

NORTH AMERICAN
REGIONAL

VOICE



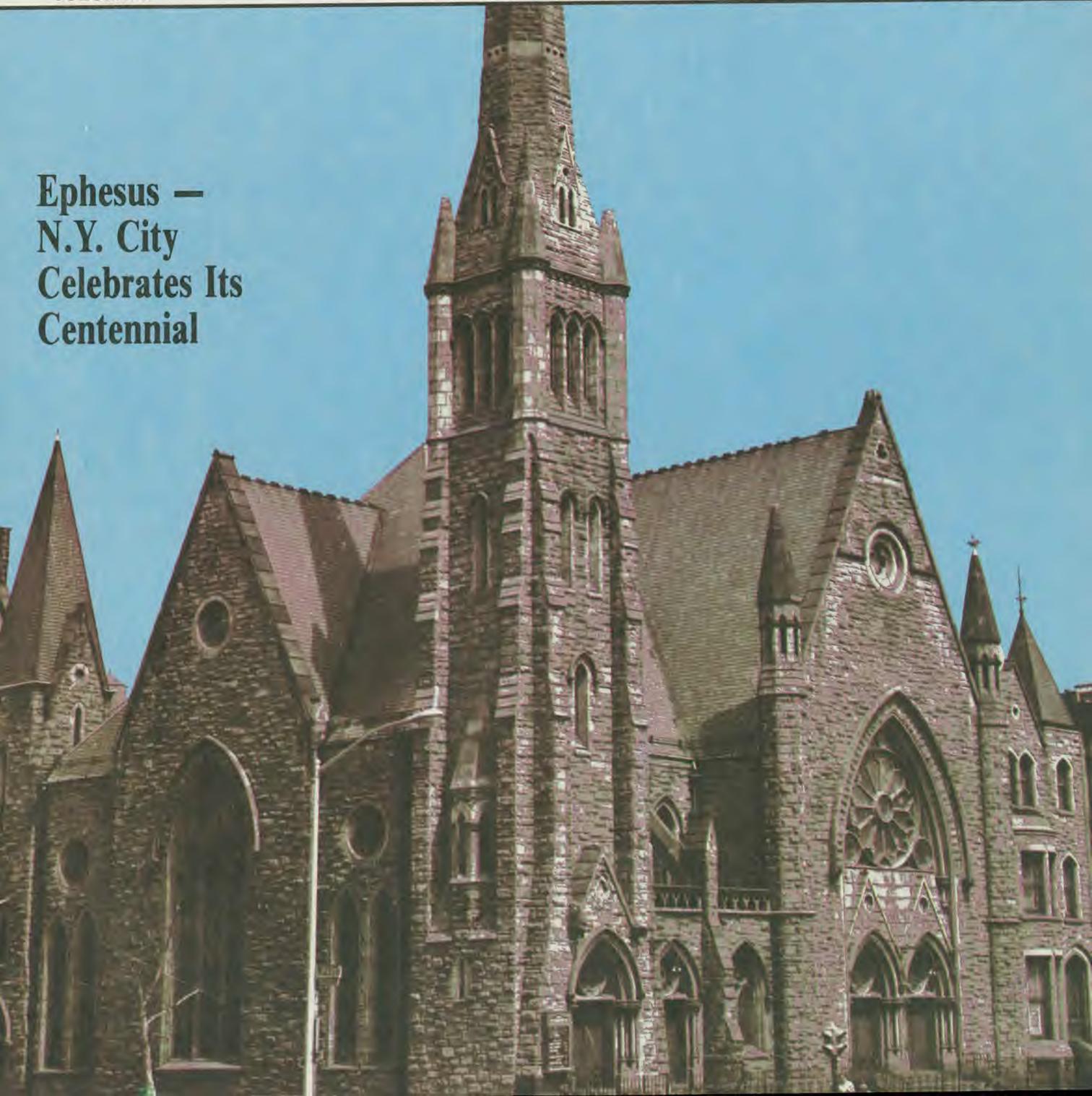
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCES OF
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

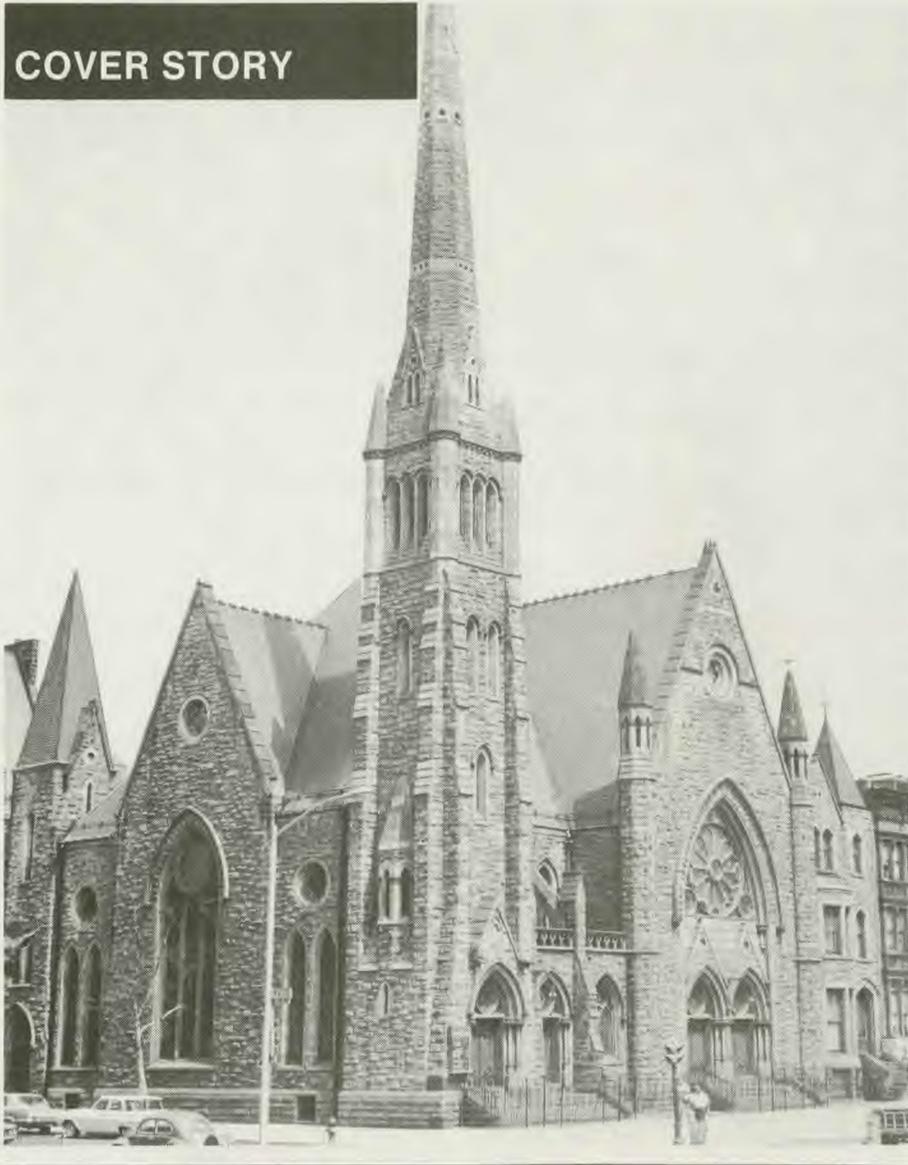
VOLUME 8

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NUMBER 8

**Ephesus —
N.Y. City
Celebrates Its
Centennial**





It was on June 18, 1930 that approximately 300 adventist members of the former Harlem #2 Church, pastored by Elder Matthew C. Strachan, moved into the building with Pastor George E. Peters who is credited with naming their new church home Ephesus.

The church has had a long and glorious history and the pastors who served are known as some of Black Adventism's greatest leaders. It was from this early beginning that Ephesus grew to bless the Harlem community. For many years, it has maintained the honor of being our largest Black church in North America, boasting a membership of 2,000 plus. Numbered among Ephesus' sons and daughters are outstanding preachers (local, union, and general conference leaders), educators (church school teachers, college professors, college presidents), attorneys, doctors, nurses, business leaders, contractors, musicians, community leaders and good citizens. Pastors who have led the flock include: Elder G.E. Peters, Elder F.L. Peterson, Elder T.M. Rowe, Elder A.E. Webb, Elder W.S. Lee, Elder R.T. Hudson, Elder Robert Carter, Elder S.A. Hutchins, Dr. C.B. Rock, Elder E.J. Humphrey, Elder John Nixon, Elder Leon Cox and our present pastor, Elder Clement Murray.

