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MARILYN A. BATCHELOR
Ordained Methodist
Minister Accepts Adventism

COVER STORY

METHODIST MINISTER/ PASTOR JOINS THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

MARILYN A. BATCHELOR was a former minister of the Christian Methodist Church and served as the associate pastor for a 1,200-member congregation in Los Angeles, Calif., before her baptism into the Seventh-day Adventist faith in Knoxville, Tenn., on Sabbath, Nov. 4, by Evangelist Timothy Lewis of the South Central Conference. Ms. Batchelor holds a bachelor's degree in theology from Purdue University and a bachelor's degree in journalism, and reports for "People" magazine of the "Orange County Register." She was also a reporter for the "Detroit News." She holds a master's degree in education, and is currently attending the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where she is studying for her degree in law. While attending a Revelation Seminar crusade in Knoxville, she made a decision to keep the Bible Sabbath and to become a member of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. She now serves as the assistant pastor for the Trinity SDA Church. She has no ambitions except "just to be used by God in helping souls to be ready for His coming."

Dr. Charles E. Dudley, the president of the South Central Conference, and his executive committee, extend a warm welcome to Pastor Batchelor as she comes to join the conference family. She writes her personal testimony in giving her account of her decision.



Elder C. E. Dudley, president of South Central Conference (right) presents Pastor Batchelor (center) to the Regional Council on Evangelism audience at Oakwood College.

SOMETHING MISSING

Matthew 10:37, 38: "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me."

For the last 12 years, I thought I was following Jesus Christ to the fullest — the best that I knew. I believed that what I learned in seminary, coupled with leadership training schools under my denomination, would carry me through. But there was something missing.

I left my hometown, Detroit, Mich., and went away to Syracuse University, finishing two other undergraduate degrees and a graduate program, while working at one of my denomination's local churches as a ministerial apprentice. But there was something missing.

Then, I took a job in Los Angeles as a newspaper reporter, and continued my ministerial duties by working at one of my denomination's mission churches. But there was still something missing. I asked whether it was educational, emotional or spiritual fulfillment that I lacked. No answer. So, I ignored it, since it didn't seem like a real problem.

For the most part, I was happy. This feeling of slight emptiness was only a periodic thing. It never weighed me down, nor

did it leave me in despair. The Lord took great care of me. I knew what I had to do and all that I needed to do.

That was to continue to read my Bible on a regular basis to keep myself "steadfast" and "unmovable." Because I was sure that this was all that was needed, I failed to see an error of judgment on my part. I failed to quench my ignorance of a most important subject — the Sabbath. But then, I didn't realize how far off the mark I had been. I was worshipping on the WRONG day!

Sure, I knew that the fourth commandment told me to "Remember the sabbath day and to keep it holy...But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God...Wherefore, the Lord blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it." I knew that. Then why did I go to church on Sunday?

I had never thought of it. I went along with the crowd on that one. Me, an ordained Methodist minister at the age of 19; me, a licensed local preacher at the age of 15. Yes, me, the one who thought that I was on target in my manner of worship. I was going to be held accountable for reading and not choosing to understand a vital issue — for missing the point and not seeking the truth.

Well, in September, I decided that I would no longer walk with the tide, but weather the storm by joining my Seventh-day Adventist brothers and sisters in acknowledging and keeping the seventh-day sabbath.

This was not an easy task, nor a popular decision in my household. I underwent nights of crying and praying because I knew that trouble was in the making. I knew that my cousin and godfather, both bishops in the denomination in which I grew up, would not understand. I also continued to remember the reasons I was given for the question of Sunday worship.

The more I read, the more unacceptable these answers became. I knew that Jesus did not change the Sabbath, especially when He told us that He came to fulfill the law, not to destroy it. I also knew that I was about to lose some friends, family members and my ordination papers. But I looked back at Matthew 10:37 and told myself that I would prefer to be subjected to the wrath of man than that of God. I had a decision to make and I made it in faith.

Today, I am an elder at Trinity SDA Church in Knoxville, and I'm happy with my decision. I have to deal with explaining to my employer that I cannot work on Saturday, and I must continue to explain my decision to change. But this is good, because it also gives me the opportunity to witness to more than many because the question, "Why?" always arises.

When I think of the changes in my life, I recall the old hymn, "I get joy, when I think about what He's done for me."

I was an associate pastor in Los Angeles at a church with a membership between 750 and 1,200. I was happy. I had no complaints, and I love my congregation and fellow clergymen and women. So, my change could have been grievous, but the decision was not made in a huff, nor out of dissatisfaction. It was made out of love for God. I wanted to be closer, and I realized that I was missing out on what it meant to truly worship God in spirit and in truth.

When I moved to Knoxville, I had no idea that any of this was going to happen. But when it did, I knew that I had been sent here for a reason. In fact, I had become involved with one of my denomination's churches down here and was happy with them, as well. But I met the pastor at Trinity, and he made me more curious. So, I went to the library at the University of Tennessee, where I am a law student, and I made my home in the religion section. I found answers, both spiritually, biblically and historically. My baptism took place Nov. 4.

Today, I'm satisfied with what has happened in my life, and I pray that each day teaches me more than I knew the day before.

Marilyn A. Batchelor

PUBLISHER'S PAGE



E. E. Cleveland

"THE POSSIBLE" - Part II

During Reconstruction, immediately after the Civil War, the Congress of the United States passed legislation that outlawed slavery, segregation, and discrimination in every facet of American life. Black union troops policed sensitive areas of the South. Petitions from White Southerners flooded the White House for their replacement. Andrew Johnson capitulated. Soon there were no Black soldiers patrolling southern streets. Freed Blacks throughout the south were establishing their own schools, and forming protective associations. The Black view of the slaveless America was that "White Supremacy" would end - and that any citizen, regardless to his color could rise as far and as fast as his talent and training could carry him. This, by the way, is still the Black man's view of America.

But those who control America thought and think otherwise. Andrew Johnson said and I quote, "This is a country for White men, and by God, so long as I am President, it shall be a government for White men." That announced policy was heard by White America - North, South, East, and West. The pre-civil war south rose from the ashes of defeat and set about the business of consolidating its' power. Rutherford B. Hayes struck a deal with southerners that for their support of his presidency - he would, if elected, withdraw all occupying troops from the South. He was elected and kept his promise, and a system of apartheid was set up in the South. Blacks were denied every right guaranteed them by the Constitution and its amendments. Black codes were written into state law making it a crime for anyone to educate Blacks. Of course the right to vote was denied. Blacks were confined to certain neighborhoods

and could not buy out. Judge Taney and the Supreme Court had ruled that, "Blacks have no rights that whites are bound to respect." The North grew tired of it all, having its own brand of de-facto segregation to live with and maintain. The Klan rode freely North and South and a reign of terror began. Nearly 6000 lynchings have occurred - including the death of Martin King. The problem lies in conflicting views of America. The White man's view of minorities as his paternal dependents, and the Black man's view that he is fully human and a first class citizen of the greatest nation on earth which he helped build. And that He, (the Black man) is entitled to all of the rights and responsibilities appertaining thereto.

That explains the persistence of the N.A.A.C.P. and its brilliant record in the courts. Led by Thurgood Marshall and a battery of lawyers, segregation has been declared unconstitutional in all areas of American life. Martin Kings' Southern Christian Leadership Conference exposed the racism of paternalism in its ten year drive for implementation. White Americans, North and South, have resisted changes in the law, and blasted the court that made them. Millions of White voters are ready to roll back the clocks on legislation that would make life better for Minorities. Affirmative Action is under fire. Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagon have made appointments to the Supreme Court that could further erode Minority Aspirations. Under Reagon, 86 percent of the housing for poor people was cut out. And you wonder why there are so many homeless people. Affirmative Action has been renounced and denounced. The jobless rate among Blacks is high and growing. Cuts in domestic spending are deep and persistent - so the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. As the government continues to dismantle the "Great Society," with the enthusiastic encouragement of White voting America, the drift toward two societies has become a landslide. Five years of Nixon and eight years of Reagon have created in the ghetto a sense of abandonment. "Benign Neglect" under these men became "hierarchal hostility." George Bush can change this picture, but to deny that it is here makes one a dreamer or a liar.

Unfortunately, institutions, within government tend to reflect governmental attitudes. Religious orders are no exception to this rule. When a government shows sensitivity to the needs of the oppressed and unfortunate, institutions within its jurisdiction tend to do the same. When government cuts appropriations to the needs of the poor, church

leaders consider it fashionable to do the same. Industry also tends to harden its attitudes toward hiring minorities. Under Ronald Reagan, justice department people tried to get the city officials in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to sue to overturn the school integration program then in progress. In Ronald's war on quotas, he and his supporters forgot all about slavery and over 100 years of segregation and the exclusion of Blacks from progress opportunity. To his government all White was alright, since Affirmative Action, by quota, is the only instrument that got Blacks into the system. The chill that now sweeps the land is understandable. Partially due to the dismantling of programs that provided training for young Blacks in the skills necessary for survival, thousands of young Blacks are in jail, or on the way there. And we have the making of a national disaster on our hands. There is the proliferation of gang warfare and drug activity that is symptomatic of exclusion. "Liberty and justice for all" has a hollow ring in some parts of the ghetto.

