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COVER STORY

THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

By John Nixon

It was a typical New York City night in October. The cold of encroaching winter pinched between the gaps in our clothes. The commercialism signaling the Yuletide season was beginning. Already advertisers were urging the public to beat the Christmas rush by shopping early.

There were hints of the holiday in radio music and store windows, but none were evident in the dispositions of the people on the street. The usual titanic rush and terrible urgency of each passing moment prevailed. Pedestrians impetuously bumped by one another too busy to notice, too untrusting to pause. Conditioned by neighborhood break-ins and back-street muggings, they rushed along as if there was not another person in sight.

As we turned on 135th Street we saw two boys who did notice the passing throng. Standing on opposing corners, they waited for someone to notice them. As the red light stopped us, one of the boys, under-dressed for the weather, approached our car. I rolled down the window and listened for the familiar money "hustle."

Every New Yorker has at some time been solicited like this, and usually the object of interest is alcohol or drugs. But as I listened to this appeal I perceived there was something different. I saw it in the eyes of my solicitor and in the hands of his brother, who carefully searched through a garbage can across the street. I asked why he needed the money and believed him when he replied, "for food."

Just then the light changed and motorists behind us began to signal their immediate impatience. I looked across from me at my pregnant wife, and behind me at a sleepy son and worn-out guest minister, who had just delivered a sermon in our church. For a moment I flirted with the temptation to drive away. I drove off and pulled over across the intersection, deciding to make my passengers wait as I entered into the true spirit of Christmas.

I motioned for the youngster to meet me on the other side and listened to his story as we walked toward a fast food

outlet. He was twelve, his brother younger. They had no idea where to find their parents. Mom and Dad had left them in a cold apartment with an empty refrigerator, promising to return shortly. Two days later their parents hadn't returned and they were forced to beg for food. It had not been the first time and probably would not be the last.

I listened with horror and tried to remember a single day in my childhood when I so much as missed a meal. Never had my parents left us alone. Never had I been forced to beg or trust a stranger in order to survive, and yet I considered myself having come up the hard way. I was ashamed. I shuddered to think I had almost driven away.

**And the angel said unto them,
Fear not: for, behold, I bring you
good tidings of great joy, which
shall be to all people.**

**For unto you is born this day in
the city of David a Saviour, which
is Christ the Lord.**

Luke 2:10, 11

We entered the eating place. I told him he could order anything on the menu. He selected what he wanted, apparently willing to share with his brother, but I ordered two of everything. He looked with wonder out of the corner of his eye as I added desserts and soft drinks without his asking. His face registered inquisitiveness as he tried to figure out my ulterior motive.

It didn't occur to him that someone might show kindness with no hidden purpose. This is the sadness of the human condition. Man, who was created in the image of God, has degenerated through sin until selfishness and lack of concern for others is a natural state.

Even among those who call themselves Christians there is an absence of compassion. The wealthy share the pew with the deprived and no benefit to either comes from their association. How far the Christian church has declined from that time when "the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed and was his own; but they had all things common (Acts 4:32)."

Sadder still is this condition among black Christians in the light of present economic conditions and the posture of the present administration. To perpetuate this attitude will surely result in a deepened state of poverty and suffering among blacks.

Now more than ever black leaders speak out on this issue of attitude. Just a few months ago in Boston, Massachusetts, Minister Farrakhan of the nation of Islam, addressing a caucus of metropolitan ministers, pointed out the already evident effect of "Reaganomics" on blacks.

Choosing to approach the issue from a positive standpoint, he thanked the president for creating a state of affairs that will force blacks to depend more on the church and each other. He emphasized the fact that we as black Americans must begin to pool our resources and trust one another enough to invest in and be charitable toward each other.

The very same point of view was expressed a short time later in the same city by Jesse Jackson of Operation PUSH. In a Methodist church service, Pastor Jackson highlighted the need for black people to avoid letting fiscal frustration make us turn *against* one another and instead turn *toward* each other.

One of the many suggestions he made was that of the materially blessed helping the poor. "To whom much is given, much is required," he reminded his listeners, and then said that "God came in a manger to give some evidence of his politics."

But what these leaders advocate is nothing more than the brotherhood that is a natural component of Christianity. For the followers of Christ, no such advice should have validity simply because of economic conditions. It is a natural outgrowth of Christ dwelling in the heart.

What better way to celebrate Christmas can there be than to submit to this way of thinking? How many of us, sabotaged by materialism, miss this mark? How many literally walk past the suffering and destitute on their way home to Christmas dinner? For how many is the Yuletide season nothing more than a verbal greeting on a holiday card, sent by a friend, but written by a stranger?

The essence of Christmas is foreign to this spirit. It was the day of the appearance of the ultimate Gift that God wrapped in human packaging and delivered in a stable to the music of angels. The metaphor of John 1:14 says it beau-

tifully: "He pitched His tent among us."

The most significant thing about Christ's appearance is the divine initiative it represents. Even at our best, we respond to an appeal for help with hesitation. But God did not wait for us to realize our undone condition and beg on a street corner. Neither did He just happen upon us by the way.

"While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)." While we were ignorant of our nakedness, He clothed us. Before we realized our need of nourishment, He fed us. While we were in the act of rebellion, He saved us.

His story is His outstanding love and mercy. We never sought Him. He sought us. And when we finally come to our senses and give ourselves to Him with all our hearts, we are but surrendering to the urgings and appeals He has been fostering all along.

In the words of Herschel H. Sheets, a Methodist minister: "No one ever gets ahead of Him in concern. His interest in us always precedes our interest in Him, and before there is ever a thought of movement toward Him, He is moving toward us."

This is the essence and beauty of remembering Christmas. Jesus Christ, whose physical appearance seemed so inconsequential that His followers told us nothing about how He looked. Whose material possessions were so miniscule that He was dependent on friends for a place to lay His head. Whose assets were so insignificant that even the grave He was buried in was borrowed.

And yet the light of His example is so impressive that even those who do not fully understand the gospel are impressed with the slightest glimpse of His life. How inappropriate that we should observe the memory of His birth with selfish gifts in our own circle of friends while those around us who truly need our help are ignored.

As we walked back toward my car, he with his dinners and me with the joy of having given, I knew there was Christmas in October.

But I could not allow the youngster to go back home thanking his lucky stars or praying to Santa Claus. He had to know who his true Benefactor was, so I told him why I had stopped to help him. It was not because I knew him or his brother, or because he reminded me of my son. It was because of Jesus, His gift on Christmas day and His gift on Calvary.

Maybe after their hunger was satisfied the boys of 135th Street would remember the true Giver as well as the gift. Maybe they would understand that the true meaning of Christmas is caring enough to stop, listen and give.

I prayed and I said,

Master, I know a man.

He needs you, so please

take hold of his hand.

