

*NORTH AMERICAN*  
**Regional Voice**



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

VOLUME 12

SEPTEMBER 1990

NUMBER 7



**THADDEUS WILSON, SR.**  
*Destined to be Special*

## COVER STORY

### ELDER THADDEUS WILSON, SDA PIONEER, DIES

Elder Thaddeus Wilson, a founding member of the Mount Vernon, N.Y. Seventh-day Adventist Church, and pioneer in the field of evangelistic work in Westchester County, N.Y., died on June 13 at the age of 96.

Elder Wilson was born on November 27, 1894 in Charleston, South Carolina, the fifth son of William and Anna Wilson. Shortly after his birth he moved with his parents to New York City where he received his education.

At the age of 24 he married Charlotte Chisholm and moved to New Rochelle, N.Y. Five children, two girls and three boys, were born from this union. As a result of tent meetings they attended Thaddeus and Charlotte were baptized into the New Rochelle SDA Church.

Thaddeus became a local elder and served as minister for four years meeting conference goals, winning precious souls, and raising sufficient funds to build a church in New Rochelle, New York. The heavy burden of looking after the church and caring for its growing family took its toll and Elder Wilson became very ill.

"I promised the Lord that if my life were spared I would witness for him in Mount Vernon where there was no Seventh-day Adventist church," he said.

On July 20, 1930, a tent effort was launched in Mount Vernon with Elder Wilson as the speaker. The effort lasted eight weeks, and laid the foundation for the Mount Vernon church, originally located on South Fifth Avenue, but is now at 230 South Columbus Avenue in that city.

As a result of Elder Wilson's efforts in Mount Vernon he was invited by the Greater New York Conference to become a full-time minister, and was placed in charge of the New Rochelle, White Plains, and Mount Vernon congregations. He was ordained in 1935.

Elder Wilson's success impressed the New York Conference, and in 1943 it asked him to build up the Seventh-day Adventist effort in Western New York, with headquarters in Buffalo. He became a member of the Northeastern Conference Executive Committee when it was formed, and held that post until he retired in 1959 from active pastoral duties.

That same year he and his wife returned to their home in New Rochelle, where Mrs. Wilson died three months later. Mrs. Wilson was a profound influence in the ministerial efforts of her husband, and was totally committed to Christian service.

In September 1961 Elder Wilson married the former Minnie Foster, whom he had baptized in his early ministry. Together they held cottage meetings and were active in furthering the Lord's work in whatever way they could, even during his final illness.

One of the speakers at the funeral service, held at the Mount Vernon SDA Church on June 17, was Elder Harold Baptiste, Executive Secretary of the Northeastern Conference, who described Elder Wilson as someone destined to be special. He said Elder Wilson was born on Thanksgiving Day, lived a full life, and was funeralized on Father's Day.

Elder Wilson was always there ready to help. He had special wisdom, not academic or philosophical wisdom, but that which came from common sense. "His passing removes from us one of the most vital links to the past," Elder Baptiste said.

According to Elder Baptiste, the lay people were not the only ones to benefit from Wilson's work. He said Elder Wilson gave patriarchal support to all pastors, and his wisdom was greatly admired and appreciated. Elder Wilson performed his activities with deliberate understanding.

The Lord blessed Elder Wilson and provided him to give meaningful service to the Northeastern Conference and the Mount Vernon SDA Church. The Lord truly sent forth a special man to do a special work, Elder Baptiste concluded.

Another speaker, Elder A. R. Goulbourne, Secretary of the Atlantic Union Conference, said when he was a child he found Elder Wilson's home a special place for young people, a home he described as "a haven of rest." He said when he became a pastor he was assigned to the New Rochelle Church and there he found Elder Wilson with experiential knowledge, better than any academic education.

Elder Nehemiah Webber, one of Mount Vernon's local elders, called Elder Wilson a patriarch of the Mount Vernon Church, a kind, loving, sympathetic, and understanding man.

He said Elder Wilson was truly a man of God whose ministry to the sick was superb. He would anoint and administer to the sick with a spirit of meekness.

Elder E. J. Humphrey said Elder Wilson was generous in his dealings with young pastors. He described Elder Wilson as a wonderful pioneer, one who set a good example.

Elder Stennett Brooks, President of the Northeastern Conference, said Elder Wilson gave the better part of his working life to the church. He said the lives of many people were enriched because Elder Wilson touched their lives. God hears the prayers of a faithful man, and Elder Wilson definitely fell into that category, Elder Brooks said.

Pastor J. Grayson, Elder Wilson's grandson, and a third generation pastor, spoke of the positive relationship Elder Wilson had with his grandchildren. Keeping the family together and continuing along the Christian pathway were two of the primary objectives of Elder Wilson's life.

The funeral service, conducted by Elder Humphrey, assisted by Pastor Desmond Francis, pastor of the Mount Vernon church, was well attended. The service was one befitting a servant of God, who all through his life let his light so shine that it glorified his Heavenly Father.