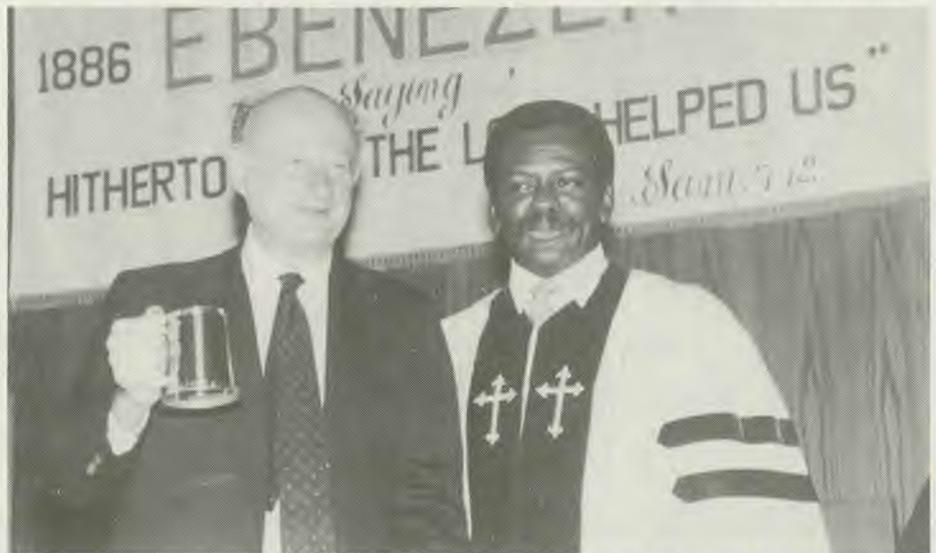
Each evening, services of celebration were conducted which included the outstanding choirs of the church: Voices of Praise, The Collegiate Choir, The New Believers Choir, The Youth Choir, The Larks, and the Larkettes. Mrs. Evelyn Chandler Gibson was the music coordinator, assisted by Sylvia Williams,

**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF
NEW YORK'S EPHEBUS CHURCH**

September 18-October 4, 1986

By Edna Lett Williamson

The New York City Landmark Commission and other city officials and community leaders joined the officers, members, and friends of Ephesus Church in a joyous centennial celebration, September 28th through October 4th. For 100 years, the majestic edifice on Lenox Avenue at 123 Street has stood as a beacon of hope and salvation to the citizenry of Harlem. The illustrious history of the building started when the Dutch Reformed Church laid the cornerstone on June 24, 1886; dedicated the church September 30, 1886; and opened the doors for regular church service on October 3, 1886.



Honorable Edward Koch, Mayor of New York City, greets the Ephesus Congregation, as Pastor Murray looks on.



Model of the original Ephesus Church owned by Reformed Congregation, builders of the majestic edifice.

Ruth Nixon, Rosa Lee Jones, Eugene Washington, and Roland Roberts.

Brilliant soloists who added to the majesty of the occasion included Lynda Elliott, Joyce Bryant, Houston Owen and Wintley Phipps.

The United Negro College Fund Choir under the direction of Mr. Houston Owen and the Boys Choir of Harlem directed by Dr. Walter Turnbull also performed.

On Thursday night, October 2, special honor was given the church for its leadership and humanitarian role in the community. The Honorable Edward Koch, Mayor of the City of New York, Honorable Andrew Stein, President of New York City Council, and the Honorable David Dinkins, Manhattan Borough President, and Hilton B. Clarke, City Councilman, were present and brought greetings to the congregation. Mr. J. Norman, Chair-

man, represented the New York City Landmark Commission. President of the City Council, Stein, issued an official proclamation declaring September 28th through October 4th "Ephesus Week".

The religious leaders of Harlem were well represented. Those present included: Rev. Father Herbert Groce—St. Andrews Episcopal Church; Rev. James L. Manning—Bethel Community Baptist Church; Rev. Raphael Johnson—Elmendorf Reformed Church; Rev. Wardell Stamps—Metropolitan Church; Rev. LeRoy Perry—Church-on-the-Hill, AME Zion; Mr. Louis J. Walker, Lay Reader—St. Martin's Episcopal Church; Rev. Dr. John L. Scott—St. John Baptist Church. All of the guests and dignitaries were presented gifts from Elder Murray and the congregation.

Speakers featured during the week of celebration were: Dr. Edgar T. Mimms, Dr. Leon G. Cox, Pastor Wintley Phipps, Pastor Edwin Humphreys, Elder Leonard G. Newton, President of the Northeastern Conference and Pastor John Nixon.

Dr. Earl E. Cleveland climaxed the week's messages with a spirit-filled, soul-searching sermon on Sabbath morning. Twenty-five to thirty individuals took their stand to join the Ephesians in serving God and becoming members of the Ephesus family.

The souvenir journal of over 135 pages and 138 photos highlighted the history of Ephesus, the church organization, the charter members, former associate pastors, and Bible instructors. The journal also contained profiles of each pastor as reflected by members of the congregation:

“AND HE CALLED THE NAME OF IT
1886 EBENEZER 1986
Saying
HITHERTO HATH THE LORD HELPED US”
1 Sam. 7:12

Motto of the Week.

J.K. Humphrey—Ucilla LaCondre
 Matthew Strachan—Edith Keith
 G.E. Peters—Harry Blackman
 F.L. Peterson—Edna Lett Williamson
 T.M. Rowe—Eleanor Nelson
 A.E. Webb—Leon T. Jones
 W.S. Lee—Dorothy and David Hearon
 R.T. Hudson—Jessie Serrano and Alpha Parker
 R.H. Carter—Sallye Gaiter and Jean & Mavis Richards
 S.A. Hutchins—Gwendolyn Nicolas
 C.B. Rock—Dennis and Zena Pitters
 E.J. Humphrey—Robin Price, Steward & Laverne Price
 John Nixon—Alice Lewis
 L.G. Cox—Juanita Kitching
 Clement Murray (present Pastor)—
 Yvonne Hodge Bradley & Denise Robinson

Credits for assisting in making the celebration a memorable one, also go to: Joseph Merriweather, General Chairperson; Edna Lett Williamson, Journal Chairperson; Sallye Gaiter, Hostess; Catherine Sumner, Color Coordinator; Denzil Bridges, Graphic Arts and Banner; George Saunders, Photography; Edward Phipps, Platform Chairperson; Historical Data—Harry Blackman, Jeannette Lewis, Edith Keith, and Edward Phipps; William Byrd, Ushers; Evetta Agard and the Agape Committee, Refreshments.

Acknowledgement of God's leadership of Ephesus and His direction of activities in this historic building were aptly expressed by the motto of the week: "And he called the name of it EBENEZER, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." I Sam. 7:12.

Present Pastor, Clement A. Murray
 Associate Pastor, Charles McDonald
 Bible Instructor, Joannetta Goddard



Pastor Clement Murray, greets the Honorable David Dinkins, Manhattan Borough president.



Honorable Andrew Stein, president of New York City Council presenting a proclamation to Ephesus Pastor Clement Murray.



Harlem Boys' choir directed by Dr. Walter Turnbull.



E.E. Cleveland.

PIED PIPER!

by E.E. Cleveland

The Black Colleges in America that do not receive public funding are an endangered species. Deep cuts in government subsidies to needy students is a major factor in this situation. Unless there is a decided change in the mood of the present administration, there are deeper cuts to come. This will drastically reduce the campus enrollment of Black Colleges.

Among Seventh-day Adventist Colleges, the White student campus population is in a state of drastic decline. This fact has raised the value of the Black student in the eyes of the administrators of these predominantly White schools. Offers of financial assistance are being made to Black students that the Black school cannot match. Thus, the economic factor becomes a Pied Piper to lure the Black student to the White campus. Southern College, once a bastion of exclusivism, now has 250 Black students enrolled in its programs.

But there are certain questions that should be answered before one makes the switch from the Black campus.

1. What is the record of the White school in *graduating Blacks*?

2. What is the Black faculty ratio at the White school?

3. What is the racial climate as it relates to social acceptance at the White College?

4. Is there an "Inner College" program to provide remedial services for the disadvantaged?

5. What is the spiritual climate there?

The answers to these questions just might turn the Black student back toward his own campus even though the sacrifice might be greater.

But the Black school is threatened today by attitudes far more serious than White recruitment.

1. The attitude that "Come what may—the Black school will be there." It will be there only if we support it with our students and our finances.

2. The attitude that "in this age of integration, who needs the Black School?" The answer is—the Black student needs it. The fact is Black schools are still graduating over 85% of Black college graduates. Young man, young woman, your chances of graduating are better at the Black College.

3. The attitude that something is inherently inferior in a Black College Education. It is hard to erase 300 years of negative brain-washing—our legacy from the slave experience. But we must try! Does it mean anything to you that Oakwood College graduates stand eighth in the Nation in acceptance in medical schools, and one-fourth of them graduate with high honors?

4. The attitude that, "The General Conference will never let Oakwood College close." Now, it must be said that the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists has been most generous in its support of Oakwood College through the years. And as long as the school is serving its purpose—we have little to fear. But we should not have short memories. Remember Riverside Hospital? The General Conference sold that facility and today it is a Mental Health facility operated by someone else. Today, the Regional Conference subsidy to Oakwood College exceeds that of the General Conference, but the school needs both to survive.

And, what of the Pied Piper's efforts to recruit our students? It is rooted in economics. I wish the motivation were loftier. But history clearly indicates that this is not the case. Which raises the following questions:

What preparatory orientation has preceded this Black influx?

What are the chances of the Black student surviving the Academic and social pressures without psychological damage?

The above reservations notwithstanding let us move to preserve our schools. Mainly because we should *control*

something, *own* something, and *support* something peculiarly our own! We must become, at long last, a generation of producers! We must cease eating crumbs from the rich man's table and operate our own bakery! Needed *now* are organized nationwide meetings of Oakwood College supporters—to plan for the preservation of Oakwood. The wealthy among us must endow the school financially. Graduates must spread the Oakwood story. Thus, with positive concerted effort—we will get our share of the Black Educational market—and let the Pied Piper get his!

STATUE OF LIBERTY?

by Deborah Wilson

During July 3-6, 1986 the United States held one of the most lavish celebrations ever experienced in this country. Years of planning, and millions of dollars, went into the enormous project of refurbishing the 100 year old Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Individuals and corporations spent hundreds to secure the best possible view of the statue. Diplomats from all over the world were invited and came to take part in the celebration of America's symbol of freedom.

The symbolic representation of the Statue of Liberty is indeed noble. "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. Send . . . the homeless, tempest tossed to me." What beautiful words. Such an honorable, liberal ideology for a nation to declare. But is it a mere proclamation? Are all Americans really free?

It's been said that most Americans can trace their ancestry back to the very village in which their families began. James Baldwin, in the book, *Stranger in the Village* states, "Any American Negro wishing to go back so far will find his journey through time abruptly arrested by the signature on the bill of sale which served as the entrance paper for his ancestor." The Black American did not have the privilege of coming into this country via Ellis Island. In fact, there was no decision to come and make a better life for themselves in the 'promised land.' Therefore, any celebration of liberty in this country does not include them.

