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**VOICE**



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## South Central's New Office Building



## COVER STORY

### FUTURE OFFICE BUILDING PLANNED FOR THE SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE

The work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church among Black people in the United States of America had its beginnings in the South Central Conference territory near the close of the nineteenth century when laymen moved to share the "truths" of the Bible with this people whose roots were in slavery for centuries. E. B. Lane, one of these burdened souls, began his teachings of the "return of Jesus to earth" at a railroad station near Edgefield Junction, TN. in 1873 just thirteen miles from Nashville. The foundation of the building in which they met is still in place, although the building has long since been demolished, but flowers that were planted there then still bloom every Spring.

Some of the adherents who believed and accepted these teachings were the parents of Thomas and Jonathan Allison along with their children. They travelled over 30 miles each week from Clarksville to attend the services. Their children were, Thomas A. Allison who serves as one of the original members of the famous Fisk Jubilee Singers group that sang before the kings and queens of Europe, but who later became a minister of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. His sister, Florence later moved to Los Angeles, California where she became a teacher in the public school system and dedicated her life to the teaching for over 50 years. Another brother, Jonathan remained near the old home place, but later moved to Denver, CO where he completed his high school education at the age of over 80 years. A foster son, Samuel J. Thompson whom the Allisons reared became one of the original 16 students to arrive at the Huntsville School that was established in Huntsville, AL by the Seventh-day Adventist denomination in 1896.

The South Central Conference can rightfully be called the "Cradle of Black Adventism". From its small beginnings the work soon spread northward to Louisville and Bowling Green, Kentucky and then to Lexington and to Morristown, Knoxville and Harriman, TN. and finally across the continent and around the world. However, it must be noted that by the distribution of literature by sea-going vessels, Adventism had begun to be taught in the Caribbean Islands and in Africa also.



*South Central ground breaking for new office.*

When its memberships and financial income had reached significant levels over the next two decades, some of the leaders made requests that offices and conferences be provided that would give stronger leadership roles for this rapidly growing group in the church—they wought to develop "role models" that would bring future growth and strength to making ready this people to meet the Lord. This request was denied. The year was 1929.

As time moved along there were certain racial incidents that took place in the

The fires of evangelism became rampant in America as hundreds of the sons and daughters of former slaves sought freedom of mind, body and soul by accepting the Biblical teachings and beliefs of this new religious group which taught a hope in the blessed "return of our Lord and Saviour" to earth a second time but also the worshipping on Saturday, healthful living and eating along with a longing to accept the philosophies of Christian Education.

The joys of their new spiritual freedoms and beliefs were not without some testing of their souls through the "race relations" of some of the members of the main body of believers. However these trusting souls held to the teachings of the Word and a trust in God to see them through. They kept their eyes on the prize.

By the end of the first decade, the band had reached remarkable proportions to the extent that the church fathers moved to establish the first semblance of an organization to strengthen the work among its Black believers whose number was over 900. The organization became known as "the Negro Department". The year was 1909.

church which made it necessary for the church leaders to restudy some of the requests that had been made earlier by the "colored" leaders in 1929, thus, colored conferences were set up by the body to serve the colored members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United States of America. To be totally integrated into the system of and organization of the church was the request at this time, however, the leaders in the main stream of the work took an alternate route and organized seperate conferences which came to be known as "the Regional Conferences" of the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. Seven conferences were brought into being to give leadership for Blacks. The year was 1945.

Struggles for these groups of leaders were not a few. Money with which to operate was sparce, workers with which to get the job done were few in number and challenges were many, but the valiant leaders, with a trust in the Lord, with songs of hope and assurance and with a strong determination to succeed, went forward to get the job done for Jesus was soon to come.

In the South Central Conference, H. R. Murphy, the first president and V. Lindsay, the first secretary/treasurer and their executive committee did not find it easy to secure a place in which to establish their offices. Nashville, TN was the city that was chosen to be the conference headquarters whose territory was to cover the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Northwest FL. Ellen G. White had stated earlier that: "Our brethren selected Nashville as a center for work in the South because the Lord in His wisdom directed

them there. It is a favorable place in which to make a beginning. Our workers will find it easier to labor in this city for the colored race than in many other cities of the South. In this city much interest is taken in the colored people by those not of our faith. In and near the city are large educational institutions for the colored people. The influence of these institutions has prepared the way for us to make this city a center for our work."

Those beginning days of the South Central Conference are memorable. No office building was opened to these youthful leaders in 1945, plus, they did not have that kind of money to pay for such surroundings, thus, Elder and Mrs. Louis B. Reynolds, the editor of the Message Magazine, opened their doors of their home on Hawkins Street and from their dwelling the conference began to function to serve its 2,600 constituents who lived in the central South. L. B. Reynolds had come to Nashville from the mid-west to serve as the editor for this new journal that was to help Black youths to "work their way through school". H. R. Murphy had come from Birmingham, AL where he had served as the "state director" for the colored work in the states of Alabama and Mississippi. V. Lindsay had served as the director for the colored work in the states of Kentucky and Tennessee and already lived there. Others who became a part of the new conference were: P. C. Winley, the Book and Bible House manager, F. B. Slater, the education and youth director; B. H. Ewing, the Home Missionary and Sabbath School director and W. E. Adams served as the publishing leader.

Oddly enough, not only did the Reynolds house serve as the conference office (the living room, dining room, kitchen and back porch), it also became the temporary living quarters for most of these families and their children. In their youthful days, the challenge did not appear to be a real problem for these frontiersmen. This was 1945.

As the time progressed a separate three-story building was secured on the corner of Charlotte Ave. and 20th St. in South Nashville and with extensive renovations by the officers and workers themselves, this became the new home of the South Central Conference of which they were very happy and proud. Leadership roles for Blacks in the church were very meaningful and exciting. The building became the conference office and the home for the president who lived on the third floor.

Evangelism, church growth, christian education and lay and literature ministries were uppermost in the planning of these leaders. Jobs were provided for new ministers and teachers; hundreds of laity entered the literature ministry, new territory was entered with tent meetings each summer and literature became spread "like the leaves of autumn". The work among Blacks began to flourish. The membership grew to over 3,000 in the territory.

By 1954 Elder H. R. Murphey and Elder W. W. Fordham, the president of the Southwest Region Conference with offices in Dallas, TX, exchanged places of leadership. Murphy became the president of the Southwest Region Conference and Fordham became the president of the South Central Conference.

The times were changing and the birth of the "freedom movement" had come into being for Blacks and had its roots in Nashville and in Montgomery. Through evangelistic meetings held by E. E. Cleveland, C. S. Myles, D. B. Reid, J. G. Thomas, B. W. Abney, C. A. Lynes, E. F. Carter, and E. T. Mimms the conference membership had climbed to over 4,000. Cleveland had baptised some 500 souls in Montgomery AL one year before the bus boycott that was held there out of which the nation and the world would be stirred and life would never be the same again among the races on planet earth.

During these days Elder Fordham and Mr. L. E. Ford, who had become the treasurer of the conference, were burdened to build a new office from which to operate. The site that was chosen this time was out in the county across from the Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital on Youngs Lane. L. E. Ford became the contractor and this new facility became the "pride and Joy" of the South Central Conference. This was 1956.

After 30 years of service, this building is still sturdy and could be used for many years to come; however, with the passing of time and with the growth of the work across the conference, it has become too small for the present operations. Every office space is occupied. Some rooms are housing three persons and even the kitchen now serves as a storage room. Under the leadership of Dr. C. E. Dudley, its present president, the Lord has given signal blessings of progress to the conference. The membership now has gone over the 18,000 mark. There are 126 congregations; over 90 new buildings have been built or secured; 13 church schools

are being operated, six housing projects for senior citizens and the homeless have been constructed throughout the states in the South; almost 200 pastors, teachers, literature evangelists and office workers are serving the church throughout the territory; more than 50 physicians and dentists are serving throughout the conference; God's truth is marching onward. The tithincome for 1986 was \$4,343,000.00. Yes, the work in the South Central Conference has been blessed of God and His purposes for His people in the Southland are being realized.