Stretch forth your finger, Lord,

show him the way.

I prayed and I listened

and I heard Him say,

You are the finger of God,

don't you see?

You know somebody who is in need.

Point him to Calvary,

show him the way.

You are the finger of God today!

—Selected.

PUBLISHER'S PAGE



UPSIDE DOWN

We are very much aware of the controversies that rage in Adventist circles on doctrine and the credibility of Mrs. E. G. White. We are not blind to the issues or their implications. Recently, secular magazines and newspapers have taken up the issues and added their fuel to the fire. Many Adventist college campuses are alive with the furor.

Black Adventism remains largely undisturbed by all of this, not because we are ignorant of the issues, but because our doctrinal orientation is both orthodox and fundamental.

Very few black evangelists baptize a person before he has had six or more weeks of "six-nights-per-week" instruction. Our public meetings often run as long as twelve weeks, giving the candidate time to hear the message several

times before the meetings close. This helps! People like this are not soon shaken by the "winds of error."

Black Seventh-day Adventists believe in the Investigative Judgment. We have seen this as God's "habit pattern" through the ages.

When Adam and Eve sinned against God, Christ Himself conducted the investigation (Genesis 3:8-19). This investigation was for man's sake, not God's. His question, "Adam, where art thou?" was intended that man should discover himself, for God already knew *where he was*—lost!

Before destroying Sodom and Gomorrah, Christ came down with two angels and, after a time of fellowship with Abraham for Abraham's sake, conducted an investigative judgment before executing.

At the Tower of Babel it was said that "God the Lord came down to see the city" and the tower which the children of men built (Genesis 11:5). He investigated before he executed. "Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language," He said. And so the pattern is set. God investigates before he sentences and executes.

We believe that Christ ascended in A.D. 31 and began a three-fold work of intercession, mediation and substitution. We believe that in 1844 something happened *in Heaven* and on earth. In Heaven Christ entered the Most Holy Place of the sanctuary there to commence the Investigative Judgment (Daniel 7:13). We have no description of the temple in Heaven, but we know it is there (Revelation 15:5, 11:19). And we know that Christ ministers there, that destinies are being weighed there, that decisions final in their import are being made there!

We are not worried about God's schedule, namely how much time He spends there. We are in the time of judgment! "The hour of his judgment is come!" Black Adventists have computed the time. As the Lord "comes suddenly to His temple" a movement, born of God, springs up on the earth that keeps the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Black Seventh-day Adventists believe in the divine mission of Ellen White. We have read the attacks made on her, past and present. Some people are waiting with bated breath for the Veltman report on Mrs. White's use of existing sources of printed materials. Most of us couldn't care less about the Veltman Committee,

or what it finds. Ellen White's credibility cannot rest on any human test or evaluation. Her record speaks for itself.

Test I. Isaiah 8:20—"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Ellen White's support of the law and the prophets is a matter of record.

Test II. Matthew 7:20—"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." Perhaps the best testimony on this good woman's life comes from a secular newspaper, *The St. Helena Star*, on July 23, 1915. The editor wrote: "Mrs. White was probably one of the best known women in the world. The life of Mrs. White is an example worthy of emulation by all . . . This Good Samaritan will surely be missed."

Test III. Jeremiah 28:9—"When the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the Lord hath truly sent him." Familiarize yourself with Mrs. White's statements on tobacco that were made long before the federal government technicians caught up with them. What about cancer? They have finally agreed with her on this. She identified the mystery of the Fox Sisters' rapping as spiritualism. She predicted the increase in death by land, sea and air. There's just so much of this.

Mrs. White's inspiration rests on solid credentials. The system of Adventist schools and colleges that belt the globe are her brainchild. More than 52 publishing houses grew out of her urging her husband to "print, print, print!" And what of the hospitals, clinics and treatment centers? Add to this the vast body of materials that deal with health and you have a woman called of God as a prophet, messenger and spiritual leader!

But black people love Mrs. White for reasons that relate very little to any of this. At a time when few whites believed it, Mrs. White declared the black man to be equal to the white, that skin color is of little value to Christ and Christians.

"We are one brotherhood. No matter what the gain or the loss, we must act nobly and courageously in the sight of God and our Savior. Let us as Christians who accept the principle that all men, white and black, are free and equal, adhere to this principle, and not be cowards in the face of the world, and in the face of the heavenly intelligences. We should treat the colored man just as respectfully as we treat the white man (Se-

lected Messages, Book 2, page 343)."

"Whoever of the human family gives themselves to Christ becomes members of one family. The black man's name is written in the Book of Life beside the white man's . . . Birth, station, nationality or color cannot elevate men. The character makes the man (*Gospel Workers*, page 12)."

"You have no license from God to exclude colored people from your places of worship. Treat them as Christ's property, which they are, just as much as yourselves. They should hold membership in the church made with the white brethren. Every effort should be made to wipe out the terrible wrong which has been done them (*Gospel Workers*, pg. 15)."

"Those whom the Lord sees neglected by us have been entrusted with reasoning powers, and yet have been wounded by a so-called Christian nation. But though they have been despised and neglected of men, God has given special help and enlightenment to many who were in slavery (*Gospel Workers*, pg. 29)."

"Among those in St. Louis who believe the truth, there are colored people who are true and faithful, precious in the sight of Heaven, and they should have just as much respect as any of God's children (*Gospel Workers*, pg. 11)."

She further states that "No human mind should seek to draw the line between the colored and white people. Let circumstance indicate what shall be done, for the Lord has His hand on the lever of circumstances. As the truth is brought to bear upon the minds of both colored and white people, as souls are thoroughly converted, they will become new men and women in Christ Jesus . . . The prejudice which they have inherited and cultivated . . . will die away. They will realize that there is no respect of persons with God. (*Gospel Workers*, pg. 22)."

Having established this principle, we note also that the prophet was no visionary, but practical and understanding of the human condition. She recognized peculiar situations and urged adaptations in policy, not attitude.

"Most decided efforts should be made to educate and train colored men and women to labor as missionaries in the southern states of America. Christian colored students should be preparing to give the truth to their own race."

There are large black populations in

the cities of America, north and south. This is a black mission field. The favorable time for white workers to work in black neighborhoods is past. Who then will evangelize the millions there? Who can better manage the work there than those who live there?

The world will yet see in the Adventist model a solution to its problems, namely an open door policy to men and women of all races with parallel management systems in ethnic areas utilizing local indigenous leadership. In the church's overseas operation, we now follow this policy. At General Conference sessions we are seeing more and more nationals in costume appearing in the pageants, indicating this remarkable trend.

