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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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By
His
Spirit



GENERAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES

Representing Church's
Majority Membership

COVER STORY



"BY HIS SPIRIT" HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 53RD SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

If our early pioneers, James and Ellen White, J. N. Andrews or Joseph Bates were alive and present at the 53rd Session of the General Conference in Dallas, Texas, April 17-26 they would be simply stunned by the tremendous growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They would be proud to know the S.D.A.'s operate the largest Protestant school system in the world (4,601 schools; 16 colleges; 2 universities; 1 medical school; 16 schools of nursing; and 1 international correspondence school), a global medical ministry that includes: 142 hospitals and sanitariums; 251 dispensaries and clinics. There are 20,446 organized churches with a membership of 3,201,592. They would be filled with joy to know that this gospel has been preached to all nations, kindred, tongues and people in 190 countries.

The Seventh-day Adventist— A Universal Church

Today the Seventh-day Adventist Church is a universal church. It is not a North American church that sends a few missionaries into the mission fields to proselytize the heathens. Approximately 85% of the membership lives outside North America, this kind of universality was reflected there at General Conference. There were 1,980 delegates represented from 190 countries. There present were believers from Zambia, Pacific Islands, India, Eastern Europe, Australia and all over the world. For the

first time since 1958 there were delegates present from Burma, there were delegates from the USSR, but there were no delegates from Cuba or China. However, David Lin of the Peoples Republic of China sent a taped message since he was unable to attend the session. He reported that there is an interest in the message but it is very limited. He further stated that all the ministers are self-supporting. In the future they look forward to sending missionaries to other lands.

On Friday, April 18, a mission pageant marched into the heart of downtown Dallas onto Thanks-Giving Square where over 500 colorfully dressed nationals from around the world, along with Elder

Neal C. Wilson, President of the General Conference and the ten Division presidents gave thanks to God.

Every phase of the program was flavored with the universality of the church. Music lovers were thrilled with the Yugoslavian mandolin orchestra, a Caribbean steel band, a 300-voice mass choir and a 100-piece symphony orchestra comprised of youth from the 12 Adventist colleges in North America, a Polish youth chorale, and a Marimba ensemble from Mexico. The audience was delighted by the Aeolians, Walter Arties, Breath of Life, Brenda Spraggins, Edwina Humphrey, Margaret Humphrey, Dave Willis, Michele Cleveland, Wintley Phipps and C. L. Brooks.



Delegates from the USSR attend the 53rd General Conference Session.



Youthful Choir from Poland sings the songs of Zion and of their land during the G.C. Session.

There were numerous exhibits (E. G. White Estate, Urban Evangelism, 10 Divisions, Adventist Review, etc.) showing the work of the Seventh-day Adventist church around the world. I was especially impressed with the exhibit on the Adventist woman. Among the outstanding women listed as making a substantial contribution to the church was: Dr. Eva B. Dykes and Dr. Natelkka Burrell, both veteran educators at Oakwood College.

Books, records and literature in

various languages were on sale. Each night two Divisions gave a report of the work they were doing in their fields. For those who could not speak English, the services were translated into French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Norwegian, and Swahili. For those of us who found ourselves barred by language barriers discovered that we had the same beliefs and that our love for God transcended all languages, nationalities and color.

Never before have I witnessed such

joy, unity and fellowship. I know God was present "By His Spirit." Before coming to the General Conference, each member of the church was asked to fast and pray on April 12 for unity among God's people. It seems that the question of righteousness by faith, liberation theology, the seventh commandment threatened to cause dissension among the members of the church. God heard and answered the prayers of His people and these were not key issues. Throughout the week, representatives from each Division prayed every hour, everyday during the meetings for unity among the believers.

While conducting the business of the church the Seventh-day Adventist did not forget the citizens of Dallas. The Community Services Department had four equipped vans at separate mall locations to offer 5 Day Plan to Stop Smoking and health screening test free to the public.



Elder R. C. Brown, Secretary of the Lake Region Conference meets with Central African delegates from Rwanda, Africa. Pastors Kturwa, Central Rwanda Field, President Sembeba, North Rwanda Field and African delegates are shown.



Pastor displays dress and colors of his country during the Northwestern European-West African Report given by the division president Walter Scragg.



Mrs. Dorothy Dorsey, missionary to Liberia with other ladies from the West African countries who attended the G.C. Session.



President S. H. Cox and Elder E. W. Moore converse with African delegates from many new countries.

The Miracle of General Conference

The motto and theme song "By His Spirit" written by Kathleen Newman was realized as Mrs. Carmen Paredes of Guatemala, a recent convert listened intently as the ministerial association presented a program entitled "The Worth of a Soul." Mrs. Paredes was badly injured in an automobile accident which resulted in her being paralyzed, unable to talk and confined to a wheelchair.

During the program, she began to feel a strange sensation in her legs. She told Mrs. Barbara Folkenberg what was taking place and they quietly bowed their heads and prayed together. Afterwards she declared, "I think I can walk. I think God has healed me." Slowly she began to rise out of her wheelchair and began walking to the front of the auditorium. There she stood valiantly giving praises to God for the miracle He had performed in her life. Mrs. Paredes was a living symbol of what God can and will do "By His Spirit."

Neal C. Wilson Elected President

Although General Conference is a time to fellowship with believers from all over the world, the primary purpose of the Session is to take care of the business of the church, to elect officers, to amend the church manual, and to relocate territorial borders.

A new African Division was formed thus making two wholly African divisions (Trans African Division and the new African Division). Territorial counsels for the regional conferences were voted in. Hopefully this is a forerunner of black unions. A Statement of Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventist was adopted, several departments emerged and the number of general vice-presidents were reduced from 7 to 5.

Neal C. Wilson was reelected president of General Conference. He brings with him an international scope to the presidency. Although born in Lodi, California he has spent a great portion of his life in Asia and the Middle East. He has served as Acting Treasurer for Oriental Waterman Press, Poona, India; Pastor/Evangelist for Middle East Division; President of the Egypt Mission; President of the Nito Union of Seventh-day Adventist; President of Columbia Union; Takoma Park, Maryland, and Vice-President for the North American Division.

He has served as an Advisor to the



Elder Neal C. Wilson was re-elected to serve as the president for the World Church of Seventh-day Adventists. Wilson's father has served the church as the vice president for several divisions of the church. Peoples from many lands were invited to serve the church at this session. He accepts best wishes from African delegate during the session.



Elder George Brown, newly elected president of the Inter-American Division who succeeds Dr. A. Archbold who served the division for ten years.

Governor of Cairo for religious liberty; Antinarcotics Consultant to the Arab League; received citation from the Libyan government for opening Benghazi Hospital and has negotiated the opening of a work in Libya, Sudan, and Aden. We are praying that God will grant our president the wisdom of Solomon and the humility of Moses in leading God's people.

Among the other officers elected were: Elder L. L. Butler, Treasurer, Elders L. L. Bock, Max Torkelsen, Alf Lohne, Enoch Oliveira, and Francis Wernick were voted as General Vice-Presidents.



Pastor and Mrs. Jacob Nortey and daughter of Liberia were elected to serve as the treasurer for newly organized African Division.



Elder Lancelot L. Butler of Australia—newly elected treasurer of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.



Elder and Mrs. Bekele Heye of Ethiopia was elected as the president for the Afro-Mideast Division for the General Conference. He succeeds Elder Charles Watson, Associate Secretary of the G.C.



OLD FRIENDS MEET DURING THE 53RD SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. Dr. C. E. Dudley, President of the South Central Conference chats with President A. Kaite, president of the Northern Zambia field. They met in Zambia, Africa when Dudley toured the continent.

Seventeen Blacks Elected to Serve

At the 53rd Session Blacks were elected to fill 17 of the 300 positions available. Elder G. Ralph Thompson, formerly a General Vice-president of the General Conference became the first Black elected as Secretary of the General Conference. Elder Thompson has worked extensively throughout the Caribbean as an evangelist, teacher, pastor of the college church the Caribbean Union College, and president of the East Caribbean Union. He was the first national worker elected as a Union President and the first Interamerican to serve as a General Vice-President.

Elder C. E. Bradford was reelected President of the North American Division. He is the first Black man to ever hold this position. This division has the largest per capita giving and is the second largest in membership. Elder Bradford is a skillful administrator who has served as a Department Secretary for Central States. He served in the same capacity in the Northeastern Conference. He held the position as president of Lake Region for nine years. Then he was called to the General Conference to serve as an Associate Secretary. In 1979 he was voted Vice-

President of the North American Division.

Among the other elected black officials were: Elder M. T. Battles, Associate Secretary of the General Conference; Elders C. D. Brooks, R. L. Woodfork and W. S. Banfield were elected as field secretaries. In addition to being a Field Secretary, Elder W. S. Banfield will serve as Director of the Office of Human Relations. Elder Frank Jones was reelected as Associate Treasurer.

Elder C. L. Brooks was reelected as Associate Director of Sabbath School Department. Elder R. E. Barron returned as an Associate Director of the Youth Department. Elder R. W. Bates was reelected to the Lay Activities Department. Elder Owen A. Troy was elected as an Associate Director of the Communications Department. Elder S. D. Meyers and W. C. Scales were appointed Associate Directors of the Ministerial Association, Stewardship and Development Department.

