

NORTH AMERICAN
REGIONAL

VOICE

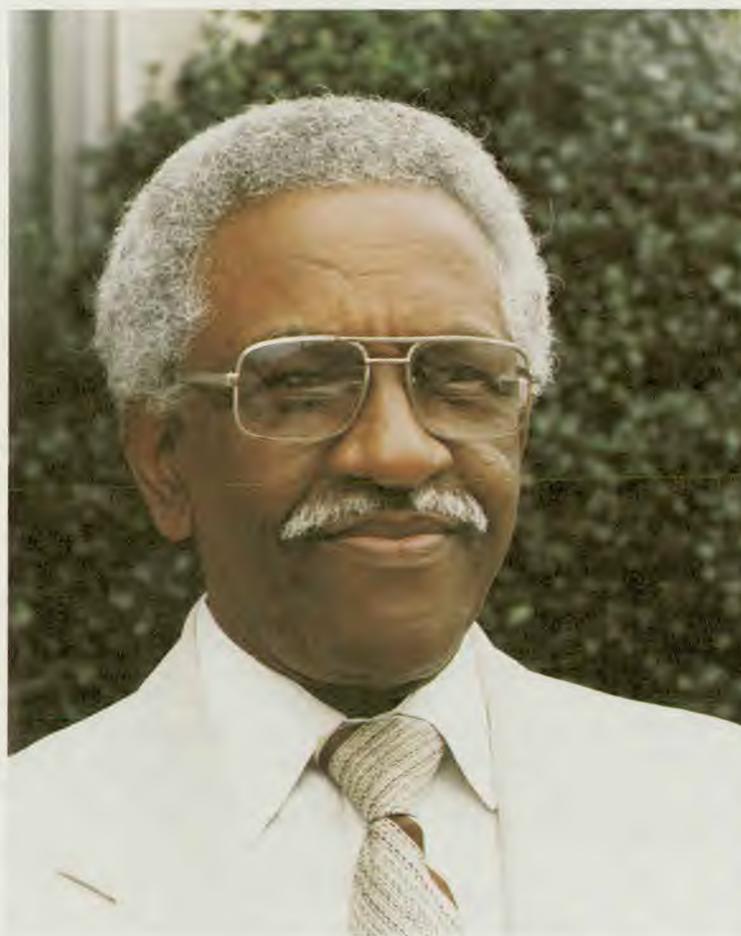


OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCES OF
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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**George R. Earle
Retires from Presidency**

COVER STORY

GEORGE R. EARLE A LEADER AMONG LEADERS

Stephanie D. Johnson

It was a bad dream, a nightmare as Private George Roland Earle mounted the jeep for the guardhouse . . . in civilian terms, the jail house. During the height of World War II, Private Earle had refused to obey a commanding officer.

Now the threat of a long imprisonment or death by a firing squad loomed ahead. Strangely, under these dire circumstances, he seemed to possess an unshakable peace.

This wasn't the first time that Private Earle had been publicly humiliated and punished because of his religious conviction. During basic training at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona, he had been promoted to drill corporal, then demoted because of his religious beliefs. He had been placed on permanent K.P. (kitchen police). Nothing could turn him from his cherished faith. Now the army vowed to break his will.

Earle hadn't received this courage and abiding faith in God over night. Rather, it had been a long preparation that started as a child. George was the tenth of eleven children born to Louis and Alice Earle of Mill Spring, North Carolina. They were devout Christians who instilled a love of God, honor and integrity in young George.

Louis Earle, George's father, was a prosperous businessman. He moved to St. Petersburg when George was five years old in search of better opportunities. Alice McIntyre Earle was the perfect match for the strong, hard working, ambitious Louis Earle. She was a quiet, graceful, loving woman.

The Earle's were staunch Methodist but due to the influence of Ann, George's older sister, they became members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Mr. and Mrs. Earle were baptized in 1929. John and George were baptized the following year by A.B.B. Storey.

The Earle's immediately became strong supporters of Christian education. George attended the local church school, graduated from Oakwood Academy and entered Oakwood College to study the ministry. He was in the process of completing his freshman year when an event changed his life.

You're in the Army Now

In the Spring of 1942, Oakwood seemed light years from Hitler's war of death and destruction. However, this peaceful equilibrium was disturbed when George received a "Greeting Card" from Uncle Sam. He would now join millions who were fighting to make the world safe for democracy.

His first stop was Ft. Benning, Georgia, then a four-month stay in Ft. Huachuca. It was here that he developed a close relationship with the Lord that kept him during his trials.

He would rise early every morning and go to a certain foxhole to agonize with God. Like Jacob, George wrestled with God. Three times a day he went to the foxhole to pray. At night he would fall asleep with a prayer for deliverance on his lips, and would awake with the same plea. Like Jacob he made a vow. He promised that if God would keep him and help him to be strong, he would return to Oakwood, complete his ministerial training, and do God's bidding.

From Ft. Huachuca to Ft. McClellan, Alabama, his problems persisted. "One particular day," George remembered, "the entire company was called to formation. We were marched to the supply office. We were receiving our equipment preparatory for a couple of weeks bivouacking . . . I perceived from the outset I was in for a rather difficult time that day.

"The moment of truth had really arrived, whether I was going to make a positive, determined stand regarding my religion. The officer in charge began to pass out rifles to the soldiers. I stood patiently waiting for him to reach me in the lineup . . . with a prayer in my heart for the words to speak, and the courage to witness for Him. Shortly, he did reach me with the rifle. I stood at attention with my arms straight by my side.

"Looking him straight in the eye I said, 'I'm sorry, Sir, I can't accept that rifle.'"

"What do you mean, soldier? You can't accept this rifle," asked the exasperated officer. "Do you know that you are in the army? You don't give orders you take orders."

"I'm sorry, sir," replied George, "but my religious convictions and beliefs will not allow me to take this rifle."

With that the officer became infuriated and went into a rage. He began to shout various commands. "Draw that wooden head back." "And I," said George, "had to pull my head back and in an upright position." He went through that process over and over again. He would stop at a given time and say, "are you ready to take this rifle now?" "I'm sorry, sir," George answered. "I cannot accept that rifle."

These commands went on for approximately 35 to 40 minutes before 240 soldiers. The officer tried to force George to surrender his convictions, but God gave him the strength and stamina to perfectly execute those commands. The officer became infuriated when George would not bend. He began taking the rifle apart. "He put different pieces," recalled George, "in my field jacket pocket. When the pockets were filled, he pinned the rest of it on my jacket. So this rifle was hanging all over me."

After the officer had finished this humiliating scene he stated, "I suppose your religion forbids that you write your name." "No sir," replied George, "I am free to write my name."

Due to the duress and strain, George was not aware that the officer wanted him to sign a paper stating he had accepted the rifle. Just as he was about to sign, a voice clearly said, "don't sign that paper." So he refused to sign the paper. "Read that paper," said the voice. When he read the paper, he knew the voice of God had spoken.

"You're one of those wise guys," shouted the officer. "Well, I'll fix you, come with me." George followed him to an empty barrack. He was ordered to remain there until they came for him.

George realized the seriousness of his situation. He knew that during a time of war, a refusal to obey a command was tantamount to treason. There in the barracks he prayed for deliverance.

George waited for approximately a half hour. Then a major and a sergeant drove up in a jeep. They had been summoned from the guardhouse. "Soldier, why are they sending you to the guardhouse," asked the major, as they were riding in the jeep. "Because of my religious stand . . . sir." "What are your convictions?" queried the major.

George began to explain the doctrine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and why he objected to bearing arms. The ma-

for listened with great interest. "You're a Seventh-day Adventist?" he asked. "I am going to tell you a little story. I have just returned from Africa.

"I was among those who had been assigned to fight against General Rommel of the German Army. He was known as the Desert Rat. I spent several months out there chasing the General and his forces over the hot desert sands of Africa and I was severely wounded. They carried me to the hospital. I wasn't expected to live. I was in intensive care for a number of days.

George never saw his friends again. Several months later he received word the 92nd Infantry Division was completely wiped out. It seemed they didn't have a chance against General Rommel. As the soldiers were approaching the mountain to fight, they were completely mowed down like grass. George knew God had a work for him to do. He had served in the army for a year and that time had prepared him for his future work.

Family and Work

George was especially blessed during his army days to have Vernelle as his wife. They had met at Oakwood and continued their courtship while he was in the army. George realized he couldn't live without Vernelle and on January 10, 1943 they were married in Birmingham, Alabama. Throughout the 42 years of marriage she has proved to be a strong, loving, loyal wife. The Earles were blessed with two children: Reginald Betrend and Chrissa Janel.

After George left the army, he and his new bride went to St. Petersburg to his parent's home. He was mindful of the promise he had made to God, but he renegeed when J.L. Moran, the President of Oakwood wanted him to repeat his freshman year.

So he decided like Jonah, to run from God. First, he went to Washington, D.C. to work. Finally, he moved with his family to California. There he made quite a good salary and provided for his family well. He and his wife took an active part in church, but yet, he could not quiet his conscience.

He was always haunted by the promise that he made to God while he was in the army. His wife urged him to return to Oakwood. Finally he was persuaded by Lee Paschal, at the time a senior ministerial student at Oakwood, to return to school. George heeded the advice, returned to Oakwood and graduated in May 1948.

He was then called to serve in South Atlantic, where he served as interim pastor of the B.W. Abney Chapel, Fayetteville, North Carolina for a month. He was then called to assist E.E. Cleveland in a summer crusade in Winston Salem, North Carolina.

In August, 1948, he joined the ministerial team in Northeastern Conference. He pastored the New Rochelle Church, New Rochelle, New York, and Linden Blvd. Church, Jamaica, New York. While pastoring the Linden Church he was responsible for establishing the Springfield Garden Church, Springfield Gardens, New York, and the Amityville Mission which is now the Bethesda Church, Amityville, New York.

"They had to assign medical personnel by my side twenty four hours a day. For that service they assigned me a young Black soldier. That soldier stood by my side. He watched me daily. He ministered to my every need. He read to me from the Bible . . .