The institution of slavery has been abolished, on a national level; America is trying to pass off a half-hearted form of equality. "Americans attempt . . . to make an abstraction of the Negro," according to Baldwin in his book, "but the very nature

The Editor's Desk



On September 14, 1986, Elder Willie S. Lee, Sr., of Lincoln, Nebraska, and Mrs. Hilda Cox, of Huntsville, Alabama, exchanged wedding vows. They have been workers in the cause of God for a number of years. The couple will reside in Lincoln, Nebraska.

of these abstractions reveals the tremendous effects the presence of the Negro has had on the American character."

It seems strangely out of character for a country which proclaims liberty for all, to support a government which actively denies the fundamental human rights of the majority of its citizens. But so is the case of the United States' involvement with South Africa. Is liberty only for a selected few? If so, does not the majority of Black America qualify as tired, poor, and yearning to breathe free?

Because of the sin-clouded perception of the human race, they are unable to perceive what liberty really is. Freedom for them, is always at the expense of another's captivity. Perhaps the only liberty ever to be experienced by many will be the liberty found in serving God. But isn't that the best kind?

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."—Galatians 3:28

ALLEGHENY EAST

SOUTHWEST HOSTS FIRST HEALTH FAIR

On a recent Sabbath afternoon, the front yard of the Southwest Philadelphia SDA Church, Philadelphia, PA, was transformed into a fairground, as the Community Services Department hosted its first Health Fair.

Representatives from the American Heart and Lung Association and the Volunteers in Aid of Sickle Cell Anemia were on hand to take blood pressure readings and test for the presence of the disease. The Coordinating Office for Drug and Alcohol Abuse provided pamphlets dealing with the various aspects of substance abuse including: identification, prevention and treatment. The American Cancer Society shared facts on the various cancers and some common sense preventive methods.

Visitors to the fair were shown the effects of smoking on lungs as demonstrated by Humpty Dumpty and Scientific Smokers. Other visuals showed graphic evidence of the damage done to body organs as a result of cigarette smoking.

Dr. Duarte of the Adventist Health Network provided films dealing with

SUNSET CALENDAR

	Oct. 31	Nov. 7	14	21
Boston, Mass.	4:39	4:32	4:23	4:18
New York City	4:50	4:42	4:35	4:29
Buffalo, N.Y.	5:09	5:00	4:53	4:47
Atlanta, Ga.	5:47	5:41	5:36	5:32
Miami, Fla.	5:40	5:36	5:32	5:30
Charlotte, N.C.	5:30	5:24	5:19	5:15
Birmingham, Ala.	4:56	4:50	4:45	4:41
Jackson, Miss.	5:12	5:06	5:01	4:58
Memphis, Tenn.	5:07	5:01	4:55	4:51
Louisville, Ky.	5:45	5:38	5:32	5:27
Detroit, Mich.	5:29	5:20	5:13	5:07
Chicago, Ill.	4:47	4:38	4:31	4:26
South Bend, Indiana	5:41	5:33	5:26	5:21
Minneapolis, Minn.	5:03	4:54	4:46	4:39
St. Louis, Mo.	5:02	4:55	4:49	4:44
Kansas City, Mo.	5:19	5:11	5:05	5:00
Denver, Co.	5:00	4:52	4:45	4:40
Little Rock, Ark.	5:25	5:17	5:10	5:04
Dallas, Texas	5:38	5:32	5:27	5:23
New Orleans, La.	5:14	5:09	5:05	5:02
Albuquerque, N.M.	5:14	5:07	5:02	4:58
Oklahoma City, Okla.	5:37	5:30	5:25	5:21

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

stress and stress control as well as other health problems.

In addition each visitor completed a "How Healthy Are You" Survey in order to assess his/her particular health needs.

Follow-up health seminars are now being planned.

Janice Jenkins
Community Service Director

ALLEGHENY EAST CONFERENCE WORKERS HOLD HEALTH RETREAT

After the campmeeting season and before the grueling, extensive evangelism period, the workers and spouses of Allegheny East Conference held a Health Conditioning Retreat at Pine Forge.

Gwendolyn Foster, Health Director for the conference, coordinated the retreat. She was assisted by Dr. Geneva Jackson of Loma Linda University, Audrey Booker and Donna Davis, both of whom have masters degrees from the School of Health, Loma Linda University.

Special presentations were made by Richard Neal, M.D. of the Loma Linda School of Medicine, who did a three-day Stress Management Seminar and Dr. Donald Blake, Assistant Education Director for the Hartford Company, who presented a four-day Conflict Management Seminar.

Each participant was given a complete blood work up, had his blood pressure taken several times during the week and had his weight recorded.

Exercise and diet control were the orders of the day as each participant was encouraged to make a complete change in lifestyle. This meant walking two and one-half miles each morning and evening and eating only natural foods or foods prepared utilizing methods that were shown during the Food Preparation Classes. All participants made their own personal loaves of whole wheat bread during the bread bake.

At the end of the week, there were many pounds lost and many attitudes changed, as most of the participants discovered the secret of turning back the clock on aging.

Another health retreat is planned for 1987.

40TH YEAR REUNION FOR PINE FORGE ALUMNI

Labor Day weekend is the traditional date for the annual Pine Forge Academy Reunion. This year marked the 40th Anniversary and was celebrated with



Health Retreat Staff, left to right: Donald Blake, Audrey Booker, Gwendolyn Foster, Joyce Lim, Geneva Jackson, Richard Neal and M.C. Van Putten.



Workers learn the art of making "a good loaf of bread." Pastor Rudy Lord and his wife are seen in the foreground. Beverly Crabbe is seen in the deep center.

special festivities for the Founders and Pioneer Chapter of the Alumni Association. These were designated as those who were students and faculty members of Pine Forge Institute in 1946. There were 86 in attendance from many areas including those coming from California, Florida, Canada, Chicago, and New York.

The Sabbath program included an "Honor to Parents" segment. During this service conducted at the Pine Forge Academy Chapel, the Pioneers presented their parents with corsages and dedicatory letters. The letters were laminated for keepsakes.

Two hundred were in attendance for the annual Saturday evening banquet including alumni from other classes.

Present also was Edmund Skarbek, mayor of Pottstown. Plaques were presented to Samuel Turner, National Alumni President; Paul Jones, teacher at Pine Forge Academy and Doris De Guzman, who became an honorary Pioneer.

Although reunion is the primary purpose of the Alumni weekend, support of the school in a financial way is the goal of the Pioneers. The Pioneer Chapter donated \$2,500 toward the purchase of a new bus. They will also donate a complete kitchen for the gymnasium as their 1986 contribution. Last year they donated the P.A. system for the girls' dormitory.

Gloria Parks Seenarine

AYS PROGRAM EXAMINES SPIRITUAL MALADIES

West Philadelphia's Adventist Youth Society set up shop August 2, at the West Philadelphia SDA Church in Philadelphia, to examine a series of patients complaining of various ailments. The first patient was suffering from dizziness and headaches caused by poor nutrition. His diet was based solely on bread. The doctor admonished him, "Man shall not live by bread alone."—Matthew 4:4

The second patient was very hard of hearing and complained of ear pain. Upon examination, the doctor found her ears full of worldly rubbish, stories, scandals, and the latest rumors. Hearing the word of the Lord would solve that.

Another patient came in who was touchy and irritable. Everyone and everything was annoying to him. The pharmacist poured out a large dose of the 'Law', explaining that if he learned to love it, he would have great peace, and nothing would offend him.—Psalms 119:165

The next patient was led in blind, but appeared to have normal eyes. The problem was quickly ascertained to be caused by a log of fault-finding in them. He was advised to cast it out, then given a prescription for eyesalve and told to use it every day.

A lame man followed, saying that jogging was hurting his feet. Questioning of his lifestyle showed that he was abusing them by always running to

mischief. Instructions to give them a rest and resume exercise by 'bringing good tidings', if followed, would speed relief.

Later came others; one with a sore throat caused by overwork. A tongue depressor could only give temporary relief. Keeping his mouth and tongue controlled would save many troubles.

The last patient for the day was so sick that a pulse could barely be found. Unfortunately, a heart transplant had to be recommended. He was advised to 'make you a new heart and a new spirit'.—Ezekiel 18:31

The Gideon's Army band presented the drama.

Mark Frog Harris
Communication Secretary

CENTRAL STATES



Participants at the special graduation ceremony.

20 CHILDREN ATTEND STORY HOUR

Mrs. Fay Allen of Sharon Church, Omaha, NE and Mrs. Ruth Williams of Bethesda Church, also located in Omaha, conducted a Story Hour during the summer, June 25-July 30. More than 20 children participated in Christ-centered stories, games and songs. The children received awards for attendance and special effort. The Story Hour was held at the Hilltop Housing Multi-Purpose Center, as part of a branch Sabbath School program sponsored by the Sharon Church.



Children during one of their crafts sessions at the Palace of Peace Vacation Bible School.

45 CHILDREN ATTEND VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

During the summer, August 4-9, approximately 45 children attended Vacation Bible School sponsored by the Palace of Peace SDA Church, Colorado Springs, CO. The children seemed to have enjoyed the crafts, Bible stories and songs. At the closing of VBS, a graduation program was held on Sabbath, August 9, for all the children and the VBS counselors.

5 BAPTIZED AT SHARON CHURCH

At a recent baptism held at the Sharon Church, Omaha, NE, five persons were baptized. For three of the baptized members: Carol Grimes, Effie McDougale and Cathy Williams, this was their first stand for Christ. Elder E. Slocumb, pastor of the church, was assisted by local elder Augustus Wills.



Elder Slocumb baptizing Effie McGougale, assisted by local elder Wills.