This is not an argument for expensive "duplication." Black and white conference presidents administer "different worlds." Economically, culturally and residentially, the scale is different. While there is some racial mixture at church and administrative levels, the great majority of blacks are isolated in sprawling ghettos. *We have the solution.* Build and buy churches where the people are. Make a man from the neighborhood responsible for and to the neighborhood. That is how the New Testament church did it. As the apostles went from place to place, they trained local ethnics to manage themselves and passed on. Bathed in Holy Spirit power, they turned the world "upside down."

E. E. Cleveland
Director of Church Missions

THE CONFERENCES IN ACTION

ALLEGHENY EAST

ALLEGHENY EAST SPONSORS BIBLE INSTRUCTOR SEMINAR

The personal ministries department, directed by Pastor A. R. Jones, recently hosted a seminar for Bible instructors of Allegheny East Conference.

The following Bible instructors were in attendance: Arnedia Brown, Joseph Davidson, Roberta Davis, Charles Jenkins, Elizabeth McDade, Lois Miller, Edwina Williams and Thelma Pierson.

The two-day conference featured a number of guest speakers presenting topics designed to enhance the work of the Bible instructor. M. C. Van Putten, conference president, spoke on the role of the Bible instructor. R. W. Newman, director of trust services, stressed the importance of having a will.

Dr. Althris Shirdan, associate professor of social services at Beaver College, gave guidelines for establishing rapport with the public. Gwendolyn Foster, health and temperance director of the conference, gave tips on maintaining good health, and Ruth Greene, dean of girls at Pine Forge Academy, made a presentation with live models on good grooming practices.

Joseph Davidson, one of the Bible instructors, brought several tapes presenting major issues confronting the SDA church. The messages were of such interest that participants scheduled continued discussion for the early morning hours of the second day of the seminar.

Devotionals were given by M. C. Van Putten and Paul Cantrell, president and executive secretary, respectively.

The Bible instructors were greatly inspired by the presentations and look forward eagerly to their next seminar in the spring of 1982.

Iris Darby
Secretary

CLASSIFIED ADS

RN's/NEW GRADS—We want you at Loma Linda University Medical Center. Our orientation program is geared to your needs and career. Interested? Call collect, Paula Galbraith, Recruiter, 714/824-4347.

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The Editor's Desk



Mr. and Mrs. John E. Gartin, Sr.

GARTINS RENEW VOWS AFTER 42 YEARS

Mr. and Mrs. John E. Gartin, Sr., members of the Eastside church, renewed their marriage vows on August 30.

Pastor R. C. Brown, Sr., secretary-treasurer of the Lake Region Conference and managing editor of the *North American Regional Voice*, performed the ceremony, assisted by the church pastor, Roy Bellinger.

John Gartin and Sarah Thomason were married on June 5, 1939, 42 years ago.

The couple has three children: Glenda Willis, wife of Pastor David Willis, Hempstead, New York; John E. Gartin, Jr., and Reva Riding, both of Indianapolis, Indiana; and seven grandchildren, six of whom participated in the ceremony.

The celebration was planned by the children.

CORRECTION

The May issue carried an incorrect picture credit for the cover. The name should have been Lance Gordon.

SUNSET CALENDAR

	Dec.	25	Jan. 1	8	15
Boston, Mass		4:17	4:22	4:29	4:37
New York City		4:29	4:34	4:41	4:48
Buffalo, N.Y.		4:46	4:51	4:58	5:06
Atlanta, Ga.		5:35	5:40	5:46	5:52
Miami, Fla.		5:37	5:41	5:46	5:51
Charlotte, N.C.		5:17	5:22	5:28	5:35
Birmingham, Ala.		4:45	4:50	4:55	5:02
Jackson, Miss.		5:02	5:07	5:12	5:18
Memphis, Tenn.		4:54	4:59	5:05	5:11
Louisville, Ky.		5:28	5:34	5:40	5:47
Detroit, Mich.		5:06	5:12	5:19	5:26
Chicago, Ill.		4:25	4:31	4:37	4:45
South Bend, Indiana		5:20	5:25	5:32	5:40
Minneapolis, Minn.		4:37	4:42	4:49	4:58
St. Louis, Mo.		4:45	4:50	4:56	5:03
Kansas City, Mo.		5:01	5:06	5:13	5:20
Denver, Co.		4:41	4:46	4:52	5:00
Little Rock, Ark.		5:04	5:09	5:15	5:21
Dallas, Texas		5:27	5:32	5:38	5:44
New Orleans, La.		5:07	5:12	5:17	5:23
Albuquerque, N.M.		5:01	5:06	5:11	5:18
Oklahoma City, Okla.		5:24	5:29	5:34	5:41

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

ALLEGHENY WEST LAUNCHES FLEET

The Allegheny West Conference has launched Front Line Evangelism Explosion in this Triennium (FLEET) to better concentrate soul-winning efforts into fully coordinated public and personal evangelism within the conference.

To facilitate this idea, which combines the efforts of ministers and laymen, the responsibilities of several departments have been lifted to organize the department of evangelism under the direction of Pastor James O. Best.

This newly-organized department will

include lay evangelism, personal evangelistic ministries, ministerial and prison ministry.

All of these evangelistic programs have the same objectives as the General Conference's Faith-Action-Advance and Columbia Union's Winning Adventure.

In the local church, the evangelism council will be chaired by the pastor. The make-up of the council membership will be persons who have demonstrated an interest in and have shown a burden for soul-winning. Locally this newly-constituted council will approve and coordinate all soul-winning activities, personal and public, implement the

FLEET comprehensive program of evangelism, plan the first Sabbath evangelistic services, and highlight this main function of the church in the divine worship service each week.

The FLEET has been launched! In Matthew 17:30, we are assured that "if ye have faith . . . nothing shall be impossible unto you" . . . nothing!

Allegheny West dares to claim that promise as we match our faith with works in this united effort to finish Christ's work on earth.

Elizabeth Cleveland
Correspondent

NEW STAFF MEMBERS JOIN ALLEGHENY WEST

Nettie Best has been appointed receptionist and secretary to the director of evangelism for the conference. She brings to her position expertise and seasoned professionalism.

Eula Mae Lewis has become secretary to the director of publishing. A woman of many talents, she has worked as a nurse as well as a secretary.

The Allegheny West Conference staff welcomes these Christian women into the office family. In accepting their appointments, the ladies graciously

acknowledged that they were happy to be working in the service of the King, to further in whatever way possible the soon return of our Lord and Savior.

Elizabeth Cleveland
Correspondent



Nettie Best, secretary to J. O. Best, director of evangelism.



J. O. Best ponders a few thoughts before he meets with the president.



Eula Mae Lewis, secretary to R. C. Lewis, director of publishing.



President H. L. Cleveland meets with Best to iron out last-minute changes in the program before it is sent to the field.



The children reciting Bible verses at the Denver Park Hill Vacation Bible School.