"I could not have received better attention and care from anyone, were it the doctor himself. The soldier was a Seventh-day Adventist," he continued. "I learned from that experience to admire and appreciate SDA. I promised that soldier and I promised God that if I should ever have an opportunity to help a Seventh-day Adventist I would certainly do so."

God Moves in Mysterious Ways

In the guardhouse, prisoners had no rights. Every morning seven days a week, dressed in prison attire, they were marched out to work accompanied by soldiers who marched behind them with high powered rifles. These soldiers had the prerogative to shoot, in the event the prisoners tried to escape or refused to work. When George examined his situation, he cried out, "Lord, have I resorted to this? What will I do?" Then the thought came to him to write the Alabama-Mississippi Conference to explain his predicament.

Time passed rapidly and the Sabbath was approaching. George knew he was in for another confrontation. So he decided to speak to the sergeant in charge of the guardhouse. With a prayer in his heart, he respectfully told the sergeant about his dilemma. As the sergeant listened, tears began to stream down his cheeks. "Have I upset you?" George asked. "Soldier," said the sergeant, "I wish I had your courage and your stamina. I too was once a SDA. Unfortunately, I lost my way." George and the sergeant prayed. He promised George that he would do everything in his power to

help him. He kept his word. George never had to work on Sabbath while he was in the guardhouse.

God was watching over him. For in answer to his letter, the Alabama-Mississippi Conference sent a young pastor to visit George. The minister presented George's case to the Division General. As a result of George and the minister's prayer, the General issued an order that released George, several days later, from the guardhouse.

Just as George was released from the guardhouse he was faced with another problem. The famed Black General, Benjamin O. Davis, was scheduled to make a visit to Ft. McClellan on Saturday afternoon. A complete clean-up was ordered Saturday morning. George went to the commanding officer and informed him that he would not comply with the order.

On Sabbath George followed his conviction, and went to town to worship with his wife and fellow believers. The members prayed earnestly for him that God would keep him. When he returned Sabbath evening, the incident was not mentioned. In fact it was never mentioned. Several days later he received an order to go to the dispensary. When he entered the dispensary a group of top military men, Generals, Colonels, Captains, Lieutenants, were present. Their purpose was to intimidate Earle and to force him to give up his beliefs. Their attempts were futile. Before he left they shook their heads muttering disbelief. They found it was impossible to persuade him otherwise.

Later, orders came to place him in the psychiatric branch of the military hospital. There he remained until one day an order came for him to turn in his supplies. He obeyed the order and turned over his equipment. They gave him his civilian clothes. "What is this all about?" asked a puzzled George. "Haven't you heard soldier?" responded the supply clerk. "Heard what?" "The 92nd Infantry has been called to active duty in Africa." George was stunned.

Later a group of officers called him to the front office. They reviewed his military history. Then they dropped a bombshell. "The 92nd Infantry has been called to North Africa to fight the German General, Rommel. Much to our regret, soldier, we won't be able to take you with us." George couldn't believe his ears. He began to plead with the officers to transfer him to the medical detachment unit for he had grown to love the army. His pleas were in



Mrs. Vernelle Rogers Earle.



Elder G.R. Earle, third to the right, along with union and conference administrators were present at the first worker's meeting held at the Northeastern Conference office.



Elders G.R. Earle, left, and C.E. Bradford, right, congratulate Mrs. Barbara Sealey for leading 100 souls to baptism.

vain. The officers felt that because of his past actions it would not be wise to send him overseas. Therefore they voted to give him an honorable discharge so he could return home.

George couldn't bear the thought of remaining at home while his division went off to war. So he made one final plea. He pleaded with tears streaming down his cheeks. The officers would not budge. On the day the soldiers marched off George stood in the hospital window and watched them with tears streaming down his cheeks.

From Linden he was called to pastor Bethel Church, Brooklyn, New York and the City Tabernacle Church, New York City. He was enjoying his pastoral ministry when he was called to serve, due to the untimely death of Elder R.T. Hudson, president of Northeastern Conference.

The Call to Lead

In January 1967, Elder G.R. Earle was elected president of Northeastern by the Conference executive committee. For 18 years he has lead the largest and most influential conference in the North American Division.



Elder G.R. Earle, center, at Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Community Services Van. Standing with Elder Earle are Elders H.W. Baptiste, Secretary of the Conference and R. Lister, Director of Inner Cities.

God has richly blessed his efforts. Elder H.W. Baptiste, Executive Secretary of the conference reports on the achievement of Elder Earle's administration. "The membership of the conference increased by 16,660 or 159 per cent." In 1967 the membership was 11,442, today the conference membership stands at 27,102.

"In 1967 there were one hundred and twenty five (125) workers in the conference. Today there are two hundred and seventy three (273). Fifty one congregations were organized and became part of the sisterhood of churches." In 1967 the tithe had reached the one million dollar mark. Today we receive approximately ten million dollars in tithe.

"In addition, we can list such accomplishments as the overall strengthening of the educational program and the acquisition of the Northeastern Academy Building, the construction of the Victory Lake Nursing Home, major improvements and

construction at Victory Lake Camp, the establishment and operation of a conference Community Services Center, the construction of the new conference office, and the recently constructed Northeastern Towers — a twelve story Senior Citizens Housing in the county of Queens."

Also myriads of scholarships and matching grants have been given to the young people of Northeastern to help in pursuit of their academic goals.

Also \$47,100 have been granted in scholarships and matching grants to assist the young people of the conference in pursuit of their academic goal.

Elder Earle has also been a consistent champion of the Black cause. He has often stood in defense of the Black work, even when it meant standing alone. Working as a team, Elder and Mrs. Earle have propelled the Northeastern Conference to unparalleled heights of progress and achievement. He is indeed a leader of leaders.

PUBLISHER'S PAGE

BLACKS ADVANCE AT GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS

The July 7, 1985 issue of the Review and Herald carried a cheering article entitled "Blacks Advance At G.C. Sessions" in which observations were made of the gains that Blacks have made within the church since it was organized in 1844. After one hundred and forty years the blessings for this downtrodden people are beginning to be acknowledged and set in print by the church leaders. It is cheering to note how much progress has been made from the days of 'Slavery to Freedom'.

When the little band of Advent believers was in its infancy a very few, if any Blacks, were among the group although a goodly number believed in the coming of the Lord and testified thusly in the song "My Lord, what A Morning When the Stars Began to Fall" - 1833. William Foye, a mulatto adventist preacher in New England served as a forerunner for Ellen White but was not listed as being a part of the founding fathers of the church. Very little gospel was carried to these sons and daughters of Africa who had been brought to this land, nor was the 'message' carried to those who were still in the African fatherland. Nevertheless, the Lord, in His own way and time, sent the saving truths to this people. By the turn of the century in 1900 some fifty (50) Blacks in the United States of America were recognized members of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. The entire membership numbered 75,767 around the world, most of whom were in North America.

By 1909 the Black membership of the church had reached 900 and the entire world membership numbered over 104,000. When Regional Conferences were organized in 1944 (one hundred years after the church had its beginning), the Black members in America numbered 19,008 and the world membership stood at 576,378. Of this number, 212,514 (or) 36.87% was in North America and 63.13% was outside of the division. Under its Black leaders the work flourished with the Regional Conferences and in 1984 the Black membership of the North American Division had reached 156,524 (or) 23.15% of the entire division membership. The world membership in 1984 numbered 4,424,612 of which 15.28% is in North America and 84.72% is in other lands. The bulk of the

membership of the church around the world can be found among the 'colored' nations of the world. Today's mood around the world (in and out of the church) shows the winds of change for leadership roles from among one's own people, and new changes took place during the General Conference Session of 1985.

Black Advances at GC Sessions

The Adventist Scrapbook (sponsored by The Heritage Room - Loma Linda University Libraries) gives some of the advances that Blacks have made in the church since 1950. (R&H July 7, 1985.) It should be pointed out that very few advances have been made without a 'vision' given to Ellen White or a 'crisis' during that particular time. The cases and points: During the General Conference Session of 1888, C.M. Kinney, a 'colored' minister raised the question of treatment of the race but was quieted by the leadership with the statement that we should not raise this issue in the church. In the 1890's Ellen White was given a vision for the church to address its mission to give the message to the former enslaved people of the Southland. J. Edson made his famous missionary venture into Mississippi on his 'Morning Star' boat. It was also during this time that Ellen White wrote the book 'The Southern Work' which dealt with challenges to the church leaders to carry the message to this downtrodden people.

The reluctance by the leadership to move forward lead to Ellen White's challenge to the students at the Huntsville school to go and work for your own people. This was 1904. Elder J.H. Laurence was a student at the time and has since baptized thousands into the church fellowship.

By 1909 when the NAACP was born in Niagara Falls, New York the Black membership in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination in the United States had reached the 900 mark and the General Conference leadership felt to organize the 'Colored Department' to give special attention to the growing work among this people. A white minister by the name of Haysmer was assigned to serve as the leader of this work but later in 1918 resigned and Attorney W.H. Green of Virginia was appointed as the first G.C. officer to serve as secretary of the North American Negro Department. Under his leadership the membership advanced to 8,000 by 1929 when Blacks began to request leadership roles on other levels of the

church administration. The church was not quite ready for this move. The Movement was discouraged.

Because the curriculum at the Huntsville school was not geared to the training of Blacks to hold leadership positions, a crisis arose among the student body in 1931 which finally lead to J.L. Moran's being asked to serve as the first 'Black' president for the Oakwood School. The student body today represents all nations, kindred, tongues and peoples and has been a blessing to the progress of the work of the church around the world. The training that these students are receiving is training them for leadership roles in their own lands.