Fay Allen is shown conducting a story hour session for the children at the center.

CENTRAL STATES MEMBERS ATTEND HEALTH CAMP

Fitness for Life Camp sponsored by Allegheny East's Health Director, Mrs. Gwendolyn Foster, held at Pine Forge Academy, Pine Forge, PA, attracted people from all over the country. Among those attending from Central States were: Elder E. Pembleton, pastor of the Park Avenue, St. Louis, MO, along with several of his parishioners: Mary Rollins Patterson, Ada Joyner, Anita Clay and Patricia Andrews.

The health camp offered: cooking, healthful diets/meals, stress management, aerobic exercises, walking and various sport activities. The health camp was especially enlightening to Elder Pembleton who is planning to conduct a health class very soon.

C. Daniel Johnson
Communication Secretary

DOLEA FULLWOOD SCHOOL OPENS FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Lights, drum roll and the conductor raises his baton. The Dolea Fullwood Elementary School, Omaha, NE, opened its doors in the early part of September, for the school year 1986-1987.

The new principal, Mrs. Theresia J. Taylor, joined by her husband, Millard,

who will be part of the teaching staff, looks forward to a prosperous year. The Taylor's were previously employed at the St. Louis Academy, St. Louis, MO. Returning to the teaching staff are: Sally Carriger, Audrey Irby and Armatha King.

Gordon Sims, Sr.
Communication Secretary

LAKE REGION



George Rainey.

THE PERFECT LOT FOR THE PERFECT PRICE

For nine long weeks Evangelist George Rainey and his evangelistic team worked in Chicago, trying to lead men and women, boys and girls, to accept Christ and His true teachings. At the end of this evangelistic crusade 151 people were baptized.

Approximately one year ago George Rainey, evangelist for the Southern California Conference in Los Angeles, was invited to come to Chicago to conduct an evangelistic crusade on the south side of town.

After months of searching for that perfect location for the tent, Fred White, coordinator for the crusade and ministerial director for Lake Region, along with Tyrone Boyd, former Lake Region pastor, and J. David Parker, personal ministries director for Lake Region, came to the conclusion that they would have to settle for a less than perfect spot. A vacant lot that would require many hours of grass cutting and raking of trash in order to make it appropriate for the kind of meeting they had dreamed of conducting.

Though plans were placed into motion to get this less than perfect lot into the best shape possible, the minds of the coordinator and his assistants would never give up the hope of being able to acquire that perfect spot. They had seen this ideal spot on several occasions and had hoped and prayed for a period of time that God would ultimately make it possible for them to rent it for nine long weeks.

Why did these men think that this particular lot was just the perfect spot? Why did they feel that this location should be where George Rainey would conduct his summer evangelistic crusade? Why did they feel that this particular lot would be where God would direct people to come and hear the truths being taught about Him?

This lot was owned by the U-Haul Truck Rental Company, completely paved and completely fenced in. The hundreds of people coming to the meetings from night to night would be able to park their cars on the paved lot across the street from the tent and the parking lot would be patrolled to discourage theft. This lot was located on the corner of two heavily traveled streets, thus allowing the meetings to receive free publicity.

Just when it seemed almost impossible that arrangements for this lot would come

through in time, God stepped in and directed Allen Streater, alderman for the seventeenth ward, where the tent would be located, to make all the necessary contacts with the owners of the property and with the city officials. As a result of Alderman Streater's intervention, the lot was acquired for absolutely no charges at all. The perfect lot, for the perfect price.

There were many experiences, both private and public, which led men and women to believe that Elder Rainey and his family had come to Chicago at just the right time. Rainey's wife, Martha, worked along with him as a Bible worker. His daughter, Jeanetta, served as one of the crusade's vocalists.

The Your Bible Speaks Crusade team was comprised of Lake Region Bible workers, Shirley Daniels, Judy Crawford, and Evelyn Robinson. Lay Bible workers were Alma Davis, Dorothy Kanion, Juanita Abernathy, Gloria Scott, Thelma Dyson, Zilda Forde, and Virginia Starks.

Pastors and church members in the Chicagoland area were the backbone of the evangelistic meetings. The pastors who assisted Elder Rainey were Robert Jones, pastor of the Hyde Park Church, Robert Tolson, pastor of the Morgan Park and Beacon of Joy churches, James Humphreys, pastor of the All Nations Fellowship in Hinsdale; Samuel Thomas, pastor of Reid Memorial church in East St. Louis, Claude Shaw, pastor of the Robbins and East Chicago churches and Tyrone Boyd, formerly pastor of the Beacon of Joy church. He recently accepted a call to the Southeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Another very important team member was Carlos Blake. He recently completed his requirements at the Andrews Seminary. He was among other seminarians who worked in the tent meeting to fulfill the requirement for Field School participation. However, Carlos was the only one who remained with the crusade for the entire nine weeks.

The members of the staff worked long hours. They went into the community daily to present Christ to the people in their own homes. Many times there were questions to be answered and facts to be explained. The evangelist and his wife visited in the homes also.

The Your Bible Speaks Crusade team came together five mornings each week for workers' meetings. During this time they would pray and share positive testimonies.

This evangelistic crusade was being conducted for a twofold purpose. The workers were concerned about both the spiritual and physical sides of people. Therefore, in addition to the religious meetings which were held nightly, there were also health lectures that were conducted. A Stop Smoking class was held. Members of the community seemed thrilled to accept the clothing and food which was distributed at the tent. Many were heard to say, "This community will never be the same again."

Special guests who were invited to participate in the evangelistic crusade in three separate musical concerts were soloist, Wanda Lott from Indianapolis, Leroy and Cloie Logan from Minneapolis, and Anthony Wiggins from Los Angeles.

Another special guest was Clifton Davis, assistant pastor of the Loma Linda Church in California and a famous television personality. Pastor Davis gave a musical concert and also preached the evening's sermon. Members from the community sat spellbound as they listened to him tell his experience of how God brought him to the realization that he was imprisoned without Him.

The music at the big Bible tent played an important role in the success of the meetings. The coordinator for all of the music for each meeting for nine weeks was Jacqui Christopher, choir director at the Hyde Park church in Chicago. She was assisted by Anita Green who played the piano and Norman Rucker who played the organ.

The Mass Choir, composed of musicians from the Chicago area churches was directed by Helen Essex who served as the director of the Straford Memorial choir, also from Chicago. This Mass Choir performed each Sabbath for the divine worship service and also for the Saturday and Sunday night meetings.

When the tent was taken down at the end of nine weeks, Elder Rainey remained in Chicago for two additional weeks to help the new members make a smooth transition from meeting in the tent to meeting in their new church home. Rainey was quite concerned about the "new babes" in the faith who make up the 151 newly baptized members.

The new members are now rejoicing in their new church home with their new church family. They are encouraged to be active and to get involved in their church work. Above all, they are constantly

reminded that they must share what they have learned with others.

Fred White has been asked to serve as the pastor of this newly organized church. Carlos Blake will stay on for a time to assist him.

Vivian Joseph in collaboration with
Carlos Blake

NORTHEASTERN



Mr. and Mrs. Otis Searcy, Sr. at 70th wedding anniversary celebration.

SEARCY'S CELEBRATE 70 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. . . ."—Matthew 19:6.

Seventy years ago, on April 29, 1916, these words were spoken at the marriage ceremony of Otis R. Searcy, Sr., and Aleathia A. (Upton) Searcy, by J.H. Hubbard, then pastor of the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church in Jacksonville, Florida.

Of this union, the Searcy's were blessed with three children. Marceline Aleathia, now Mrs. C. Irving Shillford, is a special education teacher in the Yonkers, NY school district; Otis, Jr., married to Elza (Thompson) Searcy, is an import specialist with the United States Customs Department; and Claire Marie, now Mrs. Courtney B. Wood is an English teacher in New York City.

The Searcy's, along with 100 invited guests, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary at the Eastwood Manor in the Bronx, NY, May 25, 1986. Music for the evening was provided by Mr. Willie Bethea, Ms. Jennie Pyatt, and Ms. Natalie Stewart. A synopsis of their life was read by Mr. Joseph Merriweather of the Ephesus SDA Church, New York City. To the delight of the Searcy's and guests,

Erica, 5-year-old great-granddaughter, performed the song, "Jesus Loves Me".

Otis R. Searcy, Sr., the oldest of five children of Adeline and (stepfather) Levi Searcy, was educated in Butler, Georgia. While attending an Episcopal church school picnic, in Jacksonville, Florida, he met Aleathia Upton. After a two-year courtship, they were married.

In 1919, Mrs. Searcy was baptized into the Adventist church by Elder John A. Green, Sr., in the St. John's River in Jacksonville, FL. Mr. Searcy, a firm believer that a person should always strive to improve himself, attended City College, following a liberal arts program. It was while working as a real estate agent that something unusual happened. Mrs. Searcy had tried many times to get her husband to accompany her to church. He had been a life-long Methodist, but decided to agree to his wife's invitation. In 1955, due to the influence of a loving and faithful wife, Otis R. Searcy, Sr., was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist church by Elder W.S. Lee, then pastor of the Ephesus church in New York City. He readily assumed an active role, serving on the usher board, church board, and deacon board, later becoming head deacon for three years.

Through the years, Mrs. Searcy has been an active participant in the Community Services organization. For years she has sent literature all over the world. In response to a petition that went throughout the northwestern area for literature, Elder M.F. Nash, Lay Activities Director in the Solomon Islands personally thanked Mrs. Searcy, in a letter dated July 21, 1980, stating, "... You made it possible for those in the field to have available literature for distribution."

The Searcy's lives might best be characterized as lives wholly dedicated to God, their church, their family and their fellowmen. Mr. Searcy's motto is, "Where He leads me, I will follow."