This is not a simplistic analysis. Other "poor-killing" factors in the economy were the elimination of jobs at the street level. I.E., for workers with a high school education or less. This restructuring of the economy occurred in every industry while management jobs increased by 36%. Guess who got hurt first and most in this shuffle? Textiles, steel and automobiles from foreign manufacturers flood over markets while restrictions are put on American made goods abroad. The deficit grows. The rich get richer, the poor get poorer. Guess who's hurting worse? The small farmer has all but disappeared. There is a record number of bank closings and savings and loans failure. And at the bottom of what David Stockman called the "Voocong economic" pile, eligibility standards were stiffened for those needing public assistance leaving thousands out in the cold. The dramatic rise in crimes of violence is rooted in social and economic alienation. Those who gloat over the high crime rate in some Black communities need not look far for causes.

And there is an sense of being unwanted on the part of the affluent integrated Black. In a television interview that featured Blacks that "have it made" in corporate society, one after another expressed his sense of exclusion based on race, though included based on his skills. Integration in church and state is a pipe dream that leaves untouched the vast majority of Ethnics. And sociologists say that it would take another 300 years to eliminate color as a fact in

decision-making America. Well, the Church doesn't have 300 years to wait on "the dream". In the inner cities of America, we are living with "the nightmare." We are wrestling with problems that no white man understands. Ebony Magazine has at last concluded that Black redemption rests squarely on the shoulders of Black people. Churches that have multiracial composition have some hard decisions to make in prioritizing and organization. Seventh-day Adventists got some sound advice from a frail little lady who died in 1915. We shall examine that advice in the next editorial.

(to be continued)

DR. WONG TO RETIRE

For more than 40 years, Dr. and Mrs. H. Y. C. Wong have devoted their lives to helping students achieve their aspirations in the fields of medical, dental and allied health careers. They began their services at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., but later transferred to Howard University in Washington, D.C.



Dr. Wong (2nd left) and family, accompanied by Mrs. E. Dudley (left).

ALLEGHENY EAST

SAY SOCIETY: A YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP

Support Adventist Youth (SAY) Society is an independent, nonprofit, fund-raising, social organization of the Germantown Seventh-day Adventist Church in Philadelphia, Penn. It was organized in September, 1984, by Dwight Thornton who has presided as its president since that time. Thornton and 19 other members of the Germantown Church sensed the need for youth of their church to be congratulated and encouraged in their Christianity and educational pursuits.

Operational funds are raised through annual dues, block flea markets and health fairs, bowling parties and the selling of

These dear leaders have especially been a blessing to the Seventh-day Adventist students who have chosen Howard for their training. Each year since 1962, Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Dudley of the South Central Conference have journeyed to this school with a recruitment team to invite these students to join the conference team when they completed their work. Some have accepted the challenges that were presented, and are serving in the Southland as well as in other parts of the North American Division and the world field.

"It seems strange," said Dr. Wong, "that 40 years have gone by so rapidly, but the General Conference has requested that we go to Canton, China, to help with the building of the work there during the next two years... We have decided to accept the invitation because we want to see the work advanced in that part of the world, and because my parents are still there. It will be a joyous challenge."

We wish them godspeed as they take up their new assignment.

refreshments at home games of the church's basketball team.

On a yearly basis, SAY has contributed financial, physical and spiritual support to its church youth in various ways. Birthday cards are sent to the ones who are away in school or military service. Care packages are sent each spring to the students in boarding schools. Graduates are awarded money according to their level of achievement. A trip to an amusement park has been a popular summer highlight.

Some one-time SAY events were a grand picnic with food, games and prizes, and a "penny brigade" in which SAY members brought to a meeting all the pennies they had been saving. The pennies were enough to beautify the local church school's cafeteria. Last school year, a tuition contribution of \$20 per child was sent to Larchwood, the local church school for the 27 children whose parents or guardians attend the Ger-

mantown Church. A new program has just been instituted by SAY in which a person can give the gift of education by purchasing a tuition gift certificate from SAY Society to give to any Larchwood School student.

SAY has been a vibrant force in the Germantown Church. There are also non-members who unselfishly support SAY in their endeavors, and it is believed that the young people of the church know they are loved by their church family.

Frieda Thornton
SAY Member

PASTORS IN THE D.C. AREA EXPRESS CONCERNS OVER THE OFFER TO SELL HADLEY HOSPITAL

Pastors of the Allegheny East Conference of SDAs, who are based in the Washington, D.C., area, met a few days ago to

express their concerns over the Adventist Health System's offer to sell the newly renovated Hadley Hospital. Especially did they express concern over the move because of the need for this facility to carry out the mission of the church in this area of the city; because this sale would be the very last of the hospitals that were established to serve in the predominantly Black communities across the United States; a new congregation has been born, with more than 300 members, on the hospital grounds during the past two years, and will be left to be cared for; the Black physicians in the area need this facility to carry on their commitments to their patients.

The Seventh-day Adventist physicians and dentists in the area have offered to purchase the facility, but it appears there is an unwillingness on the part of the present owners of AHS to accept their proposal. Some definite decision, we are told, will be forthcoming by the end of the year.



Elder and Mrs. Walter Wright.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SEMINAR AT PARK HILL

Elder and Mrs. Walter Wright from Columbus, Ohio, recently held a Marriage and Family Seminar at the Park Hill Church in Denver, Colo. The Wrights presentation on

marriage and family roles explained way to enrich marriage and change negative behavior patterns that couples sometimes practice over the course of their marriage. They shared their experiences and provided workable conclusions on how it is possible to succeed in a happy marriage.

"God must be foremost in any marriage for happiness to dwell," they commented.

Single individuals and couples contemplating marriage also benefitted from the discussion.

On Sabbath, Elder Wright delivered a powerful message on family relationships with children. His sermon was entitled, "What Do We Owe Our Children?" He stressed the importance of giving children love rather than things. At the altar call, parents joined with their children in rededication and a special family prayer.

Park Hill thanks God for this special Marriage and Family Seminar given by Elder and Mrs. W. Wright.

Gwendolyn Walker
Communication Secretary

COMMUNITY GUEST DAY AT PARK HILL

The Park Hill Church of Denver, Colo., held its Annual Community Guest Day. Mr. Albert Groves, Sabbath School superintendent, presented awards to John Stovall and Dr. A. Phillips for outstanding leadership and support in the Denver community.

While presenting these two gentlemen their awards, Groves stressed the importance of Park Hill church recognizing individuals who are making a difference in leadership, growth and development in the community.

Mr. John Stovall was instrumental in the development of the Stoval Care Center, a home for the elderly. He also initiated programs to provide funding for low income families to purchase homes and numerous other community services.

Dr. A. Phillips, a local pastor, is involved with youth who participate in gang violence and supports numerous community service groups for young people.

Gwendolyn Walker
Communication Secretary

KIRKWOOD AY RETREAT

The Kirkwood SDA Church, Kirkwood, Mo., enjoyed a festive and rousing time during their Adventist Youth Retreat thanks to the organizational efforts of Ms. Lynette Adams. The members spent a fun-filled weekend at Camp Heritage, Mo., on the Lake-of-the-Ozarks.

There were many activities for all ages to participate in. Friday night consisted of camp set-up, potluck dinner and vesper. On Saturday, campers enjoyed a discussion-type Sabbath School led by Mr. Lambert Rusan. Pastor Paul Turner presented the Divine worship message, after which an old-fashioned testimony period was held in which members shared experiences, expounded on favorite Bible verses, recited poetry, sang songs and played musical instruments. After lunch there was a nature hike around the campground. The nightly activities included a bonfire and wiener roast.

Lee E. Carrell
Communication Secretary

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. I Cor. 13:11-12



Zachary Lewis

PARK HILL HOLDS YOUTH DAY

The Park Hill Church of Denver, Colo., recently held Youth Day. Youth lead out in the Sabbath School and Divine worship services. Speaker for the morning was Zachary Lewis.

Lewis, along with his wife Carla, recently joined Park Hill after relocating from the Capitol Hill Church in Washington, D. C. He immediately became involved in several activities functioning around the youth and communication aspects of the church. He is very helpful and always willing to volunteer time and talent to assist in these areas. It was no surprise to those that knew of Lewis' enthusiasm in service to the Lord when he presented the sermon entitled, "Good News."

Gwendolyn Walker
Communication Secretary

NORTHEASTERN

NEW STUDENT MINISTRY AT BEREA

Pastor M. Bernard of the Berea Boston SDA Church started a special College Student Ministry at Berea. Headed by Mr. Michael Turner, this ministry is designed to make out of town college students feel at home at Berea, and encourage them with Christian fellowship (and advice when requested) so that they can better concentrate on their studies at nearby colleges and universities. There are both graduate and undergraduate students involved in this ministry.

The Editor's Desk

SOUTHEASTERN RECEIVES MESSAGE MAGAZINE SILVER CUP

When the Message Magazine Honor Roll was called at the Evangelism Council held at Oakwood College, Huntsville, Ala., on Nov. 28, 1989, Southeastern Conference was declared top conference in the nation. Southeastern will also be the home of the National Message Silver Cup. This coveted prize has been theirs for the past three years.