A crisis at one of the hospitals during the 1940's lead to the construction of a new facility at the Riverside Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee and to the organization of the Regional Conferences in the United States. These conferences were not requested by the Black leadership that then was. It was a compromise of the church leaders to cries that Blacks made for a total integration of all of the church facilities. Black conferences were organized in 1945. The membership was 19,008 but at the close of 1984 it stood at 156,523. Evidently the hand of the Lord was in the organization of these conferences. The gospel is being preached. Sinners are being converted. The kingdom will come. The work among people of color has also advanced around the world during this period. The church membership today is 75% colored people. New Orleans brought picture to the fore.

One of the greatest champions of his people for all times was G.E. Peters who was blessed to bring a settling to a crisis that arose in New York in 1929 and later became one of the church's leading evangelists. By 1950 he had been elected as the first black General Conference field secretary. G.E. Peters spent a lifetime serving to upbuild the cause of God in the earth. Among his many converts were F.L. Peterson and O.B. Edwards both of Pensacola, Florida.

When evangelism moved into new proportions in the Black communities under the newly adopted methods of E.E. Cleveland thousands were baptized across the land. He was later assigned to the ministerial secretary's post in the Southern Union Conference and later in 1954 to the Ministerial Department of the General Conference from which he taught people of all nations around the world the art of soul-

winning. During the same year of 1954 F.L. Peterson moved from the presidency of Oakwood College to become the first black associate secretary for the world field. The United Nations had been born and the winds of leadership were changing around the world.

Cleveland's ambassadorial role for the church brought meaningful acceptance for the Seventh-day Adventist denomination around the world. Evangelism took a sprint everywhere. The membership climbed to over a million by 1962 General Conference Session.

When Frank W. Hale, Jr., Burrell Scott and Mylas Martin lead a demonstration at the time of the General Conference Session in San Francisco in 1962 because of the continued segregated practices in the Ohio Conference school system, the church was once again brought to the eyes of the public. The leaders were angered and embarrassed, but on the heels of this demonstration F.L. Peterson was elected to serve as the first Black General Conference vice president.

At the time of the General Conference Session in Detroit, Michigan in 1966, E.E. Cleveland was overlooked and denied the opportunity to serve as the Secretary for the Ministerial Department of the G.C. although he had then become the senior candidate at the time. However movement was made in other areas. Maurice T. Battle was elected to serve as the first black departmental secretary of a division (Northern European). During the same meeting all Black Southern Union Mission of South Africa was voted into being separate and distinct from the other memberships of that part of the division in that land.

By 1969 the Blacks of America had become restless again because of attitudes that they encountered while in attendance at the seminary. This led to requests for Regional Unions to be set up whereby Blacks in America would have an opportunity to serve at the Union Conference level of leadership of the church. Once again, this request was denied and a 16 Point Program was instituted instead which guaranteed the Black equal opportunity for leadership service at all levels of the church. The plan did not work in its entirety. However, by 1970 some few began to be appointed to the post of secretary at the General and Union Conference levels. C.E. Bradford became secretary of the North American Division; W.S. Lee became secretary for the Central Union Conference; F.L. Jones became secretary

for the Lake Union Conference; W.A. Thompson became secretary of the Columbia Union Conference. During the same year W.M. Starks became the first black departmental leader for the worldwide body to serve as the leader of the Stewardship Department of the General Conference. By 1976 he had resigned his post because of health reasons.

When the Anglican Church of South Africa elected Desmond Tutu (black) to serve as the head of the church in South Africa, the Seventh-day Adventist denomination elected its first black secretary of a division (Afro-Mideast), Maurice T. Battle; it also elected its first black general vice presidents of the General Conference, C. Dunbar Henri of North America and G. Ralph Thompson of the Inter-American Division. A change in Black leadership was beginning to be seen in different parts of the world. The system of colonialism had begun to fade in many parts of the world for the church. The year was 1975. Nationalism was on the rise.

When Blacks in America insisted that there should be Regional Unions once again in 1978, the predominantly white voting populace of the Annual Council in session insisted that this would not be and that we must show an integrated posture to the world although the Black leadership at the church level knew that this was not so. During the time of this same council R.J. Pierson resigned because of health reason and N.C. Wilson, the president of the North American Division (the richest division in the world) became the president of the General Conference. Now came the test of the church's sincerity about its integration philosophy. Make a Black man the president of the North American Division. Although this was not to the liking of many, the Lord saw to it that Charles E. Bradford became the first Black to serve as President for the richest division on the entire world church. He was re-elected again at the General Conference Session in New Orleans July, 1985.

Charles E. Bradford's mother was one of the young people who joined the church when Edson White brought the 'Morning Star' boat to Vicksburg, Mississippi. She was also one of the original sixteen students to enroll at the Huntsville School in 1896 and later became a nurse who served Ellen G. White when she went to the New England Sanitarium for treatment in later years.

A former vice president of the General Conference has been quoted to have said:

"As goes America, so goes the world field!" This appeared to be true among the Blacks in the church for in 1980 at the time of the General Conference in Dallas, Texas. G. Ralph Thompson was elected to serve as the first Black secretary of the General Conference for the entire world; Charles E. Bradford was elected to serve as the first Black president of the North American Division; and Bekele Heye of Ethiopia was elected to serve as the first Black president of an overseas division (Afro-Mideast); George Brown was elected to serve as the president of the Inter-American Division. Blacks were also elected to serve in associate and assistant posts in the General Conference inasmuch as they are not in a separate division of their own as are other nationalities.

The 1985 General Conference Session — New Orleans, Louisiana

More people of 'color' were delegates to this session than at any previous gathering of the World Church of the Seventh-day Adventists. They seemed burdened to have persons to serve in their areas who could relate to their particular problems and needs. The Australians had gotten their Walter Scragg; Euro Africa had gotten its Edwin Ludescher; Inter-America its George Brown; South America its Joao Wolff; Southern Asia its Gerald J. Christo; East Africa its Bekele Heye and even North America its native son, Charles E. Bradford. Now the rest of Africa was crying out for its own to lead.

Blacks in America were skeptical of the Role and Function Proposal that was being offered for fear that there would be a loss of ground for which those who went before had given blood sweat and tears to attain. North American Blacks sought to not only hold but to gain new ground. Africa sought the same and Inter-America also sought the same. When the General Conference Session came to an end on July 7, 1985, this was the picture as it looked for Blacks of the church: C.B. Rock General Vice President, G.R. Thompson, Secretary for the World Field, M.T. Battle, Associate Secretary, F.L. Jones, Assistant Treasurer, C.D. Brooks, W.D. Banfield, R. Bruisima of Uganda, Africa - General Field Secretaries, C.E. Bradford, President of North America, O.A. Troy, Communications Associate, D.W. Williams, Health/Temperance Associate, Robert Smith, Publishing Associate, C.L. Brooks, S.D. Meyers, W.C. Scales, Jr., R.E. Barron - Church Ministries Associates, Jacob J.

The Editor's Desk

COX APPOINTED TO SERVE AT O.C.

Elder S. Haywood Cox, former president of the Central States Conference has accepted a call to serve in the Office of Development at Oakwood College.

During his tenure in the Central States Conference, Elder Cox served as youth director for ten years and as president for six years. During his ministry, God blessed the conference to grow and develop.

Elder S. Haywood Cox and family will be missed as they journey southward. We know that God will continue to bless them in their ministry.

BLACK CAUCUS MEETS

Black leaders of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists met

in Nashville, Tennessee on May 10 and 21 to give study to a strengthening of the work among the 156,000 membership of this division of the church. Some of the concerns that were addressed during the meeting were: (1) Preserving the Black Institutions of the Church, (2) The new Role and Function Proposal of the church leaders as it relates to the Black worker and member of the church, (3) The Retirement Plight of the Black Worker who served the organization through the years, (4) The blessings of the growth of the Black membership in the church as it relates to acceptance and recognition by the parent body of its leaders, and the (5) placement of the Black Ministerial Graduate when he/she completes his/her studies in college.

Nortrey, President of the African-Indian Ocean Division with Filiman Onwere as treasurer, Bekele Heye, President of the East African Division, Ronald Lindsay, Treasurer, Harry Cartwright, Ministerial Secretary. A new day had begun to dawn for the church.

It should be pointed out that the North American Black church paid \$185,486,030 of tithe into the church during the past five year period (1980-1984) which is more than any division (or) combined divisions around the world.

During the time of the General Conference Session in New Orleans, W.D. Sumpster was also elected to serve as the Secretary for the Southern Union Conference to replace H.F. Roll; Ronald Wisby, the president of the Potomac Conference was elected to the post of President for the Columbia Union to replace W.O. Coe who became the vice president of the General Conference, R.L. Woodfork was elected to serve as the associate secretary for the North American Division. Robert Connors has gone from the Lake Union Conference Ministerial Secretaryship to serve as pastor in New Orleans, Louisiana.

NEWS NOTE

Elder Robert S. Smith, vice president for marketing at the Review and Herald, has been called to the General Conference as an associate director of the Publishing Department, effective immediately.

Elder Smith will give special emphasis to the publishing program in the regional conferences in North America, as well as three overseas areas, including the Inter-American and Southern Asia divisions and the Middle East Union.

According to Harold Otis, Review and Herald president, "Elder Smith is well qualified for his new assignment, with twenty-two years of field experience and seven years at the publishing house. This is a valuable combination that will enable him to serve the church well."