When the workers and community leaders came together in Jan. 1987 the ground was broken for a new office building from which to direct the work of the conference. This facility is to be constructed by Elder W. O. Freeman, one of the pastors who has been blessed with building skills. The facility is to house the administrative and departmental offices, the Adventist Book Center and have a chapel that will seat 150 people and will be used to hold the workers' meetings and other gatherings. Construction is to begin by early Spring with a completion date that has been set for early 1988. To God be the glory. May this building serve to enhance the work of the Lord and to hasten His speedy return.

## PUBLISHER'S PAGE



*C. D. Joseph.*

### THE HISTORY OF THE 76th & RACINE PROJECT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

In 1979, the Continental Can Research Facility located at 76th and Racine Avenue on the southwest side of Chicago was owned by Loyola University of Chicago. It



*Future Shiloh School—This building will be renovated to meet the needs of a school in the city of Chicago. The city engineers referred to the physical structure as a "Rolls Royce" building. Cost of renovation is estimated at \$2,500,000.*

was a gift to the school from the Continental Corporation. The entire site is approximately 25 acres containing three existing buildings. The Lake Region Conference placed an option to buy this property. The building located on the northeast quadrant of the site would be rehabilitated into 164 units of elderly housing with a clinic and elderly recreational facilities. The building on another corner would be converted for use as the Shiloh Academy. The remaining building would be demolished and the entire southside of 76th Street from Racine to Loomis Avenue (two blocks) would be developed into new family housing and a 25-store shopping center.

education will be realized. Below is a chart showing the Projected New Revenue that will assist the conference with meeting its educational needs.

1987	\$ 252,830
1988	419,568
1989	469,888
1990	539,857
1991	562,826
1992	580,204
1993	597,841
1994	617,999
1995	636,147
1996	654,056
Total	\$5,331,216



The conference, utilizing the services of Urban Services and Development Inc. as developer, submitted three applications to HUD for Section 8 funding. The funding was received for the housing portion and all housing was completed and rented within a space of 10 months. There is a three-year waiting list for housing at the Continental Plaza housing apartments.

After all housing was completed and rented, the next objective was to build the shopping center. Financing was found through a city issued bond issue. The shopping center construction began in March 1986 and is now nearly completed with 96% of the space already leased before opening. When the shopping center becomes operational, the goal of having a major new source of income for Christian





*The Senior Citizen Facility is full with 500 on a waiting list.*

The North American Division conducted a survey of the development after becoming concerned with allegations of problems involved with the development. Upon completion of the survey, the division found that some policies had been bypassed and violated, but found no evidence of personal gain by any officer of the conference and found one mortgage that was unauthorized but had been corrected.

The conference committee of Lake Region conducted a thorough investigation of the procedure used to develop the shopping center and concluded: (1) no personal gain occurred; (2) communication should have been better during critical decision-making process; (3) from a business standpoint, the Continental Plaza Project is a sound and attractive enterprise and should be supported to completion; (4) the Continental Plaza Project should be supported to its completion and beyond as an additional source of badly needed revenue for educational needs of the Lake Region Conference; (5) the executive committee should annually review the officers' administrative performance and the financial status of the Lake Region Conference.

There have been different kinds of concepts projected during this development. The development, however, is 95% complete and will produce a sizable amount of money for Christian education in the Lake Region Conference.

Charles D. Joseph, President  
Lake Region Conference

## Adventist leader forced out in battle over shopping mall

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The Lake Region Conference [LRC] of Seventh-day Adventists has voted to accept the forced resignation of its president, Elder Charles D. Joseph. Elder Joseph was accused by higher church officials of spending millions of dollars in church funds without proper authorization, but his supporters said Thursday that his removal was heavy-handed and racist.

Owen Troy, spokesman for the Seventh-day Adventists' world headquarters in Washington, D.C., said the charges centered on the development by Elder Joseph of the Continental Shopping Plaza at 76th Street and Racine Avenue on the South Side. The purpose of developing the shopping center, officials said, was to generate funds to educate children attending the church's Shiloh Academy.



*C. D. Joseph  
President of Lake  
Region Conference.*

"There were monies spent without authorization," Troy said.

But supporters of Elder Joseph have continued to criticize the church hierarchy for forcing his resignation, which it began seeking in December. In a statement released Thursday, one member of the Lake Region's executive board called the church's actions "a blatant, racist move against minority people who are striving to become more financially self-sufficient."

The executive board of the Lake Region Conference, meeting in Chicago Sunday, voted 7-4 to accept Elder Joseph's resignation, effective April 9. But they did so only after Elder Robert Carter, president of the Lake Union Conference [LUC], which oversees the Lake Region, threatened sanctions against the region if they failed to do so.

The LUC, headquartered in Berrien Springs, MI, is one of nine union conferences in North America and is made up of membership in Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana. The LRC is one of five regions within the LUC and is made up of 19,075 black and Hispanic worshippers in 75 congregations. The Lake Union Conference has a total membership of nearly 65,000.

Elder Joseph's supporters on the executive committee originally engineered a 10-2 vote to accept his resignation effective May 3, so he could stay as president through the scheduled completion of the shopping center.

But Elder Carter, who originally had asked for Elder Joseph's resignation last December, said he told the executive committee he did not want to wait until May because "we felt it was delaying too much." Elder Carter has called an April 9 meeting of the executive committee to choose a new president.

Elder Joseph, who was elected to a three-year term as president of the Lake Region last year, also has been serving as interim pastor of Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church, 7000 S. Michigan Ave. He said Thursday that he opposed a resolution by the executive committee that would have rejected his resignation from the LRC post.

"It was my posture to push my resignation because I did not want the conference to get into a bloody fight with the union and general conference," he said.

But Elder Joseph said he was disappointed at the action of church officials in Washington, who threatened LRC members with excommunication if Elder Joseph were not removed.

"I was told that even if my constituents voted to retain my services, then the general conference would call a meeting of the union to consider voting us out of the sisterhood of Adventist conferences," he said. "They also threatened to lift my ministerial credentials and ordination."

The controversy stems from a decision by the LRC to develop the shopping center, which Elder Joseph said was to be used to generate enough funds to build a new school. Church officials say Elder Joseph exceeded his authority.

"It's primarily because of his failure to adhere to the policies of the church as it relates to church administration," LUC President Carter said of Elder Joseph's

forced resignation. "He took a number of unauthorized actions exposing the church to great indebtedness without the proper approval."

According to Troy, at world headquarters, the amount of unauthorized church money used for the project was \$6 million. Elder Joseph said that no church money was spent, but that the conference did guarantee the \$6 million bond issuance.

Because of that, I did violate church policies governing our borrowing capacities," Elder Joseph said. "But they are now magnifying those violations to the maximum."

The investigation of the shopping center began last summer amid allegations that Elder Joseph and others were personally benefiting from the project. "The general conference from Washington came in and saw no evidence of personal gain because there wasn't any," Elder Joseph said.

Nevertheless, church officials in Washington and Michigan said the commission concluded that church finances had not been handled properly.

"He just did not follow the working policy of the Seventh-day Adventist Church when it came to heading up the Lake Region Conference," Elder Carter said.

Despite local protests about Elder Joseph's ouster, Elder Carter said that he will not change his mind.

"I think it will subside once the new president is in place," Elder Carter said.

One of Elder Joseph's supporters, Marguerite Dixon, is the member of the executive committee who called the action racist.

"Elder Joseph had made some errors in not obtaining some approvals, but there were no illegal actions," she said. "It seems like the general conference will go to any length to get Elder Joseph."

Despite his resignation, Elder Joseph will remain as president of Full Life Inc., the church corporation in charge of developing the shopping center. "The church wants that shopping plaza completed," Elder Carter said. "We've asked him to stay on until the completion of that project." Elder Joseph will also continue as director of development for the LRC.

Elder Joseph insists that the motives behind developing the shopping center were good and will continue to help the LRC students and for generating the necessary money to build a new building for Shiloh Academy, a private high school at 7008 S. Michigan Ave.