The pace set by the conference has been unequalled in the North American Division. This enviable position is held as a result of dedicated pastors and church members committed to the message being carried by Message Magazine.

On hand to receive the award was Elder I. L. Harrell, church ministries director in charge of the Message Magazine Campaign, and J. M. Doggette, president.



Elder J. M. Doggette.



Elder J. M. Doggette, president, and Elder I. L. Harrell, director, Church Ministries, holding the Silver Cup.

EBENEZER DISTRIBUTES THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Thanksgiving baskets were distributed to more than 35 needy families, within the Freeport, Uniondale, Hempstead, and Manhasset, New York areas by the Ebenezer Seventh Day Adventist Church.

It was a delight to see the involvement of Mayor Dorothy Storm who came out to the church and gave her support.

The Freeport Fire Department, Hose Co. #5, under the leadership of Captain Andrew Hardwick, transported food baskets to some of the families. Other members of the department who assisted were, James Jefferson, Barry Morris, Richard Rattan, Mark Renton, Harlyan Rattan and Anthony Smith. Burned-out families were among the people who received baskets in the Freeport area.

The Ebenezer Community Services Department under the leadership of Mrs. Muriel Lanaux was responsible for co-ordinating the distribution. Other members of the team were—Charles Wilson, Alphonzo Little, John Horsham, Garmel Sinclair, Rebeca McZeno, Jennie Little and Elder Walter Blair.

The Freeport Falcons Pathfinder and Adventurers Clubs of the Ebenezer Church, directed by Joyce McClain assisted the Community Services Department by decorating food baskets, contributing names of needy families and transporting baskets to some of the families.

Pastor Willard Hall, the officers and members of the Ebenezer Seventh Day Adventist Church say thanks to the Freeport Fire Department and the Mayor's office for a job well done.

Mary Cameron,
Communication Secretary



Pastor Dedrick Blue

of the blood and the Lamb, and exhorted Black mothers and fathers to stand together, giving a unique interpretation of Hagar's plight.

Throughout the week, Berea's Music department presented memorable performances by the Youth Choir, led by Elder Riaz; the Children's Choir, directed by Ms. Robinson; the Golden Harmonizers, the Gethsemanairs, Ms. Cecilia Gray and Christine Williams, Joyspring, Paul White and Jonathan Singleton, Mrs. Bernard, and a host of others.

BRONX TEMPLE'S WEEK OF PRAYER

Pastor Robert Lister, Stewardship Director for Northeastern Conference, conducted Week of Prayer for members of Bronx Temple and the South Bronx Mission. Some of the topics covered were "Time is Running Out", "The Former and Latter Prayer Time".

Kathleen Hughes,
Communication Secretary



Elder Robert Lister

COMMUNITY GUEST DAY AT EBENEZER

Community Guest Day was recently celebrated by the Ebenezer SDA Church in Freeport, N.Y. Sabbath School began with music provided by Mr. Selwyn Ashe, Ms. Phyllis Martin, and Mr. Hugh Goodridge. Mr. John Horsham served as Sabbath School superintendent.

Mr. Curtis Fisher, from the office of Joseph N. Mondello, Presiding Supervisor of the town of Hempstead, made a presentation and complimented the church for its services in the community. Also present were Assemblywoman Earline Hill, Mayor Dorothy Storm of Freeport, Pastor Thomas Caines of the McAuley Mission Church in New York City.

Pastor Eldeen King of the Springfield Gardens SDA Church, Queens, N.Y. delivered the divine hour message entitled, "The Question of Painful Surprise". The Ebenezer Church Choir provided music under the direction of Mrs. Ina Richards, accompanied by Mr. Jean-Pierre.

The afternoon program consisted of musical selections by Garfield Buckley, Neil Taffe, Pastor Willard Hall, and a drama by members of the East N.Y. SDA Church.

The Sabbath School and Communications Departments give special thanks to Roberta James, Muriel Lanaux, Elizabeth Burke, Faye Wellington, Sonia Murray, Samuel Smith, Garmel Sinclair, and Charles Wilson for preparation of the meal served to guests and members.

Communications Team: Mary Cameron, Naveria Smith, John Champen
Sabbath School Team: John Horsham, Ann Ryan, Norma Buckley, Udia Vitukawalu
Pastor: Willard Hall

Mary Cameron,
Communication Secretary

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

BEREA WEEK OF PRAYER 1989

Week of Prayer at the Berea SDA Church in Boston, Mass. was led by a graduate of the Berea School, Pastor Dedrick Blue. Pastor presented old truths in a new light making the congregation think again about their relationship with the Lord.

"What if you loose Jesus and don't know it? It is dangerous to assume that because Jesus was with you before He'll be with you now", exclaimed Pastor Blue. He discussed the need to put on the right colors; the colors

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

45 SOULS BAPTIZED DURING MATTAPAN MISSION FALL CRUSADE

During the weeks of September 23-October 14, 1989, the Mattapan Mission in Massachusetts, held its Fall Crusade. Evangelist Fitzroy Maitland from Toronto, Canada, delivered nightly messages from the Word of God. As a result of this ministry, 45 souls were baptized.



A portion of the individuals baptized during Berea's fall crusade.

In his sermon during Divine Worship on Sabbath, September 23, Pastor Maitland talked about reaping time. He asked the question "Where are the reapers"? It was evident at the conclusion of his sermon that the members were the reapers and the mission field in Mattapan was ripe and ready to harvest. He encouraged the members to support the meetings by bringing their family, friends and neighbors. Night after night individuals were at the meetings showing their support and bringing others with them to hear the Word of God.

Each night the congregation enjoyed music from various individuals and for the entire three weeks were blessed with special music from the Crusade soloist, Cynthia Gray.

by Ednor Davison

BAPTISM AT BRONX TEMPLE

A baptismal service was conducted by Pastor Philip Wesley and Elder Cutbert Josiah, Sr. at the Bronx Temple SDA Church in New York City. The candidates were from the South Bronx Mission and included Ms. Roberta King, Chidiadi Akoma, and Osa Tannis.

Kathleen Hughes,
Communication Secretary



Elder Cutbert Josiah (2nd left) and Pastor Philip Wesley (right) prepare to administer the rite of baptism.

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Not long ago, Pastor M. Bernard delivered a message about the need for people of color to aid in the development of one another. The idea has now become a reality in the lives of the members of the Berea/Boston SDA Church. A project began at the Berea School focusing on adult education, assisting area residents and members to gain skills in literacy and, when needed, to prepare for the GED examination.

With tremendous cooperation from the Boston Public Schools Adult Learning Center, Berea's small but ambitious project has begun. The teachers are Wilma Germany and Cecilia Foster, two talented teachers.

The church is beginning session with some 13 motivated students. The age range of students is from teenage to senior citizens, representing the United States and islands in the West Indies. The aim of the program is to enhance the academic skills of students. Several of them did not have the opportunity to even finish grade school because they had to support younger siblings.

Instructors teach basic skills. Other students who received certificates of learning from abroad are now interested in earning U.S. certificates. Lastly, some students desire to be prepared for the kingdom of God and would like to learn how to effectively teach others principles of the Bible.

HEALTH EMPHASIS WEEK AT MT. VERNON

Health Emphasis Week was held recently at the Mt. Vernon, N.Y. SDA Church. The lecture series was conducted by Dr. Don Kelly, an endocrinologist at the University Hospital in Kingston, Jamaica, W.I. and first elder of the Kencot SDA Church, St. Andrew, Jamaica. The subjects he covered during the week included diabetes, diet, hypertension, cholesterol lowering techniques, AIDS, venereal disease, cancer and impotence.

In his discussion of hypertension, Dr. Kelly explained that this disease affects Blacks, Hispanic, and other minorities at disproportionately high levels. Most cases of hypertension are said to be "essential: because the reason for the ailment is not known, however, sodium is known to aggravate high blood pressure.

On the subject of AIDS and other venereal

diseases, Dr. Kelly said that in his opinion, whoever participates in illicit sex with a prostitute takes on the attributes of the prostitute. In the same way that a man and his wife are joined together as one, so the "John" and the prostitute become one.

Dr. Kelly said there are basically two types of diabetes; Type 1, which is insulin dependent, and Type 2, which is non-insulin dependent.

Health Emphasis Week ended with a Health Fair with about 50 patients, many of whom were non-Adventist, received blood pressure screening, urinalysis, and private consultations. The health fair was staffed by many volunteers from the church. The week's activities were sponsored by the Health and Temperance Department of the church, headed by Dr. Louis Browne, and the Medical Guild, headed by Mrs. Avis Berry.

Winsome Dyer,
Communication Secretary



(Left to right) Dr. Don Kelly, Mrs. Avis Berry and Dr. Louis Browne.

BEREA'S LITERATURE EVANGELIST DAY

Berea's Literature Evangelist, Allene Taylor, welcomed over 50 of her colleagues from all over New England to her church Literature Evangelist Day. The Boston, Massachusetts congregation was thrilled to hear about the important work undertaken by this special worker.