Dr. S. L. DeShay, formerly Director of the Health Department was named Associate Director of the newly established Health and Temperance Department.

Elder C. M. Willis was appointed as Associate Director of the Publishing Department. Elder Robert Smith became the first Black to assume the position as Circulation Manager of the *Adventist Review*.

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Dr. and Mrs. Charles E. Bradford of Washington, D.C. Dr. Bradford was re-elected to his post as the Vice President of the General Conference for North America. Bradford's mother was a student on the Morning Star boat that docked at Vicksburg, Mississippi in 1895. He is the son and grandson and great-grandson of SDA ministers.



General Conference Session 1980—Dallas, Texas. Ladies on Nominating Committee: Mrs. Carolyn Palmer, Chicago, Illinois—USA; Mrs. E. M. Khanji, Lagos, Nigeria—Africa; Mrs. L. W. Ngaruiya, Nairobi, Kenya; Miss Ana Corona V., Uxmal, Mexico; Dr. Bernice Gergherm, Atlanta, Georgia—USA.



Dr. Edward Dorsey, former president of the Allegheny East Conference displays the flag of Liberia. He serves as a missionary there.



Dr. and Mrs. H. D. Singleton recall beginning days of administration in the church when in Atlanta, Georgia (South Atlantic Conference).



Elder and Mrs. H. D. Singleton honored by workers who began their ministry under his leadership in the South Atlantic Conference.



Elder W. M. Starks, retires as G.C. Worker after service to the church for more than 38 years. He established the Department of Stewardship and Development for the world field.



G. C. Nominating Committee Directors: H. H. Schmidt, Chairman, Atlanta, Georgia; C. B. Rock, Vice-Chairman, Huntsville, Alabama; J. G. Smoot, Secretary, Berrien Springs, Michigan.



Evangelist and Mrs. Robert Connor—newly elected Ministerial Director of the Afro-Mideast Division. He was formerly evangelist for the Lake Union Conference.



C. T. Richards, Elder J. H. Lawrence, Dr. V. L. Roberts reflect on progress of the work of the church during the G.C. Session. Elder Lawrence, veteran worker of 96 years, has baptized thousands of members into the SDA church membership. He now resides in Seattle, Washington. Elder Roberts of Dallas, Texas is the treasurer of the Southwestern Union.

Continued from page 5

Elder R. C. Connor, Lake Union Evangelist, accepted a call to the Afro-Mideast Division as Secretary of the Ministerial Association. This is the first time ever that black men have been entrusted with such positions of great responsibility. It signals a new era in the governing of the church, for no longer is the church leadership exclusive to the white North American clergy. The church has opened its doors so that men of experience and ability will serve regardless of color.

On the final Sabbath as I sat in the Convention Center among 40,000 believers, I came to the realization that I was a part of a universal church with a universal message. More than ever I felt a greater sense of urgency to "Tell It To The World That Christ Is Coming Soon."

By Stephanie D. Johnson



Dr. S. H. Cox, President of the Central States Conference directs the distribution of over 2,000 copies of the Special Edition of the REGIONAL VOICE during the 53rd G.C. Session, Dallas, Texas.

PUBLISHER'S PAGE

YE BE MISSIONARIES OR YE BE NOTHING

by Stephanie Johnson

"Ye be missionaries or ye be nothing" were the words uttered to a disinherited band of pilgrims who were burned at the stake, buried alive, smothered, drowned, and thrown down from rocky cliffs because they maintained steadfast loyalty to God. When this command was given gross darkness covered the world and the papacy reigned supreme.

"The Holy Scriptures" were almost unknown, not only to laymen, but to the priest. Like the Pharisees of old, the papal leaders hated the light that would reveal their sins. God's law, the standard of righteousness, having been removed, they exercised power without limit, and practiced vice without restraint. Fraud, avarice, and profligacy prevailed. Men shrank from no crime by which they could gain wealth or position. The palace of the popes were guilty of crimes so revolting that secular rulers endeavored to depose the dignitaries of the church as monsters too vile to be tolerated. For centuries Europe had made no progress in learning, arts, or civilization. A moral and intellectual paralysis had fallen on Christendom . . . such was the result of banishing the word of God. *Great Controversy*, p. 59, 60.

Who were these courageous sojourners who stood like Elijah on Mount Carmel? These loyal saints were the Waldenses who lived centuries before the advent of Luther, Calvin, and Zwingli. They were the connecting link between the Apostolic Church and the Reformation. At the very seat of the dragon God had risen up a faithful few who proclaimed the immutability of God's law and kept the Biblical Sabbath. In rocky fortresses His guardians kept the eternal flame of truth alight.

"Under the fiercest tempest of opposition they maintained their faith, though gashed by Savoyard spear; and scorched by Romish fagot, they stood unflinching for God's word and His honor . . . often when pursued by their enemies, the strength of the hills proved a sure defense. From many a lofty cliff they chanted the praises of God, and the armies of Rome could not silence their songs of Thanksgiving." *Ibid.*, pp. 65, 66.

Driven from their homes, chased like wild beasts, and slaughtered like wild

boars, God had provided a refuge for His children since the foundations of the earth. "A sanctuary of awful grandeur, befitting the mighty truths committed to their trust. To those faithful exiles the mountains were emblems of the immutable righteousness of Jehovah. They pointed their children to the heights towering above them of Him with whom there is no variableness turning." *Ibid.*

In spite of dungeons dark and dreary, loss of life, property, friends and relatives they persevered. The courageous went into all of Europe—Poland, Hungary, France, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Austria, Moravia, and Bohemia preaching the good news of salvation to anyone who would listen.

With bated breath they tearfully read the word of God. Deep in dark caves with the light of a torch they copied the Scriptures verse by verse and chapter by chapter. As children they were taught to revere the word of God. They committed large portions of the Bible to their memory.

From their rocky refuge they would go into the towns, villages, and cities as merchants selling spices, jewelry, and silks. In presenting their wares to their customers, they gave them something of eternal wealth—portions of the Bible. They would study the Bible all night with a single soul or a small company who were hungering and thirsting after righteousness. To the listeners the truth fell as drops of morning dew on their barren souls. No longer did the listener have to pay penance; afflict their souls day and night; make long pilgrimages; keep midnight vigils. God's grace couldn't be bought, it was a gift free to all!

Their youths attended institutions of higher learning in the centers of education in France and Italy. They wore specially prepared garments that concealed the Holy Scriptures. Without arousing suspicion they approached interested students. Many were converted and their holy influence permeated the whole school. The students were compelled on by the words, "Ye be missionaries or ye be nothing."

The valleys of Angrogna, Pellice, and Clusone are constant reminders of their mottos: "We swear and promise in the presence of the living God that we shall maintain our union and order. We swear fidelity until the last drop of our blood." If these blood soaked valleys could speak they would tell of the horrible deaths the

Waldenses faced because of their missionary zeal. "Here they were stuffed in caves, cut down by the sword, or burned with a flame."—R. L. Klingbell, "In the Waldensean Country," *Review and Herald*, July 2, 1964 pages 5, 6.

Throughout the Dark Ages the Waldenses felt the Satanic wrath of the papacy. In 1384, France tried to destroy every Waldense. Many were unmercifully slaughtered. "Those who escaped fled to greater heights already covered with snow. Night overtook them during the dangerous and arduous climb. There was no shelter from the cold. Fifty of the eighty-four children whom their mothers carried in their cradles died of exposure. When at last the pillaging and murdering bands had left their valleys, and carried with them much loot and cattle the heartaching refugees found only the smoldering ruins of their former homes." *Ibid.*, p. 6.

Yet the words pierced their conscience, "Ye be missionaries or ye be nothing," and they could maintain their loyalty to God. Because of their unrelenting commitment to the gospel, children were snatched from their mothers' breasts; old men were hung at the gallows; and young maidens were cruelly beaten and chained in fetters rather than yield one inch of truth.

The wrath of the papacy against the Waldenses reached a climax when in 1655 an edict commanded them to become Catholics or give up life and property. "On April 17, fifteen thousand of Planezza's troops marched in and on the 24th the terrible atrocities began. Butchery, torture, and enslavement was the dreadful fate . . . lofty Mount Castelluzzo, standing sentry at the entrance to the valleys, with its base covered with forest, and its peak a mass of precipitous rock, had a cave, high in its face, into which hundreds of Waldenses fled, only to be trapped by their persecutors, dragged forth, and rolled down the awful precipice." L. E. From, *Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, pp. 855, 856. The bloody massacre of 1655 stirred John Milton to write the gripping sonnet "On the Late Massacre of Piedmont." The moving lines, "Avenge O Lord Thy Slaughter'd Saint," aroused the conscience of all Europe and for a while the Waldenses were free from persecution.

With the coming of the Reformation, the end of papal persecution, the Waldenses were given the freedom to worship God. The words, "ye be mis-

sionaries or ye be nothing" no longer called them to action. The sacrifices their forefathers made to keep the truth alive had been forsaken. The church in the wilderness has now become a dark proverb. It has given in to the rising tide of secularism, it has not marched forward because its people loved ease and comfort rather than truth and self-denial. In the blood-soaked valleys where their forefathers worshipped in spirit and in truth under heaven's skyline, the present generation worships in a chapel with a dance hall beside it to keep the young people in the church. The Catholic church which was once its chief enemy has now become its strange bedfellow. Their missionary zeal has died and the prophetic words, "Ye be missionaries or ye be nothing" has proven true.