"Between 90 percent and 96 percent of all our seniors go into college, but our current facility is in danger of losing its accreditation," Elder Joseph said. "We undertook this venture to provide revenue to provide a facility for our children."

By Joel Kaplan



The 128 family units are all filled with a waiting list of 3,000.



The income from this shopping center will produce up to 500,000 annually for conference educational expenses. Three hundred jobs will be added to the community with 70 reserved for shiloh students.

# The Editor's Desk



Mr. and Mrs. James Palmer of Chicago Ill exchange 25th wedding vows with children.

On Feb. 22, 1987, Mr. and Mrs. James Palmer of Chicago, IL celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary. One Hundred relatives and friends enjoy the reception and witnessed the couple renew their marriage vows.

Elder R. C. Brown was the officiating minister. Mrs. Virginia Brown coordinated the event. Mrs. Lillie Bonner designed and donated the beautiful Wedding Cake. Mrs. Glenie Rozier and daughter Charlotte Stuart catered the affair.

Guests wished the couple God's blessings and their children. Cynthia and Philip, presented their parents a silver plaque.

Carolyn Palmer is the principal of Shiloh Academy. James Palmer is a postal clerk in the city of Chicago. He is also a local Elder at Independence S.D.A. Church.

## SUNSET CALENDAR

	April 24	May 1	8	15
Boston, Mass.	7:36	7:44	7:51	7:59
New York City	7:45	7:53	8:01	8:08
Buffalo, N.Y.	8:07	8:15	8:23	8:31
Atlanta, Ga.	8:15	8:21	8:26	8:31
Miami, Fla.	7:48	7:52	7:55	7:59
Charlotte, N.C.	8:04	8:09	8:15	8:21
Birmingham, Ala.	7:24	7:30	7:35	7:40
Jackson, Miss.	7:37	7:42	7:47	7:52
Memphis, Tenn.	7:40	7:46	7:51	7:57
Louisville, Ky.	8:27	8:34	8:40	8:47
Detroit, Mich.	8:25	8:32	8:40	8:47
Chicago, Ill.	7:41	7:48	7:56	8:03
South Bend, Indiana	7:35	7:43	7:51	7:58
Minneapolis, Minn.	8:10	8:18	8:27	8:35
St. Louis, Mo.	7:46	7:52	7:59	8:06
Kansas City, Mo.	8:04	8:11	8:18	8:24
Denver, Co.	7:47	7:54	8:01	8:07
Little Rock, Ark.	7:48	7:54	7:59	8:05
Dallas, Texas	8:04	8:09	8:14	8:19
New Orleans, La.	7:33	7:37	7:42	7:46
Albuquerque, N.M.	7:46	7:52	7:57	8:03
Oklahoma City, Okla.	8:10	8:16	8:22	8:28

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

### THE GROWTH OF THE WORK OF

Since the church fathers organized Regional Conferences in 1944 whereby the North American "Black" would be given leadership opportunities to work among his/her own people, this work has met with signal blessings and growth under

such leadership. The membership has grown as well as the financial income of the church in this sector of its organization. A goodly number of precious souls from all walks of life have and are accepting the message of God's love and saving grace for all mankind.

In 1946, when the Regional Conference began their operations under very trying circumstances, the membership stood at 17,962 and the tithe income was at \$786,420.43. An interesting note of observation is that the previous year, in 1945, the membership of the Black church was 19,008 and the tithe was \$1,098,743.59. When Regional Conferences were organized and began to function in 1946 some of the Black membership refused to be a part of this new "segregated" body and remained with the central organization. Some moved to other parts of the country while others left the country.

Forty years after the birth of the Regional Conferences in the United States, the membership stands at 169,644 and the tithe income reached a level of \$50,590,122.00. Jobs have been provided for our youth; churches and schools have been built for the memberships. Blacks serving in many positions of significance across the land and around the world has proved to be a blessing for the onward progress of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination around the world. What a fellowship, what a joy divine!

### REGIONAL CONFERENCES/CHURCHES OF NAD COMPARISONS OF MEMBERSHIPS AND TITHE GROWTH

	TITHE INCOME	MEMBERSHIP
1986	50,590,112.00	169,644
1986	48,147,194.00	162,779
1984	43,738,950.00	156,722
1983	39,751,513.00	146,955
1982	35,610,368.00	140,385
1981	33,957,117.00	135,602
1980	29,355,513.00	129,505
	*****	
1979	26,756,207.00	119,950
1978	23,267,300.00	113,696
1977	20,757,898.22	108,385
1976	18,681,862.92	102,385
1975	16,867,297.36	97,515
1974	15,463,392.67	92,332
1970	9,407,869.56	73,054
1965	5,247,384.78	56,496
1960	3,657,478.08	43,139
	*****	
1955	2,237,233.68	33,590
1950	1,384,543.81	26,341
	*****	
(*) 1946	786,420.43	17,962
1945	1,098,743.59	17,891
1943	N/A	14,537

## ALLEGHENY EAST

### PETERSBURG HOLDS COMMUNITY COOKING CLASSES

"Adventures in Healthful Cooking"—that's what it was called, a series of four cooking classes co-sponsored as a community service by two Seventh-day Adventist churches in Petersburg, VA.

With an average attendance of 20, the class met for four consecutive Sunday evenings in February in the gymnasium of the R. A. Lewis church school. The class was taught by Debra Boyce, R. D. and a crew of skillful ladies from both churches. The format was a combination of lectures, demonstrations and hands-on cooking experiences. This venture received coverage from three local newspapers as well as radio. The participants came from a variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Adventure was a good name for the classes; excitement ran high each time they met. Students could be found up to their elbows in whole wheat bread dough or busy learning to stir-fry vegetables, season tofu, or make patties without eggs for a binder.

For the last class, each participant prepared a recipe at home and brought it for a grand tasting session. Recipes contained no meat or meat products, were not to be fried and could contain a maximum of two eggs. Low fat dairy products were permissible.

There was a unanimous vote to meet again during 1987 for sessions devoted to topics that were not covered during the four-week session. Contact will be maintained with the non-Adventist class members.

Debra Boyce  
Correspondent

### OH FREEDOM

On the evening of Feb. 21, 1987, a small group from the Emmanuel Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brinklow, MD presented the musical play "Oh Freedom" as part of the observance of Black History Month. Playing to a near full house at the Takoma Academy auditorium, the group depicted a synopsis of black history from freedom to freedom. Freedom as African natives who were secured and content in their surroundings until they were violated by a greedy African chief who sold their souls to slave-seeking men from the New World. Mistreated as victims of cruel and



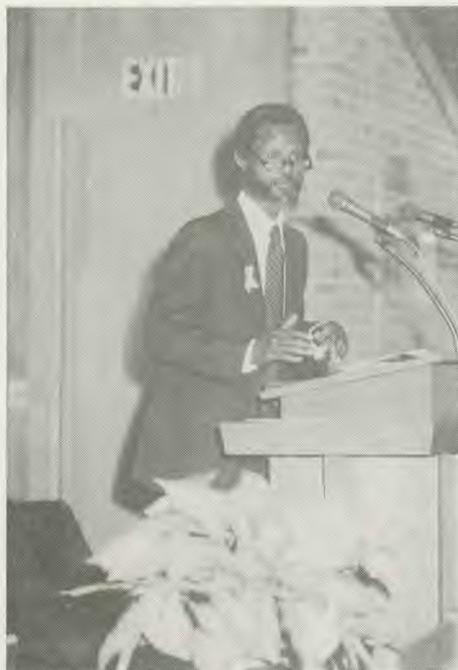
fierce laws of subordinate thinking people and subjectivity. Then free with hope and possibilities, as two members in their slave quarters gained true freedom by fleeing to Canada.

"Oh Freedom" is an emotional roller coaster provoking laughter and tears in rapid succession. Written and produced by Sarah and John Pitts of Columbia, MD who are members of the Emmanuel SDA Church, this play has become an annual event in connection with February as

Black History Month. Sarah and John Pitts wrote the play out of their experiences while missionaries in Africa and their knowledge of negro spirituals. First performed in 1978 at Pine Forge Academy for an MV program, "Oh Freedom" has blossomed from a two-scene play to the seven-scene extravaganza it is today.