Martha J. Dawson
Communications Secretary

A.R. HAIG DAY CARE CENTER HOLDS FIRST GRADUATION

The A.R. Haig Day Care Center at 151 South Portland Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, celebrated a historic moment on Sunday, August 3, when 14 of its pre-schoolers, beautifully dressed in caps and gowns, received certificates of Achievement during a graduation ceremony which

boasted all the pomp and ceremony of a college graduation.

The Day Care Center's first annual graduation was held in the youth auditorium of the Hanson Place Church and was witnessed by over 300 parents, friends and well-wishers.

Dr. Milton O.C. Haynes offered the invocation and Verona Nelson, director of the Day Care Center, gave the opening remarks. She thanked the parents for entrusting to her staff the care of their young children. Ms. Nelson promised to continue working toward a better center and the development of better children.

Chairperson of the program, Maureen O. Burke, promised the audience a delightful, yet sobering evening. And so it was. Delightful, for the graduates presented their items with the childlike charm which always endears 4-year-olds to the heart of others. And sobering, as all accepted a challenge presented by Pastor John S. Nixon, pastor of the Hanson Place Church and keynote speaker for the evening. In his address, Pastor Nixon reminded listeners of the young child Samuel, who was given a special task in Israel's history while he was still at an early age. Nixon pointed out that God could have used Eli, the old priest, but He chose Samuel, the boy, instead. His challenge to the graduates was, that they were not too young to be used by God.

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of certificates to the graduates and other outstanding persons for their contribution to the growth of the Center. Certificates of award were presented to the graduates by Januwoina Nixon, wife of Elder Nixon. A special award for outstanding service was presented to Albert C. Pierre, of Miami, FL, and founder of the Day Care Center. This award was presented by Vera S. Grant. In his reply, Pierre recalled the day in 1979, when the Center was started because a mother needed somewhere to leave her child while she worked and someone else needed a job. And so, from one room, with one child and one teacher, the center has grown to several rooms, a director, nine teachers and 75 children.

Other award recipients were: Verona Nelson, director; Bernice Simpson, Mirie Michel and Rosalind Parsons. Among the other participants in the evening's program were: Naomi Adolphus, president of the A.R. Haig Corporation;

Rosabelle Roberts, and Ellen Leer-Brady, pianist. Natalie McCormick, valedictorian of the class, thanked the parents on behalf of the graduates.

Eight of the 14 graduates are enrolled at the Hanson Place School for the 1986-87 school year.

Maureen O. Burke
Communication Secretary

ANNUAL LAYMEN'S CONVENTION AND TRAINING SEMINAR

by Deborah Wilson

On September 12-14, 1986, the Annual Laymen's Convention and Training Seminar was held at Victory Lake Camp in Hyde Park, New York. The weekend was planned and hosted by the Personal Ministries Department of the North-eastern Conference, Elder Norman E. Snipes, Director.

The convention's theme, "Healthful Teaching and Powerful Preaching", was very appropriate, for the weekend was filled with both. On Friday evening, Elder Henry Wilson, President of the North-eastern Conference Laymen's Federation, welcomed the delegates to the training session with a rousing keynote address. Guest lecturer, Dr. Donald C. King, pastor of the Perris Fifth Street Church, Perris, CA, then began a series of interesting lectures on health and the caring church's approach to outreach ministries.

In his lectures, Dr. King stressed the importance of a wholistic religion or 'multi-dimensional unity'. He stated, "We do not run 5-Day Stop Smoking Plans and cooking schools so we can help people over their bad habits... in order to be lost clean! The idea is to make linkages, with the spiritual component somehow touching all the other components affecting man." In other words, what affects the body, affects the mind, and that which affects the mind affects the spirit. He explained that the conversion of King Nebuchanezzar was influenced by the observation of the Hebrew boys living the whole message to the whole man. "We need to learn how to live a powerful sermon from our lives," he stated.

Dr. King also talked about the importance of forming maintenance groups within the church. He explained that the best way to keep members in the church is to put them to work; and by working together, they share experiences and gain faith and strength from each other.

They also move toward reaching their potential as Christians as they learn to love God, others and themselves.

Each day of the convention was started off with an early morning devotional service. Sabbath morning's service was conducted by representatives from the New England District and Sunday morning's service was conducted by representatives from the Western New York District.

Elder J. Milton Thomas, Church Growth Director for the Northeastern Conference, made a presentation on Friendship '87 Sabbath afternoon, which was complementary to the seminar's main thrust.

Elder Stennett H. Brooks, Treasurer of Northeastern Conference emphasized, in his remarks to the delegation, that it takes all of us to carry on the service of God and that we should support the Personal Ministries and Lay Federation leaders.

The guest choir for the convention was New Direction, from the City Tabernacle church in New York City. They provided the music for the Divine Worship hour as well as a mini-concert Sabbath afternoon.

Before leaving on Sunday, the delegates were issued a challenge from the president of the conference, Elder Leonard G. Newton, as well as the personal ministries director, Elder Snipes. They were asked to commit themselves to service for the finishing of the work.

BY FAITH A CHURCH IS DEDICATED IN NEW ROCHELLE

On Sabbath morning, September 13, hundreds gathered for the dedication of the Eden SDA Church, New Rochelle, NY, the first French speaking SDA church in the area. Every person present could see the miraculous way in which God led in the establishment of the church. Within six years, the membership has grown from 15 to 70, instead of worshipping in a room, they worshipped in a newly renovated Greco-Roman styled sanctuary.

One can liken their experience to Gideon and his faithful band of 300 men, who against all odds, succeeded in defeating the Midianites, then one of the strongest military powers in the ancient world. This church dedication signifies that miracles are not just limited to Biblical times, but they still occur today when men and women put their trust in God.

The Eden Church began with an idea and two Haitian SDAs in 1972. Providence led Ms. Yolande Dambreville, who lived in

Miami, but frequently visited her friend, Magella Kelly, who lived in New Rochelle, to remark during worship service at the New Rochelle Church, "Why don't we ask Pastor Lester, if we could start a Haitian group in this church."

So after worship, the two ladies went to talk with Pastor Issac Lester, about their idea. "Why, that's a good idea," said Pastor Lester. "Let's pray about it." So they gathered in a corner and asked God for his special blessings and guidance.

Several weeks later in answer to their prayers, two Haitian SDAs who couldn't speak English came to worship at the church. Elder Lester asked Magella if she would be their translator.

Magella became especially close to one of the believers, Gherda Mayard; together they began a missionary program among the Haitian community. When Gherda was unable to accompany Magella to the Bible studies, she would go alone. Magella's commitment was so total that on Sabbaths and during her days off, she would conduct Bible studies until midnight or in the midst of a snowstorm.

God blessed their efforts and before long two or three were added to their company. As they continued to grow, each believer attended the fellowship luncheon at Magella's house every Sabbath. Here they would gather to strengthen and encourage one another. After lunch, they would sing, study their Sabbath School lessons, E.G. White writings, and then they would go out into the community to impart to others what they had studied.

The little company was aided by fellow believers in Brooklyn who gave them counsel on how to build their membership. One of several people from the Brooklyn area, instrumental in helping them was Elder Max Pierre, then an associate publishing director and now a pastor of a French speaking congregation in the conference. He taught Magella how to use the slide projector and conduct Sunday evening services.

Under his tutelage, Magella began Sunday night services for the primarily Catholic-Haitian community. On the average as many as 35 people were in attendance. She used every opportunity to present the gospel. Magella would gather a group of non-believers and serve them cake and ice cream. Then she would present the gospel to them.

By 1980, there were 15 Haitian believers. They asked Elder Mathieu Bermingham, then the Franco-Haitian Coordinator, to send them a minister. He promised the members he would survey the field and send them a good minister, someone they could count on.

On September 6, 1980, Elder Bermingham introduced Elder Moises Charles, who is also the Data Processing Manager for the conference, to this company of believers. Elder Charles, immediately, began a building fund program. They looked forward to the day when they would worship in their own church. But, in the meantime, worship service was conducted in one of the Sabbath School rooms.

By faith alone, they began working toward that day. They sold bread and opened a store in the Hebron Church in Brooklyn where they sold rice, beans, vegetarian meats, sugar and a variety of food items. These were just two of several projects.

It seemed an impossible dream, because a large part of the membership were retired ladies and young children, without any earning power. Despite the obstacles they persevered in their tasks.

Also, they continued to work to build the membership of the church. They held a yearly evangelistic crusade. They took an active part in the community by sponsoring health fairs, free clothing give-aways and a weekly radio program where Elder Charles presents the Gospel in total.

After two years, the believers decided to move from the New Rochelle Church and rented their own church. Some might have questioned the wisdom of their move, when on their first Sabbath they worshipped in one of the believer's home. This was a test of faith which they passed. The next Sabbath they were able to rent a Penecostal church. After two and a half years, they began to encounter problems with the Penecostal pastor.

The members of the mission redoubled their efforts to secure funds for a church. They prayed earnestly that God would provide them with a house of worship. Every Saturday night the members would gather and pray from 9 to 12 p.m., asking God to bless them with a church.

God heard and answered their prayers. They discovered a building on the same block as the church. It was an old, abandoned bank. The interior of the building was dilapidated, there were no

pews, no baptistry, the floor looked horrible, and there was insufficient lighting. By faith, the members prayed, worked very hard and gave sacrificially to purchase the building.

They hired a professional contractor, who gave the church a Greco-Roman influence, like a grand cathedral in old Europe. By faith, a church was established in New Rochelle.

91 BAPTIZED IN HEALTH AND HAPPINESS CRUSADE

Evangelist Clifford Jones, pastor of the Jamaica SDA Church, Jamaica, NY, conducted a "Health and Happiness Crusade", in Hollis, Queens, NY from July 13 to August 30. The Holy Spirit moved and 91 souls were baptized under the canvas cathedral. Five churches and a mission participated in this joint evangelistic venture: Jamaica Church, Linden Church, Laurelton, NY; Mount Sinai Church, Queens Village, NY; Springfield Gardens Church, Springfield Gardens, NY; and Victory in Jesus Mission, Hollis, NY.

