

NORTH AMERICAN
Regional Voice

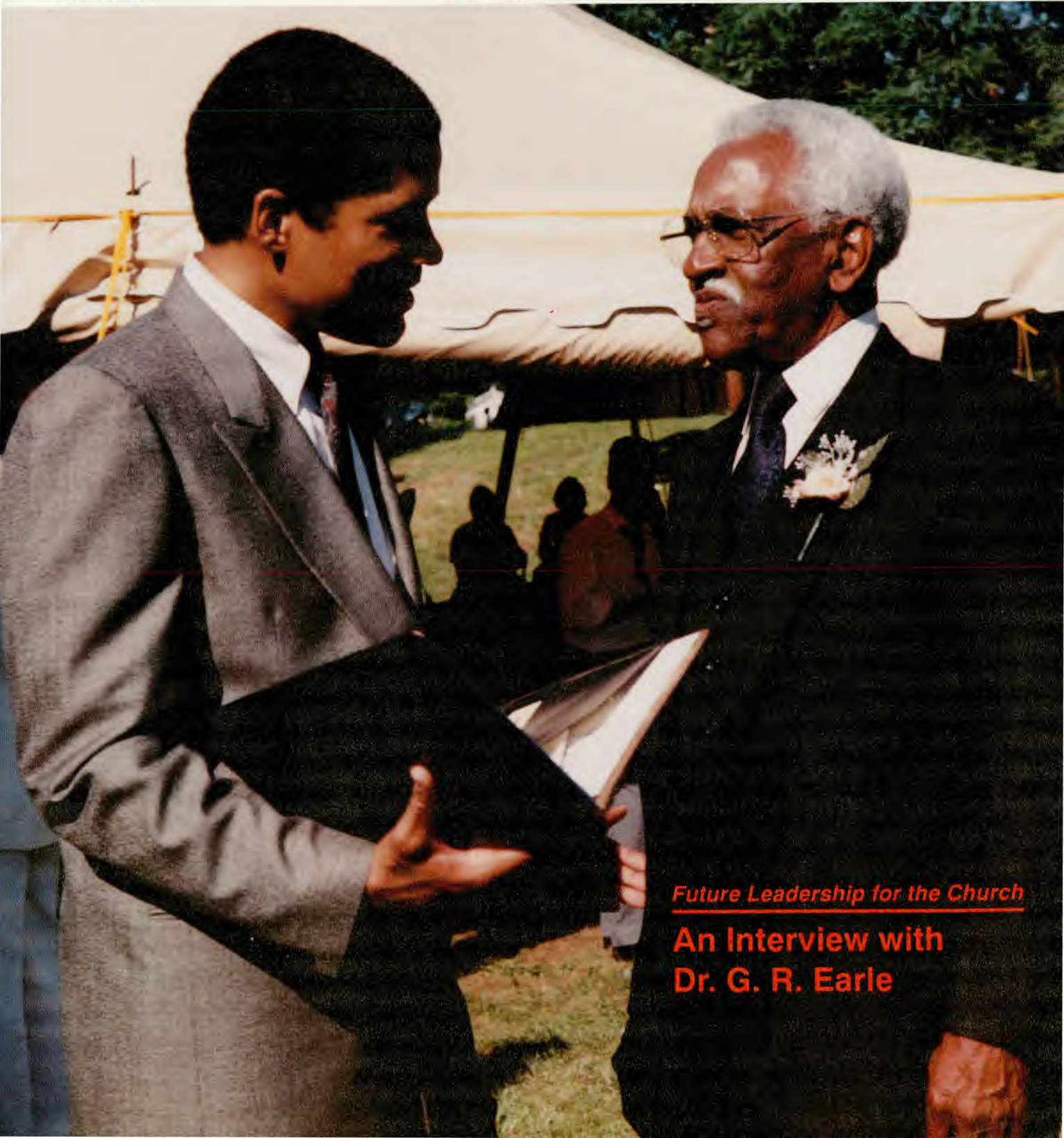


OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCES OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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Future Leadership for the Church

**An Interview with
Dr. G. R. Earle**



STATE OF THE BLACK WORK:

WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE'RE GOING

George Earle, in an exclusive interview with Delbert Baker, editor of MESSAGE Magazine, talks frankly about the challenges, obstacles and opportunities of the Black work in America as we near the historic 1990 General Conference session.

Few leaders have been blessed with greater ministerial accomplishments than has George Roland Earle. Pastor, evangelist, church builder and president of Northeastern, the largest Black conference, for 18 years. Elder Earle attributes it all to "The blessings of the Lord."

When I interviewed him at the recent

Northeastern campmeeting, he said, "The key to any success I've been blessed with is the fact that I love God, love people, and have tried to do them right in any way I can at any time possible." He sees this philosophy of ministry mixed with the blessing of God and the constant support of his wife, Vernelle Elaine Rogers, as being a winning combination.

Earle was born in Millspring, N.C., to Lewis and Alice Earle. They moved to St. Petersburg, Fla., when he was 3. After leaving St. Petersburg, he went to Oakwood, served briefly in the Army, and then graduated from Oakwood with a degree in theology in 1948. He was first called to the South Atlantic Conference by H. D. Singleton, where he pastored and did evangelism with

E. E. Cleveland in Winston-Salem, N.C. He was called to the Northeastern Conference in the middle of 1948 by L. H. Bland, where he was ordained in 1952. He pastored 18 years in Northeastern (pastorates: New Rochelle, St. Albans, Brooklyn, New York City), during which time he did evangelism and raised churches while his wife raised their two children, Reginald and Chrissa. During this period, Mrs. Earle also led out in the MESSAGE Magazine work, was a principal and later became her husband's secretary.

After the passing of R. T. Hudson, the president of Northeastern, Elder Earle was asked to be president of Northeastern in December 1966. He remained in that position until July 1985, at the constituency session, when he resigned that position because "I felt that I had made my contribution to that phase of the ministry and that it was time for new, fresh blood to lead out in the work."

Earle says he and his wife are enjoying their retirement, though they find much to keep them busy. They regularly walk 5 to 6 miles every day. Earle regularly speaks at churches and has special assignments. Currently, the couple are making plans to relocate in Huntsville, Ala.

An articulate and consistent spokesman of Black concerns for more than two decades, Earle has stood up and championed issues and concerns of the Black work. He is respected and valued for his insights and opinions. He was especially selected by the Black Caucus of SDA Administrators to share his thoughts on the state of the Black work at this important juncture in the history of the Adventist church.

In the following interview, Earle candidly shares with Delbert Baker about a wide range of subjects from Black/White relations to needed changes to the NAD presidency to Black conferences in California to his desire for the return of Christ.

The foremost need of the church today is for a deep spiritual revival.

Elder Earle, as a retired church leader of 38 years in the ministry, what do you see as the great need of the church as we face the 1990s?

I think the foremost need of the church is for a deep spiritual revival, for a meaningful spirituality that we don't have enough of among our leading brethren. We have a lot of excellent administrators, preachers and writers, but in some cases their writings

and work don't correspond with their thinking, concepts and spiritual application. I also believe if we had more spirituality, we would have less of the prejudice and discrimination that still exists in the ranks of the brethren. It would cause more compassion and consideration to be shown.

RACE RELATIONS/FINANCE

You referred to prejudice. Do you think things are better now in the church than they were, let's say, when you were president 10 years ago?

Yes and no. In some respects we are better. Prejudice is not as open and extreme as it used to be. But it's still there. There is still a wide discrepancy—too wide—between where Whites and Blacks should be. There's a lot of talk about love, but there is a very peculiar way of showing it. We need to see more love in real practical ways in leadership. But this won't happen unless there is a true spiritual revival.

What are some ways that leadership can show this love toward Blacks and other minorities?

By taking personal interest in aspects of the work that don't directly relate to them. Build up the work—don't let it deteriorate. They can do this by giving adequate funds and support.

What about the Black conference reversion funds?

That helps, but it falls short in meeting the needs. When we examine the Black dollar, which is 50 percent of the White dollar, we can see that we need all we are getting, plus some, to do the type of aggressive work that's needed. The Black work is the largest minority work in the United States, and it takes money to maintain its buildings and other facilities, and to keep it growing through evangelism. I think the Black work can be compared to the Israelites being forced to make brick without straw. We put good money into the church, but so often we get back little and don't have proper representation. If love is shown, these are the kind of issues that need to be addressed from an administrative standpoint.

But in society today that kind of talk is not popular, or at least it's being resisted in some circles.

I know, but it's still the Christian thing to do. If we are a church that is following God and His Word, we can't follow the world if it's not doing right. We are Christians and should act that way. I am not saying there are not other needs, such as with Hispanics and other minorities. What I am saying is, there is still a great need in the Black

work that shouldn't be neglected. And when you consider how much money Blacks put in the church in tithes and offerings, it's plain to see that we have a right to expect changes that will improve things.

But Whites and other groups are making the same requests. What do you see as the answer?