Patrice Thomas, asst communications secretary

Emmanuel SDA Church/Brinklow, MD



Richard M. Williams—Health educator, Rochester, NY.

## EMMANUEL CELEBRATES THE BLACK FAMILY

"Washington D. C. is an ideal place to proclaim God's health message," says Richard Williams.

Williams, who authorized an exhaustive *They Stole it But You Must Return it*, spoke to more than 250 people to round out Family Life week at Emmanuel Church, Brinklow, Maryland, on Feb. 28.

Williams said that 41 percent of Blacks in the Washington area smoke, as compared with the national average of 33 percent. The cancer rate in Washington is 62 percent higher for Blacks than their white counterpart. The death rate among blacks in Washington is 309 per 100,000 as compared with the national average of 195 per 100,000.

Williams, a lecturer and health educator from Rochester, New York, went on to share the eight of laws of health and reminded his audience that the health message is broader than not eating meat.

On Sabbath afternoon Williams lead a lively discussion on the black family. The educator contends that the social and psychological effects of slavery are still plaguing black men and women," he pointed out.

"In the slavery experience there was no sacredness for the women's femininity. Her babies were often taken away from her. She was often forced to breed children to create laborers. "She had no control over her sex life."



Elder Artemis Tucker.

"The lack of respect for black women, by slave owners, lead to black-on-black mistreatment among the sexes," Williams explained.

Carlos Medley  
Communication Committee  
Emmanuel Church

## BIBLE INSTRUCTOR'S WORKSHOP

During the weekend before Jan. 19, 1987, parts of the nation were beginning to celebrate the national second year observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. The Emmanuel Seventh-day Adventist Church of Brinklow, Maryland (known as Brinklow), was no exception. Through the opening congregational hymn of "We Shall Overcome," and through the choirs selection of "Battle Hymn of the Republic" preceded by excerpts of the infamous speech, "I Have A Dream," we remembered a man whose dream was that of racial unity and equality.

In this charged atmosphere, Brinklow embarked on a dream of its own; a dream of helping to prepare its members to more effectively spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is to this end that Brinklow sponsored a one-day seminar on Bible Instructorship. In keeping with the General Conference evangelistic theme, "Harvest 90" of which promoting Bible Instructorship is one of the four objectives, and realizing it's extreme importance, Brinklow gave its members the opportunity to learn how to be good teachers of the Bible.

Artemis Tucker, who is the North Jersey Bible instructor in the Allegheny East Conference, agreed to be the guest speaker. Setting the foundation for the afternoon seminar, Elder Tucker preached a subdued yet powerful sermon entitled "The Danger of Emptiness." Using Matthem 12:43-45 as

his main text, Elder Tucker theorized the reasons that pillars of the church, strong Christians, often fail to maintain their spiritual strength.

While it is important to empty out "houses" of sin, those who spend all of their time ridding themselves of sin without devoting time to replacing the emptiness with God's righteousness, run the risk of deterioration thus putting their spiritual lives in jeopardy.

The workshop was sponsored by the Personal Ministries Department, Elder Tucker conducted the session and presented a condensed version of his normal workshop presentation. The main theme of the workshop was: *Ministers Can't Do it All.*

The workshop covered the three steps of soul winning:

(1) Making contact with the prospective persons. (2) Arranging and presenting Bible studies. (3) Bringing the individual to a point of decision.

Elder Tucker presented valuable insights on how to accomplish these steps. He also emphasized four vital tips each Bible worker should remember when going out to give Bible studies:

(1) Give all that you have (show enthusiasm). (2) Be sure that you (the Bible worker) know Christ. (3) Know your Bible. (4) Have a knowledge of humanity.

During the workshop a number of participants gave testimonies and shared their personal experiences in giving studies. The meeting was a success and both the workshop leader and participants are looking forward to another session in the near future.

Patrice Thomas  
Asst. Communications Secretary  
Ann Blackwell  
Asst. Communications Secretary

## CENTRAL STATES



*PAC Home and School program participants.*

### HOME AND SCHOOL PROGRAM FOCUSES ON NUTRITION

The PAC Home and School Board of the Fullwood Elementary SDA School, Omaha, NE, has sponsored a number of informative programs during this school year. The program has centered around PAC's theme, "The Family." One such program was held at the Sharon SDA Church, Omaha, NE, Sabbath afternoon, Jan. 27. The program focused on diet and its affect on the child and his learning.

Over 200 people listened as Dr. Ken Lombard, discussed this important topic. The school children also participated in the program. They presented songs, a choral reading and skit that dealt with nutrition. Other programs have included: "TV and its Influences on Your Child" and "How to Help Your Child With Homework." These programs have also been an excellent witness to the non- SDA students and their parents.

Gordon Sims, Sr.  
Communication Secretary

### STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ELECTORAL POLITICS

Fullwood Elementary Student Council, Omaha, NE sponsored a lively election campaign last fall. As a part of the campaign, a chapel program where students demonstrated the do's and don'ts of Christian politics. Election booths were set up for the voting, and all students from grades 1-8 had to register before voting. These election activities proved to be both fun and educational.

The Fullwood Student Council officers were formally introduced at the first PAC (Home and School) meeting of the 1986-

87 school year. The officers are:

Prseident, Swehla Davis—8th grade; Vice-president, David Jackson—6th grade; Secretary, Kijuana Winn—4th grade; Treasurer, Dwain King—7th grade; Chaplain, Anna Cech—7th grade; Historian, Michelle Carriger—5th grade; Sergeant at arms, Tim Cech—7th grade.

Theresia Taylor  
Principal

### SHARON'S PATHFINDERS ENJOY A FLURRY OF ACTIVITIES

The Omaha, NE, Sharon Pathfinder Club, under the leadership of Mrs. Augusta Gatewood, is continuing, as in the past, to provide informative and exciting programs for the youth.

One rainy and cool weekend, recently, the brave Pathfinders ventured deep into the interior of a Nebraska campground for an overnight campout.



*Sharon Pathfinders in front of their campsite.*

Just a short time after this endeavor, the Pathfinders had a celebration and all of the members were given an opportunity to spotlight their many talents.

Gordon Sims, Sr.  
Communications Secretary



*Temperance run-off winner from Palace of Peace Church.*



*Temperance participants, from Palace of Peace.*



Melissa Bronson, Temperance Poster Winner.



Dr. N. Miller, Conference Youth Director, speaking to Temperance Rally participants.



Nugent Gibson, Temperance Jingle Winner.



Temperance Rally Judges, left to right, Lois Freeman, manager of Hue-Man Experience Book Store; Otis Armstrong, sports handicapper, All Star Sports Inc.; Marilyn Childs, asst. supervisor, Blue Cross/Blue Shield; and Gary Johnson, M. A. LL.B.

## CONFERENCE-WIDE TEMPERANCE RALLY HELD IN DENVER

The Central States Conference Rally was held at the Park Hill SDA Church in Denver, CO. There were five states represented; Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Colorado. The Adventist Youth organizations attending were the Great Plains AY Federation, represented by Omaha, NE.; the Eastern AY Federation, represented by St. Louis, Missouri; the Rocky Mountain AY Federation, represented by Denver, CO and the Central AY Federation, represented by Kansas City, MO. Each AY organization had a part in the Sabbath services.

Preston Baker won first place for Jingles and Posters (EAY), Micheal Johnson won first place for Essay (RMAY), and Fauna Mathis won first place for Oration (RMAY). Throughout the day the over-riding theme was "Life Without Drugs." The youth contributed well to supporting a drug-free life. Elder Gabe Taylor, Jr., the conference Temperance leader, and Dr. N. Miller, the youth leader, reminded all the members that they are facing difficult times, and they can win the battle. The guest speaker for the weekend was Elder Willie Taylor, of the Southeastern Conference.