Minnie, his wife of 29 years, remembers Elder Wilson for his love for others and interest in his family. His children and grandchildren remember him as patriarch, example, counselor, supporter, and God-fearing parent whose prayers sustained them.

Elder Wilson is survived by his wife, one son, three daughters, 14 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.

*Winsome Dyer  
Communication Secretary*

## PUBLISHER'S PAGE

### JESUS OR MALCOLM X

Trends in society fluctuate like the market: one day they're in and the next day they're out. Often it is difficult to keep up with current fads especially among youth. In spite of the unstable phenomenon of fluctuating trends, there is one trend among Black youth that demands special attention.

Inner-city youth are largely responsible for the emergence of a Black consciousness that is seen imperceptibly spreading across this nation. Racial atrocities in

South Africa that are receiving worldwide attention especially since the release of Nelson Mandela, and the acts of racism in cities are causing a resurgence of Black activism not seen since the 1960's.

Black youth are passionately studying the history of this noble race. They seem to have an insatiable thirst for African history, clothing and culture. Nowadays, many Black youth proudly wear scarves and hats fashioned from the multi-colored kinte cloth, and tout pins and medallions bearing the national colors of the African continent. Black pride and Black power are in vogue again.

A significant outgrowth of this phenomenon is the renewed interest in the life of Malcolm X, El Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (his Muslim name) has taken on the status of a demi-god among Black youth. If Martin Luther King was our Moses, then Malcolm X was our Elijah. Called the most feared Black man in America, his fiery oratory denounced the racist system and called for its immediate dismantlement.

Malcolm X was intelligent, strong, proud and fearless. Although Malcolm grew up in a Christian home (his father a Baptist minister, his mother later converted to Adventism), he converted to Islam because of its emphasis on Black history. A couple of years before his death, Malcolm X journeyed to Mecca where he saw people of all races commingling. This helped Malcolm to see that all white people were not racists. After this enlightened experience, he was led to reconsider the separatist ideology of the Nation of Islam.

What is it about Malcolm X that has our youth so fascinated? Young Black males especially see Malcolm X as a "real man." A man who stood up against the winds of adversity. A man who represented nobility, self respect and pride that many believe are missing in the institution of today. Young Black males see in Malcolm X the confidence which says "protect ourselves," the discipline which says "do for ourselves," and the beautiful which says "love ourselves."

In this reaffirmation of Black history and heroes I seriously ponder this question, "What happened to Jesus?" It seems that Jesus Christ has gotten lost in the shuffle once again. Why aren't inner-city youth as excited about Jesus as they are about Malcolm X? What is the appeal that compels them to reverence Malcolm X more than Jesus? Perhaps it is the kind of Jesus that is given to them.

Truthfully, if we are honest with ourselves, the Jesus we serve is one that even we as Christians have a wavering respect for. If we really understood Jesus as the Bible portrays Him, both Christians and unconverted inner-city youth would have renewed respect for the Saviour of all mankind.

Throughout the centuries, glaring distortions and falsehoods regarding the personality of Jesus have been perpetrated, leading the world and the church to see Him as thin, effeminate, shy and physically weak. In light of these perceptions, Jesus is not seen as a "real man." Nothing could be further from the truth.

Jesus was a masculine individual, possessing courage, determination, fearlessness, decisive judgment and aggressiveness. After working thirty years in a carpenter shop, Jesus developed a strong physical body sufficient to drive money changers from the temple and perform strenuous masculine tasks in His ministry.

Furthermore, a quick glance at Jesus' genealogical background shows that there were Black ancestors, people of Hamitic origin in His family line (Matt. 1:3,5,6). Therefore, He is someone with whom Black youth can readily identify. The Jesus the Bible speaks about was strong, courageous, religious and charismatic. But He's more! He is the Divine Son of God who successfully rescued the human race from the destructive effects of sin. He defeated Satan the Archdeceiver, the progenitor of evil, on the cross of Calvary.

Jesus' bleeding body appeared weak that day when He hung on the cross. But weakness turned to strength and defeat into victory when the resurrection set Jesus forever free. Malcolm X was indeed a hero but Jesus Christ stands at the apex of heroism. When we tell youth these truths, they will be excited about the Jesus of the Bible.

## **MOMENTS IN BLACK SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST HISTORY**

Thomas Longware of Shreveport, Louisiana

Alonza and Lizzie Walker Longware set the stage for the growth and ultimately the organization of the first Black church for Seventh-day Adventists in Shreveport, Louisiana by opening their home for church meetings to be held. Theirs was also a place from which a goodly number

of future leaders were to come. Mr. Longware, a civic leader, a 33rd degree mason, a businessman and a landowner, supported the religious persuasions of his dear wife, Lizzie, although he himself was not a follower of the faith.

They had three children that had been born into the family and an additional six children whom they adopted when his wife's sister passed away. The names of these were: Alonza Jr., Ola and Thomas (by natural birth) and Sigh, John S., Locotte, Mabel, Euredell and Vistula Green. The younger two, Euredell and Vistula took the Longware family name. Thomas Longware became the father of John Green, Jr. and Virginia Green of New York.