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SUNSET CALENDAR

	Aug. 30	Sept. 7	14	21
Boston, Mass.	7:22	7:08	6:56	6:44
New York City	7:32	7:19	7:06	6:54
Buffalo, N.Y.	7:59	7:40	7:27	7:15
Atlanta, Ga.	8:06	7:56	7:46	7:36
Miami, Fla.	7:42	7:34	7:26	7:19
Charlotte, N.C.	7:54	7:43	7:33	7:22
Birmingham, Ala.	7:15	7:05	6:55	6:46
Jackson, Miss.	7:28	7:18	7:09	6:59
Memphis, Tenn.	7:30	7:19	7:09	6:59
Louisville, Ky.	8:16	8:04	7:53	7:42
Detroit, Mich.	8:11	7:58	7:45	7:33
Chicago, Ill.	7:28	7:14	7:02	6:50
South Bend, Indiana	7:22	7:11	6:57	6:45
Minneapolis, Minn.	7:55	7:40	7:27	7:13
St. Louis, Mo.	7:34	7:22	7:11	7:00
Kansas City, Mo.	7:52	7:40	7:29	7:18
Denver, Co.	7:35	7:22	7:12	6:59
Little Rock, Ark.	7:38	7:28	7:18	7:08
Dallas, Texas	7:55	7:45	7:35	7:26
New Orleans, La.	7:25	7:16	7:07	6:58
Albuquerque, N.M.	7:36	7:25	7:15	7:05
Oklahoma City, Okla.	8:01	7:49	7:39	7:29

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



E.E. Cleveland

OF FLYING ANTS AND OTHER THINGS

General Conference— New Orleans, 1985

I have been attending these sessions since 1950. Over the years we measure the growth of the Church by increased attendance at its corporate gatherings. Most campmeetings are taxed to accommodate the flood of saints that now attend. Motels and hotels revel in the benefits of the Human Bulge. It took the Superdome to swallow our 40,000 ecstatic attendees.

The preachers were well-selected and their messages warm and reassuring. But in all of them, there was the essential vein of challenges. Heard again and again were words warming the heart. "The Holy Spirit rules the Church." "This is the Remnant Church." "God's love for man undergirds us all." The President's call to lift up the standard, called us back to the religion of my saintly father and mother, long deceased. It was clear from the positive responses here and at campmeetings that four years of pointed, planned pressure on our doctrinal position have had little effect on the saints at large. And that Ellen White is still the respected Bible Commentator and Inspired Messenger that she always was.

And of course—there were the Nightly Reports, depicting the onward march of the gospel. From the six continents came people who made the history that we celebrated. Clad in their colorful costumes, this multi-racial demonstration was hard evidence of Adventism's triumphant march across the earth. All of this was climaxed by the "March of Nations" and unbelievable music. Even as I sat there, a brand new tent was being delivered hundreds of miles to the East, where my wife and I would be working to make the General Conference, 1990, even bigger.

The business sessions were noteworthy for what they did and did not do. First of all, the Africans came to this session with an explicit agenda. They came to be heard and they were. They were not distracted by fraternal references to "flying ants" and boyhood pranks. They were now men and had "put away childish things." "There is a Cardinal in Rome," they intoned. "What is so sacred about Washington that no African has ever worked there," they wanted to know. An African is now field-Secretary of the General Conference, located in Washington. An African was elected to head the African Indian Ocean division. He accepted the truth during my effort in Ghana in 1959.

What this session did not do was (1) Settle the question of Women's Ordination to the Gospel Ministry. And considering how roughly the question of the ordination of deaconesses was handled, the larger question may never be settled. (2) There was a measure pending, that would reduce by ½ the delegates to the 1990 General Conference. This measure would aid Church economy, it would nevertheless penalize Church growth incentive and create suspicions of Church leadership motive. (3) The other pending measure would give the General Conference and Union Conference bodies the power to call constituencies within local conferences without the consent of local Conference Committees. Wisdom prevailed and this measure was not voted on at the session. With a sigh of relief I whispered to Celia, "Democracy is alive for now. May it live forever!"

Perhaps we learned something too about the system by which delegates were picked to do business at the session. Aside from the delegates who are so by virtue of their offices, all other delegates were picked by Union Conferences or higher bodies. Conference Presidents had no power to even suggest who would or should go. This decision at the top did not pay off. This Nominating Committee was a breath of fresh air. It established its authority and asserted it! Amen and Amen! Perhaps we can go back to the Democratic way of doing things in the picking of delegates. For what it did and did not do, this General Conference was history.

E.E. Cleveland
Director of Church Missions
Oakwood College

ADVENTIST SCRAPBOOK

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BLACKS ADVANCE AT GC SESSIONS

General Conference Sessions have been important landmarks in the rise of black Seventh-day Adventists to positions of leadership in the church. The positive role of these meetings can be traced back to the 1918 session, which marked the appointment of the first black General Conference officer, William H. Green, as secretary of the North American Negro Department.

Then for several decades no Afro-Americans were chosen for top executive positions. Since 1950, however, every one of these gatherings has witnessed the rise of black leadership:

1950—First black General Conference field secretary, George E. Peters.

1954—First black General Conference associate secretary, Frank L. Peterson; first black associate secretary of the Ministerial Association, E. Earl Cleveland.

1958—First General Conference session with a large number of black delegates and visitors.

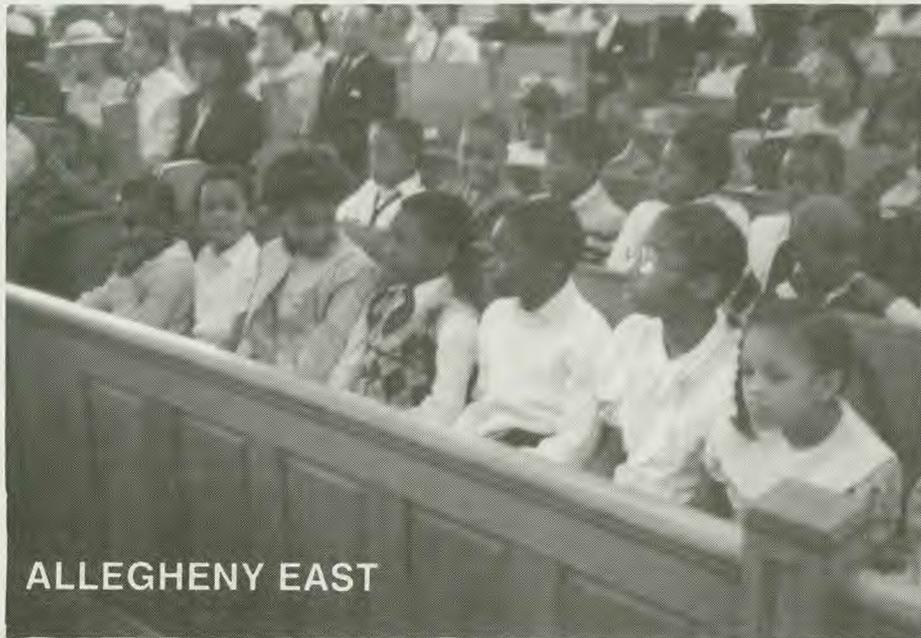
1962—First black General Conference vice president, Frank L. Peterson.

1966—First black departmental secretary of a division (Northern European), Maurice T. Battle.

1970—First black secretary of worldwide General Conference Department (Stewardship and Development), Walter M. Starks.

1975—First black secretary of a division (Afro-Mideast), Maurice T. Battle; first black general vice presidents of the General Conference, C. Dunbar Henri and G. Ralph Thompson.

1980—First black General Conference secretary, G. Ralph Thompson; first black president of the North American Division, Charles E. Bradford; first black president of an overseas division (Afro-Mideast), Bekele Heye.



ALLEGHENY EAST

Children in attendance at Berea weekly Children's Corner.



Graduates of the Revelation Seminar held at Berea Temple.

BEREA OFFERS WEEKLY CHILDREN'S CORNER

Each Sabbath, Berea Temple, Baltimore sets aside a portion of the Divine Worship Service for all youth. Mrs. Gwendolyn Rice, Children's Corner Coordinator, holds their attention as she dramatically paints mental pictures that spark their imagination and in turn stimulate a desire for an early acceptance of Christ.

Her stories, full of truth, humor, realism and purpose are so enjoyable that each child anxiously awaits their "Special" time each week.

When questioned about her reason and purpose for accepting this particular purpose, Rice states, "I believe God wants me to help instill the characteristics of a Christian in our children, that is why my stories focus on the virtues of reverence, temperance, love and respect on a level which they can understand and appreciate."

Betty Brock

Communication Secretary



Dr. Edward Richardson (left) commends Zimri Brown for faithful service.



Miss Marguerite Brown presents participant Mack Warren with his certificate.

SIXTY-EIGHT GRADUATE FROM REVELATION SEMINAR

Graduation exercises concluded the Revelation Seminar conducted by Dr. E.L. Richardson, pastor of the Berea Temple Church in Baltimore, MD.

Family members and friends watched as 68 participants marched down the center aisle to receive their certificates. In the graduation address, Dr. Richardson highlighted the important issues taught during the seminar. All were congratulated for their demonstration of interest, dedication and effort.

Following the ceremony, students and their guests were feted at a "Celebration Banquet" in the church's multi-purpose room.

Mrs. Bettye Brock
Communication Secretary

FAITHFUL WORKER HONORED AT BERA

The Pastor, Officers and Members of Berea Temple, Baltimore, expressed their gratitude to Zimri Brown at a reception held in his honor on May 26, 1985.

Brown served Berea conscientiously and loyally as "caretaker" from 1967 to February this year when he retired. A pillar of the church, he eagerly offered support and assistance whenever and wherever necessary. His quiet, pleasant manner and his dedication to God was cited by all who spoke.

Dr. Richardson, on behalf of the church, presented Mr. Brown with a plaque inscribed with the words "In recognition and deep appreciation for 18 years of faithful and valuable service."



Members of the Booker Family graduating: Audrey E. Booker (left), Cheryl E. Booker and Robert Booker, Jr.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Graduation held special meaning for the Booker family of Pine Forge, Pennsylvania. They experienced graduation on three academic levels within a three-week period of time.

May 26 saw Robert Winston Booker graduate from Pine Forge Academy. On June 2, Cheryl E. Booker graduated from Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. Audrey E. Booker was awarded a Master of Public Health degree from Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, California on June 16.

What makes this such a unique situation is that Robert, Cheryl and Audrey are all related. Robert and Cheryl are brother and sister. Audrey is their mother.

Robert, who served as the Treasurer of the Student Government Association of Pine Forge Academy and sang baritone in the internationally known Pine Forge Academy Choir, will continue his academic studies at Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama in the fall.