Ivory Chalmers  
Communication Secretary



Pathfinders enjoying a special celebration.

## NUTRITIONS, TOPIC OF DISCUSSION AT SCHOOL MEETING

Fullwood SDA Elementary School, Omaha, Nebraska has had some very interesting PAC Home & School meetings this year. One such program was held at the Sharon SDA Church on Sabbath afternoon, Jan. 27. The year's theme is "The Family". This program dealt with diet and its affect on the child and his learning.

After music was rendered by the 1-4 grade students, a choral reading, a skit, and an illustrated song, all centered around nutrition, Dr. Ken Lombard of Des

Moines, Iowa gave a very informative lecture on the effects of diet on the school-age child. A question and answer period followed the lecture. There were over 200 people out to participate in this much-needed discussion. At the end of the program, Drs. Lombard (who is also a doctor) were presented a love token of appreciation from the PAC—a lovely lace table cloth.

Many of Fulwood's students are not Adventist, and these programs provide excellent witnessing opportunities. Other programs have included; "TV and Its Influence on Your Child", and "How to Help Your Child with Homework."

Gordon Sims, Sr.



Black History panel, (left to right), Ms. Jo Ann Herrington, Elder Millard Taylor, Elder Clifton Jessup, and Elder W. S. Lee.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH FEATURES PANEL DISCUSSION

The Omaha, NE, Sharon Church kicked off Black History month with a stimulating panel discussion. The panelists were well versed in their particular topics.

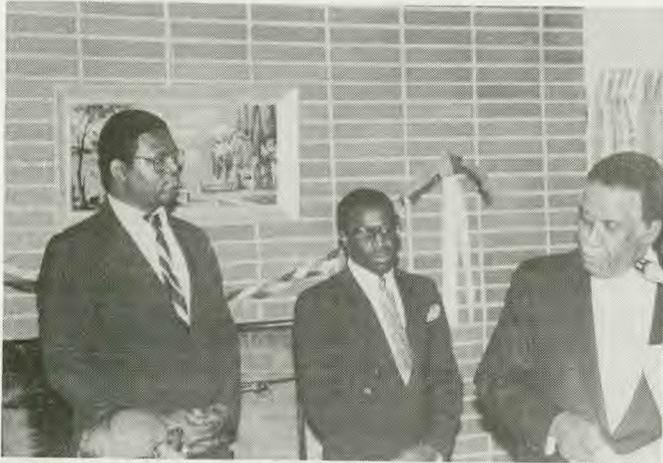
Elder W. S. Lee's topic centered around the issue of seperation of Blacks and Whites in the Adventist churches. His comments addressed the history of the church and the integral part that Black Adventists have played in its history.

Fittingly, the minister of music, Ms. Joann Herrington's topic was the importance and necessity of music as a form of worship. She shared exerpts from various writings of Ellen White in support of the use of various musical instruments in worship. Additionally, there was extensive discussion concerning different types of music.

Elder Clifton Jessup addressed the subject of pride in one's Blackness and acceptance of ones self as God created. This topic lead to discussion in support of not wearing colorful cosmetics and jewelry.

The last participant, Elder Millard Taylor, who is also the fifth through eighth grade teacher at Fullwood SDA Elementary School, addressed the pros and cons of "Black Christian Education." His research was found to be most informative.

# Northeastern Awards



Guest speakers at Workers meeting, left to right, Phillips Ammons, Joseph Rodrigues and C. E. Dudley.



Evangelist Raymond Saunders, holds plaque presented to him by conference president.



Marc Thevenin Pastor of the year stands with conference officers and guest speakers.



Evangelist Lamrence Darsey and wife presented to workers by conference president.



Leon Cox, ministerial director presents plaque to Ida Hanks, Bible instructor.



Stennett Brooks, conference treasurer greets Evangelist Doctor Smith.

# Banquet



*Bible instructor, Avis Carethers show plaque.*



*Milton Thomas, 2nd from left holds plaque along with John Guy and Michael Bernard presented to them by Message Magazine editor for highest subscriptions raised.*



*Jeanette Goddard, Bible instructor displays soul-winning plaque.*



*L. G. Newton, President Northeastern Conference.*



*Delbert Baker, Editor of Message Magazine.*

## **NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE LEADS NAD IN BAPTISMS**

"Striving for Excellence," the theme of Northeastern's winter workers meeting held Jan 19-22, Camp Victory Lake, Hyde Park, NY, was evident as the 89 ministers and 20 pastoral assistants reported 2100 baptisms. This number surpassed the Harvest 90 goal of 2000 baptisms each year for the next quinquennium. Making Northeastern, in 1986, the leading soul winning conference in the North American Division. Elder L. G. Newton, conference president, challenged workers to exceed 2100 in 1987.

The theme carried over into the award banquet, when Elder Marc Thevenin, pastor of the Horeb Church, Brooklyn, New

York, was named "Pastor of the Year." Elders Michael Bernard of Berea Church, Boston, MA and Robert Lister of Flatbush Church, Brooklyn, NY placed second and third, respectively. Elders Clifford Jones of the Jamaica Church, Jamaica, NY; Luc Homicile of the Hebron Church, Brooklyn, NY; Evangelists L. S. Dorsey and Doctor Smith were singled out for distinction, each baptized over 100 persons.

Northeastern also led in the Message Magazine subscription campaign. With 2,245 subscriptions, Pastor Michael Bernard and members of the Berea Church, raised the largest number of subscriptions for 1986. Followed by Elders John Guy and members of the Bronx SDA Church, Bronx, NY with 1,872 subscriptions was the second leading church and J. Milton

Thomas and the members of City Tabernacle, New York, NY with 1,006 subscriptions was the third leading church. Elder Norman Snipes, Personal Ministries Director for the Conference, reported 15,141 subscriptions, far above the assigned goal of 13,000. This is the largest number of subscriptions ever reported by a Black conference.

### FAMILY WEEK HELD AT PHILADELPHIA CHURCH

The week of Feb. 21-27 was dedicated to the family at the Philadelphia Church, Cambridge, MA. On Feb. 21, the guest speaker, Pastor Pichot, reminded the congregation of the importance of spirituality in the family. In the afternoon, the discussion focused on the conflicts in parent and child relationships and the importance of communication. The week was spent in prayer and concluded with a youth program. The Church is planning, in the near future, to present similar programs that will strengthen family ties.

Gina Desrosiers  
Communication Secretary



*Platform guests during family celebration at Philadelphia SDA Church.*



*Elder George Earle at Berea SDA Church, Nyack, NY.*

### FORTY VISITORS ATTEND GUEST DAY

Forty visitors attended Community Guest Day held at the Bronx Temple SDA Church, Bronx, NY on March 7. Elder Aston Peart



*Mrs. Lottie Swann, (c), receives award from Pastor Ware.*

was the guest speaker. His sermon was entitled, "Spirit filled Lamps". His presentation seemly made a great impact on the audience. The service was further enhanced by Elder Clarence Swaby who rendered the special music.

A fellowship luncheon was prepared for both visitors and members. At the end of the day, members and visitors pledged that they would do more to see God's work completed.

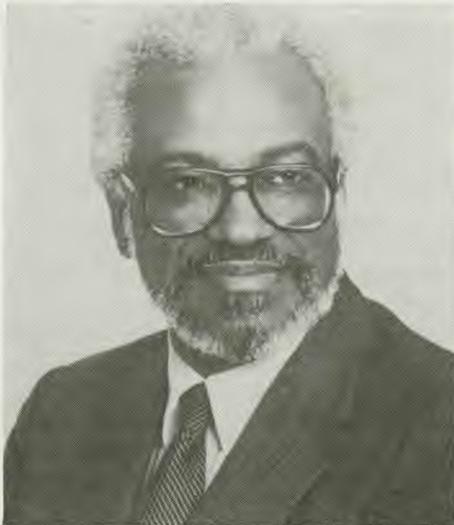
Kathleen Hughes  
Communication Secretary

### HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER RECEIVES AWARD FROM BERA CHURCH

Mrs. Lottie J. Swann, Rockland County Commissioner of Human Rights was recently presented with a Community Service Award by the members of the Berea SDA Church, Nyack, NY. Mrs. Swann was the honoree for the annual guest day. During the service, her numerous accomplishments were cited by former award recipient, Mrs. Frances Pratt, a member of Berea and president of the Nyack branch of the NAACP. Mrs. Pratt spoke of Mrs. Swann's devotion to the Rockland community and her simple desire . . . "to see those with less of a chance be given an opportunity to achieve." The guest speaker for the occasion was Dr. George R. Earle, former president of the Northeastern Conference. Frances Pratt

Communication Secretary

## SOUTH CENTRAL



*Dr. Benjamin F. Reaves, president of Oakwood College, Huntsville 1987.*

### **DR. B. F. REAVES—KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR BLACK HISTORY LUNCHEON**

"The real test of democracy is not in distant lands, but rather in American communities," said the president of Oakwood College during the recent observance of Black History Month.