The crusade focused on the total man: mentally, spiritually and physically. Elder Jones ministered to the spiritual and mental man, the gospel every night, except Thursday. He presented a message of hope to those who were troubled by the world's ills. The physical needs of man were taken care of by Dr. Daniel Hunt, an internist, who is a member of the Linden Church. He gave health lectures and conducted a free health clinic.

Initially, the crusade was intended to last for six weeks. But an overwhelming desire to help those who still lingered in the valley of decision prompted its extension for an extra week. On the last day, August 30, which was a Sabbath, 13 souls were baptized. The extra week proved to be a blessing.

When asked how he felt about going an extra week, "Good," exclaimed an exhausted Pastor Jones. "Seven is a perfect number." The crusade had a positive effect on the community at large. "We will miss you," one of the police officers said. "You were good company on our beat."

Undoubtedly, this remark was prompted because of the sale and use of alcohol and illicit drugs in the community. Before the tent concluded 91 people could sing the theme song with meaning, "Happiness is the Lord."

Happiness is to know the Savior
Living a life within His favor

Having a change in my behavior
Happiness is the Lord.

Happiness is a new creation
Jesus and me in close relation
Having a part in His salvation
Happiness is the Lord.

Real joy is mine
No matter if tear drops start
I've found the secret
It's Jesus in my heart.

Happiness is to be forgiven
Living a life that's worth the living
Taking a trip that leads to heaven
Happiness is the Lord.

SCOTTS LEAVE AFTER 26 YEARS

On Saturday, August 16, Lloyd and Muriel Scott said goodbye to the Hanson Place Church family. Muriel, who had left last May for Fort Lauderdale, FL where they will live, returned to Hanson Place to attend a function held in their honor. The Scotts have been members of the church for the past 26 years.

During those 26 years they participated in many of the high points of life at Hanson Place. Mrs. Scott was a faithful choir member, S.S. teacher, S.S. superintendent, School Board leader, AYS leader and AYS sponsor. Mr. Scott was S.S. teacher, School Board member, president of the Credit union, president of the A.R. Haig Corporation and elder. When he left Hanson Place he was serving as first elder of the church.

Mr. Scott said, "It has been my privilege to watch this church grow and spread its wings, as it were, from our humble beginnings at Park Place. I was on the church board when the church at Hanson Place was bought, I was on the school board when the school was bought, and I was president of the Corporation when at least two of the neighboring buildings were bought. So I have been involved in some of the development of Hanson Place."

In addition to being a part of the church's development during those years, the Scotts watched their own lives develop. They were married at the church at its Park Place location in April 1960. Their two children, RoseAnne and Richard were blessed and baptized at the Hanson Place Church and are graduates of the Hanson Place Church School.

The Scotts acknowledge that they will miss their "family" at Hanson Place. Muriel will miss the choir and her S.S. class in particular and Lloyd will miss his S.S. class.

While in Brooklyn, Mrs. Scott worked as a Public Health Nursing Supervisor with the Visiting Nurse Association. In Florida she will work as a Visiting Nurse Supervisor with the Broward County Visiting Nurse Association.

Mr. Scott was employed at the Maimodes Medical Center for the past 25 years.

Mr. Scott received a B.S. degree in biology from Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, MA; pursued graduate studies at Hunter College, NY and received a Master's degree in Sociology from Long Island University in 1977.

In 1978, Mrs. Scott received a B.S. in nursing from Long Island University.

The Scotts have already been asked to assist in the work of the church they will attend in Florida.

STILL GOING STRONG

Mrs. Vera Chaffin Edwards, 90 year old member of Shiloh church, Springfield, MA, has attended Sabbath School faithfully, for over fifty-nine years. She says, "It is the best part of the Sabbath services."

Mrs. Edwards has served as Sabbath School superintendent, division leader, extension division secretary, and has assisted with Vacation Bible School. She has also been a teacher for many years, and continues to do so. She never misses her 8:00 AM teachers meeting on Sabbath.

Mrs. Vera Chaffin Edwards is an example to all, of dedication and trust in Divine power.



Mrs. Vera Chaffin Edwards, 90-year-old member of Shiloh Church, Springfield, MA.

SOUTH CENTRAL

GADSDEN, ALABAMA BURNS MORTGAGE

One of the last ceremonies that Elder Lorenzo Shepherd conducted before leaving the Anniston/Gadsden district was to conduct a mortgage-burning service for the building at Gadsden, Alabama. During his four year stay in the district some fifty souls have been added to the church and building improvements have been done for the Gadsden congregation's house of worship. Shepherd is being transferred to the Athens and Triana churches in Alabama. Pastor Washington Johnson, Jr. will serve in the Anniston/Gadsden district.

NEW PASTORS INTRODUCED

On Sabbath, July 12, 1986 Elder and Mrs. Russell Seay, Jr. were introduced to the members of the Hillcrest SDA Church in Nashville as their new spiritual leaders. In outlining his plans for the onward movement of the work in the area, Seay was received with opened arms by his flock. He is native son from Memphis, Tennessee and served in the conference for the past seven or eight years.

When Elder and Mrs. Jesse Wilson were introduced to their new memberships in Phenix City and Union Springs, Alabama, on hand to welcome were the senator of Alabama from that district, the mayor from the city of Hurtsboro, the senior pastor in the area from Columbus, Georgia just across the bridge along with a group of cordial members. Mrs. Bess Dorsett served as the chairman of the 'welcoming committee'.

Other pastors to change districts during the summer were, W. Harold Kibble to Jackson/Brownsville, Tennessee, P.N. Smith to Columbia/Franklin, Tennessee, R.L. Willis to Huntsville, Alabama (First Church).

JULIUS' TO ATTEND THE SEMINARY

Edmond and Avriel Julius came to Oakwood College five years ago from Johannesburg, South Africa. They came to prepare themselves for the ministry. Since that time considerable changes have taken place in their homeland which has brought some grave concerns, but

with a prayer, and a trust in the Lord and words of encouragement from church leaders and friends, they have graduated from their course of study at the college and are now attending Andrews University Seminary. Their courage is strong. Since coming to the states the Lord has given them two additional children.

Several others of Seventh-day Adventist South African families have come to Oakwood to prepare themselves for service. These students need all of the prayers and support that can be given.

HENLEY & WASHINGTON EXCHANGE VOWS

On Sunday, August 17, 1986 Herbert E. Henley, Jr. and Kimberly M. Washington exchanged their wedding vows at the Berean SDA Church in South Bend, Indiana. She is a native of South Bend; he is from New York City. The ceremony was performed by Elder Marcus Harris, the pastor of the church and Dr. C.E. Dudley, the president of the South Central Conference. He is the uncle of the bride, he is the son of Elder and Mrs. Herbert E. Henley, Sr. of the Northeastern Conference.

SOUTH CENTRAL TEACHERS ATTEND INSERVICE SEMINAR

Over fifty teachers of the South Central Conference met in Nashville, Tennessee on August 5 through 8 for their annual Inservice Seminar that is held at the beginning of the school year. Professor N.G. Higgs states that this is a time when he seeks to acquaint his teachers with new methods, policies, guidelines and classroom procedures that will help them prepare their students for lives of service to God and mankind during the days that lie ahead.

Some of the instructors for these meetings were: Dr. Frances Bliss of Oakwood College, Dr. N. Marshall of the Southern Union Conference, Elder X. Butler, pastor of the Riverside Chapel in Nashville and the officers of the South Central Conference. Dr. C.E. Dudley, the president, spoke to the teachers at their banquet. His theme was based on 'Commitment, Dedication and Excellence.' He stated that "a mind is truly a terrible thing to waste" (or) to be waster—mold them for the future with a good conscience. Be dedicated to service and do a good job. You will rejoice over your product as you see the works of your

hands develop into manhood and womanhood as servants of the living God.

Awards and service pens were given to each teacher who was present.

EVANGELISM CONTINUES TO MOVE IN SOUTH CENTRAL

Sixteen tent meetings were conducted in the South Central Conference this summer along with a goodly number of church meetings, Revelation Seminars. Four new congregations were brought into being as a result of some of these meetings this summer. Kingsport, Tennessee by Elder Shelton Kilby; Childersburg, Alabama by Pastor Walton Rose; Mariana, Florida by Pastor James Young and Hurtsboro, Alabama by Pastor M.R. Mounter.

Brother Robert Whitlow, a literature evangelist in Birmingham, Alabama pitched a tent in a section of the city known as Ensley, Alabama and has baptized between five and ten new believers. He is hopeful of beginning a new company in the area. Pastors Roy E. Gaiter and Milton Johnson ran successful meetings in Brent and Perris, Alabama but upon completion of these meetings, the Spirit of the Lord was on them so strongly until they put the tents up in another city and started again. Elder E.E. Cleveland has retired but is still conducting crusades in some of the churches. He is running meetings in the College Hill church in Knoxville this summer.

President C.E. Dudley has projected to his staff that a program be set in motion for continued evangelism that will extend into the twenty-first century.

TWO NEW LEADERS JOIN NAD BLACK LEADERSHIP

Since the beginning of the year two new leaders have joined the leadership ranks of the Black Conferences in North America. President E. Richardson who served as the pastor for the Berean Temple church in Baltimore, Maryland now serves as the spiritual leader of the Bermuda Conference on the Island of Bermuda. The churches in this area were organized into full conference status earlier in the spring of the year. Elder Richardson serves where Elder Alvin Gouldburne labored for a number of years. He has been called to serve as the secretary for the Atlantic Union Conference.

President Richard Barron is serving as the president of the Southwest Region

Conference. He replaces Elder W.C. Jones who led the conference for more than ten years in a beautiful way. Elder Jones presently is serving as the associate secretary for the Southwestern Union Conference in Fort Worth, Texas.