What a striking similarity to our present generation! Like the Waldenses our spiritual decline can be seen in our disinterest in spreading the gospel and our love of luxury and ease. We, too, have tried to keep our members not by involving them in missionary activities but rather by entertaining them by having bazaars, plays, basketball games, banquets, and musical extravaganzas, which have dimmed our spiritual visions and nearly quenched our missionary zeal. The secret to our spiritual strength is in sharing the gospel with others. "Ye Be Missionaries or Ye Be Nothing."



Miss Charlene Smith, youth member of the Ephesus S.D.A. Church, serves as usher in the youth church.

The Editor's Desk

Inadvertently, we left off the pictures of W. A. Thompson, as the first President, and Edward Dorsey as the first Treasurer of the Allegheny East Conference. Please accept our apologies for this mistake.

The Editorial Staff

SUNSET CALENDAR

	May 30	June 6	13	20
Boston, Mass	8:13	8:18	8:22	8:24
New York City	8:22	8:27	8:31	8:33
Buffalo, N.Y.	8:45	8:51	8:55	8:57
Atlanta, Ga.	8:41	8:45	8:49	8:51
Miami, Fla.	8:07	8:10	8:13	8:15
Charlotte, N.C.	8:31	8:36	8:39	8:41
Birmingham, Ala.	7:51	7:55	7:58	8:00
Jackson, Miss.	8:01	8:05	8:08	8:11
Memphis, Tenn.	8:08	8:12	8:15	8:17
Louisville, Ky.	8:59	9:03	9:07	9:09
Detroit, Mich.	9:01	9:06	9:10	9:13
Chicago, Ill.	8:17	8:22	8:25	8:28
South Bend, Indiana	8:12	8:17	8:20	8:28
Minneapolis, Minn.	8:51	8:56	9:01	9:03
St. Louis, Mo.	8:18	8:22	8:26	8:28
Kansas City, Mo.	8:37	8:41	8:45	8:47
Denver, Co.	8:20	8:25	8:29	8:31
Little Rock, Ark.	8:15	8:20	8:23	8:25
Dallas, Texas	8:29	8:33	8:36	8:38
New Orleans, La.	7:55	7:59	8:02	8:04
Albuquerque, N.M.	8:14	8:18	8:21	8:23
Oklahoma City, Okla.	8:39	8:43	8:46	8:48

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

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THE CONFERENCES IN ACTION

TEMPERANCE RALLY HELD AT LINWOOD BOULEVARD TEMPLE

The Central States Annual Temperance Rally was held at the Kansas City, Missouri Linwood Boulevard Temple. The rally involved the American Temperance Societies from a five state area: Denver, Colorado; Wichita, Kansas; Topeka, Kansas; Lincoln, Nebraska; Omaha, Nebraska; Kansas City, Missouri; Des Moines, Iowa; St. Joseph, Missouri; and St. Louis, Missouri presented their testimony for better living before an audience of over 700.

Guest speaker for the rally was Dr. David Taylor, Professor of Functional Theology at Pacific Union College. In addition to teaching and pastoral work, Dr. Taylor has been involved in Youth/Temperance activities as an associate for the Southeastern, Central and Northern California Conferences. He was Chaplain and Professor of Religion at Oakwood College. Dr. Taylor holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.

Others taking part in the rally were Les Pitton, Youth/Temperance Director for Mid-America; S. Haywood Cox, President of Central States Conference; Bill Rowan, High School Principal; Ann Hurt, Teacher; Jackie Andrews, Public Health Officer; Frank Vaughters, Pediatrician, Ulrica Seales, Temperance Secretary; Shirley Fordham, Youth Leader; and Arvin Topps, Pathfinder Leader. Music during the program was provided by Donald Taylor, Eula Washington, Janice Thompson, Al Reece and Unity.

During the rally winners were selected from four categories: Posters, jingles, essays, and oratorical speeches. The winners received: a trophy, certificate, five dollars, and expenses paid to the Mid-America Festival of Living program. All other participants received a certificate of honor and a financial reward.



Winners: Left to right—James McClain, Myla Hannon; Sheila White; Ann Pyles and Bill Wright.

Two seminars were held in conjunction with the rally. One seminar was held for youth leader and another for Pathfinder leaders. These seminars were conducted by Dr. Taylor.

Attending the Mid-America Festival of Living, March 22 were: Ann Pyles, poster winner; James McClain III, jingle winner; Sheila White, essay winner; and Myla Hannon, oratorical winner.

The winning speech emphasized the dangers of smoking.

STUDENTS HONORED FOR COMPLETING BIBLE STUDIES

Nine students from the Kansas City area completed The Bible Says Bible study program under the direction of Elder James Marshall, Publishing Director for the Central States Conference. The students were honored for their achievement with certificates given to them during Sabbath morning worship services.

The special service was held at the Beacon Light SDA Church in Kansas City, Missouri. Elder Marshall and his wife, Carrie, personally presented the certificates and the members of the



Elder and Mrs. Marshall with group taking Bible studies.

Beacon Light Church extended each student a congratulatory handshake.

Special guests for this service were Elder James White, Jr., pastor of the Bethel Church in Kansas City, Kansas who delivered the morning message and Elder Robert Smith, Associate Manager of Review and Herald Publishing in Washington, DC.

Those honored were: Mable Hudson, Mary Kimball, Thelma Winston, Phyllis Osbey, Ora and Roy Brown, Cynthia Hudson, Smith Fields, and Selmon Drane.

As a result of these studies, Ora Brown has been baptized. The Marshalls are presently continuing Bible studies with these students.

BEREAN'S YOUTH LEADER HONORED

Mr. Henry L. Mitchell, Adventist youth leader for Berean SDA church in St. Louis, Missouri, was surprised recently when the youth of the church presented him with a plaque for his dedicated service to the Berean youth.

The youth also presented Mr. Mitchell with a "This Is Your Life" reading, a gift desk pen set, and a card which read "If you're ever in a jam, we'll be there with two slices of bread and some chunky peanut butter." Sure enough the youth attending the special occasion actually gave Brother Mitchell a saucer with two slices and some chunky peanut butter. It was truly a delightful surprise.

Terris Thompson
Adventist Youth Reporter

JAMES E. WHITE, JR. IS PASTOR OF THE YEAR

Elder James E. White, Jr. has received the Pastor of the Year Award for the Central States Conference. The award was presented on the basis of evaluation by Elder White's fellow ministers and conference administration. All areas of the church program dealing with the pastor's responsibilities are evaluated.

Elder White entered denominational service during the summer of 1972. He was assigned to the St. Louis area where he pastored the Kinloch and Kirkwood churches. From St. Louis he was sent to the Adventist Seminary at Andrews University. After Pastor White



Pastor James White, Pastor of the Year.

received his masters degree, he was assigned to the Claremont SDA Church in Pueblo, Colorado. Elder White has served at Grove Heights in Wichita, Kansas and Bethel in Kansas City, Kansas where he is now the pastor.

It is considered an honor each year to be chosen by your fellow colleagues as pastor of the year. Elder White expressed his appreciation for this honor to his fellow ministers recently at the Central States Workers Meeting. He is thankful to the Lord for blessing his ministry.

Pastor White's wife, Barbara, works as secretary to the Director of Family, Health and Education Services. They have two children: Lavita Jamelle and James III. The Whites are both natives of Alabama.

FORMER MISSIONARIES SPEAK AT BEACON LIGHT CHURCH

Cleo and Shirley Johnson, Administrator and Personnel Secretary respectively, for the Shawnee Mission Medical Hospital were special guests at the Beacon Light School Mission Spotlight. Cleo and Shirley were invited to present the mission emphasis by Dr. and Mrs. George Benson, members of Beacon Light. The Johnsons and the Bensons were missionaries together at the Ben Gazi Hospital in Libya, North Africa.

The Johnsons were missionaries also in Indonesia and Korea. Cleo Johnson has been personally responsible for

bringing Korean orphans to the United States on three occasions.

The Johnsons presented one of the most visual and illustrative mission spotlights ever seen, no movies or slides were used. Cleo and Shirley gave their mission story as a narrative, each taking turns to describe events and circumstances from their mission experience.

The following visual aids made the Beacon Light members aware of the crude instruments missionaries use. A vertical meramba made of bamboo wood, crude in construction, but beautiful musically; a bamboo blow gun used to kill animals; a python snake skin; a primitive drill for wood carving; a puffing Pedro used for Smoking Sam demonstrations and a cardboard record player from South Korea.

The Johnsons spent twelve years in mission service. Cleo Johnson is presently Associate Executive Medical Director at Shawnee and Shirley Johnson is Personnel Department Secretary. They have been working at Shawnee for the past three years.

Cleo Johnson, a Business Administration graduate of Union College, was Business Manager for three hospitals in the mission field. He also has expertise in hospital construction. The Johnsons are natives of Kansas and are very delightful examples of positive missions influence.



Cleo and Shirley Johnson playing vertical meramba.

HOME AND SCHOOL PROGRAM BENEFIT—ST. LOUIS JR. ACADEMY

The Home and School Association for St. Louis Jr. Academy recently sponsored a benefit musical program at Christmastime. Members from the five

churches supporting the school were asked to form a combined choir to present Handel's Messiah.