"The real test of democracy is in Harlem, Woodlawn, Watts and Forsythe County," said Dr. Benjamin F. Reaves. He was the keynote speaker for the observance, addressing an audience of more than 400 persons on February 10, at Ft. Rucker, AL.

Reaves spoke of some Americans as being like a desert nomad who woke up one evening with hunger pangs and lit his candle in his tent. He found four dates. After finding out the first three dates were spoiled, he blew out the candle and ate the fourth.

"Rather than face unpleasant realities, we find it easier to stay with things as they are and hope for the best," said Reaves. "But the undeniable truth is that any nation which denies any of its citizens full humanity in any way has planted the seeds of destruction within itself."

"That is true of any country including this country—a country between times," said Reaves.

Reaves stated that many blacks faced self identity problems and have had trouble finding an appropriate place within society. Reaves told the audience there is a new sense of pride and achievement among our people.

"On my campus, one of the priorities we stress with our young people the need for excellence, to stretch yourself out, and to continue to do better," he said.

Reaves, ninth president of Oakwood College, is originally from New York City. A recipient of Oakwood College's Distinguished Alumnus Award, he is a member of Academy of Homiletics and has been selected by the Army Board of Chaplains to conduct workshops in homiletics and liturgics. The luncheon was sponsored by the Equal Employment Office, Federal Women's Program Committee, and the Wiregrass Chapter of Blacks in Government.

### **VIOLIN PLUMMER NAMED PASTOR**

Elder Violin Plummer has worked to establish several congregations in the South Central Conference territory. The work has been strengthened under his leadership at Fayette, TN, a new work was begun at Decherd, TN and a new group has been in existence at Hartselle, AL for the past 36 months. All of this was done under his leadership. Although he has retired from the teaching ministry at Oakwood College, he still carries a burden to see the work finished and to help make ready a people to meet the Lord. He still does outreach evangelism during his retirement years.

Inasmuch as the Lord has blessed his labors in Hartselle, AL the executive committee of the conference took an action to appoint him as the permanent pastor for the group of over 30 members who worship in the area from week to week.

### **PULASKI, TENNESSEE TO OPEN ITS NEW BUILDING**

Pastor Marion Johnson and members of the Pulaski, TN congregation are planning to open the doors of their new facility on Sabbath, April 21. An invitation is extended to fellow members and community friends to join them for this celebration.

The work in Pulaski had its beginnings when Elder Roland Hill pitched a tent and preached the everlasting gospel to the citizens there. A number of persons accepted the teachings and joined the church. Since that time they have worshipped in the Catholic church, at the surrounding sister churches and in their homes. A great rejoicing will take place when they enter their new facility. This building has been constructed principally by the labors of the pastor and his members from surrounding areas.

### **SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED**

Mrs. Ruth Powell, the wife of the late Dr. John Lewis Powell, dean emeritus of the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, TN has moved to establish a special student scholarship fund for students at Oakwood College. This is done in memory of this great preacher, leader, educator for all of mankind. Dr. and Mrs. Powell have been friends to students of all persuasions for many years, not just in America, but around the world. Their deep interest was and is centered in helping our youth to develop into good and dedicated leaders in serving the Lord and their fellowman.

Mrs. Powell still maintains the purposes and objectives for which she and Dr. Powell labored for many decades. Funds and guidelines for its recipients will be presented to Dr. B. F. Reaves, the president at commencement time in May of this year.

### **HOUSING COMPLEX TO OPEN IN HUNTSVILLE**

The members of the First S. D. A. Church, under the sponsorship of the South Central Conference, have labored long and hard to construct the new senior citizens housing complex that will have its official opening during the Oakwood Alumni weekend in the city of Huntsville. This facility was a dream in the minds and hearts of the members of the First Church of that city which will provide homes for the rapidly growing senior citizen group in the area. Although it is sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist church, the complex will be opened to all colors, races and creeds of people.

This becomes the sixth such facility that is owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist memberships of the South Central Conference. The name for this Inner City Ministry of the conference has been named "Religion In Overalls"—working for the people of the community.

### **AYS WORKS TO HELP JUVENILE OFFENDERS**

The Adventist Youth Society of the Jordan SDA Church in Pensacola, FL. is involved in their own brand of Prison Ministry.

Some of its residents came to Jordan Street church's AYS service and talked to the youth about life in crime. In doing this, they were given extra points toward their

release date. After attending the church service, many of the boys had questions about "the church that worships on Saturday."

Fred Stewart, Toney Middleton, Joe Hodges, Carl Likely, and Konneil Lowe have taken a special interest in the youth at Boys Base, and now spend most Sundays there, returning on Tuesday evenings to give Bible studies to the boys. The response has been overwhelming. Several boys have shown an interest in knowing more about the Bible.

Boys Base residents come from all over the state. The director, Mr. Jack Coppenger seemed pleased to have these positive influences. As a juvenile counselor, he is credited with helping start this program. He arranged to "check" several of the boys out so that they may attend Sabbath services at the church.

Mr. Hank McMillian, Assistant Director, has expressed his approval of the church's interaction with the boys. The majority of the residents of Boys Base are Black and Jordan Street Church is the only Black church that has taken an interest in working with them.



Joseph F. Milner.

### MILNER REFLECTED LAC CHAIRMAN

Joseph F. Milner, Jr. was re-elected as Chairman of the Lay Advisory Council (LAC) of South Central Conference. The Council has been effective in promoting the Southern Union Revolving Fund which has increased from \$6,000.00 in 1984 to \$492,485.00 in 1987. The Lay Advisory Council also offered to accept as one of its projects for 1987, the renovation of one of the dormitory rooms at Oakwood College at a cost of \$1,000.00.

Reactivating all committees is one of the goals of the Lay Advisory Council, as well as sponsoring a conference wide laymen's retreat.

In addition, the LAC is strongly promoting 1987 as the year of evangelism in the South Central Conference, and has made available to churches Revelation Seminar

kits in order to train laymen to conduct the seminars. The LAC desires to see, during 1987, a Revelation Seminar conducted at every church in the South Central Conference.

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*He who diligently seeks good seeks favor, but evil comes to him who searches for it.*

*Prov. 11:27—RSV*

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### THE NON-CONSTITUENTS AND NON-CONFERENCE MEMBER FEES PAID TO ATTEND SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS CHURCH SCHOOLS

"It is the policy of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in all of its church operated schools, on elementary, secondary and tertiary levels in the United States of America to admit students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made to students at its schools, and to make no discrimination on the basis of race in administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs, and athletic or extra curricular programs."

General Conference Officers and Autumn Council—1971

(As written by the Attorney General of the United States)

### "... IN AS MUCH AS YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE MY BRETHREN . . ." MATT. 25:40

Friday evening, Jan 25, 1987, Caplain Jimmie Lee Martin was at home preparing the Sabbath school lesson for his prison ministry program when the telephone rang and a young woman was asking for assistance in broken English.