Proper cultural representation and say is needed in regards to how the money is allocated and what decisions are made. Everyone, all groups, should have a say—it should be done fairly. But again you must think about the comparison between the Black dollar and the White dollar. How in the world can they argue when they are getting a dollar for an hour's pay and you're getting 50 cents for the same hour's pay? You're putting in the same time, making the same effort, but only getting half the pay.

Money always surfaces as a key indicator of where we put our priorities and emphases.

It is. That's why the Bible talks about it all the time. It's important how we use it and misuse it. That's another thing. Whenever there is a problem with finances in the Black work, you hear about it! But when we have similar situations in White conferences, problems with Davenport, Harris Pine Mills, and others in the White work, it's not played up and repeated the same way. We can't discriminate on how we use information, either. Equality must be exercised in everything from money to decision making.

Proper cultural representation and say is needed in regards to how the money is allocated and what decisions are made.

EQUITY AND DECISION MAKING

What do you mean by decision making?

Though the church is majority non-White, Whites dominate most of the committees and staffs that make the major decisions. They control just about everything wherever they are. They control the educational facilities, medical facilities, publishing facilities, Community Services facilities. You can go down the line naming the areas Whites control. Look at Gencon, ADRA and the hospital system and tell me if you think that the system is being handled fairly and representatively. Is that the way love should act? The only institutions Blacks really have a say in is Oakwood College, MESSAGE Magazine, "Breath of Life," and of course, Regional conferences, and a few other areas—and that's because they

are Black operated. We are pleased with those blacks in positions of leadership, but it must be more widely practiced and the decision-making process should be opened up more widely when it affects Blacks and their future.

Do you think things will ever change? Do you see things changing?

Now, I would love to see it happen, but I don't see it happening easily. You see, it will take some definite courage and sacrifice on the part of our Black leaders. They will have to take a stand, a decisive position, and let it be known what they believe on behalf of their people. They've got to have the attitude that, like Esther, "If I perish, I perish." Blacks have been made to fear the consequences of taking a position like that. But we can't give in to the pressure or things will never change. We've got to represent the Black constituency and let them know what we are doing to bring them with us. Otherwise, the communication papers themselves can be used against us. That's why we started the "Regional Voice." We wanted our own means to communicate with our constituency. We've got to stick together more as a people and stand for what we believe.

Our Black leaders today need some definite courage and sacrifice to stand and speak out on issues.

NAD PRESIDENCY

Since Elder Bradford is retiring in 1990, who do you think would be an able replacement for him?

Well, I really don't know all the men. I've heard some names, but I really can't say who the person should be.

What qualifications should the NAD president have?

I already talked about spirituality. He should also have a good financial understanding, and educational background, and he should listen to the leaders in the field. As far as Blacks are concerned, he should be someone who understands our needs, is sensitive to the Black work, and who will listen to Black leadership. I sat on the Black Caucus or its equivalent for 18 years, and I can't begin to enumerate the actions we took and sent to the General Conference to better our condition. Suggestions. Recommendations. What happened? Year after year they would say, "We've got to take this to PREXAD." We got back word that the brethren at the top were saying, "All you have to do is let the Black brethren blow off

steam once a year, take notes and say we'll look into it, and then forget it." I'm not saying it's exactly like that now. But as Blacks we must be sure that the future leadership in all levels of the church (especially the NAD presidency) is responsive and responsible to our own particular needs. Whoever the new president is, we should have this as one of the main priorities from Blacks to him. It is most important that, like Christ in Matthew 9:36, he's got to be moved with compassion when he leads the sheep, God's flock—which includes Blacks and other minorities.

As we face the 1990s do you see any structural changes that can facilitate the Black work?

I still believe in Black unions. I think they could have worked and still can work to help build the Black work from the local church level up in evangelism, church growth, and every other way. I don't see it as being divisive. Instead, I see it as giving dignity and stability to the Black work. I can go along with the move to establish an Office of Regional Affairs for this time. Yet we have to be sure that we have the right leadership in these places to stand and represent Black people in an effective manner.

We must be sure that future leadership on all levels of the church is responsive and responsible to Black concerns.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES IN CALIFORNIA

What are your thoughts on the efforts of Blacks in California to start Regional conferences there?

I am absolutely in support of it. Again, I don't see it as being divisive, but as something that God can bless. It will be a great impetus to the work out there over the present structure. There will always be some folks who will object to it. Every Black conference that was started had objectors—Black and White. Many Whites objected to them and got others to oppose them because there was a tremendous amount of dollars that was redirected from their coffers to the newly organized conferences. But in spite of that, we went forward.

How would you characterize that period?

It was difficult and trying, but God was with us. I believe that organizing Black conferences is just as Christian and spiritual as organizing White conferences. If we do it with the right spirit and walk uprightly before Him, no good thing will He withhold

from us. If the folks in California move forward, God will bless them. I remember how nearly 50 years ago we organized Northeastern Conference, and we've never gone backwards. The White brethren said to the Blacks, "In six months you'll be back with your hat in your hand, begging to be taken back, because you won't be able to make it." Well, from the first year after we organized—when we had about 2,000 charter members, 15 churches, and \$140,000 annual income—we've grown last year to more than 32,000 members, 90-plus churches, and more than \$12 million in tithe. God has blessed. We started aggressive evangelism, building churches, hiring pastors and workers, providing leadership opportunities and role models, and provided leaders who have gone on to serve every level of this church. It would not have happened without our Black conferences.

God will bless the organization of Black conferences just as much as He blessed the organization of White conferences.

PROVIDENCES AND THE SECOND COMING

During your 30 years of ministry, what has been your most meaningful reflection?

Oh, my, that's the most difficult question you've asked yet. There have been so many. I would have to answer; God's providence in my life and His leading me to share in the greatest work ever entrusted to human hands, the work of the gospel ministry. Coming from a rather humble family background that was relatively unknown to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the opportunity to pursue a college education when so many young Black people of college age were required to enter the work force to strengthen the family income, was a blessing most meaningful to my future experience. Also, the opportunity that was granted me to serve as president of the Northeastern Conference and the largest Black conference in the North American Division, and to have enjoyed the fellowship and service to so many for so long a period of time, I can only attribute to the providential leadership of God in my life. These are among the most meaningful reflections of my nearly 38 years of ministry.

Do you believe that Jesus is soon to come?

Without question. He's got to come. If He doesn't come soon, there will be no flesh left on the face of the earth. With all the

crime, killing, world problems, along with crack use and AIDS, He's got to come and put an end to all this. This is the event that I long to experience.

Thank you, Elder Earle. I, too, hope that the coming of Christ will be soon.

Counsel to New Presidents

There are five areas that new presidents should know:

1. They should know God as their personal Saviour and Counselor.
2. They should know and love their people, pastors and workers.
3. They should know their work and responsibilities as president and leader.
4. They should know their role as minister and representative of the Adventist faith, conference constituency and Black people.
5. They should know what things the devil would seek to sidetrack them on, and by God's grace how to avoid them.

Secret to Staying in Office

Presidents can increase their longevity in office by living a clean, upright life before the people, and by being Christian gentlemen. They can also do so by loving and treating people with kindness, respect and compassion, and by truly leading their field under God's direction. Beyond that, it's up to God and the people how long you stay.

C. E. Bradford as NAD President

Elder Bradford has been a good leader. He is articulate and knowledgeable, and is an outstanding preacher. He has started many programs for the division and has motivated evangelism among Whites and Blacks. Elder Bradford has not been afraid to speak out, and has been effective in helping the Black work—though more needs to be done.

Elder N. C. Wilson as General Conference President

Elder Wilson is the type of person you can sit down and talk with. You can share things with him just as they are, and he will listen. He will not become angered because of the hard facts, whether they are about Whites or Blacks. At times he will take a strong, adamant position. But I think Elder Wilson knows Black people and the plight and needs of the Black work better than any White man I know.

NATIONAL PINE FORGE ACADEMY

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HOMECOMING

"Rekindling the Flame" was the theme for the National Pine Forge Academy Alumni Association, as members once again gathered on the rolling hills for the annual homecoming, Sept. 1-3.

This year there were a few innovations for the alumni — the initiation of the annual designation of Alumna and Alumnus of the Year; initiation of an annual Homecoming Journal and the annual Alumni Association Dinner. Also, according to national treasurer, Ernestine Fenison Peoples, this year had the largest registration of alumni.

The weekend began with vespers on Friday evening, held in the Pine Forge church. Alphonso Mitchell, the association chaplain, was the coordinator for the vesper service, featuring the Class of '49. Elder Marshall Kelly, religion instructor, Oakwood College Academy, and husband of Jean Garland Kelly '49, called the attention of the vesper audience to the need for example, motivation, redemption and support of the youth — a most precious commodity. His stirring message in song as part of his sermon was both inspiring and breathtaking.