Cheryl toured Europe and the Bahamas with the Aeolians, the internationally known choir from Oakwood College that was sent as Good Will ambassadors to Romania in 1981. She will be teaching in New York in the fall.

Audrey is currently employed as a school nurse practitioner with the Reading, Pennsylvania School District. She ob-

tained her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. She has done graduate work at the Penn State University Medical Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania in preparation for becoming a school nurse practitioner.

She is married to Robert L. Booker, Director of Sabbath School and Communication for Allegheny East Conference.

Robert L. Booker



Newly elected principal Conrad L. Gill emphasizes the fact that young people need leadership models.

GILL NAMES NEW PRINCIPAL FOR PINE FORGE

Conrad L. Gill, the newly appointed principal of the academy was introduced to the group and given a warm welcome. Gill brings to the principalship a background rich in Seventh-day Adventist theology and education. He attended Atlantic Union College for two years. He

received his bachelor's degree from Oakwood College. He holds a M.A. degree in Education Administration and Supervision from Atlanta University. He has studied and taught at Andrews University. From 1967 to 1972 he served as teacher and assistant principal of the Berean Junior Academy in Atlanta.

Gill comes to Pine Forge Academy from the Lake Region Conference where he has been serving as AY Director. He was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1975.

Gill said, he is a firm believer in the fact that young people need leadership examples. And that he is dedicated to the task of being principal because God made the decision for him to be principal at Pine Forge Academy. He further stated that he will need the help and cooperation of each individual to get the job done.

The Endowment Fund Project went into effect immediately. Each church received material to be passed out to each family. Reports are expected to be sent to the conference office at the end of each quarter.



Conrad L. Gill, new principal of Pine Forge Academy, (left) receives counsel from Dr. R.T. McDonald (center), Director of Education for the Columbia Union Conference and Dr. A.T. Westney, Associate Director and former principal of the academy.

PINE FORGE ENDOWMENT FUND PROJECT

On July 14 at a special called Allegheny East Conference Constituency Meeting held at the Dupont Park Church in Washington, D.C., the constituency voted to accept a five-year fund raising project that is expected to net over \$1,000,000 toward the Pine Forge Academy Endowment Fund.

The plan presented by M.C. Van Putten, President of Allegheny East Conference, calls for each family to work as a unit in systematically giving at least \$1.75 per week.

The session began with a devotional message by Dupont Park Pastor, Harold Lee. The constituents were then shown a

Continued on Page 19

CENTRAL STATES



Elder J. Paul Monk, newly-elected President of the Central States Conference.

J. PAUL MONK ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL STATES

At the recent Central States Conference Session, the nominating committee and delegates voted to ask Elder J. Paul Monk, Jr. to serve as its eighth president.

Elder Monk brings to the presidency and to the conference a wealth of diverse experience. He has served as a pastor, lecturer, chaplain in the Army; a youth director, editor of Message Magazine and a host of other professional experiences.

Educated in Adventist Schools, Elder Monk is a graduate of Pine Forge Academy, Oakwood College, Andrews University and has completed additional graduate degrees at Columbia University (M.B.A.) and Drew University.

He is married to Carolyn and has three children, Kimberly; Carmela and J. Paul Monk III.



Summer campers enjoy water fight.

SUMMER CAMP BRINGS CAMPERS FROM FAR AND NEAR

Once again, the camp bells rang bringing campers from far and near to Camp Shady Hill. The campers enjoyed good music, food, recreation, spiritual fulfillment, and arts and crafts.

The highlight of the camp was the annual banquet which featured the talents of the campers. The campers were treated with a visitation from Elder J. Paul Monk, Jr., the conference president. Under the direction of Elder N. Miller and his camp staff, summer 1985 will long be remembered in the hearts and lives of the many youth who attended Junior and Inner City Camp.



Summer campers play table games.



Elder Booker T. Rice served as one of the platform chairmen during Campmeeting.



Elder Ernest Young spoke at the Central States Campmeeting.

COMMUNITY CHURCH SPONSORS HEALTH FAIR

On April 14, the Community SDA Church, Denver, Colorado, sponsored a site for the channel 9 Health Fair. The Health Fair is an annual event presented in Colorado to assist the residents in obtaining free health care screening. The Community SDA Site offered blood pressure, weight, height, hearing testing, counseling, eye screening and blood test including sickle cell.

With the help of volunteer help of neighboring doctors, nurses and screening personnel, the site served 35 people. This service helped the residents of the new community become familiar with the SDA church.

Spiritual and health pamphlets were available to the public.

Etta Collins
Communication Secretary

CENTRAL STATES CAMPMEETING 1985

"What a spiritual outpouring of joy and happiness," exclaimed a fellow believer!

Campmeeting 1985 at Camp Shady Hill was a joyous experience for the believers. Under the leadership of Elder J. Paul Monk, Jr., conference president and a team of workers, campmeeting was a happy and joyous experience.

The Central States Conference constituents enjoyed the adult and youth Sabbath School lesson. Among the many guests were Elder C.B. Rock, former president of Oakwood College, now vice-president for General Conference; Elder Ernest Young of Atlanta; Elder and Mrs. L. Logan of Lake Region; Elder Reginald Robinson of Breath of Life; and Elder Clifton Davis.

There was music from the Linwood SDA Temple, Bethel, Topeka, Maranatha and Northside churches. The youth department featured a Master Guide Investiture service and special programs designed for the youth. Elder and Mrs. Logan were featured in concert while Elder Davis presented his testimony in song and words.

The theme "Guidance in Crisis", directed the thoughts of the constituents toward God. They realized that God is their guidance through the crisis of life, in the home, church, school or work. Through the spiritual feast, Central States members were led to lean on Jesus. Campmeeting 1985 will be remembered as a transitional period in the lives of the believers.

LAKE REGION



Dr. Robert L. Maddox, Jr., Executive Director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, recently worshipped with the Shiloh congregation in Chicago when he was guest speaker for their Religious Liberty Day.

BAPTIST MINISTER SPEAKS AT SHILOH

Dr. Robert L. Maddox, Jr., Executive Director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, was recently the guest speaker at the Shiloh Church in Chicago during the divine worship services. Shiloh was celebrating a special day emphasizing the importance of religious liberty.

Dr. Maddox, a baptist minister and author of several books, is best known for his book entitled *Preacher at the White House*. This book is an account of his experiences in the White House during the Jimmy Carter administration when he served as a speech writer and liaison to the religious community.

Referrals to Maddox describe him as a religious liberty activist. During his sermon at Shiloh his greatest emphasis was placed upon the importance of citizens in the U.S. becoming more concerned about maintaining their religious liberties. According to Maddox too many Americans are taking religious freedoms for granted and do not realize that slowly but surely, if they allow it to happen, religious liberty will be a thing of the past.

Dr. Maddox spent twenty years in the pulpit as pastor of a number of southern churches. He has been a frequent guest on both radio and television talk shows and news related programs. Maddox is a graduate of Baylor University, Southwestern Theological Seminary, Emory University and Southwest Missouri University.

FLINT FIREFIGHTER COMBATS INJURIES

Adapted from "The Flint Journal, April 25, 1985

A group of new firefighters receiving certificates Wednesday will be remembered by some because it is the first Flint recruit class that graduated female firefighters. There are eight.

But for Kevin Reid, one of the 34 presented the certificates at City Hall, the ceremony represented a personal accomplishment he once would not have thought possible.

For Reid, 20, it meant overcoming severe injuries sustained in a traffic accident nearly two years ago.

"There were times that I felt . . . that I had some head injuries and it affected my memory," he said, referring to his self-doubts during training. Sometimes he felt he would never graduate, he admitted.

"I was fortunate to be in a class where everyone was willing to help you out," he said.

Reid was injured on June 27, 1983, as he and two other men were changing a flat tire on his car on I-294 near Chicago. He and a friend were on their way to Flint where Reid was planning to return to his old job at the YMCA and enroll at Mott Community College.

At 17, Reid, a native of Flint, had quit his job at the Y and moved to Chicago to live with his mother.

It was shortly after midnight when Reid, the friend and a towtruck driver were struck by a car driven by a man later cited for driving under the influence of alcohol.

The truck driver was treated for a broken leg; Reid's friend had a shattered leg and was hospitalized for 28 days.

Reid was in a coma for 15 days. He had severe head and face injuries including a hematoma on the brain, which later dissolved. Twelve teeth were knocked out, and he suffered a fractured pelvis, bruised internal organs, a shattered right knee and torn leg ligaments among other injuries.

The accident also left him with about \$46,000 in hospital bills, which went unpaid since Reid lacked health insurance and was ineligible for Medicaid from either Illinois or Michigan.

A suit he filed against the driver who struck him is pending. The hospital has placed a lien on any award he may receive.

While undergoing treatment for his injuries, Reid said his dentist first sparked his interest in becoming a firefighter.

Always interested in helping others, Reid said his first desire was to be a doctor. But with his training as an emergency medical technician, which all the new recruits received, he has partly fulfilled that desire, he said.

Becoming a firefighter was no easy task for Reid, among 1,300 who applied for the openings last summer. Of them, 1,000 showed up to take a written examination, and 500 survived to participate in a physical agility test.

Of the 300 who passed this test, 75 were classified as either "highly qualified" or



Kevin Reid, was one of 34 new firefighters receiving certificates at City Hall in Flint, Michigan in April, 1985. He is an active member of the Fairhaven Church in Flint.

"qualified" for the job. That number was reduced to the final 34.

"I was skeptical, but I had a lot of confidence in myself," Reid said. "I was one of the people that was thanking the (fire) chief, and he said we did it ourselves."

The new firefighters must now go through a one-year probation before becoming permanent members of the force.

According to Willie Ann Miller, Communication Director for the Fairhaven Church in Flint, Kevin is a very dedicated and conscientious person. His love for God gives him that radiance that exhibits his love for his fellow man.

Although his parents are not members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Kevin has attended church since infancy. He was greatly influenced by his grandmother, Ethelyn Reid, who is a charter member of the church.