Speaker for Divine service was Elder R.T. Smith from the Publishing Department of the General Conference. After a delicious luncheon, the visitors and Berea members returned to hear Dr. Richard Williams, author of "They Stole it and We Must Return it", speak on the Black family during the Adventist Youth program.



TRIBUTE TO THE LATE June A.L. Simms

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee, Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so, For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow, Die not, poor death, nor yet canst thou kill me.

June, as we have all affectionately called her, joined the faculty at Northeastern Academy in September 1984 where she worked in the Communications and Music Departments and gave unstinting service until she retired in June, 1989.

She will be remembered by all as a lady of sterling principle. The students who sat in her classes here and at Pine Forge Academy, will attest to the principled way of conducting her classes. Every "i" had to be dotted, every comma observed; and every memory passage reproduced verbatim - whether it was presented orally or written. For her, there was no compromise. You had to do it well — 100% or a 0. On a daily basis the students rushed to her class before the second bell rang, for they would not be admitted without a pass or at all, after the class time had been called.

Mrs. Simms demanded much from her students and got much in return. Whenever students whom she had taught returned to the Academy they would not cease to offer her encomiums for a job well done.

June Simms has lived well and gave all. The education platform is poorer for her passing. The Church lost a great Christian woman and Bee has lost a dear friend. She will continue to live in our hearts and lives, if

all those with whom she interacted continue to manifest the principles she enunciated and practiced. June was in love with life and she lived it to its fullest; her primary mission was to render service to all whom she was capable of helping according as their needs were contiguous with her ability.

She was a seeker of truth and knowledge, constantly searching out new ways to improve the content of her mind and the quality of her instruction. She recently returned from the University of Madrid where she sought to upgrade her Spanish skills so that the school's program could be enhanced.

The schools, churches, and several artists whom she accompanied through the proffering of her musical talent and dexterity are now left arid. They must seek for other fingers to execute her task.

June was a friend, a very congenial lady; full of vivacity and exuberance; she had a tremendous resiliency that defied all the laws of sickness except one. In June she said to me, Pearl, I am giving up now; I can't deal with this generation of youth anymore; but tell Merrill that I will come in any time in the new school year and sub for him.

In August, the 28th to be exact, she said to me, "I don't feel so well, but I am going to travel to Virginia Beach and a couple more places and if ever you want a traveling companion, to go with you to exotic places, I'll be there with you, for I now have much time." Those dreams remained like the broken-winged bird that could not fly. Soon after this, she was hospitalized. Some four weeks ago I took a section of my English class to see and to minister to her. She talked with the students, exhorted them to do well and to tell the others to come and see her. She was indeed cheered as the young people sang, read the scriptures and prayed for her.

June lived her life to bless others. I can safely say that her motto was - Jesus first, others next, and herself last.

Allow me at this time to pause to express gratitude to Bee Ellis, her friend, sister, mother, daughter, counselor — who was indeed all things to her - at her bedside night and day and to have wiped that last falling tear. Thank you, and please accept our heartfelt gratitude for a noble work well done. May angels continue to hallow the day when you both met.

To Thelma, her Nurse who worked without remuneration, we thank you for continuing to be that "Lady with the Lamp".

I remember June's sincere prayers at Morning Devotion. She was an ardent believer in the counsels of the Spirit of Prophecy - with special emphasis on what the Lord

could do for his people. Every time she prayed, she exhorted God to make good his promise to His people — that if we are in financial difficulties and seek the Lord earnestly, He would resolve the matter for us. And so, her spiritual testimony is one that exhorts us to "Continue to lay hold on the arm of the Lord and claim His Promises for our lives".

The faculty, staff and students at the Academy have been truly blessed for having her share her several disparate lives with them. The world is poorer for her passing; for indeed, a very bright light has gone out. But like Paul I am sure she could say, "I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not me only, but unto all them that love His appearing." II Timothy 4:7,8

And so dear folk, we say "good night" to June - for flight of angels have already borne her to her rest. We have come to pay our last respects. Her cold and lifeless form is but a stolid reminder of our own mortality, she has only just gone a little ahead of us. And so in some of the words of the world's greatest poets, specially adopted for such occasion, I apostrophize from William Cullen Bryant's *Thanatopsis*:

"She lived that when her summons came to join the mysterious realms where each shall take his chamber in the silent halls of death, She went, not like a quarry slave scoured to his dungeon, But sustained and soothed by an unflinching trust.

Approach her grave like one who wraps the drapery of her couch, about her, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

From Alfred Lord Tennyson

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for June
And may there be no moaning
at the bar for she has
put out to sea
Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark
And there be no sadness of farewell,
for she has embarked.
For though from out her borune
of time and place
The flood has carried her far,
She will see her Saviour face to face,
for she has crossed the Bar.
And so I end, even as I began.

From John Donne's famous lines:
Death, be not proud,
though some have called thee
mighty and dreadful

For thou are not so;
 For those whom thou thinkest
 thou dost overthrow,
 Die NOT — POOR DEATH.
 One short sleep past,
 and we wake eternally
 And death shall be no more.
 DEATH, thou shalt die.

Lovingly submitted by Pearl Bell
 On behalf of the Faculty and Staff
 of Northeastern Academy

Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. I cor 15:51-52

SOUTH CENTRAL

THE MAKING OF THE FIRST "BLACK PATHFINDER" MOMENTS IN BLACK SDA HISTORY

MRS. EVA GIBB STROTHER was born in Charleston, S.C., and became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination under the preaching of elders John and Charles Mann, two of the church's most outstanding evangelists at that time, near the turn of the century. Her parents and those of Elder Walter W. Fordham became members during the same evangelistic crusade that was being held by the Mann brothers.

Eva's parents moved from Charleston when she was quite young, and became members of the Harlem Number Two congregation in New York City, where she spent most of her adult life. She had ambitions of becoming a nurse, however, and enrolled at the Huntsville School for colored youth in 1922, to receive her training.

One of the teachers who made a profound impression upon her life during her stay there was Miss Julia Baugh, who gave her Christian guidance and counsel for her pursuits in life. Another person who gave her spiritual strengths and challenges was her roommate, Alga Bailey, who had come from Plant City, Fla., with a strong Adventist background. She was highly respected as one of the "sweet singers in Israel." Eva greatly admired her.



Eva Gibb Strother

The Huntsville school had prepared Eva for other roles in leadership that would be offered to her. When she returned to her home church in New York, Elder M. C. Stranch, her pastor, gave to her the responsibility of organizing the Kindergarten Division of the Sabbath School, and later promoted her to the director for the Missionary Volunteer programs of the church. Under her ministries, a goodly number of the youth in this big city were kept active for Christ and remained true to the church.

In 1926, Ms. Louise Kleuser, the Sabbath School and Youth Department director for the Greater New York Conference, took an interest in what Eva was accomplishing for the youth of her community, and invited her to the church on 150th Street to observe a Youth Day service. The young people of the church were leading out in all of the services for the church during that day.

In the afternoon, an investiture service was conducted for those who had completed the preparations in "progressive work" of the Young People's Missionary Volunteer Society, and were now ready to become Master Comrades. At the social hour that evening a film was shown about a little girl named Eva, that also impressed her namesake's young mind and challenged her for a greater commitment to the work of God.

The following Sunday, Ms. Kleuser invited Eva to come to her office, at which time she reviewed with her the work and challenges of the progressive work from that of a Friend to Master Comrade. She also gave instruction in how to tie the various knots that were required by the program. Surprisingly, at the close of the session, Ms. Kleuser pronounced that Eva had successfully qualified herself to be a Master Comrade.

Eva returned to her group of young people at Harlem Number Two, and proceeded to train them in courses in progressive work.

She taught the motto, the aim, Bible gems, knot tying, crafts, instructions in camping, and even went to work to get uniforms for the group. By 1933, her unit was the very first organization to be fully dressed in uniform. What a joy came to their hearts as they paraded in the streets of New York to display their accomplishments. Others of the community also joined them in this fete, and later became members of the church.

1934 brought a new challenge to Eva when she became determined to conduct a youth camp for these children from the big city of New York. The established camps that were owned by the church were not opened to them. She sought help from the director of the Urban League, who graciously consented to the use of their camp. The first youth camp for Blacks in the denomination was conducted with 15 campers and 10 counselors. Eva's heart was filled with thanks to God, inasmuch as He had helped her to realize many of her dreams of working for the youth in her sector of the church. Some of the first campers were the mother of Emerton Whidbee (Emerton became the director of education for the Northeastern Conference and the Atlantic Union Conference); the Reaves brothers, whose brother is presently the president of Oakwood; and Matta Beeler, who was last known to be living in Florida.

The first director of Pathfinder programs for Blacks, Eva Gibb Strother, has moved to Oakwood College, and continues to render her services in pathfinding and for the saving of the youth of the church. Fifty-six years have passed since the first group came into being back in New York, but thousands have been invested since that first day back in 1933. We must believe that the Lord brought Eva Gibb into the pages of history to help lay a groundwork for pathfinding and camping among Black SDA youth.