During the early years in Shreveport, Louisiana, the school system only made provisions for coloreds (or) Negroes to be educated up to the eighth grade and no further. Papa Alonza desired more for his family and when learning of the Huntsville Training School for Negroes in Alabama, he purposed to have all nine of the children attend this school to receive additional training which would prepare them to meet the challenges in life that awaited them. Because of his French-speaking background and having attained the 33rd degree mason status, his philosophy was one of achievement, advancement and independence. His conviction was, to realize these goals one must be trained and receive as much education as was possible.

In a quiet and dignified manner, he and his wife encouraged and gave financial support to each of their nine children to attend the Oakwood Training School. It was by no way to be an easy venture, but with each child's willingness to work to supplement their education while in attendance, each managed to complete the challenges. Because of these sacrifices that were made by his parents, Thomas became interested in the literature ministry that was provided by the denomination.

During my early childhood, states Mrs. Thomasine Wright, it was an inspiration to listen to the stories as told by my father concerning the family. It was exciting to look at old photographs and to share in the hospitality that the family showed for visiting workers. The family home was known as the "house by the side of the road."

My father told us how he met my mother while attending school at Oakwood during the summer. He was

canvassing in the literature work while traveling through the states of Georgia and Florida. In Atlanta, he met Loueva Woods, who was at home for the summer on vacation from her job of teaching in the church school in Jackson, Tennessee. Her supervisor was Miss Anna Knight, director of education for the Southern Union Conference. Later they met at Oakwood where most of the teachers took their summer work to improve their teaching skills. In spite of objections from Miss Knight to the concept, Loueva consented to marry Thomas who also was attending the school and showed great promise of becoming an outstanding gospel minister for the church.

Papa Alonza Longware continued to supply the material goods needed to become successful in life's pursuits. When we were at home back in Shreveport, my father, Thomas, often showed slides to us on his stereoptican machine that he used in giving Bible studies to interested persons whom he met in his travels, many of whom became members of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.

Ten years before the great "holiday" at Oakwood, my father was speaking words of rebuke for wrongs that he observed within the camp. This was in 1921. Because of his out-spokenness against unfair practices, and oft-times sinful practices that he saw at the school, he was dismissed and sent home. However, this did not hinder him from pursuing his call to the gospel ministry. With Bible in hand, he continued to tell the story of God's saving grace and love for mankind.

After Oakwood, he was invited to become a part of the organized work of the church as a Field Secretary for the literature work in the Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana Conference. He was given the option of living in either of the states. He chose Dallas, Texas as the place because of the church school there where the children could receive a christian education. Susie Roberts Perry was the teacher at the time.

In the midst of these "good" days for the family, the 1929-30 depression struck and reductions in staff for the conference had to be made. My father was among those who were terminated. However, Pastor R.E. Loudon, a volunteer worker, assured the leaders that he would assume papa's responsibilities along with his pastoral assignments. Papa was out of a job.

He was a very strong-willed person with a burden for seeing souls ready to

meet the Lord when He comes again, therefore, my father continued to encourage his recruits to be faithful in the work of spreading the gospel by selling the christian literature in as many places as possible. This was done without a salary and from the funds that he could receive from his door-to-door ministries. It became very difficult to provide for the family.

When the children had completed their studies at the local church school and needed to receive advanced training, papa accepted a secular job that later required him to move his family to the Chicago area where the family could be provided for and the children would be able to attend the church academy at Shiloh. From here the children were sent to Oakwood Jr. College to be trained for their life's work.

Upon the completion of our second year of college, Lizzie Mae, my sister, became a church school teacher in the Oklahoma Conference while waiting the time when she would be old enough to enter nursing school. I entered Union College in Nebraska during the summer. Most of the teachers from the Southwest came to Union College for studies during the summer. I was delighted when my sister could join me there. After summer school, we spent some days visiting with our parents in Chicago.

My father, Thomas, traveled between New York and Chicago and Los Angeles working with the New York Central and Santa Fe Railway Companies. This life provided him with additional material goods and monetary advantages, but it took its toll on his spiritual growth and helped to destroy his love for the plan laid for him by his earthly and heavenly fathers.

My mother returned to the labor force when we were away from home and became a foster parent for four or five girls for a short period. Her dedication to this ministry in social work became the forerunner for my interest in my present profession in the field of Social Work. Mother loved children and the classroom lead her to volunteer her services at the Shiloh School in the food service area and later to organize the kindergarten which was one of the first to be recognized by the General Conference as a part of the church school educational system.

The family continued to function as the unit that it had been, but I must admit that there was a burden in my heart for my father to return to the old paths that he had taught his family earlier in life. These

Biblical truths had brought us to this point of success in fulfillment. In 1956, I was invited to join the teaching staff at Oakwood. What a joy came to my life with this appointment, but I still carried a burden to see my father return to the church. I was impressed to speak with one of papa's old friends, the late F. L. Peterson, who was the president of the school. I shared my concerns with him and we made it a matter of prayer that the Lord return papa to the fold before it was too late.

