

NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL

VOICE



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

VOLUME 9

OCTOBER, 1987

NUMBER 8

Church Leaders/Members Visit Far East



COVER STORY

"SPLENDORS OF THE FAR EAST AND CHINA" . . . SUMMER 1987

God in his goodness protected the L.A. Paschal Tour Group as we covered more than 26,900 miles this summer taking in the "splendors of the Far East and China". This globe-trotting, travel-minded entourage consisted of 18 friends from New York City, Chicago, Detroit, Nashville, Huntsville, and Louisville. Together, we bargained and bartered with merchants as we learned the mediums of exchange in Korean Wons, Thai Bahts, Burmese Kyats, Singapore Dollars, Hongkong Dollars, Chinese Yuans, plus a variety of confusing coins. Our journey included transportations by airplane, boat, train, tour buses, "double deckers", and streetcars. In-flight food and entertainment were provided by Korean Airlines, Thai Airways, Union of Burma Airways, Singapore Airlines, and China Administration of Civil Aviation (CAAC).

Our two Sabbaths on tour were spent worshipping with Adventist believers at the Bangkok, Thailand Hospital SDA Church and at the Hongkong SDA Hospital Church. The members present at Sabbath School, the personnel leading out, and the program presented at both services alerted our group of the work yet to be done in the Orient.

Throughout Thailand, Burma, and China, worship of Buddha is paramount. 85% of all Burmese are Buddhists and the percentage is higher in some other areas.

There are fewer than 2% Christian believers, not to mention SDA, in the Far East and China. There is no question that only a "dent" has been made by our church in this region of the world. Although we have some believers in China, there are *officially* no SDA there and much work remains to be accomplished.

Our visit to the school educating youth for the life of a monk and the diligence with which all young boys are trained from early childhood to revere and espouse the philosophy and religion of Buddha were evident everywhere. Pagodas and Buddhas abound in bold relief in both urban and rural areas of the countries. The Recumbent Buddha of Thailand, cast in 1321, weighs 54 tons and is visited daily by devout worshippers bearing their offerings.



Burmese sales lady in the market.



The Forbidden City, a place of beauty is visited by the group.



The S.D.A. Work is viewed in Singapore by the visitors. (The Fareast Division of the General Conference).



Visits to the "Market on the Water" will long be remembered.

The Golden Buddha in Bangkok, five tons of pure gold in weight, bears witness of the believers' devoutness as they remove all footwear before entering the holy places.

The Emerald Buddha in the Grand Palace of the King of Thailand is one-piece pure jade and is an object of national veneration as crowds mass to pay respect of the memory of Buddha and his teachings . . . on days the Palace is open to the public.

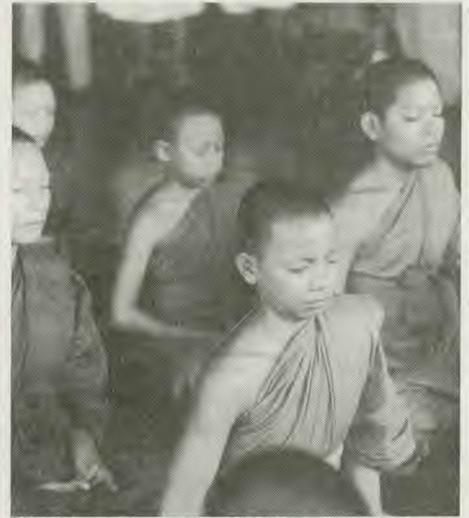
Burma boasts one the "Wonders of the World" . . . The Shwedagon Pagoda, built 2500 years ago and believed to enshrine a few strands of Buddha's hair. It towers 328 feet above Rangoon and is visible for miles. Rivalling Schwedagon is Chauk Htat Gyi Pagoda, where a huge reclining Buddha 229.6 feet lays stretched out and is visited by a steady stream of worshippers. Travelling further into the rural area, we viewed an even more impressive object of Burmese worship . . . The Shwe Tha Lyaling Image (another Reclining Buddha). Its dimensions are: Length- 180 Feet; Height-52½ Feet; Face-22½ Feet;

Ear-15 Feet; Eye-3¼ Feet; Eyebrow-7½ Feet; Eyelid-7½ Feet; Nose-7¼ Feet; Lip-7½ Feet; Elbow to Tip of Finger-45 Feet; Sole of Foot- 25½ Feet; Great Toe-6 Feet; Palm of Hand-22 Feet.

The image is adorned with precious gems, decorated with colorful paint, and gilded in gold leaf.

The inter-racial appeal of Buddhism is expressed in the ornately sculptured Black Buddha. There was no day throughout our stay in Thailand and Burma that we were not acutely aware of the intense impact of Buddha on the religious life of the inhabitants and the *minimal* in-roads of Christianity. Adventism has barely "scratched the surface" behind this "bamboo curtain".

The uniqueness and beauty of the elaborately decorated Thai "spirit houses"



Buddists in training for the priesthood in a school in Thailand.



Elephants are still used to help with the labor in some parts of the Far East.



Black S.D.A. members from the NAD pay a visit to the Ming dynasty tomb near Peking, China.



Maggie, our youthful guide, made the visit to China a living experience for the visitors.



Pagodas are found throughout the far east—houses of worship for the millions of people.

adorned each family dwelling. The rice paddies, the water buffaloes, the salt fields, and the canal trip alongside the fascination floating markets created and stamped indelible pictures on our minds. Our day spent at the enchanting Rose Garden . . . the delicious Thai Cuisine, the herd of log-rolling, working elephants, and the excitement of the 7 foot python encircling our neck and shoulders will keep memories of Thailand alive and lasting.

Hustling Hongkong and scenic Singapore were cities of delight and charm. Exciting Hongkong Harbour, the junks, the houseboats, and the inhabitants revealed a life-style unknown to us. We were able to take a boat tour and at close range observe life on the houseboats. Strong, able-bodied, determined "boat ladies" skillfully guided our launch among the boat homes of these boat people. From generation to generation, many families spend their entire lives on these boats.

Hongkong's population is 6 million, almost 98% Chinese. We were immedi-

ately impressed with the masses of humanity, the high-rise apartments, and commercial occupation of the island people. Hongkong was a "shoppers paradise".

According to a treaty signed in 1984 between the British and the Chinese, the Chinese government will take control of Hongkong in 1997 and this agreement will be in tact for the 50 years following 1997.

While in this area, we were housed in the elegant Royal Meridien Hotel in Kowloon.

Singapore was a "first" for most of the travellers. Its beauty, cleanliness, efficiency, and modern-ness surpassed our wildest expectations. The jade Museum, Ming Village Porcelain Factory, Jurong Bird Park, The Crocodile Farm, and Clifford Pier presented scenes of interest. It was in Singapore, we were privileged to visit the SDA Headquarters for the Southeast Asia Division. Our Adventist Academy, College, Hospital, Church, and Publishing House were welcome sights

after weeks in the lands of Buddhas, pagodas, and Hindu Temples.

The ultimate goal of our travel was realized when we touched down in the Republic of China. Peking (Beijing) was a blend of the ancient and the modern world. Excitement was high as we neared the Great Wall. Despite heavy rain, our expedition to the wall was unfettered. We fulfilled our dream of "climbing the Great Wall," one of the greatest ancient projects in human history. The 4,000 mile wall is known to be the only man-made object visible from the moon.

Other sight-seeing tours in and around Beijing (Peking) included: Chairman Mao Memorial Square (the largest square in the world)

The Great Hall of the People
The Statue of the Heroes of the People's Revolution
The Forbidden City
The Ming Tombs
The Summer Palace
The Peking Zoo and the Giant Pandas
The Avenue of Animals



A visit to the Great Wall in China near Beijing.

Our flight to Guangzhou (Canton), one of the important industrial cities of Southern China, complete our brief sojourn in China . . . but not before we took a look at the Flowery Pagoda which stood 187 feet high, nine stories, viewed from outside, and 17 stories viewed from inside.

Our 747 Korean Airline Jumbo Jet flying 15 hours non-stop from Seoul, Korea to New York's Kennedy Airport brought us, 51 Korean children, and other passengers safely back to America. With grateful hearts and experiences of a lifetime, we thanked Almighty God for the privilege of seeing "the splendors of the Far East and China."

Tour Participants included: Elder & Mrs. Lee A. Paschal, Director; Elder & Mrs. Richard Brown; Mrs. Dorothy Clarke; Mrs. Leola Crane; Elder & Mrs. Charles E. Dudley; Dr. & Mrs. Godfrey Jackson; Mrs. Ruby Jones; Mrs. Mary Maupin; Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Rogers; Mr. Eugene Rogers; Miss Tobie Smith; Mrs. Gertrude Watt; Mrs. Edna Lett Williamson, Secretary.