GED

HUD SECRETARY VISITS SOUTH CENTRAL VILLAGE, MISS.

Jack Kemp, secretary of Housing and Urban Development for the U.S., had high praise as he visited South Central Village in Cleveland, Miss., recently. Kemp, seeking to highlight his efforts to revamp HUD and to channel funds toward direct housing of the poor and elderly, heartily congratulated the South Central Conference; Mrs. Janice Mayberry, site manager; and Mr. George Mayberry, maintenance supervisor. He hailed South Central Village as a "model

facility." Kemp was accompanied by Mississippi Sen. Trent Lott and a host of officials from Cleveland and the surrounding area.

Kemp, along with Sen. Lott, Mrs. Mayberry and G. I. Pearson, South Central housing coordinator, visited with some of the residents in the activity room, then went to the residence of Mrs. Earline Johnson.

South Central Village was recommended to Kemp by the Jackson, Miss., HUD office as a project that was being operated in an outstanding manner.

South Central Conference will celebrate 20 years in the housing ministry. Five complexes, located in Nashville and Clarksville, Tenn; Bowling Green and Paducah, Ky.; and Cleveland, Miss., are owned by the conference. Additionally, one senior citizen's complex is operated by the Huntsville First Church.

G. I. Pearson

Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. I Cor. 13:8-10

SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE AFRICAN CONNECTION NETS 450 DECISIONS FOR BAPTISM!

The South Central Conference (SCC) serves the needs, primarily of Afro-Americans, in the southern United States territory, and President Charles E. Dudley feels a strong kindred spirit to our roots in Africa, and to the needs, especially spiritual, of God's people there. To this end, the means have been provided whereby pastors (five so far) serving in the SCC field would go to Africa and minister to God's people, while at the same time enriching their perceptions about the church's mission and their personal heritage.

In July 1989, Elder M.A. Bob Mounter, who pastors the Montgomery (Maranatha), Tuskegee and Hurtsboro district, was invited by the Good Hope Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, on behalf of the Peninsula/Boland Adventist Youth Federation, to come and conduct a three-week revival.

Under the lay leadership of Howard Rossouw, federation president; Hilary Baatjes; Evadne Orange; and Lorna Cerfontyne, the laymen of South Africa raised

the money to finance the trip and the meetings. At the same time, they laid the groundwork for the meetings.

Seven sites were chosen for the revivals: Paarl, where Nelson Mandela is currently imprisoned; Malmesbury; George; Stellenbosh; Cape Town; Uitenhage; and Port Elizabeth. The major meetings would be conducted in Cape Town and Port Elizabeth.

The theme for the revival was "Homecoming," and at the end of three weeks, it was reported that more than 450 people made the decision for baptism, and already some have been baptized. A major baptism is planned for March 1990. What a celebration! What a homecoming!

While in Cape Town, arrangements were made for Elder Mounter to speak on family relations at the United South African Brush Co. The company suspended operation for 45 minutes, at a cost of R15,000, which is the equivalent of approximately \$6,000 US, and allowed their 500-plus employees to listen to the presentation. The message was videotaped, and will be distributed to all of the company's branch offices.

Many today in Africa are rejoicing in the Lord and in the Advent truth because of the South Central Conference Connection with Africa.

Elder Mounter reports that he "has gained a deeper love and appreciation for God's Word, His work and His people in the Good Hope Conference, as well as for the beautiful country of South Africa." He looks forward to that day when all of God's children shall be united in God's kingdom and live out the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "That Black men, Colored men, and White men shall join hands together and sing the words of the old Negro spiritual, Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, we're free at last!"

A NEW CHURCH BUILDING IS OPENED AT TUNICA

Five years ago, Elder Alfred Hill, the infiltrationist in the South Central Conference, went into Tunica, Miss., to begin a new work for the Lord. It was an act of faith. The conference could not hire him because of financial reasons; however, after graduation from Oakwood College, he knew that the Lord had called him to the gospel ministry, and he did not give up on the conviction. He began to work in Tunica, just 30 miles south of Memphis. Elder Roy Patterson from the Breath of Life church in Memphis, was invited to conduct a tent meeting

in the city; a goodly number of persons were baptized, and the new congregation came into being.

Hill then sought to house this new group of believers, and secured a house and converted it into a place of worship. The membership continued to grow until it reached the 50 mark by the end of 1988.

The Lord further blessed the little flock when they were able to purchase a new church building from another congregation. They had invested more than \$100,000 in the project before making the offer to the First SDA Congregation of Tunica. After a considerable amount of time and prayer, the price of the purchase was set at \$42,000. The conference gave \$12,000 to them (in addition to the financial support that had been given for the purchase of the first building).

On his last Sabbath as pastor for the Batesville/Tunica district, Elder Hill happily led his flock into their new church home. While in this district, he was also blessed of God to begin a work in Batesville and to construct a new building from the ground up. It has been paid for.

Alfred Hill and his family are living examples of what the Lord will do to assure an infiltrationist that He is with him and will always reward a living faith that will not shrink.

Hill is now ordained to the gospel ministry and is a full-time employee of the South Central Conference. He is transferring to a new responsibility in the Phenix City/Union Springs/Opelika, Ala., district.

MOMENTS IN BLACK SDA HISTORY: THE REID FAMILY STORY

When Mrs. Mary Frances Reid left East St. Louis, Ill., in 1920 to return to Laurel, Miss., on a business trip, she did not realize that it would mean a change in her life and the lives of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She had migrated to East St. Louis, but she still owned a house in Laurel which had caught fire and burned as a result of sparks given off by a passing train, so she really went back to Laurel to collect the insurance money.

At the time, Mrs. Reid was a member of the Baptist faith, and when she arrived she was a guest in the home of Mrs. Nora Davis, an elementary school principal who had become a Seventh-day Adventist since Mrs. Reid had moved north. Mrs. Davis had established the Laurel SDA Church in her

home, and the members met there each Sabbath.

Mrs. Reid had many questions about the beliefs of the newfound faith, and Mrs. Davis encouraged her to get the answers from the group when they met on Sabbaths.

As the Lord would have it, it took Mrs. Reid six weeks to get her business completed, but by then she had decided to keep the seventh-day Sabbath and continue her studies.

While riding the train back home, she decided to keep her newfound religion a secret. Her relatives met her at the train station, but in the car while on the way home, she found it impossible to keep quiet, and began to share what she had learned in Laurel. She explained that she had discovered that the real Sabbath was from sundown Friday until sundown Saturday, and she intended to observe it.

Needless to say, her children believed that she had been deceived, lost her mind, or both. They set about to get her back on the right track.

In the meantime, Mrs. Davis of Laurel wrote to the Berean SDA Church in St. Louis, Mo., and informed them that they should make a contact with the Davis family, and arrange to give them Bible studies. The contact was made and the studies were held each week.

For the next six months, Mrs. Louise Spencer, who for many years was the treasurer of the Berean church, and Mrs. Ludie Smith, a Bible worker from California, traveled by streetcar across the river to the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Davis at 2420 Missouri Ave. every Sunday, to teach the small group about the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14.

The study group included Mrs. Virginia Beverly, a former slave and the mother of Mrs. Reid; James and Viola Davis, son-in-law and daughter of Mrs. Reid; and Frank Reid, another son.

At the end of the six months, all of the women were baptized, and the first SDA church for Blacks in East St. Louis, Ill., was established in the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Reid.

Since the United States was on a six-day work week in 1920, the men in the group had to arrange with their employers to give them Saturdays off from work. When this was done, James Davis and Frank and Jesse Reid were baptized into the church. Elder Ulysses Willis, Sr., was the pastor of the Berean SDA Church across the river at the time. The Illinois Conference then sent Elder Benjamin to lead the church in East St. Louis.

Mrs. Reid remained a faithful member to the Lord and her church until her death in 1944, and her descendants are still active in spreading the Third Angel's message in various parts of the United States. Mrs. Viola Davis, at age 95, is the only survivor of the study group that was taught by Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Spencer in 1920.

Frank Reid, who was a bachelor at the time he became a member of the church, later married Mrs. Spencer's daughter, Louise, a school teacher. She bore him twin sons, Allen and Albert; another son, Eugene; and a daughter, Jewel Roberta. Allen is a member of the Oakwood College Academy staff and director of the college band, while Albert is a musician who lives in St. Louis, and has for many years served as the organist for the Berean church. Eugene is a member of the security forces for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Washington, D.C.

The Davises were the parents of two young sons in 1920, but had an additional seven children (they had five sons and four daughters). The eldest, J. Roy Davis, was the first of Mrs. Reid's grandchildren to attend Oakwood College in Huntsville, Ala. There has not been a year in the last 50 when one of her descendants has not attended the school.

The Davises' second son, Leon Houston, attended Oakwood and Emmanuel Missionary colleges, and after graduation became a minister in the church. He married the former Althea Lightner, who was a daughter of an SDA minister in Omaha, Neb. After Leon pastored several congregations, he was invited to serve as the director for youth activities for the Northeastern Conference, and later held the same post in the Atlantic Union Conference, before his retirement to Florida.