Sept. 2, at 9:15 a.m., many alumni, students and friends gathered in the gymnasium to begin Sabbath School. Marguerite A. Dixon, Class of '47 and the national vice president, was the coordinator, putting the spotlight on the Class of 1969. Dr. Louis Jenkins, '49, practicing psychologist from California, in his presentation of the scriptural background for the Sabbath School lesson, set the stage for Elder Alfred Johnson, '69, to expound on the Last Plagues to befall the earth at the end of time. Other program participants featured the class president, Eugene Mason; Lydia Pelote Wright; Harold "Lerch" Palmer and Larry Vaughn.

At 11 a.m., 1,200 alumni and friends gathered for the divine worship service. Dr. Wayman Wendell Cheatham, national president, coordinated the worship service, focusing on the class presidents and other graduates from the classes of the 9's. Elder Alvin Kibble, president of Allegheny East Conference; Professor Richard E. Mills, headmaster, Pine Forge Academy; Marc Marcel, president, United Student Movement; and Dr. Cheatham extended welcome to the alumni and friends. The Pine



Dr. Cheatham presents plaque to Elder and Mrs. N. C. Wilson.

Forge Academy Concert Choir and Band, under the direction of Lloyd Mallory, rendered music for the service.

Elder Neal C. Wilson, president of the General Conference, was the featured speaker for the 11 o'clock service. Elder Wilson noted that the illustration of "Rekindling the Flame" marked well what was needed, not only among the alumni of Pine Forge Academy, but among those committed to Christ's kingdom around the world in turning up the "flames" of their passion for helping the hungry, the cold, the hurting, the poor and the uneducated.

After a delicious dinner catered by the Owens family of Philadelphia, the alumni

gathered again in the Pine Forge church for the honors convocation. Cynthia Poole-Gibson, '63, and Dr. Ronald L. Anderson, '59, were honored as the first Alumna and Alumnus of the Year. Both were presented with beautiful plaques by Dr. Cheatham. Cynthia's and Ronald's responses included their testimony as to the worth of their experiences at Pine Forge, and the work of God as they faced difficulties in the years of preparation for their present positions. Mrs. Jessie Wagner was presented with the Founders Award in memory of her late husband, Elder John H. Wagner, Sr., who was the president of Allegheny Conference and one of the founders of Pine Forge Academy.



Pine Forge Academy Choir



President Alvin Kibble and Elder Fordham

Wendell Cheatham presented Elder Wilson with a plaque from the alumni association for his outstanding contribution to the enhancement of Pine Forge. Marc Marcel and Troy Rorie, president and vice president of the United Student Movement, gave Elder Wilson a plaque for being instrumental in the building of the gym for their recreation.

Mrs. Marion Gresham Martin, former dean of girls at PFA and class sponsor of the Class of '49, was presented with 49 one-dollar bills shaped like rosebuds. Samuel Darby, assistant headmaster for seven years, and Verna Hill, biology instructor for 21 years at PFA, were presented with plaques from the alumni association for their faithful and dedicated service given to the academy. Dolores Cobb Etter, was presented with a plaque for the initiation of the first Homecoming Journal and outstanding service given to the National Association. Gloria Boyd Davis, '49, president of the Pioneer Chapter, called to the attention of the alumni, their classmates who are deceased, and Carl Ford, '79, rendered a beautiful solo, "Enter In," in their remembrance. Once again, Elder Kelly captivated the audience with his musical selections.

One of the main highlights during the honors convocation was Elder Wilson's presentation to the alumni association of a commitment he had worked to secure from several friends he had spoken to before coming to Pine Forge. The commitment is to provide Pine Forge with a \$100,000 cash stimulus for its endowment program for scholarship support to deserving needy students. He challenged those present to accept the commitment to "rekindle the flame" held for Pine Forge Academy and to answer the call for help from those in need.

The Alumni Association members and friends responded by giving money and pledges totalling \$60,750 to be added to the \$100,000 Elder Wilson had announced. To date, more than one-half of the \$60,750 has been received.

The Sabbath vesper service was coordinated by the national parliamentarian, Jason Edgecome, in conjunction with the Class of '79. The vesper thought was presented by Rhonda Jones Johnson, class president of '79, climaxing the formal programs of the weekend.

An evening of social enrichment, coordinated by Dr. Richard Williams, Class of '55, was open to all in the campus gymnasium erected several years ago as the result of a need felt then by Elder Wilson.

Sunday morning, 10 a.m., the alumni gathered in the Pine Forge church fellowship hall for the annual business session. After the session, the alumni enjoyed a tasty lunch provided by the Pine Forge Chapter under the direction of Mrs. Janet Poole Arms.

The alumni are proud of and appreciate Dr. Cheatham for his successful leadership, innovation, enthusiasm, hard work, and for his many hours of unselfish time given to the enhancement of the National Pine Forge Academy Alumni Association.

All are looking forward to Homecoming 1990, Aug. 31 - Sept. 2.

Dolores Cobb Etter, secretary
National Pine Forge Alumni Association



E.E. Cleveland.

CONSOLIDATED — AGAIN

My Sabbath worship peace was disturbed by a recent "Review and Herald" newsbreak. It announced that the Adventist Health Systems voted a regional consolidation plan Sept. 1 that called for the sale of Hadley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C. — the only Adventist hospital that serves primarily African American clientele in North America.

This notice stirs unpleasant memories. Do you remember Riverside Hospital? It was for years the Black medical Mecca for Adventist and new Adventist Blacks.

It was General-Conference-controlled, but under Black management. It was sold by the General Conference and is now a home for the mentally impaired. It was not the first time that Blacks had been "consolidated" out of business.

In previous years there was a drive on to get rid of our "dual system" of education. The word used then was "consolidation." My curiosity was aroused when I learned the "plan." All of the Black schools would be closed. Some Blacks would be admitted to the "consolidated" school. Whites would, of course, control the school.

Some Blacks were prepared to go with this, not knowing that closing the ghetto school would send many Blacks to public school. We need only to look at the baleful results of closing the Black schools in the secular society.

In the name of "integration," many Black schools were closed — and youngsters were "bussed" for miles to strange neighborhoods for schooling. The bussing was one way. Few, if any, Whites were bussed into Black neighborhoods.

The Black dropout rate has quadrupled. The ethnic interest that Black teachers take in Black students is lost. There is a consequential loss of interest in things educational. The bulk of young Blacks are on the verge of being written off as the lost generation. Never forget this simple truth. No one is or can be as interested in us as us.

Now, the Adventist Health Systems has voted the last Black institution out of the church system. It matters little that another hospital (White controlled) was voted closed. That is an old trick to make the "Hadley deal" look good.

Much is made of the indebtedness of Hadley. May we conclude that financial solvency is now the rule? Why, then was not Washington Hospital in Takoma Park closed, and a few other hospitals as well? The one Black hospital had to go. Why? Racism has such subtle forms. Few Adventist institutions are financially self-supporting, or ever will be. I can remember a few years ago when the Hadley board took \$1 million from Hadley and used it to keep another Washington area hospital afloat. Was that money ever repaid? If not, there is guilt somewhere. By the way, there are scores of hospitals overseas operating

without compensation. They are mission projects. Who can deny that Black Washington used such a project. The Reagan legacy must have impacted the Adventist Health Systems. How else could they so boldly announce the closing of the only Black-run hospital in the denomination? The announcement was tactless at best, insensitive at its worst.

But then, it figures. Have you ever heard of Lynwood Academy? Well, it is the only Black academy in southern California. Guess what? A White church official informed the city fathers that this academy property could be had if the city wanted it. The Black constituents were not even consulted. When they woke up, the city was on the verge of declaring eminent domain. Blacks awoke as they were being swept away. Little wonder the majority of Black ministers on the west coast voted to escape the benign neglect of administrative paternalism. May God bless their intended Exodus.

Now Hadley is gone. I cannot say that I am surprised. When the federal government becomes insensitive to the needs of the Black and poor, institutions within the state, including churches, tend to do likewise. Adventist Health Systems-United States is a "lily-white" organization, with no Blacks in its hierarchy, and few token Blacks on its local boards. My prayer for those Blacks who voted Hadley's demise is, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

E. E. Cleveland

EDITORIAL

After reading the article, "Black Workers Meeting. An Official Statement," and "West Coast Leaders Move to Organize Regional Conferences" in the May 1989 issue of the *Regional Voice*, I want to say thank God for the direction of His Holy Spirit to lead these individuals. I believe there would have been a difference had this move been made long ago.

The questions were raised: "Who will control?" "Should whites share power?" and "Who will pay?" God is no respecter of persons. In Regional Conferences are people of all races and many nationalities. Statistics from your Union indicate that there are enough resources to efficiently run the conferences. The power to make decisions and control resources of a neglected segment of people is the basis of the Regional Conference proposition.

Mitchell R. Brunson, 1st Elder
New Rochelle SDA Church
New Rochelle, N.Y.

The Editor's Desk

NEW CHURCH SIGN BRINGS VISITORS

Have you ever tried looking for a church building only to find out that you've passed it at least four times? Pastor Maurice N. Taylor and the members of the First SDA Church of Franklin, Va., saw this as a problem and decided to purchase a churchyard sign. They were able to locate one for a reduced price from a Connecticut church which could not use it. At the same time they were able to put down a walkway in the front and side of the church.