Thai maden attends water buffalo as a daily chore.



A visit to the Great Wall of China.

The Editor's Desk

STEPHANIE JOHNSON LEAVES FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

Stephanie Johnson, the associate editor for the North American Regional Voice for the past eight years, has decided to leave the staff to engage in advanced studies in the fields of communications and political science. She will be working on her doctorate of philosophy at the University of Paris in France.

Miss Johnson, after completing her work at Oakwood College in Huntsville, Al., where she received the Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism and communications, attended Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mi. Here she earned the Masters degree in communication. After her graduation, she accepted the offer to become the

associate editor of the North American Regional Voice, where she served until the present time.

During her years with the Voice, many opportunities were presented to her whereby she was able to build a good working relationship with leaders and diplomats from nations around the world. Studying in Europe will be a blessing to her, the church and her people, for she will be afforded the opportunity to work with persons in many lands when she has earned her doctorate.

Miss Johnson has brought many blessings to the Voice as an editor, a correspondent, a writer and as an ambassador of good will for the SDA church. We wish her God's speed as she enters into fields of new responsibilities.

SUNSET CALENDAR

	Oct. 30	Nov. 6	13	20
Boston, Mass.	4:41	4:32	4:24	4:19
New York City	4:32	4:43	4:36	4:30
Buffalo, N.Y.	5:10	5:01	4:54	4:48
Atlanta, Ga.	5:48	5:41	5:36	5:32
Miami, Fla.	5:41	5:36	5:33	5:30
Charlotte, N.C.	5:31	5:25	5:19	5:15
Birmingham, Ala.	4:57	4:51	4:46	4:42
Jackson, Miss.	5:13	5:07	5:02	4:58
Memphis, Tenn.	5:08	5:01	4:56	4:52
Louisville, Ky.	5:46	5:39	5:32	5:28
Detroit, Mich.	5:30	5:21	5:14	5:08
Chicago, Ill.	4:48	4:39	4:32	4:27
South Bend, Indiana	5:43	5:34	5:27	5:21
Minneapolis, Minn.	5:05	4:55	4:47	4:40
St. Louis, Mo.	5:03	4:56	4:49	4:44
Kansas City, Mo.	5:20	5:12	5:06	5:01
Denver, Co.	5:01	4:53	4:46	4:41
Little Rock, Ark.	5:17	5:11	5:05	5:01
Dallas, Texas	5:38	5:32	5:27	5:24
New Orleans, La.	5:15	5:10	5:05	5:02
Albuquerque, N.M.	5:15	5:08	5:02	4:58
Oklahoma City, Okla.	5:38	5:31	5:26	5:21

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

CONFERENCES BY MEMBERSHIP RANK

Conference	Membership
1. Southeastern California	45,908
2. Southern California	43,147
3. Northern California	33,230
4. NORTHEASTERN (*)	29,992
5. Oregon Conference	25,886
6. Central California	25,519
7. Florida	25,517
8. Michigan	21,595
9. Texas	21,444
10. SOUTH ATLANTIC (*)	19,366
11. LAKE REGION (*)	19,264
12. Upper Columbia	18,759
13. SOUTH CENTRAL (*)	18,344
14. ALLEGHENY EAST (*)	18,036
** PACIFIC UNION/ REGIONAL	18,000 (approx.)
15. Georgia-Cumberland	17,563
16. Potomac	16,881
17. Rocky Mountain	15,495
18. Ontario	13,172
19. SOUTHEASTERN (*)	12,469
20. Washington	12,469
21. SOUTHWEST REGION (*)	12,288
22. Illinois	11,990
23. Ohio	11,826
24. Greater New York	11,506
25. Iowa-Missouri	11,240
26. Carolina	11,050
27. Kansas-Nebraska	10,724
28. ALLEGHENY WEST (*)	9,790
29. Arizona	8,403
30. Pennsylvania	8,403
31. Arkansas-Louisiana	8,249
32. British Columbia	8,191
33. Southern New England	8,186
34. CENTRAL STATES (*)	7,264
35. Chesapeake	7,264
Bermuda	2,324
Pacific Northwest/Regional	1,200

TITHE INCOME: REGIONAL CONFERENCES vs DIVISIONS OF WORLD FIELD

REGIONAL CONFERENCES/ CHURCHES NAD	
Euro-Africa Division	\$ 34,683,170
Inter-American Division	\$ 33,025,736
South American Division	\$ 22,043,777
South Pacific Division	\$ 21,109,918
Far East Division	\$ 19,264,021
Attached Fields-Africa/ South	\$ 4,703,817

Africa-Indian Ocean Division	\$ 3,833,061
East African Division	\$ 3,323,703
Southern Asia Division	\$ 706,555
General Conference-Miscellaneous	\$ 411,966
North American Division	\$287,163,420 (Less Regional work)
North American Division-total	** \$337,753,429

REGIONAL CONFERENCES/CHURCHES MEMBERSHIPS

1986

Northeastern Conference	29,992
South Atlantic Conference	19,366
Lake Region Conference	19,264
South Central Conference	18,344
Alleghany East Conference	18,036
Pacific Union Conference (Regional)	18,036 (Prox.)
Southeastern Conference	13,025
Southwest Region Conference	12,288
Alleghany West Conference	9,790
Central States conference	7,495
Bermuda Conference	2,324
Pacific Northwest Union (Regional)	1,200 (Prox.)

* * *

Total Membership—1986 169,160

PROGRESS VILLAGE CHURCH HONORS MOTHER

Sarah E. Johnson, the inspiration behind the Progress Village Church, Tampa, Fl., which started from a prayer meeting held in her home, was signally honored by the members of the church. Pastor Theus Young acknowledged her achievements on Mother's Day and declared her "Spiritual Mother" of Progress Village Church.

Since the church's inception in 1981, she has worked untiringly as Sabbath School Superintendent and usher. Ms. Johnson is responsible for bringing a family of 12 along with others into the church.

Ms. Johnson became an Adventist in 1943, baptized by Elder W.W. Fordham. She became a member of the Miami-Bethany Church and subsequently joined the Ephesus SDA Church, New York City. She returned to Tampa in 1950, and worked faithfully as a member of the Tampa-Mt. Calvary Church. She remained there until the establishment of Progress Village Church.

During Campmeeting '87, she celebrated her 72nd birthday with family and friends.

STATISTICS OF THE REGIONAL WORK-1986

	World Field	NAD	Regional Work
MEMBERSHIP	5,038,671	704,515	169,160
Note: The Regional Conferences/Churches of the NAD comparisons—	3.36%	24.00%	100%
TITHE INCOME	\$496,770,012	\$337,753,429	\$50,590.00
Note: The Regional Conferences/Churches of NAD comparisons—	10.18%	14.83%	100%
CONGREGATIONS	26,984	4,352	757 (approx.)
Note: The Regional Conference/Churches of the NAD comparisons—	2.80%	17.39%	100%
BAPTISMS	430,257	33,435	9,658
Note: The Regional Conferences/Churches of NAD comparisons—	2.24%	28.86%	100%
APOSTASTIES	83,979	13,803	2,349
Note: The Regional Conferences/Churches of NAD comparisons—	2.79%	17.01%	100%
TITHE PER CAPITA	\$110,64	\$469.88	\$299.06
Note: The Regional Conferences/Churches of NAD comparisons—	2.71%	60%	100%
PRIMARY SCHOOLS	4,166	1,179	91
Note: The Regional Conferences/Churches of NAD comparisons—	2.18%	7.71%	100%
PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT	476,656	53,471	8,801
Note: The Regional Conferences/Churches of NAD comparisons—	1.84%	16.45%	100%
ORDAINED MINISTERS	10,812	3,285	428
Note: The Regional Conferences/Churches of NAD comparisons—	3.95%	13.02%	100%
LICENSED MINISTERS	4,804	571	107
Note: The Regional Conferences/Churches of NAD comparisons—	2.22%	18.73%	100%
SECONDARY SCHOOLS	834	94	8
Note: The Regional Conferences/Churches of NAD comparisons—	.95%	8.5%	100%
SECONDARY SCHOOLS ENROLLMENTS	124,720	22,985	1,041
Note: the Regional Conferences/Churches of the NAD comparisons—	.83%	4.52%	100%
TEACHERS—SECONDARY	7,572	1,349	67

Note: The Regional Conferences/Churches of the NAD comparisons—	.88%	4.96%	100%
UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES	86	13	1
Note: The Regional Conferences/Churches of the NAD comparisons—	1.16%	7.6%	100%
UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE ENROLLMENTS	33,643	13,731	953
Note: The Regional Conferences/Churches of the NAD comparisons	2.83%	6.94%	100%
HEALTH CARE INSTITUTES—BEDS	18,534	9,861	81
Note: The Regional Conferences/Churches of the NAD comparisons—	.437%	.821%	100%

ALLEGHENY EAST

WEST PHILADELPHIA INVERTS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School took a different but successful twist at the West Philadelphia, Pa. Church. Instead of the church's doors being opened in the morning, Vacation Bible School was held in the evening from 6-8 p.m.