Lorraine Davis, the oldest daughter, also attended Oakwood College, and later became the wife of Elder C. Dunbar Henri. She served as a missionary with him in both West and East Africa. He became the first Black to become a president of a union conference for the church, and later became the vice president for the world church before his retirement. Mrs. Henri still teaches in Atlanta for the church school.

C. Dunbar Henri, Jr., the son, serves on the faculty of Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md.

Lovey Verdun, the second of the Davis daughters, and widow of Joseph Verdun, was also a graduate of Oakwood College, where she later served as the dean of women and is presently the registrar of the school.

There is not enough space here to tell about the whereabouts and accomplishments of all of Mrs. Reid's descendants, but many of her grandchildren are serving the church. Many of them are married to the offspring of founders of the church in other cities throughout the United States.

Note: Mrs. Nora Davis wasn't related to Mr. and Mrs. James Davis.

Laurel, Miss., is the hometown of Leontine Price, the great soprano who sings at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. When just a youngster back in this city, Miss Price was the pianist for the sister of Mrs. Nora Davis. For many years the SDA worshipers in this city were not supplied with a pastor by the conference. The local elder, Charles Boyd, held the flock together.

Just about eight miles from the city of Laurel, the Soso community, a center of lumber trade and cotton, is to be found. This community is the home base for Miss Anna Knight and the Knight families that are well known down through the years. No doubt the influence of the Soso members helped to spread the truths of Adventism to Laurel. There was Anna, her sister, Gracie, and their brother, Horace, who had a goodly number of children to attend Oakwood: Henrietta, Hester, Homer, Hannan, Holis, Tazwell, and others of their cousins.)

SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE SETS GLOBAL STRATEGY PROGRAM IN MOTION FOR 1990

At the time of the Annual Council of the General Conference in 1989, the leadership of the world church expressed their concerns for the carrying of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth during this last decade in the 20th century. This plan can succeed, with each organization of the church family moving to get the job completed where it is located.

The Executive Committee of the South Central Conference has taken an action to join with the plan and institute a global strategy program in the local field. The plan will cost upwards of \$350,000 during 1990, but will entail a seven-point program of evangelism.

The program, as outlined by Dr. C. E. Dudley, the president, will include the following programs:

*Major Evangelistic Crusades in nine cities and communities during the year. The conference has assigned two of its pastor evangelists to full-time evangelism in the conference.

*Outreach Ministries - a program to enter new territories to begin a new work. Each congregation/district has been asked to go into a nearby community and organize another company or congregation.

*Three-Week Revivals will be conducted in 18 cities where the numbers of members have dwindled; the work is to be revived in these areas.

*Highway Ministries are to be instituted, with mobile homes to house literature evangelists as they travel up and down the highways throughout the conference to sell literature in every community where the gospel has not been shared with the citizens. New congregations are to be organized.

*Infiltration Evangelism Programs will be instituted to provide challenges for the ministerial graduate that is not placed. He/she will be challenged to "preach out" a church.

*Summer Tent Crusades will be conducted by pastors in their districts for the strengthening of the congregations, and for the opening up of new work.

*Lay pastors will move into new areas, each to become a part of that community and to begin a new work for the Lord within the conference.

*A program will be set in motion to train every member to do Bible work and to win souls.

When the gospel of the kingdom has been preached in all of the world for a witness, then the end will come.

CLEVELAND SDA CHURCH CELEBRATES 5TH ANNIVERSARY

The East Cleveland SDA Church of Cleveland, Tenn., celebrated its fifth anniversary program on the Sabbath of Nov. 25, 1989. Elder Shelton Kilby was the guest speaker. The church was packed to the capacity as Elder Kilby spoke on the theme of "Onward, Upward by Faith." Pastor Joseph F. Milner Jr. announced that the church raised more than \$1,100 for this program. Everyone stayed by after dinner was served for a musical program featuring a variety of musicians, and was climaxed with several renditions by Elder Shelton Kilby, director of music for the South Central Conference. D. Grant

THE FITNESS AFFAIR OF THE YEAR

On Sept. 17, 1989, five Nashville, Tenn., area SDA churches and one SDA church from Huntsville, Ala., participated in "The Fitness Affair of the Year." The Advent

Fitness Challenge (AFC), which was held at Whites Creek Comprehensive High School, was the brainchild of Benjamin Middleton, who began planning the event in January 1989. Along with Ben Middleton, Fred Furman, Billie McAdoo, Michael Kinzer and Noella Gaiter comprised the executive committee.

The activities began at 9:55 a.m. with opening prayer given by Vern Biloff, education leader for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conferences of SDAs. Riverside Chapel, New Life, Hillcrest, First Church and Mt. Calvary competed in the Mushball Throw, volleyball tournament, horseshoe tournament, long jump, 100 meter dashes, relays and a fitness walk. Spectators cheered with excitement as their fellow church members demonstrated their fitness for the event that they entered.

The results were: First place, Riverside

Chapel, 635 points; second place, Hillcrest, 630 points; third place, New Life, 410 points; fourth place, Madison Campus, 295; fifth place, Mt. Calvary (Huntsville, Ala.), 210; and sixth place, First Church, 160.

Special guest coach Edward Stanley Temple, from Tennessee State University, was on hand to present awards to participants.

The entire "affair" was sponsored by area businesses and individual donations. More than \$1,000 was raised from registered participants, with the money going to benefit physical education programs of area SDA schools in Tennessee.

It was refreshing to see the Nashville area churches rally together to make this event an overwhelming success. Members are already planning to be ready for next year's "Fitness Affair of the Year."

Larita Alford, Correspondent



Elder Shelton Kilby addresses the East Cleveland SDA Church.



Participants in the Advent Fitness Challenge display awards.



Runners prepare to take their marks.

SOUTHEASTERN

SOUTHEASTERN'S 82ND CONGREGATION ORGANIZED

Refuge Temple SDA Church is Southeastern Conference's 82nd church. It was organized in Lakeland, Ga., by Elder R. R. Brown, secretary, on Oct. 1, 1989, with 45 members.

The members of this church were formerly a part of the Valdosta, Ga., congregation who decided to open a place of refuge in Lakeland.

The church is pastored by Claude Matthews, and Willie Brooks is the church leader.

The members comprising the nucleus are: Willie Brooks, Billie Lane, Reddick McEady, Mary Richardson and Patricia Williams.

Great are the expectations from this newly organized church.

COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER OPENED IN AVON PARK

The Ridge Area Church in Avon Park, Fla., under the pastoral leadership of Michael Ross, has added another dimension to the services offered that community.

On Sunday, Nov. 12, 1989, conference personnel R. R. Brown, secretary; R. Patterson, treasurer; and I. L. Harrell, church ministries director and keynote speaker, assisted in the opening and dedication of a community services center.

Elder Charles Allen was assigned to the area prior to Ross' arrival, and has been dutiful in a number of church- and community-related areas.

Elton Crews, from whom the church purchased land for its church building, is the donor of the space now used for community service activities.

Viola Nazaire, community service leader for Avon Park, and her workers have been diligent in building that aspect of outreach ministry.

G. C. VICE PRESIDENT ROCK CELEBRATES FAMILY DAY AT PERRINE

The Perrine SDA Church in Miami, Fla., celebrated Family Day on Sabbath, Sept. 16. General Conference Vice President Calvin B. Rock delivered an inspirational message to a packed sanctuary.

Elder Rock's sermon dealt with the equal-



Nucleus members of Refuge Temple SDA Church, Lakeland, Ga.: Reddick McEady, Lillie Lane, Mary Richardson, Patricia Williams and Willie Brooks.



(Left to right) Dr. Eustis Nelson, Michael Ross, pastor of Avon, Elton Crews, owner of property, Charles Allen, lay pastor, I. L. Harrell, director, Church Ministries, Southeastern, and Gretel Ashley.

ity of men and women and the different, yet important, role that each has in the family unit. These roles, when properly understood and executed, would result in happy homes, a strong and united church, and a peaceful, prosperous community. He illustrated his point by presenting five couples representing different stages of the family life cycle.

A. Y. service was also conducted by

Elder Rock, who elaborated on his sermon of the morning. The workshop was on family survival in the 80s. After his presentation, questions were entertained and a wealth of information passed on to an eager congregation. One church member remarked, "One point that stood out above all others was that in order to have a strong church, we must continue to have strong family relationships."



Dr. C. B. Rock, General Vice President of the General Conference, gives workshop on surviving in the eighties.

Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Cor 16:13-14

FRANCO-HATIAN UPDATE

The French work in Southeastern Conference is experiencing unprecedented growth. There are now more than 1,675 members in 11 congregations, and before Dec. 31, 1989, six more congregations were organized.

Jean-Claude Brutus, French coordinator, has been in the forefront, acquiring new leadership to accommodate the growth, and the executive committee is supportive of the drives for expansion.

Recently, four new workers were added: Pastor Jean-Marie Bonard, Gedeon Fontil, Abdonel Abel and Max Charles. Pastor Job Fleurimond has been called to replace one worker who transferred.

At a meeting in the conference office, the officers and departmental directors were able to give the French pastors an overview of the work, fielded questions and required of them a total involvement in finishing the work of the Lord.