Since the erection of the church sign, the church has had many visitors who explain that they never realized there was an Adventist church in Franklin, or that they were always looking for people who worshipped on the true Sabbath of the Bible.

Luella Lake Taylor
Communication Secretary

SUNSET CALENDAR

	Sept. 29	Oct. 6	13	20
Boston, Mass.	5:45	4:34	4:26	4:20
New York City	5:56	4:46	4:40	4:32
Buffalo, N.Y.	6:14	5:04	4:56	4:49
Atlanta, Ga.	6:51	5:43	5:38	5:33
Miami, Fla.	5:43	5:37	5:34	5:31
Charlotte, N.C.	6:35	5:27	5:21	5:16
Birmingham, Ala.	6:00	4:53	4:47	4:43
Jackson, Miss.	6:16	5:08	5:03	4:59
Memphis, Tenn.	6:11	5:03	4:57	4:53
Louisville, Ky.	6:50	5:41	5:34	5:29
Detroit, Mich.	6:34	5:24	5:16	5:10
Chicago, Ill.	5:52	4:42	4:34	4:28
South Bend, Indiana	5:47	5:37	5:29	5:23
Minneapolis, Minn.	6:09	4:58	4:51	4:46
St. Louis, Mo.	6:07	4:58	4:51	4:46
Kansas City, Mo.	6:24	5:15	5:08	5:02
Denver, Co.	6:05	4:55	4:48	4:42
Little Rock, Ark.	6:21	5:13	5:07	5:02
Dallas, Texas	6:41	5:34	5:29	5:25
New Orleans, La.	6:18	5:11	5:07	5:03
Albuquerque, N.M.	6:18	5:10	5:04	4:59
Oklahoma City, Okla.	6:41	5:33	5:27	5:24

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

LOVING A CITY - THE DETROIT CHALLENGE

Fire engine sirens pierced the cold on Feb. 14, 1989, as one of the hotels that housed the poor and homeless in downtown Detroit burned down. One hundred and ten people escaped the flames by jumping out of windows and running into the street with little clothing and few possessions. Social services helped these patrons move across town into the Yorba Hotel.

Adventist Community Services was on the spot under the direction of Ms. Adlon Turner from the Detroit Northwest Church. Turner had contacted the Salvation Army to locate the fire victims. They were given food, clothing and blankets.

But the assistance didn't stop. Community Services and the Detroit van ministry have continued to return to the Yorba Hotel on a regular basis to hold health education classes and Bible studies.

Recently, the Yorba Hotel manager reported to Fred Hewitt, a Troy church member, that he has seen a change in his patrons since the Adventists have worked with them, "Whiskey bottles have been replaced with Bibles."

"One-half of the Michigan population lives in the Detroit area. But only 10 percent of the SDA population are in that area. Detroit is one of the greater areas for growth potential in the Michigan Conference," says Elder Glenn Aufderhar, Michigan Conference president. Detroit Challenge is a crucial part of the evangelistic thrust for the Lake Union in 1990.

Pastor David Grams, a Michigan Conference minister serving the Detroit area, is especially excited about reclaiming former

Adventists. When the "dark" western side of Detroit was chosen as a spot to start a company, Pastor Grams was provided with contacts from the "Voice of Prophecy" and "It Is Written" programs, referrals from literature evangelists, local church support, and a young Bible worker, Russ Bantin, from New York.

Literature evangelist Gene Hall gave Pastor Grams a name to contact. Grams visited the family on a Saturday night, and when he arrived, four out of five family members were sitting at home as if they had been waiting for him. They studied the Bible that night and have continued to study. They have also begun to attend church.

"Several families have been attending church that I assumed were not acquainted with Adventism," says Grams, "but I dis-

covered that they were former Adventists. Another woman is preparing for baptism after having left the church 40 years ago."

Last February, Grams stopped at a Baptist church, looking for a church to rent for the new company. The Baptist church referred him to a Methodist church. The Methodist minister gave Grams an old phone book to try some other churches.

In the Yellow Pages, Grams saw a Moravian church listed in Westland, and called. Upon visiting the site, Grams determined that the lovely building, with an acceptable rental fee and no scheduling conflicts, would be the place for meetings.

The new Westland Company has been meeting in the Moravian church building since April, and had their first baptism on Aug. 12. The Westland Company, 31133 Hively, Westland, meets on Sabbath mornings at 9:30 and 11, and on Tuesday evenings at 7. Tuesday meetings contain a health nugget and the study of Revelation and early SDA publications.

The Westland Company enjoys the fellowship of from 19 to 46 members, and a children's division. One retired Methodist man has been helping as a deacon, and another non-Adventist has been reading the Scripture. Those attending are encouraged to become active in soul seeking. Recently, student literature evangelist contacts were handed out at the Tuesday evening meeting.

In another part of Detroit, the Burns Avenue Church welcomed inner-city residents to its grand opening on Sabbath, Oct. 7. Pastor Zadock Reid eagerly anticipated filling the 1,000-seat church and evangelistic center.

"God is doing a lot in little ways. We anticipate the sharing and inspiration we'll

receive from each other at the Metro Festival of the Laymen, says Elder Aufderhar.

Metro Festival of the Laymen is a celebration rally for all Adventist churches in the metro Detroit and outlying areas. Members will meet from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Allen Park Civic Auditorium in Allen Park, Mich.

Reginald O. Robinson, associate speaker and field services director for "Breath of Life," from Newbury Park, Calif., will be the main speaker for the festival. He will outline the "Breath of Life" program for the Detroit area.

The afternoon will also feature Michigan Conference and Lake Region Conference choirs, soul-winning stories and pastors sharing plans for Detroit.

According to Elder Herbert Larsen, Lake Union Conference secretary, the Detroit Challenge project has a strong funding base. Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) has pledged \$100,000; the North American Division and the Lake Union Conference have each pledged \$50,000 over 1989 and 1990.

"There is little doubt in my mind that there is a vast harvest of souls residing in the metro Detroit area who are ready to be reaped. The commitment of funds and personnel by the Lake Region, Michigan and Lake Union conferences in support of this major evangelistic outreach program should bear much fruit," says Elder Robert H. Carter, president of the Lake Union Conference.

During the spring of 1990, numerous evangelistic series will culminate with a March 17-25 series in the Ford Auditorium, featuring Elder Charles D. Brooks, general field secretary of the General Conference.

The Yorba Hotel project, the Westland Company and many other ministries are part of the Detroit Challenge. Please pray for 1,000 baptisms in 1990.

Karen Spruill

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

Revelation 1:4,5 RSV

ALLEGHENY EAST

ADVENTISTS WILL SELL ILL HADLEY HOSPITAL

The Adventist Health System said yesterday it will sell financially ailing Hadley Memorial Hospital in Southwest Washington.

"We felt that Hadley was a project that was better off sold and not being a part of the Adventist Health System," said Bryan Breckenridge, AHS regional vice president and chairman of the board of Leland Memorial. "We're hoping to find a purchaser that will take over Hadley and continue operation of the hospital. We're not abandoning that community."

The announcement came less than a week after the Adventist system said it was closing Leland Memorial Hospital in Riverdale.

The hospital chain, based in Arlington, Tex., has been trying for months to find a buyer for Hadley, which is located in the heart of Southwest Washington and provides emergency medical service to elderly residents of the D.C. Village nursing home.

Hospital and system officials said Hadley was being sold for financial reasons, but they admitted that the hospital may be hard to unload since it is \$20 million in debt from a recent renovation program. Moreover, Hadley's losses over the past two years have totaled more than \$1 million, they said.

"Hadley is in a difficult area, as there are large hospitals around it and they are difficult to compete with," Breckenridge said. "We are not going to discuss the price, but we want to find a purchaser as soon as possible. At this present time, we're accepting offers from a number of local people."

Dr. Edward Fisher, president of Hadley's medical staff, said the doctors planned to meet with hospital administrators last night to learn the reasons for the sale. He wouldn't speculate on whether the doctors might bid on the hospital.

"Everything's up in the air. The decision was made [yesterday] morning," said Albert Dudley, president of Hadley Memorial.

As recently as January, officials from the Adventist System had asked McManis Development Corp. in Washington to study Hadley's future and work with potential buyers. However, talks broke off between Hadley and Greater Southeast Community Hospital, one of the interested parties.

"It's uncertain whether we want to buy the hospital; more information needs to be made available," said Tom Chapman, president of Greater Southeast.

Meanwhile, Charley Elderidge resigned yesterday as president of Leland Memorial, effective immediately. Elderidge's departure comes as the Adventist system attempts to close Leland and transfer its beds to Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville and Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park.

"Mr. Elderidge left on the very best of terms; it was an amicable separation," Breckenridge said. "We've had a long association, but he does not want to go through the process of closing the hospital."