Even though he received Christ at an early age, after his accident he rededicated his life to Christ. He is a faithful member of the Fairhaven Church.

In addition to his other ambitions, Kevin has talent as a composer. This was recently demonstrated at a church service when the song, *Heaven On My Mind*, composed by Kevin, was sung by Lloyd Anderson.



The Ephesus S.D.A. Church V.B.S. Group for 1985.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT EPHEBUS IN MARION

At the Ephesus Church in Marion, Indiana, a vacation Bible school was held. This Bible school program gave 26 children of kindergarten, primary, and junior age, the opportunity to become acquainted with the teachings of Jesus.

Vacation Bible school, under the direction of Caroline Spears, used the theme, Happy with Jesus.

The teachers were Savannah Buford, head of Kindergarten Division; Ronda Dorsey, head of Primary Division; and Hermin Hatchett was in charge of the Junior Division.

The graduation program for the young Bible school students was held at the Ephesus Church. The program began with the opening prayer from Hosie Hatchett, pastor of the church. Caroline Spears gave a cordial greeting to parents, relatives, and guests of the children.

Among the guests present were Champaign and Mrs. Joseph Powell from Oakwood College.

Other participants on the program included the kindergarten class which sang Jesus Loves Me and the primary and junior students who recited from memory complete Bible verses.

The Bible school's students and the people in the audience participated in the procession of the Christian and national flag.

Each student from each division received a VBS certificate for completing the requirements of the Vacation Bible School.

Guests, parents, and relatives of the students were welcomed to visit in the church basement to enjoy a beautiful display of crafts made by the students.

ADVENTIST PHOTOGRAPHER FEATURED BY INSURANCE CO.

The Jefferson National Life Insurance Company in Indianapolis featured photography by Richard Simons, Jr., from June 10 through June 28. The exhibit was held in the Jefferson Building lobby gallery. Richard is a member of the Capitol City Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. He has been a resident of Indianapolis for six years where he is a program leader, telemarketing consultant and trainer for American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) Communications.

Simons received his college training at Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama.

Since 1963, Richard Simons' career in photography has progressed from working in several different departments in college, to selling color transparencies to publishing houses in the United States, London, and South Africa.

Simons currently maintains a stock file of 35mm slides primarily of nature subjects and outdoor scenery. He is currently working on a Limited Edition of Photographic Art.

HYDE PARK COMMUNITY HOSPITAL CELEBRATES OPENING OF NEW DAY CENTER

Charles D. Joseph, president of Lake Region Conference and board member at the Hyde Park Community Hospital in Chicago, gave a speech of dedication at the opening ceremony for the New Day Center on July 15. The Hyde Park Community Hospital is affiliated with Adventist Health System North, Inc.

The New Day Center of Hyde Park Community Hospital is an adolescent chemical dependency unit. Much of the initial therapy at the center focuses on breaking through the barrier of denial of alcoholism and chemical dependency so that a voluntary recovery process can begin.

An intensive 45-day inpatient program is utilized to address the special needs and lifestyles of adolescents. During this time the patient is separated from his peer group scene. This time allows the adolescent to focus on himself and to develop a personal sense of self.

Individual, group and family therapy all play a significant part in the recovery of the adolescent.

After the adolescents graduate from the New Day Center, they have an individualized aftercare program and a strong support system that will help them to face the difficult times that lie ahead.

NORTHEASTERN

PATHFINDER'S DAY CELEBRATION

Everyone at Lighthouse Tabernacle looked forward to a recent Sabbath with heightened anticipation. It was an unusually grey day, but this did not dull the Pathfinders' enthusiasm. They looked imposing in their new uniforms and carried themselves with a certain dignity and confidence. They also marched with precision and a deep sense of pride.

Deputy Director John Brooks conducted an innovative Sabbath school program with skillful participation by Pathfinders Brendella Alford, Michael Cuffie, Angel Guadalupe and Derrick James.

Vernon Giles, coordinator of Queens Area Pathfinder Federation, was present to lend his support to Director Vera Weaver. He challenged the church family to become effective partners in helping train the boys and girls and to do all that could be done to win and hold the youth who will be the vanguard of the future.

Director Weaver gave a strong reminder that the Pathfinder club was worthy of the church's time and effort, and it should facilitate the strengthening and expansion of the club. He also expressed appreciation to the parents, his staff and the Pathfinders for their cooperative attitude which is vitally important in sustaining the club and achieving their goals.

Music provided by the Weaver family and Shelly Haynes was an enhancement of the day's celebration. During the divine worship hour, the youth choir directed by Janice Gamble expressed soaring vocal lines. It was certainly a model of inspiration, upliftment and enrichment.

Pastor Willis Reed of the Zion Temple SDA Church delivered the sermon. He admonished the youth "to choose God's path with its discipline, and eventual rewards." He placed strong emphasis on the importance of making this decision during one's youth "for the opportunity to do so is diminished as one grows older, and becomes encumbered with life's cares and responsibilities." He also pointed out the need for SDA Christians to return to primitive godliness—the old time religion.

During the AYS session chaired by Roslyn Cumberbatch, assistant Pathfinder director, the Pathfinders demonstrated their skills in knot-tying and first aid treatments. These were interspersed with

songs and poems by the Pathfinders. A high interest level was maintained throughout the day.

L.H. Clarke
Communication Secretary

NORTHEASTERN ORDAINS FIVE

Editor's Note: On Sunday, July 21, five were ordained to the gospel ministry at Victory Lake Campground, Hyde Park, New York. Below is listed a brief biographical sketch of each candidate.



Pastor Calvin Harrison and Family.

CALVIN U. HARRISON was born in Jamaica, West Indies and accepted the third angels' message at the tender age of thirteen and after spending two years in a baptismal class was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the age of fifteen.

As a lover of Christian education, he worked his way through high school at West Indies College in Mandeville, Jamaica. He then migrated to Toronto, Canada, where he spent two years working from state to state in the Literature Evangelist Ministry.

Receiving the call to the pastoral ministry from the Lord, he left Canada to study theology at Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama where he received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theology and History. Presently, he is working on his Master's of Arts degree at Atlantic Union College in conjunction with Andrews University.

In December, 1977, he was given the opportunity to serve in the great Northeastern Conference as an Associate Publishing Director. During this tenure of his ministry, he founded the Yonkers Way to Life Mission in 1979 which was later organized into the Riverdale Avenue Seventh-day Church in 1984.

Upon completion of the physical structure of the Church in Yonkers, he was

asked to assume the pastoral duties at Riverdale, thus becoming the first Pastor of the Riverdale Avenue Church; with Riverdale Church becoming the first Black church in the city of Yonkers.

Calvin is married to the former Lola B. White of Cocoa, Florida, also a graduate of Oakwood College with degrees in Business Administration/Accounting and Nursing. They are the proud parents of two beautiful daughters — Tasheima Kristi, 6 years old and Shanna Merie, 4 years old.

Pastor Harrison has learned through a series of events that indeed, "all things work together for good to them that love God..." and the highest praise he can give is "TO GOD BE THE GLORY."



Pastor and Mrs. Ricardo Jorge.

JUAN RICARDO JORGE was born on October 12, 1956, in Santiago, Dominican Republic. His studies in elementary and secondary education was in his native town. At the age of 18, he entered the State University to study in the field of engineering. A few months after, his life was changed when he received God's call in the middle of a student revolt and a police shootout. From his childhood days, his mother wanted him to become a pastor, but he had not paid any attention to her until he found himself in danger, in the middle of a student revolution, and he asked himself: "What am I doing here?" From then on, he was determined to answer the divine call. He registered for the theology courses in the Dominican College, Bonao, Dominican Republic and two years later he received a call to join the

group of workers with whom he worked for three years. Later he attended college in Costa Rica to complete his studies in Theology. In October 1983 he was invited to join with the workers of the North-eastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as pastor of two hispanic churches. On December 26, 1983, he married Rita Cascante, who has proven to be a great help and blessing to his ministry. Presently he is pastoring two hispanic churches: Lawrence, and Salem in Massachusetts. His prayer is that the Lord will allow him to work in His cause until He comes to Glory.

OTHER ORDAINEES WILL APPEAR IN SEPTEMBER ISSUE



Mavis Blair, Community Services Leader for the Bronx SDA Church.

DR. DAVID MOORE SPEAKER FOR MEDICAL DAY AT BRONX CHURCH

Disease Prevention and promotion of health was the theme of the Medical Day Program on Sabbath, May 11, 1985 at the Bronx SDA Church, Bronx, New York.

Health education is considered the single most important method of preventing diseases and promoting health. With this in mind, Beverly Johnson, Nutritionist, Medical Corp Leader of the Bronx SDA Church, sought after and obtained the services of Dr. David Moore, an avid follower of the SDA health program.

Dr. David Moore is the Medical Director of Victory Lake Nursing Center and Living Spring Reconditioning and Health Center. He became a Seventh-day Adventist approximately nine years ago and has been a zealous disseminator of the health message since that time. He has presented this message in religious and health care settings and to community groups. Dr. Moore summarizes his presentations by challenging everyone to a NEW START — Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Air, Rest & Trust in Divine Guidance.

The afternoon program was chaired by Joyce Williams, R.N., assistant Medical Corp Leader, and a report of the activities of the Corp members during their recent health fair was given by Winnifred Welch, R.N., Medical Corp Secretary.

Miss Johnson says that the Medical Day and the Health Fair are just a sample of the kinds of activities the Medical Corp will undertake in the future in an attempt to fulfill the goals set by the Department.

BRONX CHURCH MEDICAL CORP SPONSOR HEALTH FAIR

The Bronx, New York, Washington Avenue S.D.A. Church Medical Corp is a viable organization which has been functioning effectively since 1973.

Their major goals have been to provide the following: health education to increase an awareness of the ways in which lifestyles contribute to physical and mental health; health screenings to reduce disease in the general population; and counseling and referral to assure proper follow-up care once a problem becomes apparent.

The Medical Corp is comprised of several nurses, a medical technician, a social worker, a clinical microbiologist, a dental technician, an administrator, nutritionists and nurses aides.