R. R. Brown



(Standing left to right) Pastors Max Charles, Jean-Marie Bonard, Jean-Claud Alius, Gedeon Fontil, Job Fleurimond and Abdonel Abel. (Seated left to right) Elder O. H. Paul, superintendent of education, Elder J. M. Doggette, president, Elder Jean-Claude Brutus, French coordinator, and Elder J. L. Wells, director, publishing.



Lola Height shopping for food items for the Thanksgiving baskets.

OVER 200 PERSONS HELPED DURING THANKSGIVING DRIVE

Under the leadership of Lola Height this year, the Town and Country Community Services Department delivered 63 Thanksgiving baskets for more than 200 individuals, and distributed 204 pieces of literature. The department distributed 51 baskets more

than last year, and plans to do a follow-up on these families in 1990, providing for their physical and spiritual needs.

Wanda Wynn

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen. 1 Cor 16:21-22

NAZARETH CELEBRATES MORTGAGE LIQUIDATION



Elder J. M. Doggette, president, delivers message at the Nazareth SDA Church, Live Oak mortgage liquidation.

Otis and Eleanore Rupright are retired persons who have a burden to do something for the Lord. Otis, prior to retirement, had a lumber and construction business in Lafayette, Ind., and Eleanore was his assistant.

They gave of themselves in varied ministries, and then the idea of building small, modest structures for congregations seemed feasible. To date, they have erected and donated 20 church buildings. This they consider God's will.

One of those churches built by the Ruprights is the Nazareth SDA Church in Live Oak, Fla. The foundation and shell of this church comprise a gift totaling more than \$40,000.

On Oct. 21, 1989, Elder R. W. Bates, pastor, and his congregation had the dedication and mortgage burning.

With a small membership, large hearts, great faith, much prayer, hard work and committed friends, Nazareth stands as a monument of seemingly insurmountable odds met and vanquished. Undaunted by the difficulties, Elder and Mrs. R. Bates forged ahead under the idea, "When we had exhausted our store of endurance; when our strength had failed ere the day was half done; when we reached the end of our hoarded resources, our Father's full giving had only begun."

This lovely church and its well-kept environs are representative of Adventism. President J. M. Doggette, Secretary R. R. Brown, pastors W. Bruce, S. McClamb, E. Sumpter, and camp superintendent James Williams were representatives from the conference. In His Image, a ladies' quartet from Florida city, provided extra special music.

R. R. Brown

ERECTING AN EBENEZER STONE

For more than 30 years, the Maranatha Church in Tallahassee, Fla., worshipped on the west side of the city on Richmond Street. The time came when another building was necessary. Pastor Boyd and the church family accepted the challenge and began the task in faith mixed with fervor.

The building committee members consisted of Andrew Madison, chairman; Mosel Madison, treasurer; James Hawkins; Larry Harris; Sandra Harris; Thomas Strickland; Jasper Musgray; John Ellington; Anthony Hunter; Charles Holmes; Jackie Moore; and Tyrone Boyd, pastor. Months of work resulted in the necessary plans, securing the finances and a contractor. In June 1988 Tols Abiose accepted the responsibility as general contractor. The church was blessed with the services of Herman L. Wright from Huntsville, Ala., as site supervisor and contractor.

During the months of construction, the pastor developed a program known as Sunday Sweatshops, where the members, men and women, boys and girls, worked together, from digging the foundation to nailing down the roof insulation on the laminated beam.

One example of the Sunday Sweatshops was the cement parking lot. The men arrived on the site at 4:30 a.m. for two consecutive Sundays, and one Thursday afternoon, to pour the parking lot. The cement trucks began to line up for the pour at 5:30 a.m. More than 350 yards of cement were poured each Sunday. This was made possible by the help of Mr. Yerby of Thomasville, Ga., Thomas Strickland of Tal-

lahassee, the members of Maranatha, and volunteers from the community.

More than a year's worth of Sundays was dedicated to the construction, in addition to some volunteer work during the day and evening. Andrew Madison, 77, deserves special recognition for the generous giving of his time. Every day from wee hours of the morning until the late evening, Andrew Madison was at the site.

Prior to completion, the Maranatha church lost the lease on their old church building, and were left without a place to worship. The pastor, along with the members, considered their options and prayed for direction, and the Mt. Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church shared their building for six months.

On July 29, 1989, the ribbon-cutting and grand opening celebration week began. Southeastern Conference representatives were President J. M. Doggette, who delivered the opening sermon; R. R. Brown, secretary; I. L. Harrell, church ministries director; R. Bates and L. Hastings. Each evening, previous pastors or selected speakers shared God's word with the people.

There now stands in Tallahassee an "Ebenezer stone," erected there by the blessing of God, leadership of the pastor, guidance of the building committee, and the sacrifice, work and prayers of the members. The sanctuary seats 400, has an adequate fellowship hall, and educational space has been provided. Approximately two acres of land remains for future development. "Here we raise our Ebenezer, hither by thy grace we've come."

R. R. Brown



Maranatha SDA Church, Tallahassee, Fla.

NEW LOCAL CHURCH OFFICERS HANDBOOK

Seven of the 28 members of the writing team that produced the new North American Division (NAD) church officers' handbook, "Responsibilities in the Local Congregation," were Black Adventist departmental leaders, pastors and lay people. Many churches in regional conferences are beginning to make use of these materials.

The handbook's format and contents have been designed to make it easy to recruit, motivate and support the lay volunteers who provide the leadership and workforce in local churches across the United States, Bermuda and Canada. This new publication replaces the "Church Officer's Manual," published in 1976, and the old departmental leaflets.

The handbook was officially announced at the NAD year-end meeting, which embraced the theme, "The Church Is for Ministry: A Gift Is a Terrible Thing to Waste." Charles E. Bradford, NAD president, said, "A careful reading of Ephesians 4 reminds us that while each person has a specific gift, we all are called to be ministers."

Edited by NAD Church Ministries staff, the handbook contains a series of looseleaf "ministry description" brochures assembled in a three-ring binder. Each brochure includes a brief statement of the role and function of the office, as well as a quick introduction to the tools, resource materials and training available from the denomination. More than job descriptions, these leaflets include Bible principles, the necessary time commitment, spiritual gifts, and additional information appropriate to the particular function.

"People are the most important resource in any congregation," states J. Lynn Martell, NAD church ministries director. "Good leadership means finding and motivating volunteers, so we designed this new tool to enhance this crucial function. In addition to describing the various ministries and positions, we include a worksheet for nominating committees."

More than 200 people from across the division contributed to the development of this handbook. "We looked at job descriptions written by a number of local churches across the division, and asked some of those pastors and lay leaders to help write these new materials," says Martell. A fresh approach ensures that these "ministry

descriptions" tackle issues and concerns unique to North America.

The volume is an inter-departmental effort including the Communication, Education, Health-Temperance, and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty departments. The church Ministries Department coordinated the project. The book is published by the Review and Herald Publishing Assoc., Hagerstown, Md.

While the series begins with 45 brochures, titles will be added or dropped as their usefulness waxes and wanes. The open-ended design allows creation and regular updating of a leaflet for each major office and responsibility in the church. For example, a leaflet is being written for the new role of women's ministries coordinator.

Copies of this practical resource are available at Adventist Book Centers or by contacting the NAD Distribution hotline at 402-486-2519. "Responsibilities in the Local Congregation" costs \$17.95 in the United States and \$22.45 in Canada.

So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. I Cor 13:13

OBITUARIES

MRS. JUNE A. L. SIMMS, beloved daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend, departed this life on November 17, 1989. She was born to the late James and Julia Loupe, on January 12, 1917, in Spokane, Washington. She was married for 36 years to the Augustus LaFonte Simms, who departed this life in 1979.

Mrs. Simms attended the Lewis and Clark High School in Spokane, Washington and continued her education in LaSierra, California, at LaSierra College, which is now known as the Loma Linda University. She taught several years for the Public Schools in New York and California. In 1967, she moved to Pine Forge, Penn. and continued teaching at Pine Forge Academy, until 1976. She came to New York in 1976 and began teaching at Northeastern Academy, where she remained until her retirement in June, 1989.

She was an accomplished concert pianist and began playing the piano for church services at age 8. By the time she was in

her late teens, Mrs. Simms had gained acceptance to the Julliard School of Music, but could not attend, due to lack of funds. Since then, she continued to play, direct choral groups, and teach music theory. Prior to becoming gravely ill, she played on Sundays at the St. Charles Catholic Church in New York City.

In addition to her 30-years of teaching, Mrs. Simms traveled extensively for educational purposes as well as pleasure. During one of her trips abroad (to Spain), she took an accelerated summer course, and obtained certification in the Foreign-Language of Spanish.

She was raised in the Seventh Day Adventist Church and served in several capacities, including but not limited to: church organist and pianist, choir director, Sabbath School teacher and superintendent.

She is survived by seven children: Augustus LaFonte Simms, Darold Cameron Simms, Andrea Karen Simms, Banard Cordell Simms, Betty Miller, Kevin Paul Simms, and Paula April Simms-Ford; a devoted foster sister, Mrs. Beatrice Ellis, seven grandchildren, two great grandchildren, two first cousins, two nephews, one niece, and a host of friends.