Under the direction of Walter Booker, Jr., director and conductor, the thirty voice choir sang the "Messiah" rendering such famous choruses as "And the Glory of the Lord," "For Unto Us a Child Is Born," "Glory to God," and "Hallelujah Chorus."

He conducted a six piece string and brass ensemble along with organ and piano. Soloists for the "Messiah" were: Doris Flemins, Soprano; Marilyn Johnson, Mezzo-Soprano; Raymond Jones, Tenor; and George Hamilton, Bass.

The program was held in the beautiful sanctuary of the Union Memorial United Methodist Church. Ushers and hostesses were provided by the members of the supporting churches. A reception was provided for the participants and those who attended the seasonal highlight. Mamie Penny and Bennie Mills coordinated this affair.

"The annual musical benefit program is an event the constituents of St. Louis Jr. Academy look forward to," according to Marie Gibson Thomas, Home and School Association president. The proceeds for the concert provided funds for educational programs at the academy.

Mrs. Thomas sang in the choir and provided the souvenir programs for the event. Other members of the school board also participated in the evening's activities: Lucille Mitchell, Chairperson; R. F. Warnick, pastor of Berean Church; B. T. Rice, pastor of Northside Church and Purette Bethea, principal.

The Home and School Association comprises an important part of St. Louis Jr. Academy's operation. The school instructional program benefits directly from funds raised each year by the parents' organization.

The Academy is located on Lexington Avenue in the heart of St. Louis inner city. It provides Christian education for children in grades 1-8 regardless of race, religion, sex or national origin. "The school is tuition supported so that funds from other sources like the Home and School Association are greatly appreciated" said Miss Bethea, school principal. With an enrollment of sixty-eight students and three teachers, St. Louis Jr. Academy seeks to develop the mind, the body and the soul of its students. Thus, they are not only prepared for this world but for the world to come.



Hollis Harris, winner of many art awards.

HOLLIS HARRIS WINS ART AWARD

Hollis Harris, a member of the City Temple Church in Detroit, Michigan, was recently selected as a Gold Key Winner in the 1980 Southeastern Michigan Regional Scholastic Art Awards.

The winning entry was on display at the Tel-Twelve Mall from February 2 through February 17.

Hollis, 18, is the son of Barbara J. Harris. He is a former student of the Frank L. Peterson School, Inkster, Michigan.

Hollis is an 11th grade student presently enrolled in the Learning Disabled Program at Chadsey High School of the Detroit Public School System. His studies include Fine Arts, Graphics, Industrial Arts and Ceramics.

From the fall of 1977 to late 1979 Hollis attended the Center of Creative Studies, formerly the College of Arts and Design of Detroit, as a result of scholarship awards.

His other achievements include: a gold and blue ribbon in the State Fair Art Contest, in 1972; Regional Third Prize Winner, Gold Ribbon, sponsored by the Michigan Education Awards and co-sponsored by the Michigan Industrial Education Society and the Detroit News, 1974; a certificate for the best design appearance in the Science Club Aerodynamic Contest sponsored by the Detroit Public Schools in 1974 and third place in the Chrysler High School Design Contest in the State of Michigan in 1978.

This award resulted in Hollis's working as a drafting trainee in the Chrysler Design Department the summer of 1978.

He also received an honor award from the Detroit Public Schools for outstanding achievement in the Michigan Industrial Education Society Fair in 1979.

Hollis is a lover of animals and insects. He likes to live close to nature. At one time he thought of becoming a forest ranger. Presently he is involved in animation and ceramics.

Elsie R. Knox
Communication Secretary

BAPTISM HELD AT CALVIN CENTER IN CASSOPOLIS, MICH.

"What Seek Ye?" was the theme used by Emmanuel Foxworth, pastor of the Calvin Center Church in Cassopolis, Michigan as 16 persons were baptized due to the hard work of the church members. Beatrice Hampton, a retired Bible Instructor, assisted in preparing the people for this baptism.

INVESTMENT PROJECT YIELDS \$1,000

The Reid Memorial Church members of east St. Louis, Illinois have continued to increase their investment funds for the last three years. This year \$1,000 was raised for investment.

Mary Bradley, investment leader, led the way by investing a dollar for each of the years of life with which God has blessed her. She also gave funds she received from babysitting and baking.

Donna Brown, Darren Combs and Charlene Hill, teachers in the children's divisions collected food labels and pennies.

Mrs. Bradley attributes the successful outcome of the investment program to the way in which the members took hold of God's promises and gave sacrificially.

Jayne Byrd
Communication Secretary



Donna Brown, children's division leader, inspired them to collect food labels and pennies.

NEWS NOTES

The Spanish Northwest Church of Chicago, Illinois presented a special youth program in the Aurora Spanish Church.

The program was divided into two sections. The first half was a musical presented by various young people. The second half was a message presented by Rogelio Campillo, Jr., a Northwest church elder.

A MIRACLE FOR BETHANY CHAPEL CHURCH

The idea came while reading the book, *I'm Out to Change My World*, by Ann Kimel. Why not pray for a miracle for our own church? So, the idea was presented to the entire church body.

It was decided that we would fast each Thursday from the end of August until Thursday, December 6, the day chosen for the miracle.

On Thursday, December 6, the church met for a three hour prayer service. We praised and thanked God for the miracle He had performed for our church; not sure, at the time, what the miracle actually was. As it happened, December 6, came and nothing more was mentioned about the miracle.

Several weeks later, during service one Sabbath, the question was raised, what ever happened to our miracle? The undeniable answer to that question was Linda Lane. She had recently been hospitalized for surgery. It was learned that her doctors informed her that she had cancer, however, they were reasonably sure that all cancer had been removed in surgery due to the fact that it had been caught in an early stage. Had Mrs. Lane waited six to eight weeks longer it would have meant the amputation of her right leg and a wait of five to six months longer would have resulted in terminal cancer.

When asked what prompted her to go to the doctor in the first place, she replied that she really didn't know, she wasn't feeling sick. She only knew that something urged her to go, later realizing that God truly was watching over her and her family and that He, in fact, had led her to make an appointment with the doctor. The date of that appointment? Thursday, December 6.

Bill Neely
Correspondent



Handel's Messiah was presented during the holiday season at the Shiloh Church in Chicago, Illinois. The Chicagoland Choir, directed by Sylvia Ham Ying, was comprised of approximately 200 voices from around the Lake Region Conference. The Virgil Shepard String Ensemble; Frances House, pianist, and Barbara Griffin, organist accompanied the choir. Several professional singers also participated. Guest soloists included Susan LaRosa Maehre, soprano; Beverly Vaughn, contralto; Harold Lickey, tenor, and Wintley Phipps, bass. This is the third year of performance of the Messiah by Mrs. Ham Ying's choir, and plans are already being made for the Christmas season of 1980.

A CLOSER LOOK OF THE ELDERLY

The Indianapolis Eastside church joined ranks with the other sister churches in taking a closer look at the elderly by setting aside one Sabbath each month to honor senior members. Realizing that the government tends to provide for the physical needs of the senior citizens, the church felt an urgent need to provide for the spiritual needs and to establish a sense of belonging.

Eastside saluted Estella Williams during the month of January, James Fanroy during the month of February and Gertrude Miller through the month of March.

Gertrude Jackson
Communication Secretary

A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM

The Lord spoke to his disciples to suffer the little children to come unto Him and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

The Fairhaven church of Flint, Michigan is making an all out effort to see that their children are adequately trained in all aspects of the church's function to be effective leaders in the church for the betterment of mankind and for the glory of the Creator.

Recently the church had Education Day. This special day was planned by

Edwin Davis, principal of the church school. During that day the children experienced many of the duties of the church officers. In some instances the children were so small they could hardly be seen above the pulpit.

Eric Dillet, pastor of the Pontiac, Michigan church was guest speaker. Pastor Dillet is the oldest active minister in the Lake Region Conference.

The Bible speaks of God calling the youth because of their strength and the aged because of their wisdom. It was clearly demonstrated that God has a job for both the youth and those who have been blessed with years and wisdom. An army of dedicated and properly trained youth can do much to help finish the work and hasten the coming of our Lord.

Lonnie Winston
Assistant Correspondence
Secretary

**LAKE REGION
CAMP MEETING
June 26-July 5
Cassopolis,
Michigan**

NORTHEASTERN

LIGHTHOUSE TABERNACLE DEDICATES ITS NEW SANCTUARY

On the weekend of January 25 through 27 the Lighthouse Tabernacle Seventh-day Adventist Church held its dedicatory service.

Friday night, January 25, Elder Cleve Jack, platform chairman for the weekend began the exercises with the opening song "Holy Day, Jehovah's Rest."

Visiting ministers gave opening comments, in attendance were: Pastor Coleman from the Sharon SDA Church in the Bronx; Pastor William Vincent from Albany, New York who was a member of Lighthouse during his school years at Oakwood College; Elder G. R. Earle, President of the Northeastern Conference and Pastor Earnest Flowers, Jr., minister of the church.

The message for the evening was brought to the congregation by Elder George R. Earle. He spoke on Exodus 14:15 and assured the congregation that "God will fight your battles for you, prayer will suffice for a time, but after prayer one must 'move' and stop praying."