As we neared the campmeeting season, I noted one of the Sabbath speakers was to be Elder Peterson. This thrilled my soul. Perhaps I could get papa to come to hear his old friend speak. He agreed to come. I arranged to pick him up after work on Friday and take him to the campground at Cassopolis, Michigan, which was about a hundred miles away. After the sermon, Elder Peterson made an altar call and my father slowly walked to the front where he was warmly embraced by Elder Peterson. There were not too many dry eyes to be found, for he was well known in the Adventist circles. I shall never forget his words to me, "It is easy to go out, but it is so hard to come back." He thanked us for holding on and encouraging him to visit. His experience has taught me to reach out more to persons who have strayed from the Lord and the church, regardless of whatever the cause may have been.

Today, my gratitude reaches back to my dear old grandfather, Alonza Longware, who never reached out his hand to embrace the Three Angels Messages, but supported, encouraged and gave of his best to help mould such persons lives as the younger generation of the family, each of whom has made a significant contributions to the building up of the work of the Seventh-day Adventist church and to helping people in many communities across the land.

Those children to whom he and my grandmother gave spiritual guidance to were:

Alonza Longware, Jr.—Entrepreneur and business man, Shreveport, Louisiana.

Ola Longware Clay—Church School Teacher & Church Worker, Shreveport, Louisiana

Thomas R. Longware—Field Secretary of Literature Ministers—Church Elder

Loueva Woods Longware—Church School Teacher & Founder of Kindergarten Programs in Chicago, Illinois and Indianapolis, Indiana, Chicago, Illinois

Lizzie Longware Strange—Educator, Church School Teacher, Public School Teacher,

# The Editor's Desk



The North American Division Black Caucus and President's Council held its Annual Summer Council in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, August 19-22. The officials that attended the Caucus stand on the steps of the Convention Inn, where the session was held.

School Administrator in Indianapolis, Indianapolis, Indiana

Sharon Louise Strange—Church School Teacher, Music Teacher in City schools in D.C., Washington, D.C.

Sherman Louis Strange—Weir Cook International Airport, Employee in Indianapolis, Indiana, Indianapolis, Indiana

John S. Green, Sr.—S.D.A. Minister/Evangelist, Southern Region

Virginia Green—Bible Instructor and Shepherdess, Southern Union Conference

John S. Green, Jr.—Minister, educator, Northern Conference; Public School Administrator, New York City schools, New York City

Annette Green Craig—Entrepreneur and Civic Leader, Sacramento, California.

Virginia Green Gibson—Educator, Church School Teacher, Public School Teacher Entrepreneur, New York City

Lacotte Green Barner—Registered Nurse, Church worker, Santa Monica, California.

Mable Green Sargent—Cosmetologist and Elocutionist, Shreveport, Louisiana

To perpetuate this legacy remains the challenge of Virginia and Nelson Gibson, Annette and Charles Craig, Lizzie Mae Strange, Sharon L. Strange, Sherman L. Strange, L. Thomasine, and Elmer Wright.

There are many who have gone before us to help prepare the way for many of the blessings that the present generation now

## SUNSET CALENDAR

	Sept. 28	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Oct. 19
Boston, Mass.	6:30	6:19	6:08	5:46
New York City	6:42	6:31	6:20	6:05
Buffalo, N.Y.	7:02	6:50	6:38	6:26
Atlanta, GA.	7:27	7:17	7:08	6:00
Miami, Fla.	7:12	7:04	6:56	6:51
Charlotte, N.C.	7:12	7:02	6:53	6:44
Birmingham, Ala.	6:36	6:26	6:17	6:09
Jackson, Miss.	6:50	6:41	6:32	6:24
Memphis, Tenn.	6:49	6:39	6:29	6:21
Louisville, Ky.	7:31	7:20	7:10	7:00
Detroit, Mich.	7:21	7:09	6:57	6:46
Chicago, Ill.	6:38	6:26	6:15	6:04
South Bend, In.	6:33	6:21	6:09	5:58
Minneapolis, Minn.	6:58	6:47	6:34	6:22
St. Louis, Mo.	6:49	6:38	6:27	6:17
Kansas City, Mo.	7:06	6:55	6:45	6:34
Denver, Co.	6:48	6:37	6:26	6:17
Little Rock, Ark.	6:58	6:48	6:39	6:30
Dallas, Texas	7:16	7:07	6:58	6:50
New Orleans, La.	6:50	6:41	6:33	6:25
Albuquerque, N.M.	6:55	6:45	6:36	6:27
Oklahoma City, Okla.	7:19	7:09	7:00	6:49

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

enjoys. May we never forget the blood, sweat and tears that they have shed to help make it all possible.