Benjamin and Anna Vella, a young couple from Florida were on their way to New York to attend a stress seminar. The biggest snow storm had hit the Baltimore/Washington area the previous day and had dropped a foot of snow and the traveling conditions on I-95 were extremely hazardous. The car driven by this couple hit a icy slick and ran out of control totalling the auto, but miraculously the occupants escaped with only minor injuries. The police officers who went to their rescue marvelled that the couple were unhurt. Benjamin was taken to a nearby hospital in Baltimore to care for his injuries, but Anna was taken to the Baltimore City

Jail, booked, and processed. Mrs. Vella was driving on an expired driving license.

Upon arriving at the city jail, Anna wanted the correctional officers to put her in touch with a Seventh-day Adventist. Sgt. Mitchel, the senior correctional officer remembered that chaplain Martin is a Seventh-day Adventist and made a frantic search for his telephone number. Someone remembered that the team members had distributed calendars with their telephone numbers and so they were able to contact Chaplain Martin immediately. Chaplain Martin, in spite of the traveling conditions rushed to the side of Anna and promised her he would help with her release the next day which was Sabbath. He was unable to help that night as the records section of the jail closed at 8 p.m.

In the meantime, there was Benjamin. Alone in Baltimore; knew no one, had no place to stay. The chaplain having assured Anna that her husband would be cared for, called on one of faithful team members, Mrs. Maude Williams, for help. Mrs. Williams went to Baltimore and took Benjamin to her home. Sabbath morning, Benjamin and Anna were reunited and taken to Mrs. Williams' home for food, clean clothing, and rest. Later the Vella's accompanied Chaplain Martin to the Sabbath program at the jail where they developed a deep appreciation for prison ministry.

The prison ministry is able to cater to the needs of all—irrespective of color, race, creed, nationality or religion. We have a strong prison ministry in the Baltimore area. Chaplain Martin is serving the Baltimore city jail as the protestant chaplain and is also the team director of the Baltimore team. Mrs. Williams is a senior citizen donating her time and resources to the ministry. Elder Charles Cheatham is the conference sponsor for the work in the Allegheny East Conference. Elder Henry J. Fordham III, pastor of Berea Temple has encouraged the Baltimore ministers to become more actively involved in the prison program.

Prison ministry does work—Christ is the head of this program. Become involved whenever you can.

Edith E. Tucker  
Public Relations Director  
A. E. C. Prison Ministry Federation

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*A liberal man will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.*

*Prov. 11:25—RSV*

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## SOUTHEASTERN

### JOINT WORKERS' MEETING— SOUTH ATLANTIC & SOUTH- EASTERN CONFERENCE

The bonds between Southeastern and South Atlantic Conference were recemented on Jan. 11-14, 1987. After five years of separate Workers' Meetings, the two conferences came together to examine their kinness. The conferences are divided by territorial lines but united by aims, objectives, goals, aspirations, and hopes.

The Altamone Springs Hilton Inn and Towers provided the atmosphere for recollections, retrospections, and projections. In 1980, before the division, the South Atlantic Conference membership was 21,613, its annual tithe—\$4,003,907. It had 166 workers, 127 churches, and 17 schools.

Since the division:

South Atlantic Conference Dec. 1981—  
Membership 14,087; Tithe 2,645,857;  
Schools 12; Chur./Comp. 71; Workers 107

Southeastern Conference Dec. 1981—  
Membership 9,112; Tithe 2,237,286;  
Schools 5; Chur./Comp. 56; Workers 75.

South Atlantic Conference Dec. 1986—  
Membership 18,687; Tithe 4,213,042;  
Schools 16; Chur./Comp. 87; Workers 107.

Southeastern Conference Dec. 1986—  
Membership 13,025; Tithe 4,151,970;  
Schools 7; Chur./Comp. 75; Workers 98.

The achievements are a result of the loyalty, dedication, and commitment our members possess. The members have repented to the positive leadership of faithful pastors who are the watchmen on the walls and who have maintained their vigilance. Each in his sphere must be commended and congratulated.

The meeting provided a cross section of talented and responsible facilitators. Dr. Hans LaRondelle, Professor of Theology at Andrews University Seminary, gave a devotional and study in "Deliverance in the Psalms" his latest book that received rapt attention. Other lecturers were Elder Patrick Vincent, pastor of Ephesus SDA Church, Birmingham, AL; Elder Sandy Robinson, North American Regional Division; and Southern Union Conference guests; Elder Maurice Abbott, Elder Dennis Ross, Elder Glenn Smith, Elder T. R. Smith, and Elder Lewis Stout. The Awards Banquet catered by the Florida Hospital in the Pods and North Conference Rooms can

be described as delectable. Elder L. Herbert Fletcher, Education Director of the Inter-American Division was the keynote speaker for the evening. Workers from both conferences were the recipients of trophies commensurate to their achievements during the year.

President J. A. Edgcombe, Executive Secretary R. R. Brown, whose duty it was to plan the program, Treasurer D. D. Walker, Departmental Directors I. L. Harrell, K. A. Dennis, O. H. Paul; Asst. Treasurers; P. Allen and E. Mason, the secretaries and pastors served as hosts for President R. B. Hairston, Executive Secretary V. J. Mendinghall, Treasurer J. Simons, the staff and workers. The plans and projections for 1987, if met will endorse again the leadership of God in the affairs of each conference. The session provided uplift, fellowship, insight, commitment, and a new vision to the unfinished task.



*Pastor Raul Cruz  
baptizes a new  
convert.*

### HISPANIC WORK RAPIDLY GROWS IN SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

There is a new light shining in OpaLocka, FL. Several families from the Hialeah Pilgrims Church have started a branch Sabbath School in the North Dade area. The Country Garden has regular meetings on Sabbath, Sunday and Wednesday nights in a former banking center rented for a reasonable sum. On Sabbath about 60 persons meet to worship God. Among them, are non-Seventh-day Adventists. One lady has already been baptized in 1987.

In Miami Beach, FL the City is renovating the neighborhood that has deteriorated over the years. Since the program began church attendance has increased. Two ladies were baptized last January in the sea, in spite of the cold weather.

After many months of searching the neighborhood for a new place to worship, the members of the Ephesus Spanish congregation have just moved into a rented chapel, on the same site as Miami Union Academy. The members are inviting more

visitors to come to church and eight persons are regularly attending the baptismal class.

Hialeah, FL is teeming with activities. The Sabbath School is choosing a theme for each month and all the different parts of the program focus on that motto. February was the month of Love for God and love for others.

Apopka, FL has now *The Present Truth*. Under that name, a new company was organized on Sabbath, March 14. With 28 charter members coming mostly from the Beracah French Church and many others who answered the call made by Pastor James Edgcombe. The congregation is meeting in a rented church located in Apopka. The leader of the group, Pastor Isaías de la Torre, a retired minister, has worked untiringly during the last months to make this possible with the help of Pastor Jean-Claude Brutus.

In Tampa, FL the Spanish church has just bought and moved into its own facilities. They were able to purchase property for an excellent price. Financial arrangements were made with the former owner himself. The members are meeting in the house converted into a chapel until they can build on the recently acquired lot.

The Fourth Hispanic Congress of the Southeastern Conference was held April 10-11 at Miami Senior High School Auditorium, Miami, FL. Elder Israel Leito, Youth Director of the General Conference, was the principal speaker. He also conducted the Youth Week of Prayer immediately following the Congress. On Saturday night, a well-known Cuban born singer residing in Frankfurt, West Germany presented a concert.

### SOUTHEASTERN'S INGATHERING QUEEN

Mrs. Vernell Barton, a member of the Elim SDA Church, St. Petersburg, Florida has retained her crown as Elim's and Southeastern Conference Ingathering Queen for another year. Vernell Barton and her grandchildren solicited over \$3,000.00 for the 1986 Ingathering campaign.

Night after night she and her children solicited funds for the Lord's work from individuals going to and from the neighborhood shopping centers. Their work was twofold. Receiving funds and spreading the word of God.

Pastor Joseph Harris presented Mrs. Barton and her children with two trophies at the annual awards banquet for a job well done.