"The Lord has said to Lighthouse, go forward. We've not come to this new home to sleep, but to bring other waiting souls to Christ. Though the structure is lovely, he related, you should think even now to leave it, as Michael is soon to come." "Arise and move from your precious goodly land. Now you are enjoying the mountain and fertile soil—you are settling down, enjoying life—you are increased with goods and have need of nothing while you rest momentarily here. God says this is not time for pleasure or to be socializing, but a time to be seeking after God. . . . for we look for a city with foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

On Sabbath morning every pew was filled as we listened intensely to the founder of the Lighthouse Tabernacle, Elder Jerry Lee.

Pastor Lee expressed his admiration for the steadfastness of the founding Lighthouse members. He related to the audience that he was speechless at the progress of the little church that had its beginnings with him, "It's good to see it



Lighthouse Youth Choir sings "Will You Be Ready."

still thriving." The message based on Deut. 31:1-6, he entitled "Facing the Future with God." (There's a difference in facing it without Him.)

First and foremost we must recognize that God operates on a time basis and so should we. Reminding us that time for eternity is winding up, God needs Christian people with backbone, to call sin by its name. He needs a people that are determined in purpose, Christians who have not become flabby, but those who have lifted the weight of this world's problems by faith.

The entire weekend the God of heaven was speaking through His servants. The messages were clear, "Come out from among them and be ye separate, separate in word, deed, thought and action. To be determined for God and His cause, to be zealous, holy and pure.



Elder Baptiste expresses greetings, Trevor Baker in foreground.

On Sunday, January 27, Pastor Augustus Ogiste was the speaker at the Tabernacle. His sermon was entitled, "Committed to the Task." He gave a formula that every member should follow if he wants to live a victorious life:

1) *Oxygen*—Prayer—each person should breathe prayer continually and thus the church will be a "praying church."

2) *Nourishment*—Eat the word of God (Bible and Spirit of Prophecy)—bread and water—the living word Jesus Christ.

3) *Rest*—in the promises of God, scripturally and by faith—searching for the Pearl of great price.

4) *Sunlight*—Joy—in the life, in the heart. Spread joy to others as a believer in Jesus.

5) *Exercise*—by working for Jesus—witnessing—helping others. These are of vital importance to keep any church alive. Thus the climactic beginning of a new day for Lighthouse Tabernacle.

Lighthouse is only one of many SDA churches that God is leading. In the end, nothing matters except the commitment of each individual member, to hunger and thirst after righteousness and to be changed into the likeness of our dear coming Saviour.



Pastor Earnest Flowers, Jr., greets Lighthouse's guests.

Songs, speeches, attendance at church on "highdays in Zion" mean nothing if souls are perishing while we celebrate.

Am I a soldier of the Cross, a follower of the Lamb, and shall I fail to own His cause, or blush to speak His name?

Shall I be carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease, while others fought to win the prize and sailed on bloody seas?

—Valarie Blyden
Communications Secretary

ADVENTIST YOUTH REPRESENTS COUNTRY AT THE HAGUE

A once-in-a-lifetime dream became reality for a young black Seventh-day Adventist recently. Pedro McKnight, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Pedro McKnight, Sr. of Rochester, New York was chosen from among thousands of eligible young high school juniors and seniors to repre-

sent the country of the Ivory Coast at the 12th annual International Model United Nations at the International Court of Justice in the Hague, Netherlands, January 24 through February 6, 1980. The only black chosen among the eighteen students selected from a nine county BOCES area (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) Pedro was also the only sophomore in the group. An honor student, the shy, bright, sensitive McKnight attends Edison Technical Junior/Senior High School. He is a member of the Jefferson Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church, 309 Jefferson Avenue, where he is actively involved in many of the on-going activities for young people.

All one had to do to become eligible for the trip was to write an essay of 250 words on the topic, "How the United Nations helped solve international problems in the last twenty-five years." After two months of intensified studies at the Rundel Memorial Library, where each student studied political, economic and social affairs of the country they represented. Included also in the studies was the country's involvement in international affairs. After arriving in the Hague, each student was assigned to a committee. Pedro was assigned to the committee on Economic Development of underprivileged countries. Among topics discussed at the two-week mock assembly was OPEC oil prices, strategies for the next decade and celestial bodies.

All of the students were given an opportunity to make or offer resolutions. McKnight's resolution, on OPEC oil prices, calling for a mechanism through national finance corporations to aid underdeveloped nations, was the only resolution passed by the mock Assembly.

While in the Hague, the BOCES students stayed with host families, for four days and nights sampling first-hand the native cuisine and culture of the Netherlands. A side trip of interest was a stay in London, England where many historic sites were visited. Among the sights were the Tower of Abbey, Piccadilly Circus, Thames River, Westminster Abbey, Ten Downing Street, the official residence of England's Prime Minister, and Buckingham Palace, the Queen's residence.

When asked his personal impression of this once-in-a-lifetime experience, young McKnight answered, "It was

educational, interesting and I gained a new insight into how the United Nations helps countries."

I learned from talking with Pedro, that not all young people are interested in drugs and "a good time," but rather there are still young people whose interests lie in education, school, books and making their parents proud of them. We would like Pedro McKnight, Jr. to know that his church, his school, his city and his friends are proud of the magnificent accomplishments and achievements thus far. We know too, that if you continue to strive, your Creator has even greater things in store for you.

—George Crider



Pastor Eugene Virgil baptizing Youth Candidate.

BAPTISM AT BRONX TEMPLE

The baptism on March 1, 1980 at the Bronx Temple demonstrated the accomplishment of a warm, friendly church and the unrelenting efforts of a Bible worker. Six of the eleven people who were baptized did so because a visitor was made to feel comfortable.

Ms. Daniel visited the Bronx Temple one Sabbath. She was touched by the preaching and was moved by the friendly warm feeling of the church. She was so much enthused that she made her decision and decided to begin Bible study with Sister Alexander, the Bible worker.

Ms. Daniels agreed to take the Bible lessons at home. When the Bible studies began, family members and neighbors would gather around to listen. Finally they joined the studies, swelling the group to a total of sixteen people.

After the students had exhausted the materials that Sister Alexander had, they were still thirsty for more. Sister Alex-

ander turned to Elder Harrison, a colporteur, for additional material. He was invited to one study session and was able to provide the group with enough material to satisfy their needs.

By this time the group was ready for baptism. But certain members of the group were not recommended for baptism by Sister Alexander. All members of the study group had enough intellectual knowledge about the church to be baptized, but knowledge was not enough for baptism. These new believers were struggling to rid themselves of the cigarette habit. Sister Alexander made it clear to them, "If you do not stop smoking before baptism you would continue to smoke after baptism."

The struggle to get rid of the nicotine habit was not easy for the converts. One day, however, Sister Alexander received a call from one of the converts. She had good news. "Sister Alexander, we have kicked the cigarette habit," the voice said. "How did you do it?" the Bible instructor asked. "Once we gave the problem to the Lord, it was easy."

These converts, along with a mother, her two children and other young people were taken into the watery grave with their Lord, a living example of the Holy Spirit in the South Bronx.

LAYMEN ORGANIZE THE FIRST BLACK SDA CHURCH IN NEW HAVEN

On March 1, 1980 Davenport Avenue Seventh-day Adventist mission was accepted into the sisterhood of churches in the Northeastern Conference. A beautiful dedicatory service was held. We thought it would be inspiring if we presented the trials and triumphs of those laymen who established the first Seventh-day Adventist Church in New Haven, Connecticut. Here is their story in their own words:

The Hill area members of the Mount Zion Church formed a missionary band in 1975 to work together toward establishing a church in the New Haven Hill Community. John Jones was the Mount Zion Lay Activities leader at the time. We met on Sundays at the homes of Dorothy Sims and Martha Henderson. The leader of the band was Elder Vashni T. Davis, the members were: Dorothy Sims, Bertha Davis, Martha Henderson, William Winn, Samuel Smith, Hannah Hemingway and Donna Brandon.



G. R. Earle, President of Northeastern Conference leads out in organization of the Davenport Mission.



Members of the newly organized Davenport Church.

We met to pray, to counsel, to plan under God's divine guidance to reach souls. Finally we began a Children's Story Hour at the Church Street South Apartments' social hall in 1976. Every home was visited and many children attended. Since the hall was not suitable for Sabbath worship, Mr. Davis and Mr. Winn began to look for a better place to begin a mission. After some searching Elder Davis was led to the present building by a Methodist pastor. The Mount Zion Lay Activity Officers and some band members met and accepted this facility. We started to worship in this building on August 15, 1977. Under Pastor Seibert Anderson working with the band members and others who joined in, the Mount Zion board and church approved the Mission. The Mission met all expenses. The Mount Zion Church voted to help us if we ran into difficulty.

We grew to over forty members, through transfers and Bible studies. Many visitors have attended. Many are in the valley of decision to accept the Adventist truths and a number are waiting to be baptized. We want to acknowledge the work of Mrs. Magnolia McKenzie who brought visitors and contributed counsel from time to time.

We are indeed grateful to the Mount Zion members for supporting us through offerings, attendance, music of soloists, pianists, and choirs. We have saturated the whole Hill community with tracts, invitations, and Bible courses. We have made many friends.

We want to thank Elder Norman E. Snipes who guided us into forming a church. The Davenport Avenue Mission deeply appreciates the Northeastern Conference under the leadership of Elder George R. Earle who accepted us as a church.