Fifteen volunteers came out nightly to help with the over 100 children. Activities included: Bible stories, sewing stuffed animals, making paper bag elephants and styrofoam dogs, among many others.

Graduation services were held the following Sabbath evening with approximately 75 youngsters in attendance. Each received certificates and were able to take home their projects. Attempts are being made to follow up with the families.

—Mark Frog Harris
Correspondent

DR. BONNER NAMED TO STATE POST

Dr. Mack Bonner, Jr., medical director at Spring Grove State Hospital, Spring Grove, Md., has been named a Deputy State Secretary of Health with responsibility for all public health services in Maryland.

Bonner, a native of Philadelphia, was the medical director at Harlem Hospital Center in New York City for three years. In 1980, he became chief of Provident Hospital's Department of Medicine, serving until Jan., 1985, when he was named medical director at Spring Grove.

NEWS NOTE

Samuel E. Darby, II was selected as a recipient of the American Biographical Institute's 1987 Commemorative Medal of Honor. According to the American Biographical Institute, the Commemorative Medal of Honor was made to "Specifically honor individuals whose energies, sacrifices, abilities and ambitions help to create better communities for all mankind."

CENTRAL STATES

SLADES' PREPAREDNESS RECOGNIZED

The St. Louis Area Disaster Emergency Services (SLADES) organization was enlightened by a presentation on emergency preparedness in the St. Louis area. The presentation was given by Professor Dave Gillespie and Ph.D. candidate Cal Streeter, both from the Washington University Department of Social Science. Their project involved determining how many of the city's social services and emergency services would be prepared in the event of an earthquake of considerable force.

SLADES members discovered that only 80 of the 1,000 organizations surveyed were able to respond to a major earthquake emergency. It was blatantly apparent that more service groups such as SLADES are needed to lighten the load of disaster assistance. The state law in Missouri requires coordination and resource sharing between municipalities in time of disaster, but a lot of municipi-

palities do not follow through on this requirement. In fact, some areas only have one person in charge of disaster operations and that person is sometimes a volunteer.

It was brought out by Professor Gillespie that when disaster occurs, there are many individuals who wish to assist in relief efforts. But, if those volunteers have not been properly trained they may do more harm than good. The SLADES group keeps up to date by continually enrolling in disaster training courses and providing lectures by knowledgeable professionals.

Gillespie and Streeter summarized the presentation by giving five items of importance to all disaster service organizations:

1. Coordination and cooperation are essential.
2. Volunteers play a critical role in assistance.
3. Planning and a definite chain of command are needed.
4. An intergrated concept is very helpful.
5. A flexible response system is necessary.

Within two weeks of the presentation, two earthquakes were felt in Missouri. There were no casualties.

—Magnolia Harris
Communication Secretary

A NEW CONGREGATION IS ESTABLISHED IN MISSOURI

A drive past the building at 6501 Bartmer, University City, Mo., weeks ago would not have yielded a clue as to the bustling activity going on inside. But, enter the front door and a whole new scene opens. Pastor Pembleton and dedicated members were cleaning, painting, hanging drapes and laying new carpet; working far into the night to put their sanctuary in readiness for its opening day July 18. Because of the perseverance of Elder J. Paul Monk, Central States Conference president and Elder Pembleton, the Agape SDA Church is now in existence. The purpose of this church is to bring an Adventist presence to the area and to discover the community needs. Plans for a day care center, a Dorcas center and other activities are in the works at Agape.

Special recognition should be given to Ms. Lucille Mitchell, who donated generously to the project.

—C. Daniels Johnson
Communications Secretary



The Berean Youth Choir, a vital part of evangelistic efforts at the Berean Church.

THE MANY FACES OF EVANGELISM AT BEREAN

In addition to an enthusiastic Adventist Youth program under the leadership of Wendell Hassell, the young people of Berean SDA Church, St. Louis, Mo., involve themselves in individual and group endeavors. Sandra Quinn, the only Adventist in her family, dreamed of becoming a "real missionary". This dream was realized when in the 1985-86 school year she left Oakwood College to serve as a student missionary in Japan. While working as a teacher, Sandra received invaluable experience and a strengthened determination.

Terris Thompson, a recent graduate of Oakwood College is highly respected at Berean for his involvement in witnessing activities. Terris also works with the youth choir, Vacation Bible School, youth singing groups, and other church and community programs. Last year, Terris was involved in the United Negro College Fund contest at Oakwood. He won second place, raising several thousand dollars for UNCF and winning a Caribbean trip for himself. Terris' enthusiasm helped raise Oakwood's level of recognition and prestige, both with the UNCF and Huntsville, Alabama community.

"Covenant", a vocal group directed by Terris Thompson have performed several fund-raising concerts including concerts in Illinois and other nearby states. Terris writes and arranges some of the group's music.

—Eileen M. Nelson
Communication Secretary

PALACE OF PEACE FOCUSES ON YOUTH

Palace of Peace Church, Colorado Springs, Co., recently held Youth Week of Prayer. The speakers; Alton Johnson, Raymond Loggins, Claudette Clarke, Bobby Loggins, and Sarah Mann, were all members of the church. Ms. Mann also served as Week of Prayer Coordinator.

The youth of the church also provided special music for the services.

Following the Week of Prayer, the Colorado Springs Church celebrated Education Day. Guest speaker for the day was Mr. David Bartlett, principal of the Colorado Springs SDA School, Colorado Springs, Co. Bartlett has been principal of the school for five years. Originally from San Diego, Ca., he has been an educator for 13 years. Accompanying him was his wife, Louise and son, Alan.

—Roy Morgan
Communication Secretary



Mrs. Peggy Hunter, guest soloist, leads the Sounds of Joy in a musical selection.

LINWOOD CHOIR VISITS SHARON CHURCH

On Sabbath June 13, the Linwood Blvd. SDA Church choir from Kansas City, Mo., marched into the Sharon Church, Omaha, Ne., sanctuary to a capacity crowd. The choir performed a variety of gospel numbers, spirituals and hymns.

The Linwood choir is under the direction of Mr. Ron Garnett, Sr., and accompanied by his wife Yvette. The choir was joined by: the Omaha Sharonaires who are under the direction of Ms. Jo Ann Herrington; guest soloist, Mrs. Peggy Hunter from the Church of the Living God; and the Sounds of Joy, for a magnificent grand finale.

—Gordon B. Sims, Sr.
Communication Secretary

LITERATURE EVANGELISM RALLY DAY AT SHARON

Literature Evangelism Rally Day was held at Sharon SDA Church, Omaha, Ne., recently. The guest speaker was Elder Stephen P. Ruff, Publishing Director for South Central Conference in Nashville, Tn. Elder Ruff spoke of the importance of God's word and how the church must minister to everyone.

Many of those present accepted the challenge to work with Literature Evangelism during 1987.

—Gordon B. Sims, Sr.
Communication Secretary



The combined chorus of the Linwood and Sharon Church choirs.

CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT HONORED DURING COMMUNITY GUEST DAY

The Bethesda Church of Omaha, Ne., celebrated their Community Guest Day in grand style. It began with an interesting discussion of spiritual gifts during the Sabbath School hour.

Speaker for the midday service was Elder Danny Milton, Publishing Director for Central States Conference. His message dealt with salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

During the service, Councilman Fred Conly was honored. He has been elected to serve as City Council President and is the first Black to sit on the city council in Omaha. Councilman Conly also serves as Nebraska state chairman of Jessie Jackson's presidential campaign.

The day's program was spearheaded by Ms. G. Webb.



Councilman Fred Conly of Omaha Nebraska (left) and Pastor Rodney Draggon of Bethesda Church.



Mae Pearl Batie, Community Services Leader (left), and Clarence Small, Personal Ministries Leader stand in front of newly renovated Community Services Center.