## ALLEGHENY EAST

### FIRST CHILDREN'S DAY AT FRANKLIN

"Suffer little children, and forbid them not to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:13,14). This was the scripture reading for the first Children's day program at the First S.D.A. Church of Franklin, Virginia. The children, under the directorship of Luella Taylor, were in charge of the entire divine worship service. There were two speakers: Eric Jordan, age 13 and Emil Britt, age 8.

The church's pastor, Maurice N. Taylor, followed the two youngsters with an appeal to which four people vowed to give God their hearts and receive Bible studies. Others vowed to return to the truth they once knew.

## CENTRAL STATES

### WITNESSING IN SONG

The St. Joseph Emmanuel Choir was invited to participate in a Choir Day given by the Grant Memorial African Methodist Church. They accepted the invitation as a means of witnessing.

Upon completion of the choir's selections the pastor commented, "What beautiful music...it made me think of when I attended school and our music we had then."

Many commented later and even called to say it was "beautiful and different."

### ALL YOU NEED IS JESUS

One of the most exciting events held at the Bethel S.D.A. Church in Kansas City, Kansas, was a concert given by the choir. This was their third annual program with the theme "All that You Need is Jesus."

The ladies were dressed in red blouses with black skirts and colorful corsages. The men were attired in black suits and

wore red ties and red boutonnieres. Elder Gil Webb, pastor of Bethel, served as narrator.

During the intermission, Willie Robinson, a good friend to the members of Bethel, rendered two selections. To end the musical, the choir sang Psalms 150.

Beverly Robinson, choir director, seemed to draw the music from her members. Ruby Robinson accompanied on the organ.

Shirley Platt, president of the choir, made and donated all of the flowers for the occasion. A reception was held in the dining area with over 100 members and friends honoring the choir members. Nine large, beautifully decorated cakes were made by Pamela Haney.

### OMAHA SHARON S.D.A. CHURCH HOLDS YOUTH WEEK OF PRAYER

Youth Week of Prayer was held recently at the Sharon S.D.A. Church in Omaha, Nebraska

*Theme:* Reformation

*Emphasis:* Christian Life Style Management

*Focus:* Making conscious, positive decisions that glorify and please God.

The guest speaker was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska—Elder Donald McPhaul from the Washington, DC area. Each night Pastor McPhaul revealed dynamic truths from the word of God and the importance of having personal relationship with Jesus. Each night the youth of Sharon came out to hear the messages.



Pastor Donald McPhaul

The Sharon Church was richly blessed this week during the Youth Week of Prayer.

## NEWS FROM THE PALACE OF PEACE

Having come this far by faith, the Seniors of Palace of Peace had their day. And what a day it was! A rousing welcome by Mrs. Bobbie Loggins who noted that the seniors were on the road of experience, set the mood and tune of the "First Annual Golden Agers' Day." "The Golden Agers are the backbone of the church," Pastor Maurice Valentine stated as he acknowledged them and introduced the guest speaker, Pastor Edwin Hyatt of Denver Park Hill, himself a Golden Ager. Pastor Hyatt's topic, "Waiting for the Messiah," focused on two biblical golden age characters who were waiting to see Jesus. He also reminded all that one is never too old to be in God's service.

Musical renditions of "We've Come This Far by Faith," by Deacon Alfred Frye and "It is Real," by Dwayne Hall moved and readied the congregation to receive the spoken word.

The Palace of Peace church of Colorado Springs, CO, appreciates its Golden Agers and wish to thank them for their fine examples of Christian living.

## EMPHASIS ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A recent program held by the Calvary S.D.A. Church in Davenport, Iowa re-informed members of the importance of Christian education. Pastor O.A. Jackson,



Pastor O. A. Jackson with plaque given to Bernice Jones for faithful service

Jr. was the speaker for the day. He not only emphasized the importance of children going to Christian schools, but the necessity of Christian education in the home.

While focusing on the message for the day, three young people decided to say yes to Jesus and be baptized. They were Tina Zollicoffer, Damion Madison and Adrian Davis.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE FEDERATION

Calvary S.D.A. Church recently held its Community Services Federation with Henry Thompson, Community Services director as its host.

"How to be an Effective Soul Winner" was the message brought by departmental director, Elder Danny Milton. He illustrated how to be successful in outreach in community services and personal ministry as demonstrated in the life of Jesus Christ. His message brought out these principles that can be used to be effective and successful:

1. Mingle with people.
2. Be genuinely concerned and desire the good for people so they can have the best of God.
3. Sympathize with people and have compassion for them.
4. Minister to their needs.

When these things are done, confidence will be won and people will follow you right into God's church.

## ELDERS' WEEK OF PRAYER

Elders' Week of Prayer was a truly high time at Palace of Peace as the theme of the week was "Lift Him Up." Each night church members and visitors were inspired as the Elder led out with each evening's message.