PARK HILL HOLDS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School at the Denver Park Hill church in Denver, Colorado, was a great success this year. An outstanding attendance was recorded by the Sabbath school department as 43 children attended every day for two weeks to learn about the Bible and participate in arts and crafts.

These crafts were distributed in many ways. Some were given to the crafters and some, such as lap quilts, were given to a nursing home, Stovall Care Center. The children were excited about their creations and readily showed them to visitors, friends and family.

The closing program was designed with love. After the flags were brought in, allegiance was pledged to God and country. Memorized Bible verses were recited by many of the children.

This two-week school was headed by Reneta Hoard, Hilda Dean, Gena Evans, Lula Rhyan and Martha Johnson.

Melba Pride, Sabbath school superintendent, extended a standing invitation to the children and their parents to continue their study in the Bible by attending Branch Sabbath School. Melba further stated that Branch Sabbath School could be attended every week and told parents there would be further announcements as to its location.

Pastor W. D. Felder, in his closing remarks, welcomed the parents of the children and asked them all to come again.

Tokens of gratitude are due to Melba, La Wand and her outstanding staff for such a wonderful Vacation Bible School.

Margaret Hayes
Communication Secretary

PALACE OF PEACE OPENS IN COLORADO

The Palace of Peace church had its grand opening on September 19 in Colorado Springs, Colorado.



Melba Pride, Sabbath school superintendent.

The services were highlighted with guests from the Claremont SDA Church in Pueblo, the Park Hill SDA Church in Denver, and the Calvary SDA Church of Colorado Springs. The divine worship sermon was given by S. Haywood Cox, president of the Central States Conference.

The Palace of Peace church in Colorado Springs was truly a miracle from God. The church building, super-structure and foundation were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Otis Rupright of Lafayette, Indiana.

Labor for completion of the church was donated by laymen of the Pueblo and Palace of Peace churches. David Gadlin was responsible for beautiful tile on the walls and floors of the restrooms and vestibule. David Wilson of the Claremont Pueblo church was general superintendent of the project.

The founding pastor, Gil F. Webb, Davenport, Iowa, closed the day's services with the vesper thought, an appeal to the members to be ever grateful to God for giving them a beautiful house of worship.

I. J. Lewis
Communication Secretary

COLLEGE AVENUE VBS DRAWS 43 CHILDREN

The College Avenue SDA Church in Topeka, Kansas, recently held its annual Vacation Bible School. A program on Sabbath culminated the week-long activities.

Forty-three children were present. Fifteen were non-Adventists. Certificates of achievement were given to each child who participated.

James Sawyer and Howard Griffee, as well as other members of the church, assisted Vacation Bible School Director

Dorsalene Boyd. The theme of the program was "God's Promises."

It was a privilege to serve the Lord in this capacity and join hands in Vacation Bible School evangelism.

Dorothy Woodson
Communication Secretary



VBS in Topeka, Kansas.



Eleanor Wright in concert at the Denver Park Hill church.

ELEANOR WRIGHT IN CONCERT

Eleanor Wright presented a concert at the Denver, Colorado, Park Hill church recently. The crowded sanctuary was evidence of a joyful welcome.

The spirit-filled concert kept the congregation in a prayerful attitude, and praises were heard throughout the sanctuary.

A recording artist for 25 years, she is presently with the Queen City Albums Company of Cincinnati, Ohio.

James Wright, program director, sang one song accompanied by Eleanor. He too is an artist. James urged the congregation to praise the Lord, and kept them joyful with small bits of information on many subjects.

Melba Pride, Sabbath school superintendent, gave Eleanor roses at the close of the concert.

Eleanor Wright will always be welcome at Denver Park Hill. The congregation eagerly awaits her return.

Margaret Hayes
Communication Secretary



Students at J. R. Wagner School observe Health Week.

STUDENTS OBSERVE "HEALTH WEEK"

Students at the J. R. Wagner School in Chicago Heights, Illinois, set aside the first week of October to focus on healthful living, with the main emphasis on proper diet and preventive measures for good health.

Grades one through four had daily experiences with healthful foods. On Monday they made butter, on Tuesday, peanut butter, Wednesday, a fruit salad, and on Friday they were served a wholesome breakfast of pancakes and eggs by their teacher and principal, Joan Bauer.

Grades five through eight stressed wholesome food over junk food, the nutritional value in foods and the proper ways to combine foods to make a balanced diet. Ways to select foods when shopping and the how and why of food inspection were also discussed in detail.

The week climaxed on Sabbath, October 10, with a visit from Dr. Lon Kaminsky, director of the West Lafayette Clinic of Preventive Medicine in West Lafayette, Indiana. He was the speaker during the divine worship hour and the Adventist Youth meeting.

Rostrum guests included Pastor R. C. Brown, Sr., and R. D. Barnes.

LAYMEN'S PLANNING SEMINAR

The annual Laymen's Planning Seminar convened September 25 in Cassopolis, Michigan.

The weekend had the old-fashioned Adventist flavor. Was it the quiet, peaceful campground location, the enthusiastic congregational singing, the reverent atmosphere of the Calvin Center church, the clean, sweet smell of the surroundings after a brief shower, the simple but delicious meals served by Nancy Lindo and staff, the Christian fellowship of all who attended, or the plans

we made during the buzz sessions on Sabbath afternoon?

Leading the buzz sessions in planning were: Pastor and Mrs. Charles Drake, Sabbath school teachers; Pastor and Mrs. Robert Tolson, children's division; Muriel Wray, superintendent's programming; Leola Williams, Sabbath school teaching; Jerry Paige, Adventist men; and Ernestine Sampson, community services, with special assistance from Myrtle Nelson, secretary to Pastor James C. Wray, coordinator.

Sermons were given by: Pastor Jerry Lee of Indianapolis; Pastor R. P. Stafford of Kansas City, Missouri; and Dr. C. D. Joseph, president, Lake Region Conference; with closing remarks by Pastor R. C. Brown, Sr., secretary-treasurer of Lake Region.

Early morning devotionals were conducted by Emanuel Foxworth and Jerome Davis.

A highlight of the weekend was the introduction to Cornerstone Connections by Pastor Horace Jones of the Lake Union Conference and Pastor Conrad Gill of the Lake Region Adventist youth department.

If you missed this Laymen's Planning Seminar, plan for it next year. Pastor Wray is already making plans for the 1982 session.



Pastor James C. Wray with baptismal candidates Beverly Murray, Cecily Roberts, Mandelyn Mesquita, Theresa Russell, Charles Russell and Elton Talmie, along with Pastor Ronald Bell of the Evanston, Illinois, church.

CONFERENCE OFFICIALS CONDUCT EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS

During the months of August and September, two conference departmental directors led out in evangelistic endeavors.

Pastor Samuel Flagg, stewardship director, conducted very successful meetings for three weeks in Pontiac, Michigan, where the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was very evident.