BETHEL OPENS COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER

Under the leadership of Mae Pearl Batie, Community Services Leader for Bethel SDA Church, Kansas City, Ks., the dream of a Community Services Center was finally realized.

For several months, plans were made to renovate the church parsonage into a center. Wayne Germany and Harry Small worked day and night along with several other men from the church to accomplish the goal. The building displays a completely new look, with wall-to-wall carpet donated by Wayne Germany and his family, and beautiful ceiling fans. Batie

and Margie Crobarker shopped for shades, curtains and draperies to accent the color of the carpet.

A cozy office was set up to accommodate those who would apply for food and clothing. Help is given daily as other organizations refer families to the center. Recently, a family who had lost all of their possessions came to the center. Ms. Batie was prepared to care for them completely. In addition to a generous supply of food, the family received over 80 articles of clothing. Along with providing these basic needs, the center also gives literature to those utilizing the services. Some return to visit the church.

An open house attracting over 200 persons was held at the center. Clarence Small explained the uses of the center and Pastor Gil Webb offered prayer. Mae Pearl Batie cut the ribbon and the members and friends were welcomed by Ms. Batie and Margie Crobarker.

Two tables decorated with flowers and candles, held refreshments for the visitors. Another table displayed lovely hand-made articles.

A Disaster Seminar was held at the center recently. Red Cross workers expressed delight at conducting a seminar in such lovely surroundings.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT PALACE OF PEACE

The Palace of Peace SDA Church, Colorado Springs, Co., held its Vacation Bible School Aug. 3-7. Every night during the week, volunteers did an outstanding job of guiding the 80 children through their activities.

Graduation exercises were held on Aug. 8, with more parents attending than ever before. Ms. Minnie Rowe, VBS leader is to be commended for the excellent job done, along with the cooperative young people who assisted her. Mr. Andrew Jackson and Mr. Willie Williams were responsible for transporting the participants.

COMMUNITY GUEST DAY AT PALACE OF PEACE

Community Guest Day was celebrated recently at the Palace of Peace SDA Church in Denver, Co. Pastor Reuben Roundtree was the day's speaker and his



The congregation of Palace of Peace during Vacation Bible School Graduation.

message was entitled, "The Family of God."

Realizing that the Palace of Peace Church could not accommodate all who would attend, the Salvation Army Center was acquired to house the large congregation.

After a delicious meal the day was ended with a special AYS program.

THE LAST DAYS BIBLE REVIVAL

August 9 found the members of the Palace of Peace Church, Colorado Springs, Co., handing out handbills in the community inviting them to attend The Last Days Bible Revival. The meetings were held nightly, with the exception of Tuesdays and Fridays, for three weeks. It put one in mind of an old fashioned tent effort with its gifts and quizzes. Slides were also used to enhance the presentations each night.

The seminar was primarily geared toward former members and those members who were sporadic in attendance.

—Roy Morgan

NORTHEASTERN

NORTHEASTERN ACADEMY TEACHERS PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACH

In an effort to refine teacher skills and to keep giving young people the best education possible, Esmee J. Bovell announced that the entire faculty of Northeastern Academy will be using *The Master Teacher* again this year. *The Master Teacher* is a planned program of professional training designed to help educators maintain high professional standards and practices in the classroom and in the school.

During the first semester, teachers will study specific topics in effective teaching techniques, motivation, discipline, grading and testing, professionalism, and ethics. The program is also designed to improve the quality of teacher-to-teacher, teacher-to-student, and teacher-to-parent interaction.

The Master Teacher program is designed to meet two goals. First, to help teachers maintain and refine their positive and professional attitudes toward teaching and youth; this includes remaining positive toward their work as classroom teachers as well as recognizing their contribution to the accomplishments of the entire school.

Second, *The Master Teacher* program strives to give each teacher something new and practical each week that can be applied immediately in their daily work with students.

Mrs. Bovell explained, "It's a changing world. And whatever one's life work, constant growth is necessary for continued effectiveness and success. Professional growth is a process of work and study that must begin on the first day of a career and be never-ending. That is why we use *The Master Teacher* program of staff development. It is distributed weekly throughout the school year and covers the wide spectrum of teachers' needs, and it helps teachers refine the skills needed to be successful in today's classroom".

TWENTY-FOUR BAPTIZED DURING REVIVAL MEETINGS

Twenty-four persons were baptized during Revival meetings conducted by Evangelist Raymond Saunders at City Tabernacle, New York City, June 11-24.

The meetings were the result of a reaping campaign sponsored by the Personal Ministries Department, that organized Home Revelation Seminars. The response was good; people who attended the seminar were invited to the revival meeting.

A second baptism took place, after campmeeting on Sabbath, July 11. Presently, several persons who were not baptized regularly attend City Tabernacle, and are members of the baptismal class.

Charmaine Yates sang nightly.

—Joan V. Marsh
Communication Secretary



Ms. Charmayne Yates sings "We Shall Behold Him".



Evangelist Saunders in a heart to heart talk with candidates.



Pastor Jonathan Thompson (left), and Evangelist Raymond Saunders answer questions during a discussion period.

FOUR BAPTIZED AS A RESULT OF REVELATION SEMINAR

Four persons were baptized at the end of Revival Meetings conducted by Evangelist Raymond Saunders at City Tabernacle, New York City, after they completed the Revelation Seminar held by a team of four from New Hope Mission, New York City.

Yvonne Douff, Giovanna Cooper, Ada Fisher and Amanda Thomas were happy to take baptismal vows and become members of God's Remnant Church. They were among the 12 adults who met three times a week in the home of Gloria Price. The seminar team consisted of Ms. Price, Eraldo Palmer, Norma Cooper and Dahlia Kirkland. While two team members worked with the adults, the other two worked with the many children who attended.

Three of the baptized members attend New Hope Mission and the other worships at City Tabernacle.

—Joan V. Marsh
Communication Secretary



Women's chorus sing during Lady's Day at Bethesda SDA Church. Speaker, Ms. Stephanie Johnson, seated center.

DOES EVE STILL PURSUE THE APPLE?

Biblically speaking the apple has a less than spotless reputation. On May 9, 1987, Ms. Stephanie Johnson, in a sermon geared to celebrate Ladies Day, gave the Bethany Church, Westbury, N.Y., a modern view of this still provocative fruit.

Many women are forced by economics to pursue careers outside the home; are these women chasing after a taste of the apple of worldly success? Ms. Johnson, Associate Editor of *The Regional Voice*, expressed the concerns of most mothers who must work, in asking what price is exacted for success attained in the business world. Have Christian homes suffered because of modern Eve's pursuit of the shiny apple of "having it all?"

This thought-provoking message left the attentive audience with the dilemma of seeking a balance between spiritual and economic needs. The guidelines advanced by Ms. Johnson will go far in helping to solve this ever-widening problem.

—Barbara Foye
Communication Secretary

YOUTH WEEK OF PRAYER EXAMINES BOOK OF DANIEL

Youth Week of Prayer at City Tabernacle, New York City—April 4 through 11, had as its guest speaker Elder L. David McCottry, Pastor of the Southampton Church, Bermuda.

McCottry based his discourse on the book of Daniel, chapters one through four. He brought the Book alive and one could almost see the characters as he went over the experience of Nebuchadnezzar with the three Hebrew boys,

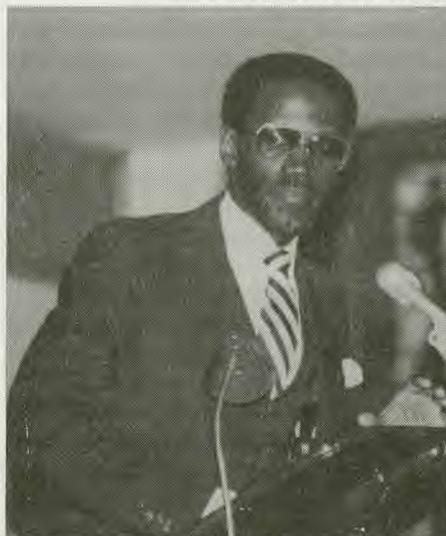
Daniel and later God, Himself. Emphasis was placed on God's direction in His effort to save the king.

McCottry titled his most powerful message, "Nevertheless, Leave the Stump", and brought home to the congregation God's dealing with His Church and His desire to save His people.

He also stressed the importance of a vegetarian diet as it affects personal growth, health, witness and fulfillment of God's word.

The New Hope Singers provided musical selections from night to night. New Hope Mission is the infant Church of City Tabernacle, which came out of Evangelistic Meetings held by Evangelist Raymond Saunders in 1982.

—Joan V. Marsh
Communication Secretary.