Community Guest Day brought the Elders' Week of Prayer to a close. The specially prepared music of "Lift Him Up," "Joy Comes in the Morning," and "We're Standing on Holy Ground" enhanced Pastor Maurice Valentine's message of "Let's Get Excited and Lift Him Up!" He re-educated the congregation to the fact that one can recognize Jesus Christ now or later but in the end all will have to, for every eye shall see and acknowledge Him as Lord. After receiving the "spiritual food," guests, friends and members enjoyed the "physical food" prepared by members of Palace of Peace and overseen by Ms. Sonia Johnson.

## AY DEPARTMENT WEEKEND

The young people of Palace of Peace recently held a praise filled weekend. "Be Ready for Jesus to Come" was the theme of the weekend.

The Adventist Youth Department successfully secured Elder Stevie Lewis of the Allegheny West Conference to be the speaker for both Friday evening and Sabbath morning. Elder Lewis emphasized that young people today are the church of tomorrow and should stand for Jesus and be counted among the righteous. He reminded them that these were the last days so they should get themselves "together now" and not live as if they "will live forever." Elder Lewis exhorted the youth to "know the Lord for yourselves." He exhorted the adults to "put enthusiasm into



Brother R. Smiley with O. A. Jackson III, baptizing one of the young people



Eric Ruffin admonishing the congregation to meditate a moment on the message received just before closing with prayer

church going so that the youth can have principled lives to use as examples."

The youth actively took charge of the programs under the guidance of AY Leader, Lorraine Frye. It was a joy to see these Spirit-filled youth having fun praising the Lord. It is evident that there is talent available for future elders, pastors and conference leaders at Palace of Peace.

Palace of Peace wishes to thank Elder Stevie Lewis for taking time out to enlighten the youth. It is hoped the statistics he shared will motivate them to stand up and be counted for Christ.

## BAPTISM AT OMAHA SHARON

The daughter of an early Nebraska Adventist, Mrs. Laura Love McDonald of Los Angeles, California, was recently baptized at Sharon Church in Omaha, Nebraska. Mrs. McDonald was visiting her hometown of Omaha to be with her sister, Mrs. Lois Murrell, who recently had major surgery.

Mrs. McDonald was born in Omaha and attended the Seventh-day Adventist Church all of her life. Her mother, Mexie Love, was one of the earliest Adventists in the church's existence in the state of Nebraska. Mexie Love died on December 7, 1983 and was funeralized at Sharon Church. Laura McDonald became the fourth member of the Love family to be baptized in the Adventist Church. Brothers Maxwell (Sonny) Love, Thomas (Dude) Love and Laura's sister, Lois Murrell, have all been baptized as Adventists. Her sister-in-law, Betty Love, is also a baptized member of the Sharon church, of which Elder Emmitt Slocumb, Jr. is a minister.



Pastor Emmitt Slocums baptizes Mrs. Laura Love McDonald

## MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL

Calvary S.D.A. Church in Davenport, Iowa, hosted a special tribute to all the mothers on their special day.

The day began during the Divine Service with the Sabbath School Department honoring the youngest and oldest mothers, Mrs. Bessie Thigpen and Ms. Theresa Smith with corsages. Ms. Betty Davis and Mrs. Judy Pottinger were awarded with "Mother of the Year" plaques, and Ms. Bernice Jones was awarded with a plaque for "Woman of the Year" for faithful service. He also acknowledged all the non-mothers with corsages. While the mothers were enjoying special attention, a dedication service was held for three-month old Lee LaDarius Junior Tate, son of Cheryl Tate.

The "Special Mother's Day message was brought by Pastor O.A. Jackson, Jr. entitled "We Behold Woman." He brought out in his message the beauty of motherhood as guided and directed by God in Proverbs 31. As "We Behold Woman," we see in her uniqueness, the fullness that God designed for her in womanhood, motherhood and marriage partner, explained Pastor Tate. "Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

To end the day, the Adventist Youth Society leader, Ms. Sherrill Georges hosted a special program of music, poems and gifts for all the mothers.

## NORTHEASTERN

### A ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR MAUDE CATO

Arriving with a big smile on her face was Maude Cato, supported on each side by her daughter, Ulga and son George. She had come, along with a host of family and friends to celebrate 100 years of life which her heavenly Father had granted.

There were also several official guests who responded to invitations to this grand event. And so they came with their lovely presentations to the birthday lady. The sanctuary was filled to capacity.



Mrs. Bessie Thigpen awarded corsage for being oldest mother



Maude Cato and daughter, Ulga



L to R: Son George, Mrs. Maude Cato and daughter Ulga

During the service, citations and proclamations were read to Maude Cato by various official guests, some of whom included Geraldine Turner, a representative from the mayor's office; Major Owens, Congressman; Sahidha Murrell, City Council-woman; Clarence Norman Jr., Assembly-man; and Ophelia Perry, Borough President.

The message for the hour entitled "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of Heaven" delivered by Pastor Reed was most appropriate for the occasion. For in seeking and making God first, years were added to the life of Maude Cato.