Stephen K. Cooper
The Washington Times

BEREA TEMPLE RENOVATION PROJECT

Berea Temple, Baltimore, Md., under the leadership of its pastor, Elder Henry J. Fordham III, has launched a massive renovation project to restore and preserve its sanctuary.



Pastor Gene Donaldson administers the rite of baptism to a candidate.



A partial view of baptismal candidates of the Better Way Crusade.

at the church. The architectural firm of Kann and Ammon addressed plans and areas of concern. Also in attendance were Elder Charles Cheatham, representing the Allegheny East Conference, and Elder William Cheatham Sr., who was instrumental in purchasing the building from the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation in 1951.

The Berea Temple Capital Campaign Committee was formed to promote an extensive building drive to raise the funds necessary to complete this project.

The expected cost is between \$2.5 million and \$3.5 million, to be raised over a four-year period. Of that amount, approximately one-third is to be raised by the Berea Temple Congregation and the Restoration Committee. Additional costs will be met by contributions from foundations and private donors. To date, approximately \$100,000 has been raised.

On Dec. 3, 1988, the project was officially begun with a kick-off celebration held

Reconditioning will be completed in four phases, specifically 1) total restoration of the lower level, its auditorium and restroom facilities, 2) stonework repair, cleaning and repainting of the exterior to include the repair and weatherization of the stained glass windows, 3) upgrading of the ventilation, heating, plumbing, electrical systems and central air conditioning and 4) restora-

tion of the sanctuary to its original decor, modern lighting and sound systems, nursery, carpeting/flooring and restoration of the beautiful Hutchins organ, Opus 237.

Berea Temple, formerly known as the Madison Avenue Temple of the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, has provided approximately 100 years of continuous Sabbath observance. In 1976 it was designated as a national landmark, and is listed in the National Registry of Historical Sites by the United States Department of the Interior.

At the conclusion of the project, Berea Temple, along with the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, will celebrate and rededicate the temple in a Centennial Service.

Little children, you are of God, and have overcome them; for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 1 John 4:4 RSV

BEREA TEMPLE HOLDS RECORD VBS

A few days before starting date, July 17, 1989, many literature evangelists, Pathfinders, Real Truth and Vacation Bible School staff members saturated the surrounding neighborhoods with VBS flyers and special doorknob invitations. Much prayer and planning had been done before this upcoming event. "I prayed for 100 children and to my surprise we registered over 60 children into the program." These were the words of Mrs. Louise S. McCleary, VBS director. With a dedicated staff of some 19 volunteers, which included two Sabbath School leaders, Mrs. Denise Smith, Primary Division leader, and Mrs. Alice Black, assistant Cradle Roll Division leader; two public school teachers, Mr. Robert Noakes and Ms. Catherine Whitley; three Baltimore Junior Academy teachers, Mrs. Louise McCleary, director, Mrs. Jacquelin Stanley and Ms. Gwendolyn Lankford; qualified public school teacher assistants, Mrs. Thelma Reid and



Children listen attentively during Vacation Bible School.



Youngsters participate in VBS graduation at Berea Temple.

Mrs. Virginia Johnson; Ms. Lenora Vinson, music coordinator/pianist and assistant VBS director; Mr. Samuel Banks, chorister; Miss Julie Purnell, relief pianist and many other valuable resource people.

The day's programs were not only lively but extremely interesting. The children were so motivated daily that many of them did not want the activities to end. A few of the memorable activities included a field trip to Druid Hill Park Conservatory of Horticulture and a picnic in the park that included such games as volleyball, baseball, frisbee throwing and a treat of cold watermelon.

Elder Henry Fordham III, pastor of Berea Temple Church, gave the children a spiritual challenge. Many children surprised the leaders by asking for greater participation in the main program of the church and not just on youth days. Additionally, they stated that the church should not overlook them because they are small.

Even though the days were unbearably hot, attendance throughout the entire program remained at about 98 percent. This record attendance was due in part to God's leading, good planning, and the positive motivation of Mrs. Louise McCleary, VBS director.

Berea's Vacation Bible School this year truly demonstrates "love in work clothes." This was evidenced by the unusual sacrifices made by teachers and other professionals who willingly gave up the summer months, time usually spent for professional growth and enrichment, to work with the children of the church and community. Contributions made by many other valuable volunteers further demonstrated the spirit of Christianity.

The climax of the Vacation Bible School was a full program, and an awards ceremony. This was followed by an arts and crafts demonstration, and refreshments for the children, family and their guests.

Ralph A. McCleary
General Sabbath School Superintendent

CENTRAL STATES

ACTIVITIES AT THE PALACE OF PEACE

The youth of Palace of Peace in Colorado Springs, Colo., are on the move. Parents and the congregation agree that they are indeed "Youth for Christ." They chose this as the theme for their first annual Youth Weekend. Friday night's sermonette was presented by Robert Campbell, a member of the junior/earlteen Sabbath School class. Young Mr. Campbell expounded on God's Mercy."

Sabbath services got off to a good start as Tamarla Clark gave a warm welcome to all. The Claremont Church in Pueblo, Colo., was also present to see the youth perform. Debbie Howard, daughter of Mrs. Arliss Howard, delivered an inspiring message entitled, "Life from A to Z." She discussed such words as courage, influence, growth, love, responsibility and others. As with the Friday night service, the youth presented specials in songs, poems and speeches.

A special A.Y. program concluded the happenings that weekend as the youth presented the skit, "Something in Common."

Palace of Peace conducted a six-week series of prophecy lectures presented by Pastor Maurice Valentine and his associate, first elder, W. J. Williams. Each night's presentation came alive on screen, and answers were presented to many of today's thought-provoking questions. It was enlightening to have Sharon Valentine give a health talk each night.

During the series, Renee and Phillip Mitchell and James Robinson made public their commitment to serve Christ.

Claudette Abel-Clarke
Communication Secretary

HOMECOMING AT BETHESDA TEMPLE

Omaha, Nebraska's, Homecoming was a spiritually powerful weekend. Friday night, the history of the church was read and tribute given to deceased members of the congregation. Dr. Sherman H. Cox, former president of the Central States Conference, now serving at Oakwood College as campus chaplain and professor in the religion and theology department, was speaker for the Friday night services. Dr. Cox gave a thought-provoking message entitled, "Where in the World is the Church?" He in-



Chaplain Jones speaking

formed listeners of their God-given responsibility to stand firm on the standards and issues of the church.

Special guests during Sabbath morning services included Chaplain David Yates, the highest-ranking Adventist chaplain in the Air Force; Phyllis Ware, conference secretary/treasurer; Hasas Muhammad, one of the ombudsmen for the State of Nebraska; and Sgt. Gary King, number one recruiter for the Army in Omaha, Neb.

Chaplain Gerald Jones, who is serving with the Marines in South Carolina, gave the message for the day. Jones also served as pastor of Bethesda and Allon Chapel and was instrumental in purchasing the church in Omaha and building one in Lincoln while pastoring the district. For his work, Chaplain Jones was presented with the keys to the city from the mayor's office. His wife and family were also in attendance.

The day was topped off with a gospel concert featuring choirs and groups from the Bethesda, Sharon and Lincoln churches.

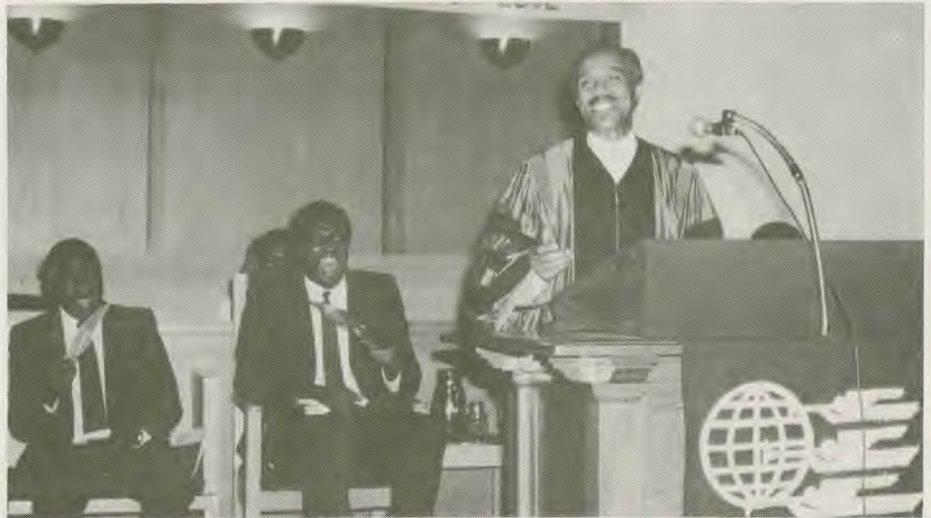
The entire weekend was organized and sponsored by the Adventist Youth Society.

R. W. Draggon
Correspondent

NORTHEASTERN

BRONX TEMPLE'S '89 GRADUATES

Rudolph Theodore Massop Jr. has been an inspiration to all with whom he comes in contact, both in church and school. He is a member of the Bronx Temple Church in New York City. He is a recent graduate of



Elder Sherman H. Cox speaking Friday night.