Northeastern Academy students prepare for baptism flanked by Bible Instructor, M. Myrtle Smith (far left), and principal Esme Bovell.

ACADEMY STUDENTS BAPTIZED AT EPHEBUS CHURCH

Northeastern Academy not only teaches academics, the teachers also believe that they should, "Teach . . . all things whatsoever I have commanded you, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost."

On June 6, 1987 at the Ephesus SDA Church in New York City, Pastor Edward Herdon, Bible instructor at the academy, officiated at the baptismal service of several Northeastern Academy students.

These students baptisms came as a result of Weeks of Prayer held by Pastor Edmond and D. Osborne. A study class was formed and taught by Mrs. M. Myrtle Smith, Bible instructor for Bethel SDA Church in Brooklyn, N.Y.



Pastor L. David McCottry.

OC OFFICIAL STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

What's the sure formula for a youth to build a solid spiritual foundation? Don Wood, the Director of Publications for Oakwood College, presented a resounding answer to members of the Bethany Church, Westbury, N.Y., on May 16. His message entitled, "Preparation, Confidence, Success," stressed the principle that Christian education is a basic building block in attaining success and a safeguard against temptation.

Mr. Wood's premise came to life as he portrayed the outcome of Joseph's early childhood preparation. He persevered through hardship, he resisted overwhelming temptation, and was elevated to a place of honor as a result of his preparation.

Mr. Wood's message left no doubt in the mind of the congregation, the importance of Christian education.

—Barbara Foye
Communication Secretary

SOUTH CENTRAL



Traveling party of the S.S. Jubilee.

ISLAND CRUISE BRINGS PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL REVIVAL

On June 20, 33 persons from Alabama, South Carolina, Ohio, Indiana, and Virginia embarked on a seven-day cruise on the SS Jubilee, Carnival Cruise Line. Ports of call were Puerto Rico and the Bahamas.

The group enjoyed a variety of activities including shopping at quaint stores in San Juan and St. Thomas; and the straw market in the Bahamas.

The spiritual side was not neglected. A room on the ship was reserved for religious services. Visitors attending each worship service were given tracts and booklets.

On Wednesday night, a prayer and testimony service was held. Friday evening vespers signaled the beginning of a new Sabbath.

Sabbath was the high day. Ushers stood at the door to welcome the people and pass out bulletins that listed the day's program. The Sabbath School lesson was taught on the whole by three persons.

Personal Ministries reports were presented by a person from each state. Simeon Middleton of Beaufort, S.C. delivered a stirring message entitled, "The Storm," for the divine hour. The Sabbath was ended with vespers as worshippers watched the setting of the sun on the Atlantic Ocean.

22 TENTS PITCHED DURING SUMMER

Over 22 summer evangelistic crusades were held in South Central Conference. Elders R. Robinson of the Breath of Life and P.E. Vincent of Ephesus Church, Birmingham, Al., reported 54 souls were baptized during the crusade held near the Birmingham airport. Altogether, there were six tents in Birmingham.

E.E. Cleveland and R.L. Patterson reported that 110 persons were baptized during the church crusade held at the Bethany Church, Montgomery, Al. Dr. Cleveland returned to that city where 33 years ago he baptized 500 persons.

In Memphis, Tn., Elder Dennis Ross baptized 113 persons.



22 Crusades Held — Hundreds are Baptised — New Congregation organized in Memphis, TN.

TOP STUDENT CREDITS CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR

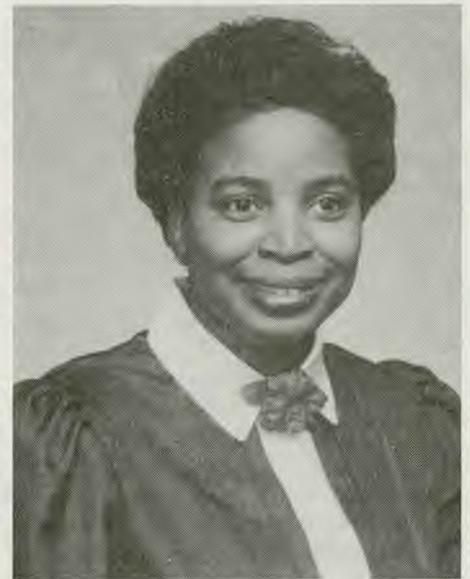
Jewel Walker, an 8th grader attending Greater Huntsville Area School, Huntsville,

Al., maintained a 4.0 GPA during the school year.

When questioned about her academic achievement, she credited her first grade teacher, Anne Galley, a Christian educator, who taught her reading, writing and arithmetic.



Jewel Walker.



Mrs. Diane Ruff.

NEWS NOTE

Diane Ruff, an office secretary at South Central Conference, recently completed studies for a Master's Degree in School Administration from Tennessee A & I State University in Nashville, Tn.

She will be leaving the conference office to become assistant principal at the F.H. Jenkins School in Nashville, Tn.



Mrs. Loretta Gill, Personal Ministries Director for Bethany SDA Church in Montgomery, AL.

PERSONAL MINISTRIES LEADER HONORED

Mrs. Loretta Gill, Personal Ministries leader for the Bethany Church, Montgomery, Al., was pleasantly surprised when the Personal Ministries team honored her for outstanding service. She was given a beautiful plaque and card.

During Personal Ministries Day, Mrs. Gill gave certificates of appreciation to those members who had gone above the call of duty. She personally refused to accept such commendation. Little did she realize her contributions to the church would not go unnoticed.

NO POLICY IN EXISTENCE

At the time of the South Central Conference constituency meeting in April of this year, the General Conference auditor stated to the delegates assembled that:

"The Supplemental Plan for Retirement which provides for additional funds to the worker when he/she retires for the work—is not in harmony with denominational policy."

The conference administration wrote to the treasurer, Elder Donald Gilbert, concerning this statement that was made by the auditors. "Please send to us a copy of this policy!" was the request. Gilbert's response was that there is no such policy in writing—it is a policy in 'spirit'. It is unfortunate that the auditors would lead the members to feel that the conference leaders are not operating the conference in keeping with the policies of the organization that do not exist in the General Conference nor the North American Division Working Policy Books.

DELBERT BAKER'S BOOK OFF THE PRESS

A book entitled 'The Unknown Prophet' by Delbert Baker, the editor of the Message Magazine, has been released by the Review and Herald Publishers. In the book, Baker makes a documented study of William E. Foy, a Black preacher of the 1840's to whom the Lord gave visions to give to the church before they were given to Ellen G. White. He did not disobey the 'heavenly vision' as we have been led to think by other church historians, but gave the messages that the Lord showed to him. His meetings were attended by Ellen G. White when she was just 14 years of age and before her visions. Every SDA member should get a copy of this book. It is a part of the 1888 Centennial Series and can be purchased at the South Central Conference Book Center. Order it today!

MESSAGE MAGAZINE INTRODUCES A DRUG SUPPLEMENT

Delbert Baker and his staff of workers with the Message Magazine have produced a special supplemental issue on Drugs for distribution among all classes of society in America and around the world. It is a very good instrument that can be used by the temperance leaders in your churches as they work with the schools, churches and civic groups in your community. Your literature evangelists will find it to be of great value in their day to day sales promotions.

MESSAGE MAGAZINE DRIVE

Elder H.L. Cleveland, the Personal Ministries Director for the conference, reports that subscriptions for Message Magazine have reached an all-time high this year. We are approaching the four or five thousand mark. We express thanks to each pastor, church elder and personal ministries leader for a job well done.

The Message Magazine is a very good and effective evangelistic tool which can be used to bring the truth of God's word to many who have never heard. Delbert Baker, the editor, states that the total subscription list has passed the 100,000 mark. Fifteen thousand requests were received from many of the Black leaders and professionals from across the land, expressing their desire to receive the

journal from month to month. Let us continue to support the Message.

NEW CONGREGATIONS IN THE MAKING

When the meeting came to an end in the Frazier section of Memphis, it was concluded that a new church would be organized for the area. The other churches in the city are too far for the saints to attend and be regular, plus, an opportunity is provided to train new leaders to become soul-winners for God. The church is to be organized on Sabbath, Sept. 12th.

B.E. Cone, Sr. and his crew of literature evangelists are building a wonderful list of candidates for baptism through the spread of the printed page in the city of Tupelo, Ms., just 100 miles south of Memphis. Donnel Morgan, a volunteer infiltrationist from Oakwood, has also settled in the town and works to help bring the new congregation into being. Elder R.P. Peay is to conduct an evangelistic crusade next spring.