BLACK LEADERS MEET IN CALIFORNIA

When the Black leadership of the church in North America came together on August 18 through 20 in California a goodly number of ideas were exchanged whereby the work of God could advance in a stronger way in the areas of responsibilities where they each serve. After reports were given concerning the progress of the church growth around the division, some of the other areas of concern were also addressed:

Plans were laid for a strong promotion of the Breath of Life Telecast, the circulation of the Message Magazine, the development of the Pan African Development Corporation which will bring the members of these two continents together in a mutual interest for a finished work to hasten the Lord's imminent return for the church.

BLACK LEADERS MEET AT THE MEDIA CENTER

While in California, the Black Leadership journeyed to Thousand Oaks, California for a visit with the leaders of the media center and the Breath of Life staff. Breath of Life is adding a goodly number of souls to the church annually through its television ministries. Elder C.D. Brooks, speaker/director and Elder Walter Arties gave encouraging reports of the blessings that are coming to the church through this program that is being aired in Africa, the Caribbean Islands as well as across the North American Division. Funds are needed to help produce more programs. The Lord has blessed the brethren to get the telecasts on a number of Black News Network Stations and the P.T.L. Network. Members are supporting the telecast with their offerings and prayers.

COOPWOODS ARE HONORED

A gala affair took place in Nashville, Tennessee on Sunday, September 28th when the Adventist Education Foundation organization honored Dr. and Mrs. W.E. Coopwood at a fund-raising dinner to help with the F.H. Jenkins school project. Dr. and Mrs. Coopwood have lived in the Nashville area for the past quarter of a



Dr. and Mrs. Coopwood.

century and have proved themselves to be dedicated Christians for the service of God and mankind.

After settling in the area to begin his medical practice over twenty-five years ago, the son of a Seventh-day Adventist minister and his wife lived out the lessons that were taught to them by their parents and carried the burden to help finish the work of God in the earth. He began his practice in Murfreesboro where a new congregation was born and still continues to thrive. She taught her children in a 'home school' setting because of necessity as well as a love for the little ones that had been given to them by the Lord. Their instruction in the ways of righteousness paid off for today those little ones are: two teachers, a medical hospital director and two doctors. They also are serving the church and advancing the cause of God.

His mother, Mrs. Sallie Coopwood, has reached the 103 birthday and still is very active in her witness. His father passed away a good number of years ago after having served the church for more than forty years. Mrs. Coopwood's mother still lives in Michigan with her daughter.

Dr. Coopwood serves on many boards of institutions as well as on the executive committee of the South Central Conference. He has been a blessing in helping almost a hundred or more students to get through medical and dental schools, many of whom were baptized into the faith while attending school in Nashville, Tennessee.

The F.H. Jenkins School building construction is to begin on Thanksgiving Day of this year. Many civic, church and community leaders attended this festive occasion that was held in their honor.

SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE'S 123RD CONGREGATION CHARTER MEMBERS INCLUDE TOWN'S MAYOR

"By the authority of the power invested in me . . .", so began the declaration by President C.E. Dudley that officially established the 123rd congregation of the South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

To the remaining 70-plus people crowded into the already too small meeting place, this was the long awaited ceremony of the day. The birth of the town's first and only Adventist church was joyfully applauded.

Thuswise, the Sabbath of September 13 drew to a close in little known Hurtsboro, Alabama.

Located 26 miles southeast of historic Tuskegee Institute, Hurtsboro is a small community of 752. Approximately 120 of these small town Southerners heard the Advent message preached by Pastor Melwyn "Bob" Mounter during the Christ Is the Answer Crusade this summer. Twenty-three inquisitive listeners, studied diligently that which was taught and decided to join that peculiar breed of Christians who worship on the Biblical seventh instead of the traditional first day of the week.

From that number came one, Mr. Willie Williams, who even before his baptism, demonstrated a call by God to serve the church in a particular role. Night after night during the crusade it became quite clear that his dependability in assisting the pastor and his caring disposition would fit him for the position of elder. A tall mild-mannered man of seeming quiet strength, Brother Williams was voted in as head elder with the other officers of the church which included another newly baptized member as public relations secretary—Mrs. Mary Kate Stovall, the town's mayor.



Pastor and Mrs. M. Mounter, Mayor Mary K. Stovall of Hurtsboro, Ala. Mrs. Audrey Coleman, Mrs. Sarah Smith and Mrs. C. Dudley.

Elected just two years ago, Mrs. Stovall is the town's first Black and first female mayor.

A northern Alabamian (Uniontown in particular), Mayor Stovall came to Hurtsboro to teach history and serve as librarian for the town's school for Negroes, Russell County Training School (now Russell Elementary and Middle School).

She boarded with other teachers from "out of town" in the home of the late Mrs. Alice A. Stovall, a stalwart of the community and owner of the Stovall Funeral Home. She married the landlord's son, Turner (now deceased) and had two daughters: Kathleen Denise and Audrey Yvonne.

During the ensuing years Mrs. Stovall completed two master programs: in education at Alabama State University in Montgomery, Alabama and in library science at Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia.

She remained in Hurtsboro following the deaths of her husband and mother-in-law and had the added responsibility of directing the family's funeral business. Over the years she became a bulwark of the Black community as an educator, funeral director and church leader and member of Ross Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church.

In 1976 she retired her teaching career. That same year she became Hurtsboro's first Black city councilwoman. In 1980 she was reelected without opposition and served a second term of four years on the council before being elected mayor in 1984.

Her political career included an election to the State Democratic Executive Committee representing District 65. Her love and concern for people led her to an appointment by Governor George Wallace

to the Alabama Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped and to the presidency of the East Alabama Mental Health/Mental Retardation Board of Directors. Among her numerous awards and honors two are named here: The Martin Luther King, Jr. American Dream Award presented by the Alabama Democratic Conference in 1984 and the National Sojourner Truth Meritorious Service Award presented by the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. on June 7, 1986 for her meritorious community service, her deep concern for and participation in all activities advancing the status of women.

Through all these happenings God was quietly watching and directing the life of Major Stovall. At an appointed time He wanted her life to take a most significant course. He waited. Soon He would give her life an added dimension and use her to His name's honor and glory in directing precious souls to His kingdom.

He began working through her daughter, Audrey, eight years ago when a dramatic change in her life led her to join the SDA church. During visits with her daughter, Mrs. Stovall attended Sabbath services and listened acutely to sermons by Elder Leon G. Cox, Elder E.E. Cleveland, Elder E.C. Ward, heard tapes of sermons by Elder Charles Brooks and was impressed by the music of Elder T. Marshall Kelly, Pastor Wintley Phipps, and the Oakwood College Aeolians.

The Holy Spirit steadily made His impressions upon the mind of Mayor Stovall about the Sabbath and the health message in particular. But only after Audrey's daughter, five year old Alison Yvonne, came to spend her first summer with her grandmother, did Mayor Stovall finally embrace the truth.

Says Pastor Mounter, "Mayor Stovall is not a token baptism. She officially welcomed us to Hurtsboro the first week of the meetings. And night after night she attended the meetings with her granddaughter and grandson. She would write down the Bible texts and study them for

herself. Occasionally she was absent for council meeting. Even then she sent her grandchildren and told me ahead of time she would not be present." Pastor Mounter further stated, "These are the kind of people who stay in the church."

Following these words and a sermon by Elder Dudley, Mayor Stovall was baptized with 29 others on September 13 in the First SDA Church in Tuskegee where for 23 years SDA Hurtsborians traveled 26 miles to church.

A fellowship dinner followed the baptism ceremony and then a caravan of cars and vans journeyed the 26 miles from Tuskegee to Hurtsboro to officially organize the church of 54 including its 29 new members.

The organizational ceremony included a tribute to Mrs. Sarah L. Smith, the only active member of the longest tenure in Hurtsboro. In 1959 Mrs. Smith saw a telecast of "It Is Written" in Florida and requested Bible studies. She left the Baptist church and continued her Bible studies at home. In 1961 she was invited to church not knowing it would be a Seventh-day Adventist church. Two years later Mrs. Smith was baptized by Elder Harold Jones. Since then she has been faithful in teaching her family this Advent message and all but four of her children have accepted it. Today she has two brothers, four sisters, eight of twelve children, eight grandchildren, many cousins and friends who have accepted this message since she did.

She says, "I have been going up that road to Tuskegee SDA Church for 23 years, but now we finally have a place to worship in Hurtsboro. We are now in a store (next to where the tent was erected), but God will open a way so we can soon have a beautiful church to worship in—in Hurtsboro, Alabama."

Already the new church is planning expansion. They are establishing a branch Sabbath school in a neighboring community, the home of an Adventist now living in Florida who returned to Hurtsboro with Audrey Stovall for the services. Said Mr. Erskine Williams, an old friend of Turner Stovall who joined the Adventist church in 1958 in Florida, "I'm just so happy for Hurtsboro. My prayers are being answered."

Audrey Stovall Coleman is the daughter of Mayor Stovall and public relations director for Jesus Behind Bars prison ministry based in Orlando, Florida.



Mayor Mary Kate Stovall of Hurtsboro, Ala.



New Congregation organized at Hurtsboro, Ala.

OAKWOOD COLLEGE



Dr. C.E. Bradford giving a charge to Dr. and Mrs. B.F. Reaves, president of Oakwood at the inauguration ceremonies.

OAKWOOD COLLEGE TO INAUGURATE ITS NINTH PRESIDENT

On Sunday, September 21, 1986, at 2 p.m., Oakwood College will inaugurate its ninth president, Benjamin F. Reaves. The inauguration will culminate a weekend of inaugural events to be hosted by the College's Board of Trustees.