Over in Evanston, Illinois, the Sabbath school, lay activities and community services director, Pastor James Wray, was expounding the Word of God in his own dynamic way.

The conference president, Dr. C. D. Joseph, believes in all of his workers—whether in the office or the field—accepting the Lord's commission to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."



Carmen George, Independence School teacher, and her class.

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH ESTABLISHES SCHOOL

More than two decades ago the Independence Boulevard church in Chicago, Illinois, opened a church school that was short-lived because of certain technicalities. This disappointment only strengthened the hopes of the members to re-establish facilities for Christian education for the children living on Chicago's west side. Through the years, opening another school has been the optimum goal of each home and school director.

Last September, under the direction of Patrick Nelson, home and school leader, and the guidance of the pastor, Robert L. Douglas, a school was established on the site of the Independence church, 3808 Polk Street, with two teachers and an enrollment of 35 children in grades one through eight.



Pastor and Mrs. J. David Parker of the Burns Avenue church in Detroit are shown in the process of preparing a tape for the radio program "Your Bible Speaks," which is heard in the metro Detroit area on WLQV (1500 AM) each Sabbath morning at 7:30.



Governor and Mrs. Hugh Carey of New York.

THE LIGHT SHINES IN HARLEM

To preach the gospel in Harlem and bring light to those who sit in darkness presented a real challenge for Phillip Wesley, pastor of Zion Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church in New York City, New York.

He accepted the challenge and held his "Amazing Facts Crusade" in Harlem from July 18 to August 29. People from all walks of life came out to hear the Advent message presented in clarity and strength.

The tent was used at a ground-breaking ceremony for a new housing project to be built on the site where the tent stood. The Honorable Hugh Carey, governor of New York, with his wife, Evangeline Carey, was present, along with city officials. After the ceremony Governor Carey told Wesley that he had passed the tent on several occasions and had heard him speak.

Although the tent was pitched in a high-crime area, God richly protected His workers and the tent. Not one incident was reported.

Many actively gave of their talents and time to bring light to Harlem. Among the dedicated workers were Daniel Martin, Boswell De Lisser, Gwen Wesley, Alberta Hunter, Josephine Sawyer, Liza Odum, Richard Clark and Leon Jones.

As a result of human effort and divine power, twenty precious souls received the light and were baptized.

Bernice Wiseltier
Correspondent

BRONX CRUSADE BRINGS SOULS AND REVIVES CHURCH

Evangelism is the heart and soul of the church. It is not only a blessing to those who have no knowledge of God, but also brings revival to members of the church.

For six weeks, beginning July 19th, Willis Reed, pastor of the Bronx Washington Avenue SDA Church, Bronx, New York, conducted the "Christ is the Answer Crusade" in the north Bronx.

Reed was assisted by local elders Samuel Flemming, Ferdinand Thomas and Raymond McKinnon. Willis Reed, Jr., and Earl McFarlin also rendered valuable assistance during the crusade.

The church was actively involved in the crusade. Ushers served nightly. Lorraine Watson and Shirley Jackson dedicated their time and talents. Music was coordinated by Clara Reed. Audrey Nichols on the piano and Deta Lightbourne on the organ were instrumental in enriching the services.

Health was used effectively as the right arm of the gospel. Sam Lightbourne and Elfreda Martin enlightened the community on the deadly effects of tobacco by using "Smoking Sam." The lay Bible instructors team was coordinated by Marjorie Burnett. These dedicated workers labored untiringly for souls.

As a result of Pastor Reed's stirring messages, the diligence of the Bible instructors and the power of the Holy Spirit, twelve persons were baptized. Yet their work still goes on. They are working with souls who are still in the valley of decision.

Only eternity will be able to reveal the sacrifices, victory and restoration of God's children. Who can measure the worth of a soul? All the treasure of Heaven and earth could not pay the price to redeem man. Can you imagine how Heaven must be rejoicing over the twelve souls in north Bronx?

J. B. Brown
Communication Secretary

YOUTH DAY AT BETHESDA

Members of the Bethesda Seventh-day Adventist Church in Amityville, New York, received a small taste of heaven on August 8. The occasion was a special Youth Day which left every member spiritually renewed and determined to be ready for the soon return of our Lord.

The guest speaker was Reginald E. Johnson, a theology major entering his fourth year at Oakwood College. His sermon was entitled, "God is Still on the Throne."

Johnson is very special to Bethesda because he has spent the majority of his life here and is a graduate of the

Bethesda church school. In the congregation were many members whose prayers played a major role in his career choice.

His sermon emphasized the communication problem evident in our world today. This communication gap, he said, has affected parents and children, adults and youth, husbands and wives, and finally, man and God.

The communication gap between man and God was bridged almost 2,000 years ago by the life and death of Christ. Since the cross, God has sought to restore man to his original status. However, man still refuses to re-establish the vital connection with God.

The sermon closed with an appeal to the congregation to re-dedicate their lives to Christ and test His promise to give them power to overcome sin. Every member of the church stood as a symbol of their renewed pledge.

Johnson's sermon did not end that morning, but continued that afternoon in an inspirational musical program he coordinated with Naomi Brown. The theme of the program was "Making Heaven My Home." Special guests were Dana Reid, Praise Unlimited and Blessed Peace.

The entire church continues to pray as Johnson finishes his studies at Oakwood. It is their hope that he will continue to have Christ as his guide and work to win souls for his Savior.

Errol A. Harris
Communication Secretary

W.I.C. ALUMNI ANNIVERSARY

The New York chapter of the alumni association for West Indies College, Manderville, Jamaica, celebrated the association's 21st anniversary at the Hanson Place SDA Church in Brooklyn, New York, on July 18.

On hand to join in the celebration were members of the New England and Washington, D.C., chapters, in addition to friends and supporters from the metropolitan area.

Guest speaker for the occasion was the former president of W.I.C., Pastor L. Herbert Fletcher, presently director of education for the Inter-American Division. He heightened alumni awareness of the debt of gratitude they owed to God and W.I.C. Fletcher called for strengthening of the ties of mutual love and service with W.I.C..

Lloyd Goodridge
Communication Secretary



Katie Settle in action at one of her workshops for the First National Bank of Atlanta.

SETTLE NAMED ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT OF MAJOR ATLANTA BANK

By S. E. Gooden

The 3.3-billion-dollar First Atlanta Bank named Katie G. Settle assistant vice president in April. As such, she becomes responsible for the installment loan administration and banking operation from the main office banking center in Atlanta, according to the news release from Henry Wallingsworth, communication director of this financial empire.

Katie is the last of the three children—two sisters and one brother—of Mr. and Mrs. George Green. She was reared an Adventist and attended the Atlanta-Berean church school. As a student at Oakwood College, she met and married James Settle (now deceased). She also received an associate business degree at Reid's Business College in Atlanta.