*Eugene Francis Carter, II.*

## OBITUARY

Eugene Francis Carter, II was the eldest child of Elder and Mrs. Eugene F. Carter, Sr., born in N. Y. C. March 13, 1954. Eugene, "Spike" as he was affectionately called by his parents and friends was always an alert, kind and obedient child.

He showed musical talent and ability at an early age, receiving his first piano lessons from his mother, Ollie Lee Carter, who was an outstanding musician in her own right and who preceded him in death. Eugene studied piano under George Salisbury at the Conservatory of Music in Kansas City, MO. At the Berean Church in St. Louis, MO, where his father pastored, he played for the church choir at the early age of 10 negotiating such intricate compositions as "Handel's Messiah" and "Great and Marvelous Are Thy Works".

In high school he played, arranged and composed music for the University City High School choir. While in high school, the choir director heard him sing and moved him from piano to tenor soloist and it was there that his real talent developed and blossomed. He began studying voice with Mr. Timothy Adams of Colgate University while still attending high school.

After graduation he received a music scholarship to Washington University in St. Louis, MO, and continued to study with Mr. Leslie Chabay. Eugene also sang as the tenor soloist at The Third Baptist Church, the largest Baptist Church in St. Louis, MO, for several years.

After two years at Washington University, Eugene received a four-year scholarship to the Manhattan School of Music in N. Y. C. where he studied voice with Ms. Herta Giaz. He performed with the Opera Workshop of Washington University, the Man-

hattan School of Music as well as the John Brownlee Opera Theater of New York. Eugene worked with the Miami Opera Company of Miami, FL and sang the tenor solo in Mendelssohn's "Elijah" with William Warfield in Philadelphia, PA. He also sang at Carnegie Hall as the tenor soloist in Handel's Messiah.

When Gene sat down to play the organ, one got the picture of a competent organist, when at the piano, one realized he was a brilliant pianist with a superb touch, but when he opened his mouth to sing, you recognized immediately that this was his forte. For one received the abiding impression of a golden throated angel from heaven with his pipes built within him.

Although Eugene was a member of Jamaica Seventh-day Adventist Church, he spent much of his time with his adopted New York mother, Emmeline Cave Gaule, here at the Jackson Heights Church, playing for and singing with the choir.

Eugene departed this life Monday, March 2, 1987 at 3:11 a.m. in Harlem Hospital N. Y. C. He leaves to mourn his passing a loving father Elder Eugene F. Carter, Sr., a devoted stepmother, Willa M. Carter both of Kansas City, MO, one brother Michael S. Carter, Huntsville, AL, one sister Toni Carter Horton, St. Louis, MO, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Mable Dollar Horton, the tenth child of 14 children, was born Nov. 4, 1900 in Birmingham, Alabama to Ambrose and Margaret Ann McGlothen Dollar, and departed this life Friday, Jan. 16 at the Franklin Regional Medical Center in Franklin, Pennsylvania.

At the age of 9, Mabel accepted the Third Angels Message, was baptized by Elder J. G. Dasent in Birmingham, Alabama, and attended the Seventh-day Adventist Church School.

In 1917 Mabel was joined in holy matrimony to Albert Smith. To this union five children were born. A daughter, Margaret Mary Ann preceded her in death.

Mabel married Ernest G. Stevens in 1934 who preceded her in death in 1964. In 1971 she married Moses Horton who departed this life in 1978.

Her life was church centered and committed to service and soul winning. She loyally served in virtually every church office. Saving souls in annual Ingather efforts, giving Bible studies and literature evangelism. She could always be depended upon to get any given task done in an energetic manner.

There is no doubt Mabel will be remembered as a biblical Priscilla, with a home where hospitality never ended. Her home was always open to everyone who enjoyed tastily prepared meals as well as her gracious and warm hospitality.

She will be missed by her children, Ethel Walker (Mrs. Franklin), Louella Garmon (Mrs. Terence), Pastor Robert Smith and wife, Doris, Mrs. Aurora Hamilton; a sister, Mrs. Magnola Jones; seven grandchildren, several step- grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Recent deaths that have occurred across the land—Elder Harry Dobbins, educator, administrator, preacher, builder. Mrs. Georgia Lasey, literature evangelist of the conference for over 40 years. She worked in Mobile, AL. Mrs. Tekola Hamilton of Yazoo City, MS, dedicated lay person for many years; Mrs. Leon Cox, wife of Elder Leon Cox of the Northeastern Conference. The mother of Mrs. Juanita Mann passed away on Friday, March 20 in Seale, AL and the sister of Mrs. Gibson Nkosi of South Africa passed away in South Africa on Sabbath, March 21. Mrs. Nkosi and her husband, Elder Nkosi are attending school in Huntsville, AL.

Blanch Cox was born Oct. 10, 1922, the daughter of Blanche and Richard Wells. Her early years were spent in Columbus, Ohio, where she attended the public schools including Ohio State University. It was in church in Columbus, OH, where Blanche met Leon Cox who she married and with whom she spent 47 years of her life. To this union were born four daughters and three sons.

Blanche was a diligent and faithful worker at home, in church and the professions of School Teaching and Secretarial Service. Her denominational service spanned almost three decades in cities all over North America.

She will be remembered as a thorough Christian who was an Adventist from her childhood. She loved music in all of its accepted forms. As a wife she was superb, as a mother she was exemplary. She had a fine sense of humor and a winning way about her.

In July of 1986, she came to experience the cruelty of cancer. In the months that followed, she suffered much but sang softly the song that represented her hope in a brighter day—a day without sickness or death.

Three days before she passed at Nassau County Medical Center, Blanche took the wristwatch from her arm and said to her husband, "Please take this home" and gave her husband to know that interest in time had been replaced by a focus on "eternity".

Blanche leaves to mourn a devoted husband, Elder Leon Cox, four daughters, Patricia, Norma, Joyce and Phylliss, three sons; Leon, Jr., Earl and Hilton. The families of the sons and daughters include three daughters-in-law, two sons-in-law and many grandchildren; Mary E. Cox, the widow of Elder J. E. Cox is a mother-in-law who mourns along with her son, Leon. Space will not permit the recording of the many brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and other relatives and friends who bid a reluctant farewell to this lovely and gracious lady.

Lovingly submitted,  
The Family

### HARVEST 90 SONG WRITTEN BY ALLEN FOSTER

The "Harvest 90" theme song was adopted by the North American Division. The request was made of the Church Ministries/Office of Church Music to produce music that would focus upon the "Harvest 90" theme; to inspire and to build bridges of togetherness with music.

Mr. Allen Foster, organist and choral conductor of Philadelphia, PA, wrote both text and tune. His fervent prayers, zeal and enthusiasm for evangelism were motivating forces in this creative expression.

Our Sabbath Schools are invited to teach this singable music to our members. They are encouraged to sing it over and over again until it becomes a part of the evangelistic thrust of the Sabbath School and church.

Charles L. Brooks  
Associate Director of G. C.  
Department of church Ministries

### BREATH OF LIFE GOES GRAMMY?

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Other programs with different formats included in the pack feature:

A wedding ceremony (winner of the Religion-In-Media Silver Angel Award) in which Pastor Brooks provides practical counsel for a good marriage.

An interview with Andre Thornton of the Cleveland Indians baseball team discussing the tragic death of his wife and little girl and how he recovered.

Answers to viewers' questions about AIDS.

The Trenchtown, Jamaica, project sponsored by ADRA.

The Jerusalem Special filmed during the Breath of Life Holy Land tour.

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Reginald O. Robinson  
Associate Director/Speaker

### PRIME MINISTER VISITS OAKWOOD

The Prime minister of Uganda paid a visit to the states last week and included in his points to visit, the General Conference office in Washington, D. C., Hadley Memorial Hospital in Washington, Andrews University in Berrien Springs, MI and Oakwood College in Huntsville, AL. Two days were spent at Oakwood College. The prime minister spoke of his days that were spent in the states while he was receiving his training in the medical profession at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. In those days his training lead him to affiliate with the Riverside Hospital. He also spoke of E. E. Cleveland and his encouragements that were extended to him at that time.

## THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL VOICE

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