The goals for the Medical Corp for 1985 were first realized during a health fair coordinated by the leader, Beverly Johnson, nutritionist, and Bernadine Nicholas, R.N., the assistant leader, on Sunday, April 28, 1985, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the church.

Miss Johnson and Mrs. Nicholas were instrumental in obtaining assistance from Health Expo '85, so that a variety of services could be offered to the persons who attended the fair.

Health Expo '85 is a non-profit organization which is funded by Pfizer Pharmaceuticals and Citibank, with several primary goals, one of which is to encourage organizations to conduct health fairs in their community and to encourage community persons to make better use of the health resources available to them. Howell Wechler, the Project Director for Health Expo '85, provided the equipment needed to perform several of the tests done at the fair, and he was available at the beginning of the fair to lend a hand if necessary to assure the success of the event.

Health screenings were done to discover anemia, breast abnormalities, obesity, hypertension, low vision, dental needs

and abnormalities in the blood chemistry. Nine persons were overweight, two had very high blood pressure, fourteen had low vision and seven were anemic. All persons with abnormal tests were referred to their personal physician or to a clinic in their area.



Dr. David Moore, guest speaker for Medical Day at Bronx Church.

In addition to the health tests, several displays and health information were made available from community agencies and from individuals in the church.

Health information was provided by such agencies as the American Cancer Society, Dairy Council, Department of Social Services, Con Edison, Bronx Lebanon Detoxification Center and the Police Department.

Individuals within the church community who made special contributions were as follows: Etta Marshall, natural foods display; Audrey Nichols, alcohol display and related information; Mavis Blair, Community Services Director, surplus food and clothing distribution; Asbury Thomas, religious books display and the Bronx Church Pathfinders, under the leadership of Barbara Pogue, Director, who publicized the fair in the community.

The fair would not have been possible without the services of the many medical and non-medical volunteers who greeted and registered the patients, provided health tests and referrals, manned information booths, provided refreshments for the patients and lunch for the workers.

Thanks to Pastor Lister, Inner City Director, who made the Medical van available for use at the fair.

Myrtle M. Pickett
Communications Secretary

SOUTH CENTRAL

LOUISVILLE — MAGAZINE STREET CELEBRATES 95th YEAR

The Magazine Street S.D.A. Church is the oldest Seventh-day Adventist Church in the world and celebrated its 95th year of existence during the first week in May of this year. In 1880 a white layman preached the message in the Black community and ten persons were baptized into the faith. Among these was a girl by the name of Emma Minnis who later became one of the most outstanding music teachers in the city of Louisville, Kentucky. The layman's name was Sylis Osborne.

Albert Minnis, a nephew of Miss Minnis, reflects upon the blessings in the growth of the work through the years from the small band of ten to presently more than five hundred members. This congregation in this Kentucky town located on the banks of the Ohio River has been blessed with the ministry of a goodly number of Black preachers such as C.M. Kinney, W.B. Malory, W.H. Winston, J.H. Laurence, C.M. Miller, E.T. Mimms, C.A. Lynes, D.L. Crowder, C.R. Graham, I.J. Johnson, E.E. Rogers, J.H. Wagner, Jr. and I.L. Lester who serves presently. Many of the founders of the faith have their roots in this church such as the W. Forts, the Slaughters, the Maulpins, just to name a few.

A lovely church school has been purchased and named for Miss Emma Minnis, one of the charter members who taught in the city school system for more than fifty years. The city of Louisville honored Brother Milburne Maupin during the month of May also when it named one of its public schools after him. He has served the school system well through the years and finally as the superintendent of the system.



Albert Minnis, a nephew of Mrs. Minnis.

PASTORS RECEIVE AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING YEAR OF SERVICE

During a Fellowship Banquet that was held earlier this year, a number of the South Central pastors were recognized for having baptized from twenty-five to a hundred or more souls during the year, building new buildings, paying off mortgages, beginning new congregations. The membership at the end of the year had reached over seventeen thousand and one hundred seventeen congregations had been established with six new groups who are waiting to be accepted into the sisterhood of churches. Elder J.A. Edgecombe, the president of Southeastern Conference was the guest speaker.



Pastors receive awards for Outstanding Year of Service.

MRS. J. JENKINS' STUDENTS HOLD RECITAL



The second musical recital for her students was presented by Mrs. Juanita Jenkins at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee during the month of May. Your heart would have been thrilled to listen to the young people demonstrate their abilities and talents in the music arts. These types of presentations tend to bring out the graces of our children that were commonly demonstrated in days gone by. Some of the most outstanding artists of the city were there to perform and to move the audience. Pastor Shelton Kilby, the minister of music for the conference, was guest artist for the evening. Dr. C.E. Dudley, the conference president gave words of challenge. Mrs. Jenkins serves as a Bible Instructor for the conference in the city of Memphis.

COLUMBIA, MISSISSIPPI BURNS MORTGAGE

One of the final services that was performed in the district by Elder W.O. Freeman before leaving was that of a mortgage burning ceremony for the Columbia, Mississippi congregation. The work in this South Mississippi town was established by Brother and Sister Curtis Watts, residents of Sumrall, Mississippi. These gave Bible studies and their ministry was rewarded when Pastor E.D. Jackson conducted a tent meeting and baptized a goodly number of souls. Elder W.O. Freeman in later years came to build and pay for the house of worship. The day of the mortgage burning was a time for rejoicing as 'note-burning' ceremony was entered into by, Brethren, Walter, Bardell, James McCoy, W.O. Freeman, Curtis Watts, C.E. Dudley, and Mrs. Audrey Watts.

In addition to a new building in Columbia, Pastor Freeman also built buildings in Hattiesburg and Gulfport, Mississippi during his tenure in this district.



Columbia, Mississippi burns mortgage.



Mrs. J. Jenkins' students hold recital.

SOUTHEASTERN

EXCELSIOR SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE TRIENNIAL SESSION

The Triennial Session of the Southeastern Conference held May 19, 1985 in West Palm Beach, Florida was the second such historic occasion. 309 regular delegates, 116 delegates-at-large, along with a large crowd of special guests and visitors returned Elder James A. Edgecombe in landslide proportion voting to the Presidency. The standing ovation and voice acclamation was a positive response to the leadership he has so capably given since the conference began its operations in 1981.

G. Ralph Thompson, Secretariat of the General Conference reassured the assembly that "the church will triumph in a blaze of glory soon." Music was provided by the Angelairens from Miami-Bethany and Ms. Melinda Sewer.

There were two personnel changes, R.R. Brown was elected Executive Secretary and Director of Communications, and Elder Dennis Ross, Jr., Ministerial, Stewardship/Development and Trust Services. The office staff remains in tact with the exception of those two new appointments. The three officers of the conference are now J.A. Edgecombe, President, R.R. Brown, Secretary, and D.A. Walker, Treasurer.

The theme selected for the business session, Excelsior, also declared the triennium's activities.

Evangelism

3153 special persons were added to God's family by baptism. The net gain in membership was 2610. The membership now stands at 11,722.

Church Growth

Ten new congregations were accepted into the conference sisterhood of churches and 14 churches were organized. Four churches were built, two purchased, and two were nearing completion during the triennium. \$345,973.00 were given towards expansion. The West Palm Beach, St. Petersburg, and Gainesville churches liquidated their mortgages. Ft. Lauderdale-French, Daytona Beach, Miami-Zion, and Progress Village, Tampa purchased land for future buildings.

Campground

Only \$100,000.00 of the \$409,000.00 remains to be paid to South Atlantic Conference for the campground and facilities. In our long-range program to care for 30 years of deterioration.

Personnel

15 pastors were added to the frontiersmen, 2 secretaries, 2 accountants and 4 field personnel.

Finance

Faithfulness to God was reflected in the \$9,021,868.55 tithe reported for the three years. The conference gained \$1,221,990.09 in tithes and \$27,347.46 in missions over the previous three years. The auditor's statement presented by Phil Robertson of the General Conference, showed a careful accounting and wise management of the Lord's funds.

Departmental Reports

Reports given on the respective departments of Education, Sabbath School, Personal Ministries, Publishing, Trust Services, Youth Ministries, Community Services, Communications and National Servicemen's Organization showed an unparalleled increase.

President A.C. McClure of Southern Union Conference chaired the nominating committee meeting comprised of seven pastors and 13 laypersons who did the session's business and chose eleven pastors and six lay persons for the executive committee.

With the cooperation of each worker, President J.A. Edgecombe and his wife pledged themselves to do even greater exploits in the upcoming years.

A multimedia presentation by R.R. Brown supported by George Powell and Gary Ivey whose expertise, diligence, and untiring dedication to a quality production, helped the constituency visualize the growth and progress of Southeastern Conference during the triennium.

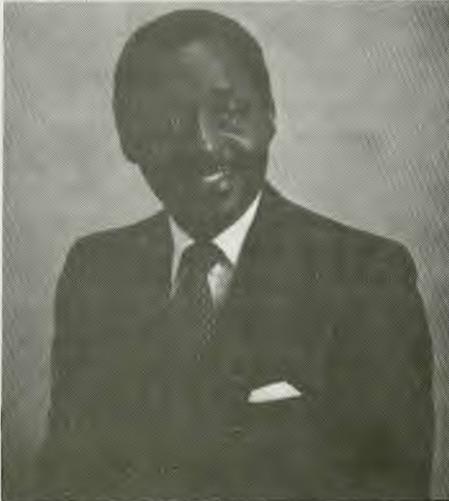
"Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for children." Excelsior meaning higher served as the theme and watchword for the Southeastern Conference Triennial Session!

HEALTH DAY IN JACKSONVILLE

Health Day was sponsored by the medical group of the Ephesus SDA Church, Jacksonville, Florida on Saturday, April 13, 1985.

Pastor Roy R. Brown, Director of Communications for the Southeastern Conference delivered a soul-stirring message on "Health, Holiness and Happiness" at the 11:00 service.