After the mid-day service, everyone was ushered to the lower auditorium which was beautifully decorated by a small group under the direction of Carmen Fraser.

A program was soon started with Elder Burke as Master of Ceremony. Opening prayer was made by first elder, Owen

George which was followed by various speeches, songs and presentations. A delicious meal was served.

The program finally came to a close with words of thanks by Maude Cato and closing prayer by Elder Uton Callwood.

Surely this day will be remembered by Maude Cato throughout her remaining years. All who came and shared this precious moment with her will agree that it was an honor to spend this special time with a woman who has lived a century.

### SHILOH WELCOMES NEW PASTOR

On Sabbath, May 14, Elder Harold Baptiste, Northeastern Conference secretary presented Elder Willis Reed as the fifth pastor of the Shiloh SDA Church in Brooklyn, N.Y.



Elder Reed hails from Emmanuel Temple SDA Church in Buffalo, N.Y. During his introductory remarks, Reed emphasized the importance of his mission, to feed the flock for which Christ gave his life. He encouraged all to work with one another for the advancement of God's cause.

Following the service, a special lunch was served in the fellowship hall for the new pastor and all church officers.

## NEW ROCHELLE EDUCATION DAY

On a spring Sabbath, under the direction of Phyllis Josey, Education Day was celebrated at the New Rochelle Church.

The guest speaker for Divine Worship was Dr. Lawrence Geraty, president of Atlantic Union College. Dr. Geraty, in a positive and informative discourse, put to rest the myths about the inability of Christian education to provide a quality education for students living in today's high-tech society. He affirmed the credibility of Christian education as evidenced by the acceptance of AUC's graduates, along with the graduates of other Adventist colleges, into many diverse graduate schools.

Moreover, Dr. Geraty emphasized the most important goal of Christian education: to develop in students the desire to commit their lives to God and to love and show concern for their fellow human beings.

In an afternoon program Dr. Geraty spoke about his archeological digs and detailed how these digs frequently helped to make Biblical passages, both in the Old and New Testaments, more meaningful. A question and answer period followed with

Dr. Geraty providing answers to many timely and interesting questions.

## DEAF MINISTRY IN ROCHESTER

Ministry, the act of serving and service, the occupation of duties of a servant, are synonymous for those desiring to lend talents in the service (ministry) to the hearing impaired (deaf ministry). Because this service is multi-faceted, care must be given to avoid leaping into what seems to be fashionable at the time. Deaf ministry is not simply presenting the gospel through the medium of sign language; but it is building a foundation of trust within the deaf community, understanding a culture that is divided within itself, and recognizing diversities educationally, intellectually and emotionally.

Proper preparation and implementation are essential for success. That ministry does not end with the benediction because once begun it must be continued and will usually overlap into other areas of the deaf individual's life.

There were several events that influenced the involvement of the Thomses in deaf ministry. Pastor Edwin Thoms and his wife, Charlotte, had worked in a tent campaign in Cincinnati, Ohio, where the ministry to the deaf was conducted. Years later those deaf members who joined during that meeting were faithful to the call of God. While pastoring in Pittsburgh, the Thomses enjoyed the active involvement with the deaf.

As a child, Mrs. Thoms learned the sign alphabet and could fingerspell in order to communicate with one friend of the family who was deaf. This exposure to deafness left an indelible impression on her. In the

Pittsburgh church, the deaf members were very responsive to the Pastor and his wife. Charlotte felt isolated from this group of believers and eagerly accepted the invitation to join a sign language class. After three weeks of classes, she was signing during the Sabbath School and Divine Worship services. It was obvious to her that this was something that God wanted her to do as she would communicate effectively signs that were not taught in the class. When asked how she knew a certain sign, she would simply respond, "God gave it to me."

Separately, Pastor and Mrs. Thoms felt impressed to address more directly the needs of the deaf. Preparation was an obvious factor. In talking, they determined that step one would be for Charlotte to enroll at the University of Pittsburgh. This was done. The sign language class was conducted by a deaf instructor who required each student in all her classes to interpret a song which would be later presented at an annual program in the City of Pittsburgh. All 300 students participated in a preliminary program; only a few were chosen to represent the class. Charlotte was selected for her presentation of Wintley Phipps' song, "Just Want to Praise the Lord." This experience solidified their belief that this was to be an expansion of their ministry.

The family's commitment to the deaf ministry led them to the decision for Charlotte to go to Rochester to attend the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), the world's largest technological college for deaf students. Before all the processing was completed, the Northeastern Conference called Pastor Thoms to Rochester. The family recognized the call as the outworking of Divine intervention. God was in the plan.

Shortly after installation as pastor of the Jefferson Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pastor Thoms outlined a program for the church which included a viable deaf ministry. Jefferson was not hesitant in accepting the challenge to focus on the spiritual, emotional, and social development of this unique community.