“COME, ALL THINGS ARE READY”

On Sabbath, the eleven o'clock services at the Brooklyn Temple Church was uplifting and inspiring. The reason was Pastor H. S. Walters, former President of the West Jamaican Conference and the Union Division exhorted the saints of the church. His sermon, "Come, All Things Are Ready" was taken from Matthew 22:4, Numbers 10:29 and Revelation 19:7.

His central theme was on the glorious Heaven. When Christ is accepted one can walk right. We become heirs of the kingdom. He has raised us up to heavenly places.

After his spirit-filled message the congregation sang, "We Know Not the Hour of the Master's Appearing."

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS HONOR AREA BLACK

Emmanuel Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church honored Mr. Theodore Kirkland and Mr. George K. Arthur on Saturday morning, March 15, 1980 at 9:30 a.m.

Emmanuel Temple was host to the community at their Biannual Sabbath School Guest Day. Councilman George K. Arthur and State Parole Commissioner Theodore Kirkland were awarded plaques for their distinguished dedication to the black community.

George K. Arthur has served as Councilman of the Ellicott District, County Board Supervisor and is presently in his third year as Councilman-at-large in the city of Buffalo. Mr. Arthur has been a tireless worker in the black community.

Theodore Kirkland spent sixteen years as a Buffalo Patrolman, and was President of the Afro-American Police Association of Buffalo, and is presently a State Parole Commissioner. Mr. Kirkland has always been highly vocal in his support of and demands for black equality.

According to Mr. Stephen Prescod, the Sabbath School superintendent, the Community Guest Day is held biannually

to give the community a chance to worship with and understand Seventh-day Adventists better.

—Janell L. Vance
Assistant Communication Secretary

PASTOR CLIFFORD JONES TRANSFERRED

It's a sad thing to lose a beloved shepherd. So it was with tears that Emmanuel Temple and the Cold Spring Mission spent an afternoon of song, dinner and presentations, bidding a fond (even if wet) farewell to Pastor Clifford Jones.

Pastor Jones came to Buffalo in the summer of 1979 under the leadership of Pastor Jonathan A. Thompson, to give aid and strengthen the staff of the "Fount of Blessing" tent effort. At summer's end, he stayed to build and shepherd the Cold Spring Mission that started as a result of the souls won through the summer's crusade.

The Lord in His wisdom called our beloved associate pastor to shepherd other churches and he has answered the call, and is assuming leadership of Faith S.D.A. Church in Brooklyn, New York, and the Ozone Park Church in Queens, New York.

Pastor Jones' parting remarks were given in song, "If I Can Help Somebody." His favorite choir, while here, was the Youth for Better Living, which responded with "Thank You, Lord."

Indeed, we here in Buffalo Emmanuel Temple and the Mission, do thank the Lord for sharing with us such a vibrant, enthusiastic caretaker of His word.

So long, Pastor Jones, for now "Soon and Very Soon," when the "Storm Has Passed Over," we'll meet in heaven and stand "Side by Side" with you and our Lord. Stay faithful!

—J. L. Vance
Assistant Communication Secretary

PASTOR RONALD ODEN CONDUCTS WEEK OF PRAYER

Elder Ronald Oden of Rhode Island was the guest speaker for the Emmanuel Temple S.D.A. Church Youth Spring Week of Prayer.

A 165 pound bundle of energy on fire

for the Lord invaded our church and the hearts of the parishioners. Elder Oden shook the very foundations of the church as he walked the aisles, rapped on the pews, preached, prayed, shouted, whispered and expounded God's message to His latter-day Saints. It was the young people's Spring Week of Prayer, but the hearts of young and old alike were stirred by his powerful messages. He was on a vendetta against sin, and struck vicious blows at the enemy with sermons like "Eureka, I've Found It," and "Out Jumped That Calf," dealing with the forming of the golden calf of Israel, and the formation of the sins of modern spiritual Israel.

According to Elder Oden, the people faint for lack of vision, and an overpowering surge is needed to reset their sights on heaven. His closing sermons, Friday night's "Home at Last," and Sabbath morning's "The 144,000," were a masterful appeal to be ready. Aided by the Lewis Family Quartet, the Youth for Better Living Choir, soloist William Willis, and the men's and women's trios, the members were given a glimpse of heaven with songs like "When We All Get to Heaven," "Lift Up the Trumpet," "Oh, What a Beautiful City," "Won't It Be Grand," "I Want to See Jesus, Don't You?" and culminating with "Hallelujah, Home at Last."

The youth and young adults of Emmanuel Temple were tireless workers during the week, directing song services, singing, leading in prayer and welcoming guests. As a result of this week of prayer, many souls were led to Christ for baptism, rebaptism, and also for prayer and Bible study. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, we are indeed "Marching to Zion."

—J. L. Vance

**PLAN NOW
TO ATTEND
CAMP
MEETING**

A CHALLENGE MET— A CHURCH DEDICATED— PLANT CITY, FLORIDA

"If the church raises \$10,000.00 by December 31, I will contribute the remaining \$8,000.00 to pay off the mortgage." This was the challenge of Mrs. Annette Brown, a charter member of the Plant City, Florida Church. The challenge was made in mid-November, 1979 and on December 22, 1979, that small congregation of 50 active members rallied, under the leadership of Pastor Odis Smith who was the pastor at that time and raised the \$10,000.00. Mrs. Brown honored her promise, and on Sabbath, February 9, 1980 the church was dedicated free of debt. This was a tremendous achievement. To God be the glory.

This beautiful 150 seat church was built and completed under the pastorate of Elder Philip Florence and completed in May, 1975, and was dedicated free of debt four and one-half years later by Pastor Odis Smith. This early dedication was made possible by Mrs. Annette Brown, a widow and mother of six children. Before 1949, she and her husband were the only black Adventists in Plant City. She is very active in her church and is still caring for four foster children in her home.

It was January, 1949 on the banks of a shady meadow where Elder I. J. Johnson and his dedicated wife, and Mr. O. J. Davis pitched a tent. They labored approximately twenty weeks on that spot to establish a church.

The majority of these members were young people in their teens. Thus the potential for building a church was very meager. The people and their leaders organized themselves in singing and selling blocks of 5x8 cards, which represented cement blocks. As a result of this effort, a little church was built. This church building served the church for nearly 26 years. But then like the students in the school of the prophets in Elisha's time, the place became too small for expansion, so they set themselves to the task of building larger quarters.

President Woodfork of the South Atlantic Conference delivered the Sabbath morning message preceded by Elder Robert Patterson, treasurer, on Friday night, and followed by Elder Phillip Florence, the former pastor who built this church delivered the dedica-



Emmanuel Temple SDA Church in Plant City, Florida, was dedicated on February 9, 1980.

tory message on Sabbath afternoon. Music was supplied by Mt. Calvary Church of Tampa, Florida and Mt. Sinai Church of Orlando, Florida.

Mrs. E. Woodard
Church Communication Secretary

NEW BERN SCHOOL CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY WEEK

Mayor Leander Morgan, the first black mayor of the city of New Bern, North Carolina was guest speaker at the New Bern SDA Junior Academy on February 14. This is the only black private school in the entire county. It being Black History Week, the mayor presented a synoptic biographical sketch of six black people who have made significant contributions to American history. His timely message to the young people and visitors was entitled, "You Are Somebody."

The two story building into which the school is housed is a gift for two years from Dr. John Littman of the community as his personal contribution to the church for their efforts in starting a school of its kind in New Bern. This is the first in the history of the city of New Bern, North Carolina.

Mayor Morgan paid special tribute to Elder Melvin Preston, the pastor, Mr. Ron Reed, Mrs. Rosa Wilson, the teachers and Mr. Jessie Best, the custodian, who because of his intimate relationship with Dr. Littman through the years was able to negotiate the gift to the school.

The local TV that covers the tri-county

area was on hand to cover the events. They praised the children for their attractive school uniform, their decorum, and their general performance.

Clyde C. Best, Jr.
Church Communication Secretary



Students and teachers at New Bern Academy with Mayor Leander Morgan seated on the front row center.

TWELVE COUPLES RENEW THEIR VOWS AT AYS

On Sabbath, February 23, the Adventist Youth Society of Delray Beach, Florida, twelve couples of the church renewed their marriage vows. Some of the brides wore their original wedding gowns. Among them were Charles and Mary Williams celebrating 52 years of marital bliss, and the youngest married couple, Willie and Melouise Aikens, celebrating their 3rd anniversary. The Williams, who are the proud parents of ten children, thirty grandchildren and two great grandchildren, were given special recognition and honor for their faithful service to the church. Elder Keith Dennis, performed the ceremony, renewing his own marriage vows along with the others.



Elder Ronald J. Wright, pastor of the Valdosta district, and family, have accepted a mission appointment to Liberia, West Africa, to serve as evangelist. They are at present at Andrews for briefing before leaving. Pictured are: Elder Wright; Ronald, Jr.; Melonie, and wife, Equilla.

TRINITY TEMPLE HOLDS ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZEN DAY

The Trinity Temple SDA Church of Fitzgerald, Georgia, held its third annual Senior Citizen's Day, February 9, at the Fitzgerald Community Center. The families of the senior citizens joined in the celebration. The program began at 9:30 a.m. with Joel Melton, local elder, presenting the Sabbath School lesson.