Rudolph Theodore Massop, Jr.

Northeastern Academy and is now furthering his studies at Atlantic Union College in Massachusetts.

Rudolph is an ambitious young man. He is busy in the Adventist Youth Society and other functions of the church. Many believe that the Christian education he received has been instrumental in making Rudolph the responsible young man he has turned out to be.

1989 graduates at Bronx Temple were Rudolph Massop Jr, a graduate of Alfred E. Smith High School, Suzett Graham from Junior High School 123, Ethan Anthony from New Rochelle Elementary School, and Mrs. Lorene Gray who graduated with a master's degree.

Mrs. Kathleen Hughes
Communication Secretary



Little Miss Marsha Alexander participates on the Children's Day program.



Young people render a musical number for the afternoon Youth Day program.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH DAYS AT BRONX TEMPLE

A Youth Day celebration was recently held at Bronx Temple in New York, featuring Mr. Richard Felder, president of the Bronx/Manhattan Youth Federation, as speaker. Individuals from the Mt. Vernon, Bethel and Linden Churches in New York and from as far away as Maryland participated in the morning services.

Mrs. Icilma Burroughs served as mistress of ceremonies during the afternoon program. Participants included the Mt. Vernon Children's Choir, Mrs. Daphne Morgan and members of the Bethel Church.



The Mount Vernon Children's Choir performs on Youth Day at Bronx Temple.



Chevonne Ricketts, left, and Tamiqa Wright welcome the congregation to the Children's Day program.



The Bronx Temple Children's Choir performs for Children's Day.

A skit was presented by Bronx Temple entitled, "When Congress Passed the National Sunday Law."

Mrs. Jeaneth Hughes Mohammed coordinated the day's activities.

The Bronx Temple children's department, under the direction of Miss Ermine Lindsay, Mrs. Lelia Hayes and Miss Illene Marks, recently conducted a Children's Day.

The children, dressed in pink and black, provided a day of music, poetry and drama which will long be remembered by the Bronx Temple congregation.

Mrs. Kathleen Hughes
Communication Secretary



Justine Anthony

JUSTINE ANTHONY WINS NATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTEST

On Friday evening, April 14, 1989, Justine Anthony of New York City's Ephesus Church won second prize in the National Oratorical Contest which was held at the United Youth Congress in New Orleans! The large delegation of youth was electrified with excitement as Miss Anthony gave a very vivid portrayal of the results of disobeying the laws of temperance.

In a moment, Justine, who is only 16, became old and haggard and demented, as she shocked the audience with the question, "What y'all looking at?" In answer to her own question, she told them that once a very long time ago she had obeyed God's laws. She, too, had abided by the Temperance Pledge. However, gradually she began to eat more and more junk food. She gave up her vegetarian diet for Big Macs as McDonalds. Eventually, she started sipping wine and smoking. Hard drugs became a part of her daily diet.

Church attendance and Bible study were totally discarded. Now her only exercise was to find a way to get more drugs. She reminded the listeners that they could also become the demented old lady if they failed to follow God's divine plan. As Miss Anthony ended her presentation, the Superdome was filled with applause as the audience rose to their feet, giving her a standing ovation!

"It's all over," said a smiling Justine as the Ephesus delegation gathered around her for picture-taking and congratulations. Justine Anthony entered the oratorical contest for the first time and won! She entered because she always wanted to say something to her church, and she believed that this was one of the best ways to realize her goal. To accomplish this feat she contacted John H. Tillman, Man. Bx. Federation Temperance Director, for more information. She was coached by the National Forensics League at Brooklyn Technical High School, where she is currently a senior student. She also studied, prayed and practiced!

Ms. Anthony says that she first thought of temperance as boring. However, she now finds it exciting. She understands that it is not just a war against drugs. According to Justine, "It is Biblical and must encompass all three areas of our lives: mental, physical and spiritual." She also believes that the way to get more youth involved in

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. I Tim. 4:12 RSV

the Temperance Program is to have "youth talking to youth as friends." She suggests that the church leaders involve and educate those temperance oriented youth to reach others.

In addition to her interest in temperance, Justine enjoys debating, exploring other people's philosophies, and she loves talking about Jesus! During the summer of 1989, she studied law, psychology and expository writing at Harvard University. She also presented her oration during an Adventist Youth hour at Oakwood College.

Justine's future goals include being appointed to the Supreme Court as a judge and winning many others to Christ. Ms. Anthony thanks her parents, John and Monique and her siblings, Nicole, Jennifer and John, for their support and encouragement. Justine Anthony is a "winner" because she "knows God" and therefore "has no fear!"

EMMAUS CHURCH ON THE MARCH

The Emmaus Church of Brooklyn, N.Y., held a graduation ceremony for some 70 individuals who had completed the "Real Truth" Bible course. It served as a fitting climax to weeks of legwork by a few workers who delivered the 12-lesson course.

Following the initial door-to-door distribution of contact cards, it soon became evident that interest in the Bible studies would exceed the most optimistic expectations. Some 500 persons began studying the lessons, a number that almost overwhelmed the one dozen or so lay workers, some of whom are themselves recent converts to the Adventist message.

To date about 150 individuals have received certificates following completion of the course. Under Pastor Calvin Harrison, Emmaus Church is on the march.

Howard Spencer
Correspondent



SPOTLIGHT - GEORGE M. WYATT

Mr. George M. Wyatt was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on April 6, 1895, the second of 10 boys. He attended grade school and manual training school there, graduating as a certified carpenter.

Wyatt was in the Army for more than two years, serving in France. After leaving the service he married Anna and they produced four children. In 1944 he was baptized into the Adventist faith by Elder Bland, and attended the Linden Church in its infancy. It was a house in Jamaica, N.Y. There he served as secretary, treasurer, Sabbath School superintendent, head deacon and maintenance manager. He still serves as honorary deacon, and has brought in the largest investment offering for the past five years.

Now 94 years young, Wyatt is unable to perform many duties, but does manage to care for himself. With a twinkle in his eyes, he explains without hesitation that "Trust in the Lord and doing His will" is the main reason for his longevity. He continues to attend church regularly, evening activities included, and is alert to every move. He is truly like "a garden planted by the rivers of water." With a ruddy complexion that belies his age, one sees him actively going about his duties clutching tightly his famous attaché case.

George Wyatt is a remarkable man of God for whom is wished many more spirit-filled and productive years in the Master's service.

Cynthia Chin
Correspondent



Pastor Calvin U. Harrison addresses the graduates and members of the Emmaus SDA Church.



Graduates of the Real Truth Bible course.

HISTORY OF THE OPELIKA, ALA., CHURCH

In August 1986, Henry Tinsley and family of Detroit, Mich., returned to their home state of Alabama after having spent many years in the North. They came with a burden to see the "truths of Adventism" shared with the people in their home state. Opelika was chosen as the place for doing their witness.

Bible studies were given, tracts were distributed, and Elder Jesse Wilson, pastor of the nearby Phenix City, Ala., church, came to conduct an evangelistic tent meeting during the summer of 1988.

There were some 29 people who became members of the church in that city. However, when the final count was made, approximately 15 of the believers came together to become the first company of believers of the regional Seventh-day Adventist church in that city. The group was organized into a company of believers on Oct. 29, 1988, and met from house to house until the Lord blessed them to find a place in which to hold their worship at the St. Paul Baptist Church. In April of 1989, the Outreach SDA team was organized into a company by the conference president, Dr. C. E. Dudley. It became the 129th church organization of the conference. Plans are presently being laid to construct a building for this new group.

DISTRICT CHANGES ANNOUNCED

Several changes in district leadership are presently underway. E. Shepherd has been invited to serve in Columbia, Laurel and Soso, Miss.; Vincent White is in Meridian and Sylvarena, Miss.; Jesse L. Green has moved to Jackson and Brownsville, Tenn.; W. Harold Kibble is to go to Fayetteville, Pulaski and Decherd, Tenn.; Marion Johnson will serve as the pastor for the Gulfport/Poplarville, Miss., congregations in addition to his responsibilities in Hattiesburg; Raynard Allen and C. A. Oakman are to enter the seminary this fall; F. L. Follette, Jr., will become the pastor for the Hopkinsville and Paducah, Ky., congregations.

If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that every one who does right is born of him. I John 2:29 RSV



Opelika, Ala., new church.

ELDER JESSE WILSON ACCEPTS A CALL TO CALIFORNIA

Elder Jesse Wilson, pastor of the Phenix City, Union Springs, Opelika churches, has informed the conference administration that he has given prayerful consideration to the invitation that was extended to him and his family to join the Southeastern California team and will be leaving the field at the end of this month. Jesse, a native of the South Central Conference, has spent his entire ministry in this field and the Lord has blessed his labors. Let us remember him and Cherrie and the family as they take up their new duties in California.