Michael Holland, infiltrationist, and Pastor Gary Foster have joined hands to help establish a new congregation in the city of Campbells, Ky., this year. It is reported that some 20 persons are meeting each Sabbath for the worship services.

Brother C.J. Youngman is leading the membership in a spirit-filled evangelistic crusade in the city of Scottsboro this summer. The meetings look to be very promising.

Dr. A. Andrews and E.C. Ward along with students from the college are conducting some meetings in the city park in Guntersville, Al. The interest is very good and plans are being laid for the purchase of a new facility in which to worship there.

SOUTHEASTERN



(Left to right) Elder Eugene Mason, Sanford Church; Elder Willie Ervin, St. Augustine Church; R. R. Brown, conference secretary; Elder Lucille Croumel, Miami/Bethany Church; and Elder J. A. Edgecombe, conference president.

ANNUAL RETREAT STRESSES FAMILY UNITY

Elders and Deacons Retreat is an annual event that gives an added dimension to the faithful men who bear a fair share of the ministry of our churches.

This year "Relationships and Family Unity" were stressed. Dr. and Mrs. James Hammond, Professor, Columbia Union College, Maryland, and Marriage and Family Therapist respectively, were special guests. Over 500 were in attendance and from the opening to closing exercises, a high spirit of commitment was shown.

Elder Eugene Mason, first elder, Sanford-Mars Hill SDA Church and Southeastern Conference Asst. Treasurer; Elder Lucille Croumel, Miami-Bethany; and Elder Willie Ervin, St. Augustine, FL, delivered messages.

Pastor and Mrs. J.A. Edgecombe assisted by R.R. Brown, conference secretary, and D.A. Walker, conference treasurer, gave trophies in recognition of faithfulness to the Elders and Deacons, and the wives received flowers.

GRAND OPENING FOR MULTIPURPOSE ROOM AT PALM BAY CHURCH

The weekend of Aug. 28-30 saw the fulfillment of a second dream, the opening of a multipurpose room for the Palm Bay SDA Church, Palm Bay, FL. The church was officially opened on Oct. 4, 1984.

The weekend activities were highlighted by a consecration service Friday evening, Sabbath services followed by a fellowship meal and an afternoon concert. Sunday afternoon witnessed the actual ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Guests in attendance for this occasion were: The Honorable Sue Lenardon, Deputy Mayor of Palm Bay; Southeastern Conference officers; Pastor Leroy Liburd, of Lauderhill SDA Church, Lauderhill, FL; Paul Fridelle and Michael Ahler, contractors and other guests.

Persons in attendance numbered approximately 300 from as far north as Gainesville, and as far south as Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

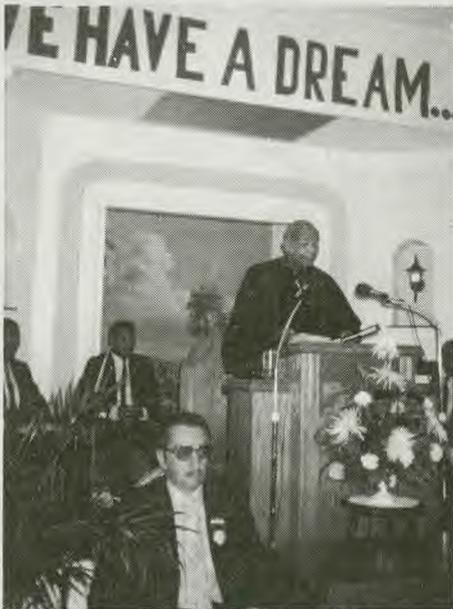


(Left to right) Elder Cleveland Holness; Paul Friddle, contractor; Honorable Sue Lenardon, Deputy Mayor—Palm Bay, FL.; and Mike Ahler, contractor.

MACEDONIA CHURCH HOLDS FIRST MEN'S DAY

The Macedonia SDA Church, Ft. Pierce, FL. recently held its first Men's Day Weekend. Dr. E.E. Cleveland, Professor emeritus of Religion and Theology at Oakwood College, was the speaker for the divine worship hour. In the afternoon he conducted a workshop entitled, "How to share your faith."

Pastor Benjamin Browne, former pastor of the church, also gave a keynote message during the weekend.



Dr. E. E. Cleveland, guest speaker for Men's Day, Macedonia SDA, Ft. Pierce, FL.

SENIOR CAMPERS ENJOY CRUISE

One hundred thirty-four persons boarded the S.S. Emerald Seas at the Port of Miami, FL., destined for Nassau, Bahamas and Little Stirrup Cay to celebrate Senior Camp 1987. They came from California, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, New York, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, as well as the Southeastern Conference territory.

This mammoth undertaking of the Southeastern Conference Youth Ministries Department was spearheaded by Elder K.A. Dennis and complemented by a knowledgeable enterprising young adult committee. They made this first in the conference's brief history an unforgettable occasion. The weekend was literally crammed with spiritual, social, educational, and recreational activities.

President Silas McKinney of the Bahamas Conference, Pastor Jeremiah Duncombe, and assistant Pastor Barrington Brennan along with members of the Centreville SDA Church, Nassau, Bahamas were gracious hosts and extended genuine hospitality which included a 2½ hour tour of the island after lunch. Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Peay were the honorees. At a special banquet titled "An Evening in the Bahamas", their achievements were highlighted. Approximately 45 Bahamian workers and friends came aboard for the occasion.



Elder and Mrs. Ralph Peay, honorees of the Senior Camp-Cruise.

In addition, Elder Trevor Fraser of Oakwood College, having been invited to represent the school, gave four-year scholarships to these and other students from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

News of the weekend has circulated and many who were bystanders and quizzical about this major conference event have lost a great deal by non-participation. Graduating seniors of 1988 should be more fortunate.

Pastor Wintley Phipps of the Allegheny East Conference inspired the seniors with his preaching and singing Friday night, Sabbath morning and afternoon.

There were other rewards. The students stayed at the plush Hyatt Regency located at the entrance of Disney World. A pool and jacuzzi provided recreational activity. Sabbath's lunch was served in the park.

On Saturday night the graduates attended an elegant, formal banquet at the world famous Disney Contemporary Hotel. The weekend activities came to a close with a trip to Boardwalk and Baseball.

The Graduation Committee projects a more elaborate weekend in every aspect in 1988.

D.A. Walker, conference treasurer, gave the vesper sermon on Friday. R.R. Brown, conference secretary delivered the message titled "Just Say No" for the divine hour at the Centreville Church and J.A. Edgcombe, conference president was the banquet speaker.

Youth Ministries Director, K.A. Dennis created a warm, congenial atmosphere for everyone. The minutest of details were addressed by Elder and Mrs. Dennis, Myra Richardson, secretary, and the travel agency representative Renee Lewis although 866 other passengers and crew were on this luxury liner. Every move was carefully thought through and planned. Dennis must be commended for a new highwater mark in the ministry to the youth. The precision and high throughout the weekend could be equalled only by the superb fashions worn by the attendees for the formal, semi-formal and casual occasions.

This maiden experience was a voyage worth the taking.

SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE WIDE GRADUATION HELD IN ORLANDO

The second conference-wide graduation service for students of the Southeastern Conference was held in Orlando, Fl. The purpose of these services was threefold:

(1) To recognize the accomplishments of graduating high school students whether from church or public schools.

(2) To recompense students from public schools who must miss graduation because of Sabbath observance.

(3) To provide scholarships to college-bound seniors and to encourage them to attend Oakwood College.

The following students received scholarships from the graduation committee headed by Mrs. Sherry Grace.

Carla Byrd from Mt. Olivet in Ft. Lauderdale received a \$1,000.00 scholar-



Elder O. H. Paul, Superintendent of Education.

ship as Valedictorian of the 1987 graduates with a G.P.A. of 3.9.

Kemilla Walthour of Mt. Sinai-Orlando was the Salutatorian with a G.P.A. of 3.89 and received a scholarship of \$800.00

Kimberly Jones of Bethel-Florida City was voted the most deserving and received a scholarship of \$800.00. Kim's G.P.A. was 4.26.

Esther Phillips of Lighthouse SDA-Ft. Lauderdale raised the most money for the occasion. She raised \$1,175.00. The minimum goal for each participant was \$240.00. She received a scholarship of \$1,200.00.



Educational sponsors present for Conference-wide graduation weekend.



1987 Graduates from around Southeastern who participated in the Conference-wide graduation weekend.

SOUTHWEST REGION



Ms. Bonnie Hawkins.