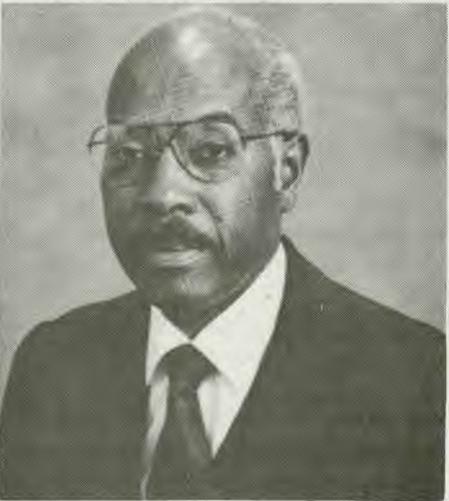
Wellington H. Bowlin, M.D. conducted a workshop entitled "Facts and not Fiction" at 4:30 p.m. assisted by Neil Brathwaite, M.D. Free medical tests were given following the workshop.



J.A. Edgecombe, re-elected President of Southeastern Conference.



R.R. Brown, newly-elected Executive Secretary of Southeastern Conference.



D.A. Walker, re-elected Treasurer of Southeastern Conference.



Pastor and Mrs. Hubert Morel—newlyweds of Southeastern Conference.

WEDDING BELLS IN SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE!

Raquel Maxine Howell of New Haven Connecticut and Hubert Joseph Morel, Jr. were united in marriage March 24, 1985 at the Atholton SDA Church, Columbia, Maryland.

Raquel is the daughter of Mrs. Girleva Howell of Albemarle, North Carolina. Pastor Hubert and Raquel Morel, Jr. reside in Lauderhill, Florida where he pastors the Salem SDA Church in Pompano Beach. Raquel, a R.N. will serve the community in her field.

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE ON THE MOVE

As the work of God progresses, Southeastern Conference continues to grow just as rapidly. We see growth all over the conference in many areas.

At the last Executive Committee meeting held June 10, 1985, changes were voted upon to strengthen and enhance the work. They were as follows:

Barry Bonner, Associate Pastor in the Ft. Pierce/West Palm Beach district will be going to Andrews University to attend the Seminary. Coming to us is **David Peay**, a graduate from Oakwood College, originally from North Carolina, will take over responsibilities as the Associate Pastor in the Ft. Pierce/West Palm Beach district.

Gregory Mack, Pastor in the Firtgerald/-Hazelhurst district will be attending the Seminary at Andrews University. Replacing him in that district will be **Hubert Morel**, former associate pastor in the Ft. Lauderdale district. **Larry Harris**, graduate of Oakwood College, originally from North Carolina will take over as assistant to Pastor W.C. Byrd of the district.

Coming from the Seminary to assume responsibilities in the newly formed Apopka/North Orlando district will be **Pastor**

Lewis Edwards. Apopka was formerly joined to another district comprised of Winter Park and Sanford where Malcolm Taylor served as the district pastor. **Dennis George**, associate in this original district, moves on to become pastor of the Ft. Myers/Sarasota district.

Russell Bates, pastor of the Lake City/-Live Oak/Gainesville/Palatka will be splitting his pastoral responsibilities with **Wesley Bruce**, former pastor of the Cocoa/-Palm Bay district. He will take over the Gainesville/Palatka area now as pastor. Meanwhile, **Cleveland Holness**, former conference president of the West Jamaica Conference, comes to us to assume responsibilities in the Cocoa/Palm Bay district.

David King, graduate of Oakwood College, originally from Delray Beach, comes to assist **Jonathan McCottry** in the Avon Park/Lakeland district.



R.R. Brown, Director of Communications of Southeastern Conference, delivers the message.

JACKSONVILLE CELEBRATES 15th ANNIVERSARY

Ephesus SDA Church, Jacksonville, Florida celebrated their 15th Anniversary during the week of April 20-27, 1985.

Guests participating for this occasion were: Pastors Theus Young, Tampa; R.C. Parham, Daytona Beach; R.W. Bates, Gainesville; and George Murray, from Ocala, Florida.

Part of the week-long activities featured tribute to the women and men. Sabbath, April 20 was highlighted by Mrs. Dorothy Niles. Sabbath, April 27, Herman Davis, host pastor, served as speaker for the men.

Music for this celebration was provided by Jaye Chalemeers and combined choirs from the local area.

LO HE COMES . . . YOUTH ARE YOU READY?

"Lo He Comes . . . Youth are you ready?" served as the theme for the M.C. Strachan Youth Federation held in Lakeland, Florida, May 10 & 11, 1985. 42 churches from north and central Florida and Southeastern Georgia attended this annual event.

The weekend theme, both a question and a challenge was the battle cry of Pathfinders and youth of all ages who participated in the Friday evening's "Outreach" activities. Elder Keith A. Dennis, Southeastern Conference Youth Director, Dr. Betty J. Stewart, Federation President, along with the M.C. Strachan Federation Executive Committee planned the weekend activities not only to stress the lateness of time, but also the celebration of youth living for Jesus.

Highlights of the weekend's events included a candlelight Pathfinder Investiture service on Friday night. Sabbath's activities were enjoyed as the Lakeland district churches under the direction of Mrs. Jackie Titer presented the Sabbath School. The lesson was given by Ron Williams, member of the Patmos Chapel SDA Church in Winter Park, Florida. Mayor Protemp, Ron Dodson, and Pastor Jonathan McCottry brought the welcome and greetings for the Divine Worship service. Elder Richard Barron, Associate Director of Adventist Youth Volunteer Service Corps, spoke to the more than 2,000 persons attending the morning service. Emphasis was placed on the book of Daniel and how it relates to Christian living in the last days.

Sabbath afternoon was filled with programs such as: Nursing Home visitation, door-to-door witnessing, and a presentation by Elder Gary Wimbish, Director of Recruitment at Oakwood College. Music was enjoyed as a number of choirs participated in a Choir Festival. Elim SDA Church, St. Petersburg, Florida took first place. Ms. Diane Moore of Tampa-Mt. Calvary SDA Church coordinated the oratorical contest where Mark Jones also of Mt. Calvary in Tampa, won first place in the Junior division and Vicky Hewitt of Patmos Chapel in Winter Park won first place in the Senior division.

As the weekend's activities came to a close, vesper services were conducted by Pastor Brent Waldon, accompanied by his wife Jackie who glorified the Lord in song.

Katherine High School gym, Lakeland became the location where recreational activities finalized the M.C. Strachan Youth Federation!

CLASSIFIED AD

Director of finance needed for alcohol/chemical dependency treatment facility. Bachelor's degree in business and minimum of five years experience required. MBA or CAPA desirable. Send resume to New Day Center, Inc., 2620 South Cleveland Avenue, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085.

CLASSIFIED AD

LOMA LINDA FOODS, INC.

As part of a planned expansion, Loma Linda Foods, Inc. will acquire Millstone Foods, Inc., a ten-year-old Seventh-day Adventist family business based in northern California. According to Glen Blix, vice president of manufacturing and research and development, the buy-out now in progress will be complete in September.

Millstone Foods is known for its excellent quality, handpacked batches and strict adherence to natural foods standards. It will be managed as a separate division of Loma Linda Foods, Inc., the only denominationally-owned food manufacturer in the United States.

Kenneth Innocent, Millstone's current owner, will work closely with Loma Linda Foods, Inc. to assure that the integrity and quality of the original recipes are maintained when the manufacture of the products is transferred to the Riverside Plant.

"It is our intent to utilize Millstone's 27 products as a foundation for a complete line of wholesome and simple natural foods," says Blix at the Riverside, California plant.

The acquisition of Millstone Foods and the ongoing consolidation of the company's Mt. Vernon, Ohio Plant with the Riverside, California facility have fueled the beginning of a growth spurt expected for the company.

Blix claims that research and development has 10 new products presently being readied for introduction to the market with substantive plans for additional product lines in the near future.

MEDICAL STATION ORGANIZED AT BETHESDA

A Medical First Aid Station was recently organized at Bethesda SDA Temple, Omaha, Nebraska. The members were very cooperative in providing medical supplies and other items necessary to make this center a success.

A medical team was established with two professionals serving each Sabbath. Doris Mae Bennett, Medical Health Secretary, is very thankful for the help that was received in making this center a success.

Doris Bennett
Medical Secretary

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special video on Pine Forge Academy. It began with the early history and the contributions of the founding fathers and continued with the projection for future growth and construction and a look into the industry operations on campus and at the financial picture of the school.

W.A. Thompson, former President of the Allegheny East Conference and Executive Secretary of the Columbia Union was introduced to the constituents as the only living member of the original negotiating committee headed by Elder J.H. Wagner, Sr. when Pine Forge Academy was founded. Thompson is currently the pastor of the Bladensburg, Maryland Church.



Attorney Jacqueline Drakeford, president of the Pine Forge Academy Parents' Association makes a point during discussion of the Pine Forge Academy Endowment Fund.

CLASSIFIED AD

A DREAM COME TRUE Two New Exciting Products Ready for Market

Introducing two new exciting products that are available to you, that's a dream come true. First of all, try those delicious, mouth watering "Q-Balls" that are created and designed to satisfy any appetite. They are a tasty, vegetarian meatball in a sweet and sour sauce. If you like sweet and sour, you're going to love these! By special order, they can also be tailored for your individual dietary needs for health reasons, such as low or no salt added, and low cholesterol.

Second, if you are vegetarian or wish to become vegetarian, then the "Delightful Change Cookbook" is a *must* for your home. It is a composition of various recipes, ideas and suggestions that create a delightful change in your meals and planning. The recipes are vegetarian, but certainly worthy for any discriminating taste.

Both products are available by order through Dennis and J.B. Quisenberry, Jr., 615 Rosehill Road, #92, Berrien Springs, Michigan 49103; (616)471-4843 or contact your local ABC Coordinator. Individual and quantity orders are available, along with fundraising endeavors upon request.

THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL VOICE

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54th General Conference Session