Neal C. Wilson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, world headquarters in Washington, D.C., will present the inaugural address. As president of all Seventh-day Adventists, he is the chief executive of an organization that is comprised of 4.5 million members located in virtually all parts of the world. Over 3,000 of these members are located in the Huntsville, Alabama area. This will be Elder Wilson's first visit to Huntsville in this capacity in recent years.

During the inaugural ceremony several persons of renown will bring greetings including representatives from local academic institutions of higher education, learned and professional societies as well as from federal, state, and local government. "More than 2,000 persons are expected to attend the ceremony," states Rosa T. Banks, VP for the Board of Trustees. This number includes special guests, delegates, and other special

representatives. The public is cordially invited to attend the inauguration, which will be held in the Oakwood College Church.

OBITUARY

He was born George Crayton McGregor Chandler on that Easternmost of the Caribbean Islands, Barbados. He responded to the beckoning fingers of fortune and left the sand and sea of his native country for the snow and sidewalks of New York.

He served with distinction the Harlem No. 1 Seventh-day Adventist Church and later Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church—the latter for forty-seven years. But that distinction came not from the world's applause but from dedication to the service of God. As Superintendent of the Sabbath School, as President of the Layman's Federation of Manhattan and the Bronx, as Counselor of the Rikers Island facility, his selfless dedicated service bore testimony of his commitment to the cause of God. He served as a Local Elder of the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church for thirty-nine years and was appointed a layman of the General Conference Committee—the first Black person to be so honored.

His life was a rich tapestry woven of many precious threads. It was a life of service—to the sick and shut-in and to those in prison and in need. It was a life of devotion—of daily study of the word which he committed to memory and of which his life gave the most eloquent testimony.

Indelibly etched in our consciousness is the memory of Elder Chandler. Presiding as the Tithes and Offerings were returned reciting from memory the words of the Prophets. He spoke as one having authority, bestowing upon the faithful the blessings of a beneficent God. He made the promises come alive as he claimed them as his own.

His life was a pilgrimage. That pilgrimage ended on Friday, September 5, 1986 at 12:10 P.M. He leaves behind his wife of sixty-one years. Also surviving are three daughters; three sons-in-law; one granddaughter; five grandsons; two great-grandsons; one brother and sister-in-law; several nieces and nephews; several adopted daughters; beloved friends and brethren—the poorer for his passing but the richer for his having sojourned among us.

Like Paul, George Crayton McGregor earned the epitaph—Pugnave! Terminave! Sustenave! I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.

IN THE NEWS

ADVENTIST MINISTER HEADS CIVIC FUNDRAISING DRIVE

Pastor Bill Monk, of Morristown, Tennessee, was instrumental in raising over \$80,000.00 for Angela McDaniel, 14. Angela was diagnosed with blood cancer at the age of 8 years.

Pastor Monk, along with other community members, formed a committee to help raise the funds necessary for a bone marrow transplant for Miss McDaniel. Community fundraising drives were sponsored, and a 12 hour telethon, broadcast over a local cable station, was held.

Angela, along with her family, all from Morristown, TN, were flown to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where the procedure was performed.

NEWS RELEASE

On August 18, 1986, in Long Beach California, the Black Leadership Caucus of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America unanimously resolved the following:

Whereas God is no respecter of persons; and whereas a person or government cannot undermine the dignity of any person or the quality of any life without at the same time showing disrespect for the essential value of humanity in general; and whereas to give support to the denial or rejection of anyone's personhood is to deny in a larger sense the equitable nature and the brotherhood of all men; and whereas the apartheid system in South Africa is intrinsically unjust, inherently immoral, and is an affront to human dignity and equality:

We the members of the Caucus unequivocally oppose the apartheid system in all of its forms, through word, deed and influence. We also encourage our constituents likewise to oppose it. Further, we encourage our churches and members to seek to become sanctuaries for South African refugees in the United States who may be in need of moral and/or financial support. While we will continue to pray for a peaceful resolution we cannot in good conscience remain silent while our African brothers and sisters suffer physically, socially and spiritually.



New look of Oakwood College Bakery—Mrs. E. Dudley, Mr. A. Douglas, Mr. A. Winston.

OAKWOOD BAKERY TO REOPEN

When the Board of Trustees of the Oakwood College met on September 21, 1986 they were well pleased to see a completely new look in the college bakery. A little over a year ago the bakery had been closed and much of the

equipment stored away or sold, but because of a burden that was held by Mr. Alfred Winston, director of the physical plant of the college and Mr. A. Douglas along with other concerned workers in this area of the college, there was a coming together to donate time, energies and money to restore the plant to its original operation to at least supply bread for the dining room operations. The bakery looks beautiful today as you can see in the picture. Approximately \$6,000 to \$12,000 would help to place the program in a good posture. Friends and interested persons of the college are encouraged to support this project. It will bring blessings to the school.

BEKEL HEYES ATTEND OAKWOOD

Mrs. Bekel Heye, the wife of Elder Heye, president of the East African Division of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, along with two of her children, is attending Oakwood this school year. We are honored to have them in this area and we extend our welcomes.

A NEW DENOMINATION IS THE OUTGROWTH OF "LAST DAYS REVIVAL" MEETING IN HUNTSVILLE

When the 'Last Days Revival' crusade, under the direction of Dr. Oscar Lane, came to its close in the city of Huntsville, Alabama on Saturday, September 27, 1986, Elder Morris Eugene Patterson, formerly the pastor of the New Life SDA Congregation in that city, took the newly baptized people who had joined the 'Last Days Revival' meetings and established a completely new denomination. Although Patterson states that this newly formed independent group is still a Seventh-day Adventist church that will operate independently from the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, officials of the church think otherwise. The leaders of the world-wide church which was born over 142 years ago have ruled it to be separate organizationally and not under the discipline or authority of the main body.

Patterson and his 76 member congregation which is named "Word of Faith Congregational Seventh-day Adventist Church" had their initial worship Sabbath services in a rented store-front building which is located at 3505 Pulaski Pike in the city of Huntsville, Alabama. The Executive Committee of the South Central Conference, a local conference organization of the world-wide body of the



Last Days Revival Crusade—Huntsville.

Seventh-day Adventist denomination, had assigned him to be the pastorate of the New Life congregation in Huntsville where he served for a little over one year before leaving his post. That congregation was moved with mixed emotions when he announced that he was breaking with the organized church to begin an independent church. He preached his parting message to the church members and left without shaking their hands and one week later his new church was established.

Speculation now arises among SDA members of the Huntsville area and across the country as to just 'why' Patterson broke with the organized Seventh-day Adventist denomination to set up his own group. Whatever the real reason may be, no one seems to know. In an interview with him, he has stated that he wishes to have a 'freedom to work in his own way and to follow the dictates of his inner feelings and convictions as to how the church should be run.' With the birth of this new denomination that will not be under the umbrella of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, all of the monies—tithes, missions offerings, church evangelism offerings, building funds, educational offerings, etc., that are given by the members of the group could become his personal income. None of these funds are to be shared with the general body of the Seventh-day Adventist church which engages in the health, medical, education, welfare and world-wide outreach programs in behalf of mankind in all parts of the earth. With the organized body, none of the 'tithe' monies that are given by the members at the local level remain there but are sent to higher bodies to be shared by all of the bodies of the world-wide church.

The printed program for the divine worship service of the newly organized "Word of Faith Congregational Church of Seventh-day Adventists" listed Oscar Lane, the evangelist as the speaker and

M.E. Patterson as the pastor. Lane, who travels the highways and byways with a big red tent preaching the gospel of the last days stated in an interview with Dale James of the Huntsville Times: "People ask me what denomination I am. I tell them I'm Baptist, Methodist, Pentecostal, Church of God, Church of Christ . . . All of those are just names, so it's all right to be all those things as long as you love Jesus Christ."

It is felt by some that Dr. Lane had no intentions of setting up a separate Seventh-day Adventist denomination (although it had been noised that some 'twenty' such groups were in the making over which he would become the 'chief overseer' who would visit them from time to time). Perhaps Elder Patterson has thrown him a 'curve' with his establishment of the "Word of Faith Congregational Seventh-day Adventist Church" in Huntsville.

Since its inception in 1844 some of the followers of the Seventh-day Adventist movement have sought to leave the organized body and to begin separate organizations of their own. Ellen G. White, one of the church's founders and spiritual leaders stated through inspiration in 1905 when others went in the direction to which Patterson has gone:

"The Lord has declared that the history of the past shall be rehearsed as we enter upon the closing work. Every truth that He has given for these last days is to be proclaimed to the world. Every pillar that He has established is to be strengthened. We cannot now step off the foundation that God has established. We cannot now enter into any new organization; for this would mean apostasy from the truth." S.M. Volume II—p. 390.

"There is no need to doubt, to be fearful that the work will not succeed. God is at the head of the work, and He will set everything in order. If matters need adjusting at the head of the work, God will attend to that, and work to right every wrong. Let us have faith that God is going to carry the noble ship which bears the people of God safely into port." S.M. Volume II—p. 390.

Elder Earnest E. Rogers, one of Patterson's former professors in the department of religion at the Oakwood College in Huntsville, has been assigned as the new pastor of the New Life membership.

There are a good number of Seventh-day Adventist congregations located in

the city of Huntsville, but only Patterson's New Life congregation endorsed the 'Last Days Revival' crusade that was conducted by Dr. Oscar Lane.

ROBERT SMITH ELECTED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE LMCB BOARD

Robert Smith, Sr. a native son of Chattanooga, Tennessee and director of literature ministers for more than twenty years has been elected to serve as the chairman of the Literature Ministries Council Board for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. This board gives direction for the operation of the church's publishing houses, book centers, Publishing Departments of all Union and Local Conferences in North America. Before his election to the Publishing Department of the General Conference, he served as the vice-president for the Review and Herald Publishing as director for marketing. While there the sales of the publishing house book and periodical departments helped the finances to overcome a deficit operation and to move into the gain column.



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