet, Oakwood College ambassadors of good will, have dedicated their talent and voices to the Master, and are challenging young people through song.

Young people, this is your day. The Master is calling. There is a duty that you alone can fulfill. Consecration and prayer will open the way; enter now upon the greatest work entrusted to mankind—the work of saving souls.

A. V. PINKNEY

Public Relations Secretary

* * *

Always remember, success comes in cans.

CENTRAL STATES

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

Looking at the Records

Progress is still our goal as we strive forward in the Central States Conference. Having only recently compiled our first quarter's report, we have noted interesting comparisons with our records of the first quarter a year ago. There were nine more baptisms this year, but three less additions by letter. The first quarter of 1955 showed five more losses by death than 1956. Our total losses this year were ten less than in 1955.

Tithe shows a gain of \$7,120.89 and missions a gain of \$1,187.39 over the first three months of the previous year.

Unemployment is creeping into our membership, but God is watchful over those who are faithful to Him. The faithfulness of our members is evidenced by our very fine tithe increase.

Soul-winning activities on the part of the Central States laymen should be increased during 1956 so that a greater harvest of souls may be brought in. Our financial growth will be good only in so far as strength is used to further the cause of God's kingdom on earth.

H. T. SAULTER

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We all inhabit the largest room in the world—the room for improvement.

The North American Informant

Representing the colored work of the
Seventh-day Adventist Denomination

Editor - - - - - F. L. Peterson
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NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL DEPARTMENT 1955 STATISTICAL REPORT

Union	Churches & Companies	Members	Baptisms	Tithe	Sabbath School	Ingathering	Total Mission Offerings	Weekly Per Capita	Total Local Ch. Expense
ATLANTIC UNION									
Northeastern	24	4,440	407	\$384,536.93	\$ 66,901.36	\$ 43,448.40	\$111,837.75	.5312	\$109,070.20
CENTRAL UNION									
Central States	18	1,762	172	109,928.25	19,903.47	14,165.25	34,352.52	.3749	27,228.44
COLUMBIA UNION									
Allegheny	57	6,272	544	493,202.43	86,994.28	100,759.79	189,696.25	.5816	125,846.15
LAKE UNION									
Lake Region	39	4,021	329	292,036.61	61,404.23	38,952.18	101,926.59	.4875	30,000.00
NORTHERN UNION									
Minnesota (Minneapolis)	1	62	3	7,251.50	1,776.19	1,000.00	2,853.72	.8851	1,053.49
NORTH PACIFIC UNION									
Oregon (Portland)	1	127	10	3,948.78	1,256.63	625.00	2,392.74	.3623	.....
Washington (Seattle)	1	134	27	10,795.65	1,692.37	792.53	2,650.23	.3803	5,799.82
Total	2	261	37	14,744.43	2,949.00	1,417.53	5,042.97	.3716	5,799.82
PACIFIC UNION									
Arizona	2	113	8	10,224.41	2,314.81	2,457.58	4,806.90	.8181	.....
Central California	6	598	36	30,291.91	10,655.51	4,788.29	15,812.50	.5085	4,270.04
Nevada-Utah	1	30	.....	2,414.64	708.70	679.41	1,433.01	.9186	1,147.58
Northern California	4	850	40	68,138.02	12,914.73	6,903.32	19,954.59	.4515	25,687.51
Southeastern California ..	6	674	22	63,203.40	17,305.28	3,952.05	22,059.09	.6294	26,310.29
Southern California	8	1,834	132	165,412.10	27,868.14	13,109.50	42,489.94	.4455	20,845.94
Total	27	4,099	238	339,684.48	71,767.17	31,890.15	106,556.03	.4999	78,261.36
SOUTHERN UNION									
South Atlantic	91	6,266	520	306,664.19	67,183.37	71,662.08	139,714.21	.4288	.....
South Central	52	4,511	371	181,637.82	36,496.45	46,403.10	84,452.68	.3600	.....
Total	143	10,777	891	488,302.01	103,679.82	118,065.18	224,166.89	.4000	.....
SOUTHWESTERN UNION									
Southwest Region	48	2,228	134	129,542.95	34,724.65	43,563.20	79,487.92	.6861	11,832.50
GRAND TOTAL	359	33,922	2,755	\$2,259,229.59	\$450,100.17	\$393,261.68	\$855,920.64	.4852	\$389,091.96

Note: Membership reported to December 31, 1955

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL DEPARTMENT

	1952	1953	1954	1955	Increase of 1955 over 195
Tithe	\$1,869,011.89	\$2,027,592.49	\$2,050,485.19	\$2,259,229.59	\$208,744.40
Sabbath School	404,738.40	414,047.60	410,255.27	450,100.17	39,844.90
Ingathering	288,751.15	294,485.23	356,897.17	393,261.68	36,364.51
Total Mission Offerings	687,138.89	709,397.91	759,661.57	855,920.64	96,259.07
Total Local Church Expense	407,997.70	427,104.73	300,560.46	389,091.96	88,531.50
Churches and Companies	342	358	358	359	1
Membership	29,591	31,078	33,020	33,922	902
Baptisms	2,619	2,972	3,448	2,755	693**
Ordained Ministers	118	124	124	125	1
Licensed Ministers	90	73	70	63	7**
Interns .....	.....	18	14	13	1**
Bible Instructors	30	26	21	22	1
Teachers: Church School	144	141	145	142	3**
Colporteurs	225	212	211	189	22**

Approximate value church buildings and other conference properties.

\$4,996,854.64 \$6,511,686.39

** Decrease

Prepared by the NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL DEPARTMENT.