Before joining the First Atlanta Bank in 1969 as a credit clerk in the Visa (known then as Bank Americard) department, she worked with the Citizen Trust Company, a black-owned and operated bank in Atlanta. She has known good and bad days during her 21 years' experience in the banking business in Atlanta. For some time she has been an officer of First Atlanta, training, conducting workshops and educating the public, private clubs, youth groups and others, showing how to utilize the facilities that the bank offers and manage their finance.

She has always been an active member and loyal supporter of the Atlanta-Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church. Among her other duties she has served as a Sabbath school superintendent, church and school board member and a member of the South Atlantic Conference Board of Education (K-12) since 1976. She is an active member in other professional organizations: Credit Women International, the National

Association of Bank Women, and the American Institute of Banking.

In addition to all that, she serves as president of the Atlanta chapter of the Oakwood College Alumni Association. In April she was awarded the certificate of merit from the college's national alumni association.

The release from the bank announcing the promotion noted that she has served in various areas of the bank as she climbed the corporate ladder. This multi-billion-dollar bank is the headquarters for other major banks in Georgia: Gulf Finance Corporation, which is a customer finance company operating in ten states; Thorpe & Brooks, Incorporated, a Georgia-based banking firm, and the First Financial Life Insurance Company.

Settle is a committed and dedicated Seventh-day Adventist Christian whose public life and service is a living proof that one can be a good and honest business-person and a Christian at the same time.

SOUTH ATLANTIC CHURCH IN ACTION: 77 SINGLES ATTENDED RETREAT

The North Carolina State Youth Federation sponsored a retreat for single members which 77 attended. The retreat was held at Camp Oak Hill in Virginia August 20-23.

Dr. James Hammond, a native North Carolinian and professor of psychology at Columbia Union College near Washington, D.C., joined other contributory guests at the retreat, including Mrs. Hammond, Chris Arneand, Chaplain M. Wilson and Pastor Calvin Preston of the Raleigh district.

The convocation proved to be a real blessing with one person of another faith joining the Adventist church while others renewed their commitment to Christ and the Advent movement.

One of the singles inspired by the events of the weekend wrote the following lines and entitled it *God's Single Servant*:

There's nothing about me that needs to be changed,
And if it were, God would rearrange.
If I needed a mate He'd give me one.
If I had a date He'd supply the fun.
Whether with a group or all alone,
God has a purpose of His own.
The best way I can put it is like this
I'm God's single servant and that settles that.

—by Hearlense Hodges

SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE IN TRANSITION

Oscar Sherrod from Fayetteville, North Carolina, district to Albany, Georgia, district.

Raymond Baker from Albany, Georgia, district to Atlanta-Maranatha as associate pastor to T. A. McNealy.

Melvin Preston from New Bern, North Carolina, to Fayetteville, North Carolina, replacing Oscar Sherrod.

Calvin Watkins to New Bern, North Carolina, district replacing Melvin Preston from Griffin, Georgia, district.

Phillip J. Jones from Laurinburg, North Carolina, district to Griffin, Georgia, replacing Calvin Watkins.

Odis D. Smith from assistant pastor of Atlanta-Maranatha to the Laurinburg district, replacing Phillip Jones.

Nathaniel Hollis to Sumter-Manning, a newly-created district in South Carolina.



Members of the North Carolina Youth Federation in attendance at the singles retreat at Camp Oak Hill, Virginia, August 20-23.



Getting a meal inside Country Life.

“COUNTRY LIFE” IN NASHVILLE

“Country Life” came to Nashville when a small group of youthful Adventists with a strong desire to save souls and advance God’s kingdom opened a vegetarian restaurant and natural food store near the downtown section of Nashville on 1917 Division Street.

The “Country Life” initiators are Andre and Heather Wilson, Mark and Jannine Williams, Alona Edwards, Deborah Brown and Tallitha Britton.

A typical day at “Country Life” finds every available seat taken inside the restaurant while other diners fill picnic tables outdoors. “It’s not uncommon for every table inside and out to be filled,” explained Mark. “I’ve seen days when our customers were literally hanging out of the building. They sit on the front steps, the front lawn, and anywhere space is available.”

As great as the business perspectives are, they are exceeded by that of soul-winning. Andre Wilson, project director, underscored the potential to win souls. “Our clientele is a cross-section of businessmen, entertainers, students and working people. With each class of people our restaurant offers something to introduce them to Christ.”

“Country Life” is used as a base to educate the clientele in health and Christianity. Classes and programs at the restaurant are designed to lead people to the Lord.

“Whether it’s our nutrition lectures,” continues Andre, “or our vegetarian cooking classes, weight management seminars, or Daniel and Revelation Prophecy Seminars, we offer courses that will help prepare our customers for Christ’s return.”

Their efforts are paying off. Many customers at “Country Life” have asked to attend church. They have asked questions about Seventh-day Adventist doctrine. According to Mark, “This is an excellent way to distribute the special issue of the *Review*.”

Andre further explained that “sometimes there’s the opportunity to speak directly to customers about their own salvation. We do an awful lot of spiritual as well as health counseling. As a result of Bible studies, we see people make positive decisions for Christ.”

Employees at “Country Life” surround their ministry with prayer for themselves, the business and their customers.

Mark points out that “the girls that work with us really have the opportunity to be close to some of our female customers. As friendships are made, the girls find many opportunities to share their faith. They visit customers in their

homes, and we’ve had many for Sabbath dinner. This lets our customers know we sincerely care about them.”

When the customers enter “Country Life,” they immediately exclaim that “there’s something different about this place.”

Something different is taking place in the lives of the customers as they attend cooking classes and Bible studies, as they read *Message* magazine, *These Times*, and *Life and Health*. Walls are being broken down. Seeds are being planted. Barriers that would keep souls from the Adventist message are being swept away.

“We’re not here to get rich,” explains Andre, “but to fulfill the commission Jesus gave us in Matthew 28:18-20. This is our way of serving the Lord, through the “Country Life” store and restaurant.”



The Country Life team, (left to right top row) Andre and Heather Wilson, Alona Edwards and Mark Williams; (bottom row) Debra Brown, Tallitha Britton and Jannine Williams.



Country Life store and restaurant in Nashville, Tennessee.



A CHURCH ON THE MOVE

In the sunny, seaside town of Delray Beach, Florida, a Seventh-day Adventist church is growing. The Daughter of Zion church, with more than 300 members, is already the largest black congregation in that southeast Florida city of nearly 35,000 inhabitants, according to Keith Dennis, former pastor and now A.Y. and education secretary of Southeastern Conference.

A six-week evangelistic tent meeting, conducted by Dennis, ended August 9 and added 56 individuals to the church, the largest number to be baptized in a single series in the church's history.