This is only a small synopsis of the life and works of Mrs. June Simms, who touched each of us who loved her in a very special way. We can not sing sad songs, for her music was not sad; we will not cry bitter tears, for there was no bitterness in her; we can not preach her funeral, for through her life and works she has already done that.



Eardell Bowman Rashford

EARDELL BOWMAN RASHFORD, born Sadie Eardell Bowman, was loving, caring, generous, with precise values and concrete attitudes. She fulfilled her role as wife

and mother, and extended her concerns to the family of man, having spent a great deal of time with community and civic causes, such as the Heart Fund, Muscular Dystrophy, etc.

Dellie, as she was known by most of her friends, was a member of Les Arens, a professional nursing association, and spent 35 years as a nurse anesthetist at Harlem Hospital. She taught both doctors and nurses the art of administering anesthesia. She enjoyed her skilled profession until she retired in 1973.

After retirement, she enjoyed traveling with her beloved husband. They toured the world, appreciating the beauty and culture of many lands.

Dellie, a devoted mother and wife, spread her joy to others. She spent her life helping others. She did not have to be asked to do for others; filled with energy and enthusiasm, she would just do. Often, her services were rendered behind the scenes.

She was not always understood, but her motivation came from her heart. She was willing to take a stand for right, and did not hesitate in letting it be known. She seldom dealt in nonsense, but was vivacious and full of fun.

She believed in Christian Education and, along with her husband, assisted young people in enrolling in Christian schools.

After Dellie became ill in 1984, she often rallied and took a turn for the better. During these times, she never lost her witty responses to questions asked or comments made. She maintained her ability to think quickly at all times. She never complained, although she seemed to be in pain. She would smile and say, "Don't bother me."

Eardell leaves to mourn her passing a loving daughter, Eardell Rashford; a stepson and daughter-in-law, Carleton and Flora Spencer and daughter Tanya; three sisters, Valeretta Buie, Marjorie Hall and Louise Preston; five brothers-in-law, Arthur Buie, Louis Preston Sr., Welton Rashford, Les Ware and Henry Hunter; three sisters-in-law, Calmalita Rashford, Linda Rashford Boulin Hunter and Vernie Ware; many nieces, nephews, godchildren, adopted children and a host of friends.

ENROLLMENT AT ALCY CONTINUES TO CLIMB

Twenty-one students are being bussed to the Alcy SDA Junior Academy in Memphis, Tenn., for the 1989-90 school year from the Word of Life SDA Church. For all of the children of school age who so desire, to have the opportunity to receive a Christian



Alcy Students from the Word of Life SDA Church arrive at school on time each morning.

education, has become a reality for the young people at Word of Life.

In May 1987, the Word of Life Church was organized. Six students enrolled during the first year of the infant congregation's existence. These students were basically those who had transferred to the Word of Life Church from other churches. During the summer of 1989, Lynette Blanchard, a hardworking, dedicated parent and ardent believer and supporter of Christian education, along with Elizabeth Perkins, kindergarten teacher at Alcy and also a parent, worked untiringly with their pastor, Donald Gwin, and church treasurer, Carlton Powell, to see that each child would have a seat at Alcy in the fall.

One week before school began, all of the details and finances had been worked out except transportation, but the Lord opened one last door that enabled the members to purchase a van to bus the children to school! Mrs. Patsy Clayborne, one of the parents, consented to serve as the van driver. Mrs. Carolyn Jackson, a parent and member of the New Covenant Church, currently drives the van for the children.

Each morning, a brown-and-tan van arrives at 1325 Alcy Rd. on time for school. At 3 p.m. each afternoon, the van heads back to the Frazier section in North Memphis, to return the students to their homes.

The motto, Christian Education, an Adventist Essential, is becoming a reality in the city of Memphis. The Alcy SDA Junior Academy student enrollment climbed to 156 students for the fall semester. Many children were once again turned away because of a lack of space in the present building. A waiting list has been formed,

and it is hoped that a portable building will be in operation soon to help ease the overcrowded conditions as well as permit those on the waiting list to enroll.

Your prayers are solicited for our school program in Memphis that the Lord will continue to lead out in the lives of the students, teachers and constituent members.

Charles D. Battles
Principal

LETTER

Dear Editor

Approximately 40 percent of our adult church membership is single (widowed, divorced and never married). Approximately one out of every 18 people you meet is single Catholic, while only one out of every 1,485 (1985) is an unmarried Adventist. That multiplies several times when you consider age, sex, education, height, children, etc., etc. Our need to love and be loved is every bit as real as our need for food and air, and if single SDAs do not have a suitable selection of people to date within the church, we know that many will date and consequently marry outside the church. For too long, single Adventists have been at an extreme disadvantage. Adventist Contact is here to change that.

Please pray for us and with us as we seek to do the Lord's will in this special ministry.

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The Pine Forge Academy National Alumni Association is wanting to locate our alumni. Anybody that is a Pine Forge Academy alumnus or has knowledge of those who are, please contact the association by writing:

Pine Forge National Alumni Association
P.O. Box 338
Pine Forge, PA 19548

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. I Cor. 13:1

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. I Cor. 13:4-7

MESSAGE ACHIEVES VICTORY!

A great big thanks to our many faithful supporters who helped make the 1989 *Message* church subscription campaign an overwhelming success. We are pleased to report that for the first time in *Message's* 93-year history, the church subscription goal of 70,000 subscriptions was exceeded! The total of 70,862 church campaign subscriptions raised in 1989 is the largest ever attained. This figure brings the total circulation of *Message* to more than 125,000, including the single copies sold by literature evangelists, the small literature programs, and magazines shipped to parts of Africa, Canada, and the Caribbean.

We look forward to even greater success in the 1990 campaign with the help of God and your prayers and efforts. Remember, the 1990 campaign is right around the corner. Be sure to mark your calendar for April 1st!

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A Christian Magazine of Contemporary Issues

NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL VOICE

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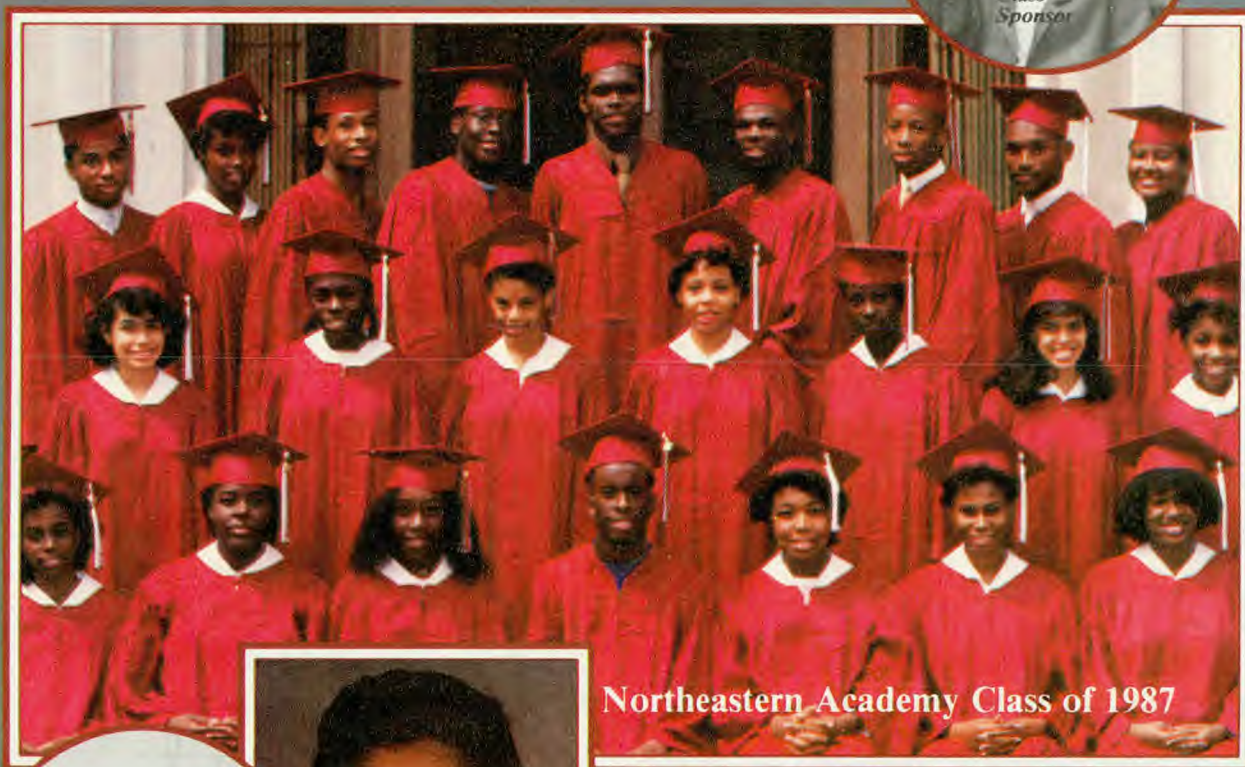
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