But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. II Thes. 2:13 RSV

TRI CONFERENCE TEACHERS' MEETING HELD

The three Regional conferences of the Southern Union, the South Central Conference, the South Atlantic Conference and the Southeastern Conference, brought their teachers together for a joint in-service meeting. This is another first for the Southern Union. We salute the superintendents of education, N. G. Higgs, W. M. Wright and O. Paul.

GOD'S SERVANT IN A STRANGE LAND

Nestled along the banks of the Cumberland River in Nashville, Tenn., overshadowed by the curvaceous mountains, lies the Nashville Community Service Center, a minimum security institution for the Department of Correction. This facility houses men who are about to reenter society trying to be productive citizens in the communities in which they shall reside.

It is here at this quietly tucked-away facility that we find energetic activity going on for the cause of God. Through the efforts of Dr. Cleveland Houser, psychiatric chaplain for the Department of Correction for the State of Tennessee. God's work is still moving. Dr. Houser is the first Seventh-day Adventist minister to serve in this capacity for the state. Prior to his promotion to chaplain in charge at the center, he served as chaplain at the Tennessee State Prison maximum security unit, including Tennessee's Death Row.

Little does one realize the tremendous challenge and responsibilities of a correctional chaplain. He has to be all things to all people. Certainly Dr. Houser is one who adapts to this pluralistic concept of ministry as he ministers to the needs of inmates, staff and volunteers. His ministry is a calling and not a job. His ministry tries to respond to the call of Jesus to bring glad tidings to the downtrodden; to set the captives free; to let inmates know that God



Dr. and Mrs. Cleveland Houser are shown together just before he delivers a sermon at the correction facility. Joyce is usually found by her husband's side, praying for him and giving him support. The couple are members of the Hillcrest SDA Church, Nashville, Tenn.

loves them and wants to save them into His kingdom.

To be in charge of the spiritual welfare of inmates in a prison system is not an easy undertaking. However, Dr. Houser does not look at the size of the task; he just fishes and leaves the catch to God. He gives Bible studies, conducts religious services, circulates religious literature and coordinates religious services for community churches which minister to the needs of inmates. He arranges for up to 75 inmates to be transported to community churches for weekly services. Perhaps one of the most rewarding dimensions of his ministry is to be able to personally transport 15 inmates to the Hillcrest Seventh-day Adventist Church every two weeks. As a result of his labor, along with that of Buford Gaither, the prison ministry leader for the church, four souls have been baptized since June 1988. Since his appointment in this capacity, he has baptized 10 souls. Two of these inmates were on Death Row.

His presence has been an inspiration to all that he has come in contact with. Many inmates are influenced by his stand on healthful living, not because he preaches it, but because he lives it. As a result, many have stopped smoking, eating pork, using drugs and alcohol, and some have become vegetarians.

He is well respected by staff, colleagues and inmates throughout the Department of Correction. Mr. Charles Bass, Warden of the Nashville Community Service Center, said, "We are very fortunate to have a man of Chaplain Houser's caliber on the staff." Melvin Litton, inmate, stated, "Chaplain Houser is the only person at the prison who really cares about us and will go an extra

mile to help us. Man! I don't know what we would do without him."

He not only cares about the inmates, but he also cares about young people. He expresses this care in his war against drugs. He is the executive director of an anti-drug organization called "Don't Follow Me." It is composed of convicted felons who are in prison or on parole for substance-abuse crimes. The purpose of this group is to educate young people regarding the devastating effects of drugs and alcohol and to demonstrate to them how drugs and alcohol have wrecked their lives. This group has made a significant impact on the middle and southern Tennessee school systems. The "Don't Follow Me" organization has been adopted by South Central Bell and AT&T. It has appeared on TV and radio talk shows, trying to encourage young people to "Just Say No" to drugs permanently.

Dr. Houser is a very busy man, yet he finds time to do prison ministry seminars whenever there is a need. He is willing to come to your church to conduct a seminar. If you are interested, you may contact him at the Nashville Community Service Center, 7466 Centennial Place Ext., Nashville TN 37219-5256, or call (615) 741-6586. He will be happy to extend his services to you and your church.

We are proud of his ministry to the down-trodden and the disinherited. He needs our prayers and support as he continues his faithful labor in this portion of God's vineyard.

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY OF MT. CALVARY SDA CHURCH

As an outgrowth of the Seminar Ministries for Christian Women, which met in Atlanta, Ga., last year, a new ministry was

organized. Because of a felt need, stimulated by attendance at the session in Atlanta, a kickoff with a well-attended prayer breakfast took place.

Elder Franklin S. Hill, Sr., was the speaker for the occasion; the music was provided by Sister Charlene Eason. During the potluck breakfast, the 22 ladies present expressed verbally the need for a ministry of fellowship where they could meet and share ideas. Most eyes were moist with tears of joy as the testimonies were being given.

After breakfast, officers were elected as follows: Mabel R. Norman, president; Martha Walker, vice president; Carolyn Price, secretary; Earline Mitchell, treasurer; and Sylvia Germany, chaplain.

The ministry was organized for spiritual encouragement, prayer, informal Bible study, idea exchange, Christian fellowship and service. Their first group project was the purchase of curtains for the fellowship hall of the church. They recently provided wrapped gifts for several needy families of the community. The children made friendship cards which were taken to several nursing homes and personally presented to patients there.

Throughout the year, they have seen evidences of God's guidance in the group. They meet the second Sunday morning of each month. In the prayer sessions led by the chaplain, they have experienced not only victories and spiritual growth, but received direct answers to prayer also. There have been people such as Dr. Deborah Harris, Mrs. E. E. Cleveland, Mrs. Jo Thomas and others who have inspired them in different ways. They have been motivated and stimulated to embrace opportunities, to upgrade themselves, think highly of themselves, and to work in all diligence to



Women's Christian Fellowship ministry group of Mount Calvary SDA Church, Huntsville, Ala.

make their homes, churches and communities better places in which to live.

Visitors have fellowshiped with these ladies and as a result, a former visitor to the meetings organized a women's ministry in her church.

HONORS AND AWARDS FOR DEBBE MILLET

The Division of Education of the Pacific Presbyterian Medical Center, San Francisco, is pleased to announce that Debbe



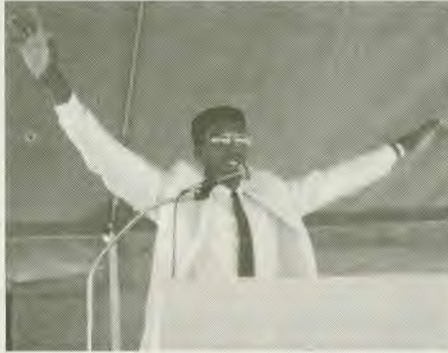
Debbe Millet, the daughter of D r. and Mrs. Garland Millet, has been awarded the certified professional secretary (CPS rating).

Millet, administrative secretary, has been awarded the certified professional secretary rating. The CPS credential is the registered service mark for the rating that has become the recognized standard of measurement of secretarial proficiency. The Institute for Certifying Secretaries requires successful completion of a two-day, six-part examination given twice each year at selected colleges and business schools in the United States, Canada and Jamaica. Subjects covered are behavioral science in business, accounting, business law, economics and management, office administration and communication, and office technology.

Debbe has been employed at San Francisco's fifth-largest medical center for the past three years, and since certification has been promoted to administrative staff assistant. After studying at Oakwood College and earning a baccalaureate degree at Andrews University, Debbe worked for four years as supervisor of word processing at Loma Linda University School of Health. She is the younger daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Garland Millet of Huntsville, Ala.

BAPTISMS REPORTED

Pastor Albert Frazier has baptized more than 10 new believers in Owensboro, Ky., as a result of the Revelation Seminar that he held during the month of June. James Bell reports that 10 persons were baptized after one of his laymen conducted a Revelation Seminar in his home in Mobile. O. J. McKinney/P.E. Vincent Crusade in Birmingham, Ala., has produced 45 baptisms thus far. All of the meetings this summer have had battles with the rain.



Evangelist Raynard Allen, Paducah, Ky.



Pastor Roy Rugless baptizes in Delton, Ala.

EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS IN FULL SWING

Although the summer has brought many days of rain from week to week, the Lord continues to bless the tent crusades that are being conducted throughout the conference. Continue to pray for the good harvest of souls that will come. Tent cru-

sades are being held in Birmingham — O. J. McKinney, J. W. McCoy, E. E. Cleveland, W. E. Moore; Memphis — J. A. Jones, F. Murray; Hernando, Miss. — Marcus Taylor (new group); Lebanon, Ky. — M. Holland; Frankfort, Ky. — A. S. Wagner III; Paducah, Ky. — R. Allen; Knoxville, Tenn. — T. Lewis; Huntsville, Ala. — S. Sins; Tupelo, Miss. — D. Morgan; Port Gibson, Miss. — J. Young; Jackson, Miss. — J. I. Grider. A goodly number of church and hall meetings are being conducted throughout the field. Every pastor and layperson has the evangelism fervor. We seek to make ready a people to meet the Lord when He comes again.