With half the membership consisting of young people, prospects for the future are bright. Musical talent abounds in both vocal and instrumental skills. Members have been active in recent weeks in the use of the conference van for health screenings.

Providing an adequate and representative place of worship for such a growing congregation is an important aspect of a church's life. Under the leadership of Pastor Dennis, the Daughter of Zion church recently completed the first phase of its building project, which resulted in a new church and pre-school complex.

The church building, constructed first, was officially opened December 13, 1980. Construction is scheduled to begin before the end of 1981 on the elementary school and gymnasium complex.

Ground was broken for the newly opened church building on its 2.6-acre site located just two blocks from the Delray Beach City Hall on March 27, 1980. Then, on December 13, 1980, led by South Atlantic Conference officials, clergymen and city officials, the entire congregation marched the short distance from the old building on Sixth Avenue to the new site on Third Avenue. There a ribbon-cutting ceremony was

held at the main entrance.

R. L. Woodfork, former president of the South Atlantic Conference, of which Delray Beach was then a part, spoke to those in attendance. He stated that nowhere in the conference had he seen a more beautiful church building and one that was so complete. Also present for the ceremony were Leon Weeks, mayor of Delray Beach, and Charlotte Durant, a city council member.

The church cost \$400,000 to build and seats 750 in its main sanctuary, a testimony to the members' faith that the Lord will continue to increase their numbers. The building also houses a youth chapel and fourteen other rooms.

Geraldine King
Communication Secretary

SOUTHWEST REGION



Evangelist Raymond Saunders, special guest at the elders' and deacons' retreat at Lone Star Camp.

ELDERS AND DEACONS RETREAT

The third annual Elders and Deacons Retreat sponsored by Pastor J. C. Hicks, director of personal ministries for the conference, was held at Lone Star Camp, September 18-20, with approximately 100 in attendance.

Dr. Benjamin Reaves, chairman of religion and theology at Oakwood College, and Pastor Raymond Saunders, evangelist for the Atlantic Union, were the guest instructors.

The retreat focused on evangelism and church growth. Reaves and Saunders presented instructions on sermon preparation, time management, homiletics, gaining decisions and soul-winning.

The retreat was edifying. It served to motivate and inspire elders and deacons who serve throughout the southwest region conference.

WORKER'S MEETING AT SOUTHWEST REGION

1. Worker's meeting was held September 13-16 at Lake Texoma in Kingston, Oklahoma. Worker's meeting and teacher's meeting were combined, with approximately 200 in attendance.

2. Guest speakers for the meeting included Raymond Saunders, evangelist for the Atlantic Union, L. A. Paschal, editor of *The Regional Voice* and director of communication for Northeastern Conference, E. W. Shepperd, Wayne Massengill and H. W. Kibble from the Southwestern Union.

3. Pastor and Mrs. R. E. Brown and family recently returned from West Africa after conducting a six-week workshop.

4. During worker's meeting, the ministers of the conference reported 325 souls baptized during summer evangelism campaigns.

5. Pastor F. S. Hill baptized 50 precious souls as a result of his campaign. The prospect of additional converts are in the baptismal class.

Worker's meeting was also a time of fellowship. The theme of the banquet this year was "Everybody's Birthday." It was a delightful experience.

The days were filled with activities. Mornings were spent in devotions, reports and instructions. Afternoons were filled with recreation and fellowship. The days spent together were profitable, and everyone returned home reminiscing over a very pleasant and enjoyable retreat.

Doris Jones
Correspondent



J. Ford, educational director, L. A. Paschal, Verla Coleman and Bernice Ford are happy about the successful teachers' institute.

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For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from law and sin and death.

—Romans 8:2

Loma Linda Holiday Dinners.

They're cause for celebration.



Let Loma Linda Foods be a part of your holidays—because we've created special recipes for these special days. Try our savory frozen meatless turkey and chicken... delicious fried chicken or Swiss steak with gravy. No matter which one you serve, your family will agree. Loma Linda is a holiday blessing.



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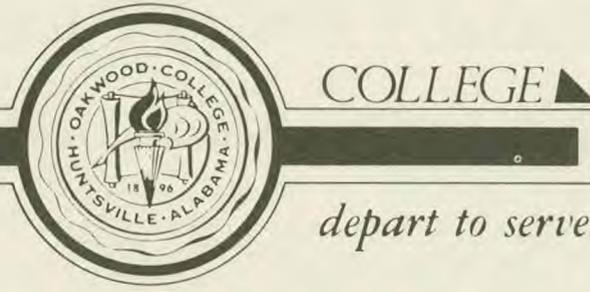


For a festive holiday dinner, Turkey Roll with all the trimmings! Chopped walnuts, raisins and apples make the dressing very special. Slice and serve with crab apples, cranberry sauce and gravy.

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depart to serve.

HIGHEST ENROLLMENT

Fourteen hundred was the goal we in Admissions and Records looked towards as the final enrollment figure for the fall of 1981. Based on the number of applications processed and the operation and procedures established to handle the volume of correspondence received, we felt that we would achieve it.

At the close of registration, the total enrollment on record was 1,393 with new students numbering over 500. Several overseas students who forwarded their tuition arrived on campus a bit too late to complete their registration. Otherwise, this figure would have exceeded 1400.

Incidentally, the greatest increase was among international students. This is due largely to President Rock's visit to Africa in 1979 and England last summer. We must, however, thank Pastor David Hughes for the groundwork done in Great Britain. In addition to the countries of Africa and England, other foreign territories that are well represented include Bermuda, the Bahamas and the Caribbean Islands. A total of 236 international students from 32 countries has helped boost enrollment.

Other factors that contributed to the increase include enlargement of our academic scholarship plan engineered by recruiter J. Roache, a more vigorous recruitment program directed by Dr. Rosa Banks, a larger percentage of returning students over previous years and the excellent summer work program on campus introduced by Manager Isaac Palmer. Strong support from officials in the regional territories at camp-meetings, etc., has always been a plus for Oakwood College recruitment.

The table below shows the enrollment by regional territories:

Regional Conference	*Membership	Students	Ratio
Allegheny East	14,203	119	1:119
Allegheny West	8,191	99	1:83
Central States	5,784	59	1:98

Lake Region	15,741	130	1:121
Northeastern	21,967	224	1:98
Pacific Union	15,523	79	1:184
South Atlantic	12,842	122	1:105
South Central	13,235	197	1:67*
Southeastern	7,774	76	1:102
Southwest	7,968	43	1:185
North Pacific	900	11	1:83

(*Based on 1981 yearbook)

Roy Malcolm, Ph.D.
Director of Admissions

THE AEOLIANS BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN—PART III

by Stephanie D. Johnson

Editor's Note: Due to the lack of space we found it necessary to suspend, for the most part, the daily chronicle of the tour.