M. C. Pettigrew, pastor of the Holsey Chapel CME Church, delivered a challenging message to the senior citizens at the divine worship service. A testimonial banquet followed that evening honoring Mr. and Mrs. Neal Cody for forty years of faithful service to the church. Charles Taylor was also honored for his many unique contributions to the church.

After viewing two films on smoking and drugs, an exciting basketball game with the youth concluded the day's activities.

THE TWILIGHTERS CLUB: ACTIVELY GROWS OLD GRACEFULLY

The Twilighters Club of Immanuel Temple SDA Church, Durham, North Carolina is an organization comprised of disabled members or members in their sunset years of life.

The commencement of this group was March, 1975 by Jacqueline DeShazor who is also a Twilighter. Their purpose is to create a feeling of belonging and usefulness and bridge the gap between young adults and senior citizens; to have each senior or disabled member adopted by a younger member under Christian adoption thereby creating a bond of love between them—remembering each other's birthdays and special occasions.

Qualifications for membership is: must be 60 years of age or over/or

disabled. This group has made several contributions to our church which include helping to purchase a church directional sign.

The Twilighters is a very active organization always willing to support the church program. They have been and are quite an asset to our church.

SOUTH CENTRAL

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

- 3 Inner Cities Offering—Communication Workshop, Natchez, Mississippi
- 4 Softball League Ends
- 10 Disaster and Famine Relief Offering—Stewardship Revival, Sylacauga, Alabama
- 11 Regional Play-offs
- 17 Spirit of Prophecy Day
- 16-17 Literature Evangelists Rally, Birmingham, Alabama
- 17 Communication Workshop, Greenville, Mississippi
- 26 Softball Championship
- 30-31 Oakwood College Graduation Services
- 24 Church opening, Knoxville, Tennessee

ENROLL YOUR CHILD IN CHURCH SCHOOL FOR THE FALL

INFILTRATION EVANGELISM BEGINS THIS MONTH

JUNE

- 1 Oakwood College Commencement
- 13-21 CAMP MEETING, Oakwood College
- 13-14 Bible Bowl Finals
- 14 South Central Conference in Slides
- 21 Baptism at Camp meeting
- 28 Conference-wide Baptismal Day
- 28 Servicemen's Offering
- 29 FRIENDSHIP CAMP BEGINS—Kentucky-Tennessee
- 29 Summer Evangelism Begins

JULY

- 6 Friendship Camp for Alabama-Mississippi, Booker T. Washington Park, Chattanooga, Tennessee
- 13-19 Junior Camp, Booker T. Washington Park near Chattanooga, Tennessee
- 20-26 Teen Camp at Booker T. Washington State Park near Chattanooga, Tennessee

BAMDA'S ANNIVERSARY

The Black Adventists Medical and Dental Association held its anniversary for the Nashville Chapter on the 22nd of March with the guest speaker, Dr. C. E. Bradford, President of the North American Division. The North American Division includes the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

The Nashville chapter of BAMDA has twenty-two. Most of the doctors live in the Nashville Metropolitan area. This group has in it practicing doctors, dentists, surgeons, psychiatrists, Medical Health, and medical students.

The doctors group seem to specialize not only in medicine but also in music. Dr. G. L. Dixon directed the *Messiah Cantata* during the Christmas season, the group has its quartets, soloists and instrumentalists. But the highlight of the BAMDA anniversary in music was the afternoon concert by the Aeolians, a group of some 50 Oakwood students, grade point average must be 3.0 or above, directed by the famous Alma Blackman.

The Hillcrest church was packed with members and friends during the worship hour as Elder Bradford urged the audience to try the fairly old heart transplant of Jesus. Two persons in medicine joined the church. Hillcrest entertained the guests in a Fellowship dinner between the worship and the afternoon concert.

OAKWOOD ALUMNI BANQUET

The Nashville chapter of the Oakwood College Alumni Association held its annual banquet on March 16 in the Ballroom of the newly constructed motor hotel, The Radisson, Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. William Coopwood served as Master of Ceremonies. Elder G. I. Pearson is the president.

This affair is not only a social event that tends to draw friends from all over the country, but is a benefit banquet also. The money this year was designated for Oakwood scholarships and for the soon-to-be constructed F. H. Jenkins school building in Nashville.

Music for the program was furnished by Elder C. Tivy of Oakwood, who played the Marimba, the piano, and the organette all in one selection. Elder Marshall Kelley, also of Oakwood College sang and played the piano.

The fashion show was presented by Mrs. Sarita Coopwood, who described the garments modeled and made by students of F. H. Jenkins school. She was the student's sewing teacher, and the narrator of the fashion show.

To the surprise of Mrs. Vernon Jenkins, three daughters, Beverly, Eva, and Joyce, stood beside her as Dr. Coopwood read a poem which he wrote, in memory of her late husband, F. H. Jenkins, a Conference Educational Director for whom the school is named. A portrait of Elder Jenkins was unveiled and presented to Mrs. Jenkins.



Mrs. Genevieve Blackwell kisses her husband as he received plaque for building the house of worship in West Point, Mississippi after he had raised up the congregation.



Pastor Robert James smiles as he received plaque for the purchase of a church building adjacent to the campus of Taladega College in Taladega, Alabama. The Taladega church purchased a school building from the county four years ago, in which they hold classes.



Pastor Ben Jones has just received a plaque for opening a new school in Mobile, Alabama. The plaque was given by Dr. Joseph Dent, the Educational Secretary who stands in the background.



Joseph Watkins and wife pose in front of decoration as they cut the cake to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. They have two sons and one daughter and 25 grandchildren.



Six of the ten men who raised up new congregations in their districts during 1979. They are L-R D. A. Walker, Secretary of the conference; L. Hamilton of Dothan, Alabama; Roy Patterson now in Memphis at Breath of Life church; Phillip Smith of Natchez, Mississippi; F. Hill of Knoxville; R. Hill of Columbia, Tennessee; V. Brooks now of Longview Heights in Memphis; and President C. E. Dudley.



Ms. Beverly Stanmore, New Bible Worker.

BEVERLY STANMORE NAMED BIBLE INSTRUCTOR FOR CITY TEMPLE

Ms. Beverly Stanmore, a recent graduate of Southwestern Adventist College has joined the Southwest Region Conference as a Bible Instructor. Ms. Stanmore is a native of Texarkana, Texas, where she accepted the Third Angel's Message. She served as a student missionary for one year in Indonesia, she helped to raise up the group in Waxahachie, Texas labored in two evangelistic meetings; demonstrating her love for humanity and her deep and abiding commitment to gather into God's kingdom those persons who love Him.

Ms. Stanmore's first assignment is the City Temple church, Dallas, Texas.

PASTOR DURANDEL FORD ASSIGNED TO KENNER, LOUISIANA

Pastor and Mrs. Durandel Ford have been assigned to the Kenner District in Southern Louisiana. Pastor Ford is the son of Professor James Ford, the Education and Sabbath School director for the conference. He attended church school as a youth, graduated from Oakwood College, received his Master's Degree from Andrews University, labored in seven major evangelistic efforts in North America, and demonstrated his call to the ministry by actively engaging in the work of spreading the gospel.

He is married to the former Janice Coopwood, a graduate from Oakwood also. Janice is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Coopwood of Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Coopwood's father was one of the pioneer ministers who blazed the trail, and established many of the congregations of the Southwest. We open our arms and hearts, in welcoming these brave young people to the ranks of the Gospel Ministry.



Mrs. Bernice Ford, Pastor and Mrs. Durandel Ford and Professor James Ford.

NEW CONVERTS JOIN THE BATON ROUGE CHURCH

Oscar Haney and Mary Robertson—both of these individuals are converts of the Phillips Crusade last summer. Because of Mr. Haney's decision his job at the Post Office was terminated, since he refused to work on the Sabbath. After Mr. Haney's decision his wife was baptized also. Presently, Oscar Haney is preparing to enter the School of Medicine fulfilling a lifelong ambition to be a medical doctor.

Sam Montgomery was a professional athlete. A graduate of Southern University, he was drafted by the Green Bay Packers in the National football league and American football league by the Boston Patriots. He played some Canadian football also. Sam was once an actor and model in New York City. He has traveled extensively in foreign countries looking for peace of mind. It was not until he came back to Baton Rouge and accepted this message did he get what he was looking for. Now he is rejoicing in this blessed truth. He was given a few studies and was ready for baptism November 10, 1979. He loves Wednesday night prayer meeting. He says "that is the source of his strength," and reads all the materials he can get.



Oscar Haney, Sam Montgomery and Mary Robertson, new converts from Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

YOUTH FEDERATION HELD IN OKLAHOMA CITY

Over 200 gathered from the different sections of Oklahoma to a Federation weekend in Oklahoma City. B. E. Wright, conference youth director was the keynote speaker for Friday evening using as his sermon "Give The Youth A Chance." This is how the day went:

- 1) Sabbath School was alive as Mr. Abraham Weeks served as Sabbath School Superintendent.
- 2) Mr. and Mrs. Dwyane Williams (husband and wife team) presented the lesson study.
- 3) Ms. C. Hicks (a new believer) gave a poem.
- 4) Divine Worship Hour Pastor M. M. Young, of Tulsa, Oklahoma. He challenged the youth with a sermon on "Anger."
- 5) Oklahoma City youth furnished the music with Rozene Patmon singing the meditation.
- 6) Vera Harris, secretary of the Oklahoma Federation, lifted the Tithe and Offerings.
- 7) Male group "Voices of Supreme" presented music at Sabbath School and youth hour.
- 8) Enid youth group presented special music during the Federation Hour.
- 9) Mrs. Dorothy Bell gave the Vesper Thought, followed by recreation.