Pastor Raynard Allen preaches in Paducah, Ky.



Pastor Robert Manon baptizes in Decatur, Ala.

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. I John 4:7 RSV

BUILDING PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO MOVE THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE

During the month of June, Elder Milton Johnson and the members at Wetumpka, Ala., opened a newly constructed building in that city. This makes his second building to be completed in an 18-month period. In Indianola, Miss., a new wing has been added to the church there under the lead-

ership of Elder Aaron Thompkins. It is to be officially opened soon. Elder M. R. Mounter and the members of Maranatha in Montgomery opened a new fellowship hall for their building in that city. Pastor Albert Frazier and the members in Owensboro, Ky., are in the process of purchasing a new facility in that city. It is very lovely. Lay pastor Henry Tinsley is working feverishly to get a new building in Opelika, Ala. The new building is up in Stevenson, Ala., under the leadership of lay pastor Isadora DeSouza.

He hopes to have it completed by the end of this year. A new site has been purchased by Elder Famous Murray and his members at Eads, Tenn., on which to build their new building. A new school building is nearing completion in Birmingham, Ala., under the leadership of Elder Patrick E. Vincent. This is badly needed. The new conference office is moving again and the construction should be completed in a few months. A new building is under construction in Sylva-



Sylvarena, Miss., building.



Conference office building.



Building begins at Sylvarena, Miss.



Building to be purchased at Owensboro, Ky.



Indianola, Miss., building.



Building opened in Gadsden, Ala.

OAKWOOD COLLEGE

WOCG MANAGER GOES ON LEAVE

Mr. Hallerin Hill, general manager of WOCG-FM, Oakwood College Radio, has left Oakwood for professional development. During his stay at WOCG, Hill was successful in upgrading the station to its present level. His motto has been "Excellence in Christian Broadcasting."

Mr. Hill is expected to move to St. Croix, Virgin Islands, in the Caribbean where he will be engaged in the management of two radio stations.

All wish Mr. Hill and his family much success in this new venture. WOCG-FM and the entire Tennessee Valley will miss him, especially on Morning Joy.



Halowin Hill to man Virgin Islands radio station.

OAKWOODITES INVOLVED IN SUMMER EVANGELISM

During the summer, there were three evangelistic campaigns held in the Birmingham/Bessemer, Ala., area. The evangelists were O. J. McKinney of the Southern Union, Elder Joseph McCoy of South Central and Elder E. E. Cleveland of Huntsville, Ala.

Ms. Janice Johnson, assistant professor of psychology at Oakwood College, assisted Elder McCoy as a Bible worker and soloist. Ms. Johnson reports 53 baptisms as of Aug. 26 for the McCoy campaign.

Dr. Ellen Anderson, associate professor of social work at Oakwood, and five Oakwood theology majors assisted Elder Cleveland in his campaign in Bessemer. Sixty-one were baptized at the first baptism on Sabbath, Aug. 19. The five students to whom Elder Cleveland gave high marks on performance were: James Norman, Jeff

Watson, Sam Tugwell, Greg Wood and Michael Miller. Dr. Anderson, in addition to assisting in various aspects of the campaign, taught the nightly Bible class.

Greg Wood made use of his computer expertise by providing useful statistical data about the campaign. Asked what he thought of the meetings and the evangelist, Greg said, "What one learns through experience is not written in books, and success is the direct result of the evangelist's connection with God. In the case of E. E. Cleveland, this is most evident."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE COMMENDS DEAN FORDE

According to a letter received by President Reaves from Clarence E. Hodges, Deputy Asst. Secretary of State, Mr. Winston Forde was selected through a very competitive process to serve as a public member on a Foreign Service Promotion Board.

The letter further stated: "Mr Forde has done an outstanding job. His professionalism, leadership skills, ability to analyze international issues and professional contributions of others in the interest of U.S. foreign policy have made a lasting and positive impression for Oakwood College...."

Mr. Forde, who holds a master's degree in social work, has served the college for several years in student services and fund raising. He is currently dean of men.

CLASSIFIED AD

EXPERIENCED PEDIATRIC R.N., with medical/surgical skills, needed at Monument Valley Hospital, a small, rural mission hospital on an Indian reservation in Rock Door Canyon, Utah. Call collect, Jeanine Best, (801) 727-3241 or Betty Van der Vlugt, (916) 781-AHSW.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/PERSONNEL DIRECTOR, with good communication and personnel management skills. Shorthand and word processing skills required; medical terminology helpful. Must be well organized, self motivated and willing to travel. Monument Valley Hospital, Utah. Call collect, Fred Diaz or Gary Norman, (801) 727-3241.

O.R./CENTRAL SUPPLY R.N. MANAGER. Immediate opening at Monument Valley Hospital, the S.D.A. mission hospital for Navajo and Hopi Indians. Call collect, Jeanine Best, (801) 727-3241 or Betty Van der Vlugt, (916) 781-AHSW.

IN THE NEWS

NEW IMAGE SPOTS TV CAMPAIGN

"Seventh-day Adventists. There, because we care."

Over and over again this fall, citizens in the Spokane, Wash., area will see that TV message attractively presented in a variety of new image spots. A major media campaign to heighten community awareness of the Adventist church will build interest in a variety of current health and family programs being offered by area churches.

"These spots are going to capture attention!" predicts Walter Arties, executive producer, who directs Adventist Media Center research for new ministries. "They have a bold colorful look and freshness to them that we believe will create widespread interest in our churches' community services."

"It was a Sunday night," says a young Spokane mother who appears in one vignette. "I'd been sleeping on the couch; I fell asleep watching TV and my little boy came in. He said, 'Mommy! Mommy! There's a fire in my room.'"

"I jumped up and looked down the hallway; flames were already climbing all up the wall. It was devastating to see your whole life go up in flames.

"Well, after the fire I got in touch with the Seventh-day Adventist church, and they gave me everything I needed to start all over."

She concludes, "It's nice to know that people care."

Three additional spots make up the scheduled rotation for the upcoming campaign. Just during the first week of saturation advertising, local churches can expect up to 300 "gross rating points," which means that 100 percent of the people in Spokane will see the new image spots an average of three times each. The airtime costs for the campaign will be approximately \$50,000.

The image spots, filmed on location in Spokane, were produced and directed by Stew Harty and a crew from the Adventist Media Center. Also from the center, Warren Judd, vice president for production, served as executive co-producer for the new project.

"Focus groups like these spots because of their realness, their genuineness," says Kermit Netteburg, who directs the United Marketing Task Force. Netteburg, who

helped design the ad concepts, reports that advertising brochures and a toll-free phone service will be a part of the overall strategy.

A recently formed TV Spots Committee at the Media Center is presently studying the development of new image PSAs — public service announcements — that will air across North America twice each year. Similar campaigns in the past have given the Adventist church millions of dollars' worth of free airtime.

NEW BLACK JOURNAL PUBLISHED ON THE WEST COAST

"The Layman's Voice" is a new publication that is being published on the west coast by the Southern California Seventh-day Adventist laymen in which they seek to keep abreast with the work of the church from their viewpoint. When it was shared with them that the conference had provided only \$5,000 or \$6,000 for evangelism for the Black church in their area, this gave cause for concern among them. It was then inquiry was made regarding other approaches to the support of the Black work on the coast. It was quite revealing, it seems. Out of the concerns, the advocacy of Regional conferences on the west coast has emerged. The feelings seem to be running very strongly in this area. Regional (Black) conferences are not a new concept. There were Black conferences in the C.M.E. denomination as early as 1870. The Seventh-day Adventists seem to have borrowed the idea from them. C. M. Kinney requested that such be set up in 1889 for Black people in the church, but the request was denied. The work has moved in a significant manner since Regional conferences came into being in 1945. An idea whose time had come.



F. N. Crowe, treasurer of 40 years, tells of Regional conference blessings.



Norman Bakker, layman, addresses assembly on Regional conferences.



Public relations director for Pacific Union attends Regional conference session.

BARBADOS ESTABLISHES BREATH OF LIFE CHURCH

The South Central Conference holds the distinction of establishing the first Breath of Life SDA Church in the world. This was done when C. D. Brooks held his crusade in Memphis about 10 years ago. It is one of the strongest congregations within the conference today. We praise the Lord. Since that time a number of Breath of Life congregations have come into being around the world.

On March 12 of this year, Erskine Sandiford, prime minister of Barbados, welcomed Charles D. Brooks, speaker of the Breath of Life telecast; Reginald O. Robinson, associate speaker; and the BOL quartet, and declared open the Breath of Life evangelistic crusade at the Stadium Grounds in Waterford, St. Michael. The Lord blessed the meetings in a signal manner and today more than 420 persons have been baptized. This represents the largest number ever baptized in one campaign in Barbados, states E. W. Howell, the president of the East Caribbean Conference. A new congregation was organized, and plans are presently underway for the construction of a new building in which to house these new converts.

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