ILLITERACY IN AMERICA: WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

It is estimated by the U.S. Department of Education in their report entitled, "A Nation At Risk", that there are 27 million illiterate adults (cannot read above the fifth grade level) in America. This figure is estimated to be growing by 2.3 million persons annually. The report also stated that about 13 percent of all 17-year-olds in the United States can be considered functionally illiterate. It further stated that illiteracy among minority youth could run as high as 40 percent.

It should be noted that many of these individuals are accomplished professionals and technicians in many walks of life. They have learned to compensate for their disability by excelling in other areas.

There are no age barriers to this handicapping condition; it affects a variety of people. Some are teen-agers and young adults just entering the job market. Some are older workers who have been trained in a particular skill or trade. However, due to advanced automation and technology, they may need to be re-trained to keep their jobs.

Many young people are finding it difficult to even enlist in the military due to poor performance on the entrance exams. According to military officials this is directly related to their poor reading, spelling, writing, and computation skills. They have estimated that millions must be spent each year on training recruits at a remedial level before they can even begin, much less complete the sophisticated training essential in today's high-tech military.

The report was summarized by one educational analyst which stated that Americans have generally out-stripped their parents in education, in literacy and economic attainments, with each successive generation. This however, will be the first time in the history of our country, that the educational skills of one generation will not surpass, will not equal, or even come close to those of their parents. The College Board's Scholastic Aptitude test (SAT) bears witness to this fact with a virtually unbroken decline from 1963 to 1980. During this time the average verbal score dropped 50 points.

Illiteracy has caused major problems in "Corporate America" as well. Corporations report that due to the lack of basic reading and spelling skills many of their workers cannot be re-trained when new technical equipment is introduced.

It has been estimated that corporations lose millions of dollars each year due to mistakes by workers who cannot read. One manufacturing company estimated that it loses \$250,000 per year due to reading related errors. A New York insurance firm stated that 70 percent of dictated correspondence must be re-typed because of errors.

Illiteracy is more than personally debilitating. It is a cancerous blight that effects the total network of society, be it social or economic. It costs us billions of dollars annually in welfare payments, additional law enforcement due to increased crime, and lost tax revenues from those who are unemployable. Without re-training, many end up living in the streets to survive.

By now you should be asking, "WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?" As Christians we should not wait for the federal and state governments to implement programs to eradicate illiteracy. We should equip ourselves with the tools necessary to combat this problem.

One way of accomplishing this task is by opening churches and community centers for the purpose of conducting classes in reading, spelling, writing and math. An educational co-ordinator should be named who would orchestrate the training program for each church.

The co-ordinator would be responsible for setting up classes, training volunteers, or act as a resource person, directing volunteers to other places where they can be trained. One such place is the local chapter of Literacy Volunteers of America who provide training free of charge.

There has been much emphasis and effort placed into evangelism, and rightly so. However, one of the key points made in evangelistic campaigns is, "don't take my word for it . . . go home and read it for yourselves." The question arises though, how can they "go home and read it" for themselves, when they cannot read?

Providing reading and basic math classes would be an excellent outreach as well as an "in-reach" program. The benefits to the local church members and to the community are incalculable. The program could effectively work as an assistant to evangelism; thereby causing the community to truly see the local church as a light and friend of the family in a troubled world.

Our goal should be to teach the masses to read the Word of God and follow it. Mrs. White states that the printed page would be a primary tool in finishing the gospel. It is marvelous that the literature evangelists are on the streets knocking on doors and getting the printed message into the hands of the people. But how can the printed page finish the work when the people cannot read it?

There is something more which must be done to spread the gospel. One idea can be taken from The Learning Center of Hope, a private tutorial center in Cleburne, Tx. When students have completed their course of study in reading and spelling, they graduate with a Bible Readings For The Home, The Great Controversy, and a Bible Correspondence Course. The same or similar plan can be implemented in churches all over America.

The Bible says in Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." I cannot allow this to happen and neither can you. More can be done! You can enlist in the fight against illiteracy with me and TEACH! TEACH!! TEACH!!!

—Bonnie J. Hawkins

Bonnie J. Hawkins is a Speech-Language Pathologist and Language-Learning Disability Specialist in Private Practice in Cleburne, Tx.

OAKWOOD COLLEGE

OAKWOOD COLLEGE STUDENTS HELP PIONEER VAN MINISTRY

Ask any student at Oakwood College how they spent their summer and you'll get a variety of answers. Ask Lee Crawley or Glenn Brown the same question and



Students who pioneered the van ministry in Kansas City. (Back row left to right): Lee Crawley and Carol Browning. Front row: Glenn Brown, Mary Kincaid, and Eddie Cabrera.

you'd better have a few hours for their explanation.

This past summer, Crawley and Brown helped to pioneer a van ministry in metropolitan Kansas City, Mo.

Crawley, 19, a sophomore social work major, learned about the van ministry during a service at the Linwood Church in Kansas City. Needing summer employment, he thought this would be a good means of earning some extra money for college.

Brown, who attended Oakwood during the 1985-86 academic year now enrolled at Howard University in Washington, D.C. as a pre-X-ray major, became interested in the van ministry at the suggestion of his mother Jacqueline Davis, Bible worker for the Central States Conference.

Joining Crawley and Brown were two Union College students, Carol Browning and Eddie Cabrera, and Mary Kincaid, a student at Pine Forest Academy in Mississippi.

Receiving a \$1,500 scholarship, plus room and board, the five were housed at the former Augustinian Monastery owned by Central States Conference. All shared equally in the daily operation of the program helping with scheduling, cooking, cleaning, and leading out in morning devotion.

The van ministry was started when a group of concerned laymen desired to reach out to the 1.4 million people of Greater Kansas City. Two used metro buses were obtained for the 10 week pilot program. The buses were cleaned and the seats stripped out. Once refurbished, the vans and students were on the streets of Kansas City offering free blood pressure screening, literature about Seventh-day Adventists, invitations to take Bible lessons and prayers for all who were receptive.

No area of the city was overlooked.

Operating Monday through Friday, Crawley expressed that they screened as many as 85 and as little as four in each van per day. He also explained that as the summer progressed, the reception of the vans became more apparent.

Brown, who possessed the concern and tact of a true professional during screening interviews stated, "Our concern is not only their blood pressure, but their spiritual needs as well. While we're taking their pressure, we want them to know that Someone does love them."

Roger Graham, associate pastor of the Kansas City Central Church and on-site coordinator, indicated future plans are to obtain a full-time director and continue the van ministry on a year-round basis. He also praised the students who got the program off to a good start.

According to Brown, attending Oakwood has been a positive factor in his relationship to the Lord and to other people. He explained, "Oakwood has helped me prepare for this van ministry because of the prison ministries program and the outreach to nursing homes."

For Lee Crawley and Glenn Brown, this was certainly a summer they will not soon forget.

IN THE NEWS

OBITUARY

MORA LISTER, the last of thirteen children, born in Taylortown, La., to Andrew and Mariah Bacon Lister, departed this life Friday, Aug. 21, 1987. Most of his life was spent in his home state and Texas. As his health declined, Mora and his wife moved to Hanford, Ca., with one of their daughters. While there, he attended and held membership in the Fresno Westside SDA Church.

At an early age, Mora manifested an interest in religion. Because he enjoyed reading and was a sincere seeker of truth, he studied the scriptures diligently and learned the message of the Three Angels. In 1926, he was baptized into the SDA Church by Elder Fred S. Kitts. He remained a faithful member of the church throughout his life.

Mr. Eli Hilton was a source of constant inspiration to Mora. Accepting the gospel commission to "Go ye therefore and . . . teach", Mora became a literature evangelist. Because of the efforts of Mora and Eli, a number of families embraced the truth and together formed the nucleus of

the Taylortown company. Over the years, he served the church as Sabbath School teacher, deacon, and Bible teacher among other roles.

While a colporteur, Mora met Emily M. Wright who was also engaged in the literature work. They were married March 9, 1936, and this union was blessed with six children. In order to support a growing family, Mora began working as a landscaper—an occupation he followed until his retirement.

"Brother Lister", as he was known, was a man who possessed a talent for studying, understanding, interpreting and practicing the scriptures. His children understood at an early age that proper Sabbath observance was a must. 'Brother' Lister also believed firmly in the Bible verse which states, "All thy children shall be taught of the Lord", and consistently promoted Christian Education.

During his final days of life, Mora prayed often for the coming kingdom, and expressed his desire to be ready to meet the Lord. We have the hope that he will be among those to hear the trumpet of God when the dead in Christ are raised.