The Food Service Committee prepared a delicious meal, followed by an outreach program for the afternoon—where a number of young people gave out the Real Truth Bible Lessons and enrolled sixty individuals. This weekend was well spent and all returned

home happy for having experienced a spiritual and profitable weekend.



Ms. C. Hicks recited a poem during Sabbath School.



Groundbreaking exercise left to right: C. R. Pritchett, pastor, Ben Peabody, assistant to the mayor of Baton Rouge, W. T. Winnfiend, Democratic committeeman, Tom Gott, contractor, W. C. Jones, president, M. L. Baez, treasurer, and Charles Wilson, local elder.



Male group "Voices of Supreme" presented music at Sabbath School and Youth Hour.

GROUND BREAKING FOR BEREAN CHURCH IN BATON ROUGE, LA.

On January 12, 1980 groundbreaking ceremonies for a new sanctuary was held for the Berean church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. At sunset Ms. A. Feltus reviewed the thirty-three year history of the church including the former pastors, and the growth of the congregation. Present was Mr. Tom Gott; the contractor who discussed the construction project with the members.

Among the guests who were present for this grand occasion were W. C. Jones, conference president; M. L. Baez, treasurer, Ben Peabody, assistant to the Mayor of Baton Rouge, W. T. Winnfield, Democratic Committeeman, the Berean membership and a host of friends.

The members of the Berean church anxiously look forward to the day when the new edifice will be completed.

HERBERT HARRIS UNDERGOES HEART SURGERY AND RECOVERS

Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church . . . and the prayer of faith shall save the sick (James 5:14, 15). Mr. Harris can testify of the truthfulness of this scripture. He is a member of the Philadelphia church in Shreveport, Louisiana. He is a Landscape Gardener, and very successful, for he employs three of his sons, and another employee to care for the demands of his prosperous business. During the latter part of 1979 he fell by his pick-up truck and laid unconscious for one-half hour or longer. He revived sufficiently to report to work and labored for 6½ hours experiencing another siege of illness that evening—not knowing until medical advice informed him he had suffered two serious heart attacks. On the 28th of December Herbert Harris experienced open heart surgery, while the church and family members prayed for his recovery. The heart specialists look upon Mr. Harris as a miracle, for in less time than the 1½ days in Intensive Care he was out of this unit, assigned to his room and released from the hospital in a short period of time.

Today, as he regains his strength, only the scars remain as a sign of his illness. He along with the other members of Philadelphia church are preparing the ground for a major evangelistic effort in Shreveport. Mr. Herbert Harris is a living

testimony that the admonition of James stands true.



Herbert Harris, Shreveport, Louisiana.

NEWS FROM PHILADELPHIA CHURCH, SHREVEPORT, LA

Cable television is a marvel in our day, a flip of the switch, will enable an entire city to tune in and catch on a screen, a program beamed to the masses in the privacy of your home. The Adventist Youth Society made a contact with the Local Cable Television Studio of Shreveport to telecast their afternoon program. What a thrill it was for the area Adventist Youth Societies to support Michael Murff of Philadelphia in an excellent musical program, to be aired in Shreveport at a future date: We pray that the Lord will use this telecast to attract from the citizens "such as would be saved."



Enter to learn;

depart to serve.



C. B. Rock, President of Oakwood College.

THE "NON-DENOMINATIONAL DOLLAR"

by C. B. Rock

One of the most significant trends of recent years here at Oakwood is our growing involvement in the search for the non-denominational dollar. As with all of our schools, the percentage of denominational financial participation has not kept pace with the severe escalation of expenses occasioned by inflation and an expanding physical plant. While the church's annual increment for the past ten years has approximated 3 to 4 percent per year, inflation has spiraled at an annual average of 11 to 15 percent. The disparity not only necessitates steady increases in tuition, but redoubled efforts to secure what we sometimes call "outside money," or the non-denominational dollar.

Illustrative of the fact that expenses today are greatly escalated over yesteryear, is that an elementary teacher at Oakwood who was paid \$7,000 in 1972 will be paid \$16,000 for school year 1980-81; an instructor who was paid \$9,000 in 1972 will be paid \$19,000 in 1980-81; the figures for a full professor for the same years are \$11,000 and \$19,000, and average secretarial rates have jumped from \$7,000 to \$11,000 during the same period.

How are we meeting the challenge? As stated above, through tuition increases (Oakwood still has the lowest tuition and costs of all Adventist schools of higher education) and through such programs as the Kresge and Bush grants. Of course the Kresge Grant, which brought us \$400,000 in matching funds, was absolutely critical in the financing of the new science complex.

The Bush grant, which will be just as helpful in other respects, operates on the following principle:

Bush will match all contributions that are:

- sent directly to the college (Office of the President or Office of Fund Raising).
- of \$5.00 or more.
- unrestricted (not labeled by donor for a particular project).
- from any individual who has attended Oakwood College.

In addition to the dollar matching formula, there is additional funding provided if the college attains its "donor base" goal of 500 participants. We are, at present, about half-way in our quest for 500 contributors of \$5.00 or more.

Our final report is due June 30, 1980. Your response is vital and appreciated.



Elder C. E. Moseley, Veteran Church Administrator and Bible Teacher at Oakwood College.



Lee Paschal, President of Oakwood College National Alumni Association.

NATIONAL ALUMNI GIVES LARGE GIFT

A feature of Alumni Weekend, 1980, was the presentation to the college, by L. A. Paschal, President of the National Alumni Society, of a check for \$10,000. This amount is a partial report of over \$22,000 which the National Alumni has pledged to contribute toward the school's skating rink project.

NEW BUSINESS MANAGER AT OAKWOOD COLLEGE

Mr. Adell Warren, who has served as College Business Manager since 1952, has announced his intent to resign effective December 31, 1980.

The Board of Trustees has voted as his replacement Mr. Donald Oxley of San Demas, California. Mr. Oxley and his wife, the former Carol Allison, are expected to join the college staff on July 1, 1980.

A more detailed review of Mr. Warren's years of service will follow in a later edition.



IN THE NEWS

BLACK STUDENT HEADS UNION COLLEGE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Union College student body is under the leadership of Paul Burnett for the academic year 1979-1980. Paul is a resident of Omaha, Nebraska where his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Burnett are members of the Sharon SDA Church.

As student body president, Paul is working to encourage student participation and cooperation as well as an overall student desire to use their God given talents to bring about spiritual awareness to themselves and their surrounding community. Paul continually asks the prayers of all concerned for God to give him the strength and wisdom to continue to work as student body president.

Paul is attending Union with a major in Middle Grade Education (4-8). His numerous talents also include playing the trombone, organ and piano. He is also a member of the Union College Collegiate Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Lynn Wickham. On Sunday mornings, Paul lends his talents to the Clair Methodist Church in Omaha, Nebraska as organist. It is Paul's desire to give others just a portion of the blessings he has received while attending Union College.

—W. R. Wright, Jr., Director
Communication Department

NORTHEASTERN DEDICATES THREE NEW CHURCHES

The Northeastern Conference has taken the gospel commission seriously, as a result three new churches have been organized. On the weekend of January 25-27 the Lighthouse Tabernacle SDA Church in Brooklyn, New York, held its dedicatory services. On Sabbath, March 1, 1980, the first black SDA church was organized in New Haven, Connecticut. During that same month, Mount of Olives Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn, New York held a week long dedicatory service on March 22-29. This is only the beginning of the great things God will do for His people who are willing to be used by Him.

EMMANUEL TEMPLE PATHFINDER INDUCTIONS

Maranatha Pathfinder troop of Emmanuel Temple S.D.A. Church of Buffalo, New York, held its induction service Sabbath, March 1.

In a beautiful candlelight service, Emmanuel Temple parishioners watched as 16 youths were inducted.

M.V. leader and Master Guide Pearl Wilkins gave the charge "Let your light so shine, that men will see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Emphasis was placed on the Pathfinders' duty to their country and the J.M.V. Society.

Master Guide Helen Arnold presented the Pathfinders' history. Pathfinder Joe Lewis and assistants Timothy Gentry, M. Jones, Z. Tyler and V. Harris helped with the service. Raquel Harris was presented with a backpack for submitting the winning name for the troop, "Maranatha."

LAKE CHARLES MOVES FORWARD

On Sabbath, February 23 at Lake Charles, Louisiana, two new converts, were ordained as elders of the church. The pastor and members are glad to have additional workers assist with the gigantic task of helping finish the work of God in the Lake Charles area. The services have taken on a new meaning and the auditorium looks good with new faces.

OBITUARY

Burger, Ambus, born February 1, 1896 in Calvert, Texas, died January 27, 1980, in Roswell, New Mexico. He was a Methodist minister for a number of years prior to accepting the Third Angel's Message. Mr. Burger served the Roswell church as Lay minister for 25 years. Survivors include his wife, two nephews, eight grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

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