The Aeolians held their next two concerts in Iasi at Romanian high schools, Liceul Nationale and Liceul de Inforuestics.

The audience showed a great appreciation for American music. Denise Morales' majestic rendition of "Stranger in Paradise" was greatly appreciated by the audience.

The Aeolians' performances were greatly enriched by Michael Andrews, the talented pianist who accompanied them on the tour. His virtuoso performance added greater depth and symmetry to their music.

The second segment of the program was devoted to Negro spirituals. I shall never forget how the audience in Piatra Neamt sat spellbound as they listened to the deep, rich voice of Jonathan Harrell as he sang "Deep River."

To conclude each performance, Denise Morales and Arnold Grace sang "Deep In My Heart" from "The Student Prince," the perfect ending for a triumphant evening.

While in Iasi, Dr. Banks, Dean Shand and I had the privilege of meeting Ioan

Prisacaro of the Romanian Opera Company during an evening walk. Our Romanian friends, Adrian and Dan, served as our interpreters as we talked to Ioan.

We discovered he once lived in the U.S.S.R. and while living there he had known Paul Robeson. I immediately wanted to ask him all about Paul Robeson and his experience in the U.S.S.R., but language was a barrier.

I warmly grasped his hand and smiled. It was like touching a part of Afro-American heritage, for hidden deep within his soul was a part of my heritage that had never been told. He walked into the night and took with him a part of my soul. I shall never forget that evening walk in Iasi.

On the following afternoon the Aeolians performed in Bacau. Hundreds listened as the Aeolians presented a showcase of American music at Casa De Culture V. Alecsandri.

Homeward Bound

On Tuesday afternoon we arrived in Bucharest, our final stopover before returning home.

On Wednesday morning we left Bucharest for America. It was with mixed emotions that I boarded that plane.

I had seen the hopelessness that forced men and women and even some children to drown their desire for something better through constant smoking and drinking.

Nothing is more soul-destroying as when the human spirit is suppressed and the conscience violated. I saw this truth repeated countless times in the faces of the Romanian people.

I shall never forget the emptiness that tells of dreams denied and hopes shattered. I witnessed the utter frustration on their countenances because their God-given freedoms—the right to think, achieve the utmost, act, speak, worship according to the dictates of their hearts are the property of the state.

I also had the privilege of seeing darkness dispelled and light break forth. I witnessed serene faces that had experienced real joy and peace. I knew the seed had been planted and soon the harvest would come forth in abundance.

Who can measure the impact of the Aeolian tour this past summer? Only the annals of eternity will be able to tell in truth!

EDUCATED GIVING

To each is given a gift of giving, and it is a blessing we cannot afford to miss. The many appeals that confront a church member today leave one a bit confused as to how to prioritize gifts. Many times an urgent mission appeal is made and we make sacrificial gifts, only to be faced with another appeal that rings our hearts in its need. What are we to do?

"To give, or to labor when our sympathies are moved, and to withhold our gifts or service when the emotions are not stirred, is an unwise and dangerous course. If we are controlled by impulse or mere human sympathy, then a few instances where our efforts for others are repaid with ingratitude, or where our gifts are abused or squandered, will be sufficient to freeze up the springs of beneficence. Christians should act from fixed principle, following the Savior's example of self-denial and self-sacrifice (*Review and Herald*, December 7, 1886)."

Motivation is the determining factor in our dealings with God and man. "It is the motive that gives character to our acts, stamping them with ignominy or with high moral worth" (*Desire of Ages*, page 614). Many give only to get. Many only love as long as that love is returned. There are those who care for the elderly only because they hope to be remembered in the will or estate settlement. Covetousness (selfishness) is their motive.

There are those whose activity in the church is motivated by a sense of *conformity*. Everyone is doing it. Everyone is giving a dollar. Everyone is going out to distribute literature. Everyone is going to attend, etc. This is an improper motive, as is attested to by the experience of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5 and 6.

Everyone was selling all they had and giving the money to the church. They had all things in common. Ananias and Sapphira did not really want to give, but because everyone was giving, they gave, but held back a portion to their undoing. Conformity is not a proper motive for doing or giving anything in the program of God.

A sense of *responsibility* drives others to do and give in the program of God. They say, "I'm a member of the church, the light bill must be paid, the gospel must go to the world, so I give, or go out to distribute literature, etc." A sense of responsibility is not a proper motive for

participating in the program of God's church.

God does not need our money, for the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. In Psalm 50:12, God says, "If I were hungry, I would not tell thee." No, God does not need our means, but we need to give to overcome covetousness.

"The giving that is the fruit of self-denial is a wonderful help to the giver. It imparts an education that enables us more fully to comprehend the work of Him who went about doing good, relieving the suffering and supplying the needs of the destitute. The Savior lived not to please Himself. In His life there was not trace of selfishness (*The Youth Instructor*, September 10, 1907)."

Paul tells us in II Corinthians 9:7 that every man according as he purposes in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver."

There is only one motivation that is acceptable to God and that is *gratitude*. In Luke 4:38 and 39, it is recorded that Peter's mother-in-law had a great fever. It was life-threatening. When Jesus rebuked the fever and it left her, she was so grateful that the Bible says, "immediately she arose and ministered unto them." This was a ministry of gratitude.

If we will constantly review the goodness of God to us, His mercies and grace, His sustaining and keeping power and the gift of His only Son, we will not give to a building or a need, or for a reward. We will give our worship, service, means and all to God. We will not give impulsively, not as our emotion dictates, but systematically, sacrificially, gratefully. This is "educated giving."

At the close of the year, be it fiscal or calendar, most businesses take inventory of stock, progress and leadership. Managers have to give an account of their management. As we draw to the close of a year that seems to have flown by, we, as managers of God's goods (time, talent, treasure and body temple), should take inventory of our stewardship.

We should square up with God in tithes and offerings and make new commitments based on God's blessings in the past.

Samuel D. Meyers
Associate Director

Stewardship, Development Department
North American Division

THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL VOICE

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COVER
John Bauer



A New Face for an Old Friend

Meet Michael Lester, M.D., internal medicine. Dr. Lester is one of the newest doctors to join the staff of Riverside Adventist Hospital. Since its beginning Riverside has attracted workers with a Christian concern for the personal touch. "I decided to join the Riverside medical team not just because I have access to a good acute care center, but because of its holistic approach to medicine." Riverside is not your typical hospital. It is a Christian hospital, concerned not only

with healing and caring for the sick, but in continual health maintenance as well. For nearly 55 years Riverside Adventist Hospital has been a friend to the medical community, that's why patients and medical professionals like Mike Lester come from all over the country to Riverside.

As you consider your health care needs, consider your old Friend.



*For more information call or write:
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