His passing will be acutely felt by loved ones and acquaintances. Cherishing his memory are: his devoted wife, Emily; his children, Abraham of Tulsa, Ok., Robert of St. Albans, N.Y., Mervetta of Bronx, N.Y., Pennie of Hanford, Ca., Earlene of Simi Valley, Ca., and Margaret of Walnut Creek, Ca.; one daughter-in-law, Connie of St. Albans, N.Y.; one son-in-law, Raymon of Simi Valley, Ca.; two brothers-in-law; four sisters-in-law; eight grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

OBITUARY

ELDER J.H. LAURENCE, pioneer/evangelist, passed away Sunday evening Sept. 4, 1987 in Huntsville, Al. An outstanding evangelist for many years, Laurence's ministry reached lives around the world.

Elder Laurence came to America in 1904, from St. Keitts in the Caribbean, to study for the ministry at Oakwood College (then known as the Huntsville School). After graduating, he went on to become one of the greatest preachers the Seventh-day Adventist Church has ever produced.

Funeral services for Elder J.H. Laurence were held at the Oakwood College Church in Huntsville, Al.

LIFE SKETCH OF EALY MAE McNICHOLS

Ealy Neese McNichols set sail on the ship navigated by Rufus and Liddie Davis Neese in Paducah, Ky.—Oct. 31, 1902, the second of four sisters and one brother.



Ealy McNichols.

Paducah was also where she was educated and met and married John Lathan McNichols in 1919, who preceded her in death in 1961. Their Union was blessed with twin daughters, Rosietta and Henrietta. Rosietta McNichols Crowe, who was married to Elder F.N. Crowe for 35 years, preceded her mother in death in 1977.

The year 1927 found the McNichols family relocating in East Chicago, In. and shortly thereafter in Gary, In.

Ealy's environment was rich with staunch SDAs, so in 1931 she, too, accepted the Three Angels Message, being baptized by Elder Owen A. Troy at the Shiloh SDA Church in Chicago, Il.

Some years later when it became feasible to start a church in Gary, she became one of the charter members of the Mizpah church—one who was an exemplary steward of her time, her means and her energies, all of which were dedicated to serving God. Ealy McNichols was a devoted member of the Mizpah SDA Church serving faithfully as a deaconess for 40 years, 24 as Head Deaconess. Her energies were inexhaustible when it came to rendering services to those in need. She was indeed the A-Model Dorcas worker as she worked diligently with the Dorcas Society.

Her home always had an open door for Adventist newcomers to Gary, especially Adventist ministers and teachers who were called to work in the vineyard of Gary, In. Her home became their home until they had the time to find and relocate in their own home. Many of the single teachers who taught at the Mizpah school made her home their home and thus became and were treated as a part of her family.

Ealy McNichols was the last surviving charter member of the Mizpah church. Many years ago Shiloh SDA Church in Chicago, Il. was the mother church for this area. In order to be able to worship

closer to home and not travel 34 miles each Sabbath to attend church in Chicago, she and her daughters, along with several other charter members, began worshipping in her home. Her living room was the auditorium and her children's bedrooms provided space for Sabbath School classes. Elders Herbert Greene, and Harry Ford were among the ministers who preached the Word in her living room. Other Shiloh officers who spoke on Sabbath to help hold the group together were Head Deacon St. Elmore Bland, Local Elders Manor, C.C. Arburthnott, Baskerville and Brother Lumley.

Ealy McNichols continued to labor untiringly for the church; she supported all aspects of the Christian ministry, ever willing to work, contribute financially, and encourage others to do God's work. She remained active in her church until ill health put a halt to a very busy life.

On Monday, Aug. 17, 1987 after several years of illness, the Life Giver paid her a final visit and in kindness and mercy relieved her of all the cares of this wicked world. God touched her brow and whispered comforting words in her ears causing her to fall into a deep sleep—departing this life peacefully to await the sound of the trumpet on the "Great Gettin' Up Morning".

Left to cherish her beautiful memory: One daughter Henrietta E. Blanchard of Chicago, three grandsons—Michael A. Blanchard, Jr. Chicago, Ronald E. Crowe and wife Sharon of Chicago, Robert S. Crowe and wife Sonja of Nashville, Tn., one granddaughter Irene Ogilvie and husband Garth of Chicago, seven great grands, one great, great grand, two sisters, a host of nieces, nephews.

MRS. RUBY BONTEMPS TROY, wife of the late Dr. Owen A. Troy, Sr., passed away on Aug. 23, 1987 in her home in Huntsville, Al. after a brief illness. She served as clerk of the Oakwood College Church for many years.

Mrs. Troy was a member of one of the first Black Adventist families on the west coast. Her father, Elder Bontemps, was among the first Black men ordained as SDA ministers in California, and her husband served in the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference until his death. Her brother, Professor Arna Bontemps was librarian at Fisk University for more than three decades and was a co-writer with Langston Hughes. Her son, Owen, Jr. presently serves in the Communication Department of the General Conference.

THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL VOICE

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The official organ of the North
American Regional Conferences

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Published monthly by the supportive
Regional Conferences of North America and
printed by Papers, Inc.
Milford, Indiana
Subscription rate \$6.50 a year.

ALL MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE
CHANNELED THROUGH THE INSTITUTION OR
CONFERENCE CORRESPONDENT.

Both old and new addresses should be given when a
change of address is requested. Zip code should be
included for all addresses.

Postmaster: Send all notices to Papers, Inc. Milford,
Indiana.

NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL VOICE

115-50 Merrick Boulevard
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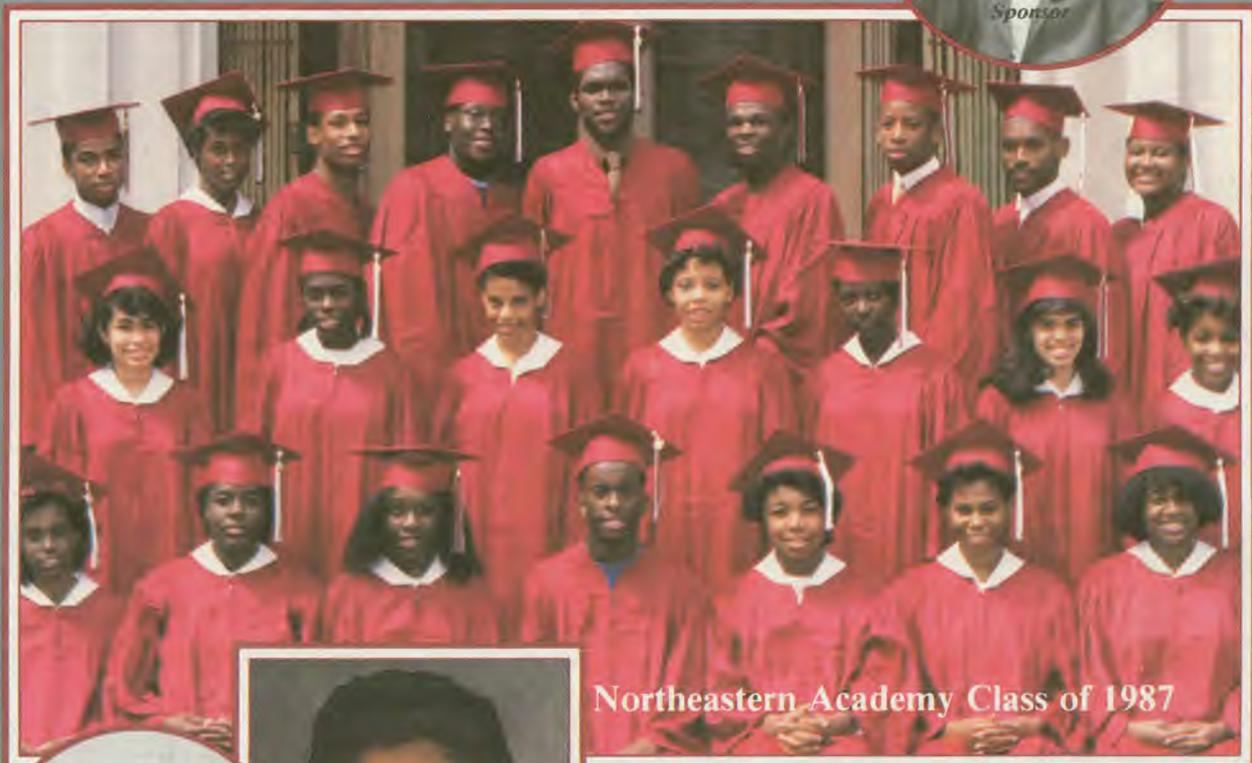
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