Through an internship award from NTID, Mrs. Thoms received further training in deaf communication. She has been accepted at the University of Rochester in the Joint Educational Specialist Program (JESP). This is a unique graduate program for those interested in developing the potential of deaf people through education. It is offered jointly by the Graduate School of Education and Human



L to R: Cynthia Ellison, Alozi Etufugh, Lawrence Geraty, Harvey Jarratt, Phyllis Josey, and Gabriel Alexis

Development at the University of Rochester (U of R) which focuses on the cognitive, psychological, and social processes that shape learning and Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) through NTID, a college of RIT. The program provides the opportunity to study at two outstanding colleges with faculties who are internationally known leaders in research and education of deaf students.

As a graduate of this program, Charlotte will have a master of science degree in education from the U of R, co-sponsored by RIT through NTID, provisional certification from New York state as academic teacher of hearing students in business administration, provisional certification from the Council on Education of the Deaf as a teacher of deaf students, and New York state certification for the education of deaf students.

She has received a New York State Empire Challenger Fellowship, a graduate assistantship and a tuition waiver for the program. With both their children attending Rochester Junior Academy and the pastor in a masters program, it seems impossible for her to become a full-time student; but who would have dreamed that the Thomses would be in Rochester as a family for such a time as this.

The year has been busy with preparation for graduate school, but it has also been fruitful in that Jefferson Avenue Church has caught the fire for a well-planned deaf program in the church. Mrs. Thoms conducted a ten-week sign language class in the church. Forty-five people from the ages of 5-65 took the class. There were two hearing impaired ladies in the class. One lady had declared to her Adventist relatives that she would never enter an Adventist church. The classes were held in the church. She did enter and brought her daughter. She was very impressed with the fact that the sign language class was comprised predominantly of hearing people. Having become deaf because of disease (adventitious deafness), this loving and caring attitude was especially meaningful to her. She exclaimed that she did not know this type of love existed in the Adventist Church.

The deaf class evolved into a deaf choir called Singing Hands. During a weekend revival sponsored by the Northeastern Conference, Singing Hands ministered to an audience of over 1,000. There were many cards and notes sent to the Thomses afterwards exclaiming the blessings received during the revival and

especially Singing Hands. The deaf woman who said she would never enter an Adventist Church has attended Sabbath School and church. After the choir ministered at the revival, she expressed the desire for her and her daughter to join the Adventist Church. For her, the deaf ministry even in its infancy was the vehicle that brought her to Christ. She was enriched spiritually, socially and emotionally.

God has a purpose for this work. The church has accepted the challenge. Pastor and Mrs. Thoms are committed to seeing this phase of the work develop in Rochester. The field is ripe for out of the 245,000 inhabitants in and around Rochester, 60,000 are hearing impaired. Pastor and Mrs. Thoms believe that with his 23 years in the pastorate, two years as a principal/teacher, his love for people coupled with Charlotte's experience as a Bible worker, 13 years of teaching (church and public schools), and the ease in which she has moved into the skills of signing, and the evidence of God's approval, the gospel will be preached into all the world including this portion of the work for a witness and then the end will come. Jefferson Avenue will continue to sign the wonderful words of truth.

## CHILDREN'S DAY

Saturday, May 19, 1990 marked another Children's Day program at the Jamaica S.D.A. Church, Jamaica, NY. Miss Maxine Dacres served as the Acting Superintendent, during the Sabbath School program. A very special welcome was extended to the many visitors in attendance by Wynter Bucknor and the Cradle Roll, Kindergarten and Primary classes. Each shared a special song.

The Personal Ministries emphasis was presented by Natasha Dayes and Keisha Hurley, who illustrated how wonderful heaven is and what boys and girls can do to encourage their peers to accept Jesus.

It has become a tradition at Jamaica Church to have children as speakers during the mid-day service on Children's Day. This year, there were four speakers: Maya Byfield, a 12-year old student at Excelsior Elementary School, was the first speaker. In her message, "Prayer Changes Things," Maya spoke of Hannah's prayer for a son and her vow to dedicate his life to God's service. God gave her Samuel and Hannah kept her promise. Maya shared a personal testimony of how prayer saved her own life. She was struck by a car recently and firmly believes that

her prayer for safekeeping on the morning of the accident saved her from serious injury.

Fifteen-year old Tamara Narvaez, a student at Andrew Jackson High School, was the second speaker. Her message was entitled "Faith is the Victory" and was based on the experience of Job. Tamara expounded on Job's characteristics, that enabled him to trust God in spite of adversity.

The third speaker, Candice Patnett, a student at I.S. 238, also spoke of faith. In her message entitled "Let us Have Faith," she spoke of Daniel and his companions' determination to follow God's plan, despite the consequences. She made a special appeal to all children to shun vices such as drinking, smoking and illegal drugs, choosing instead to emulate Christ's character.

Fifth-grader Jomo Smith, who attends P.S.154, was the final speaker. He carefully outlined Joseph's life from the time of his two dreams, that caused his jealous brothers to sell him into slavery, to his role as Prime Minister of Egypt. The message was entitled, "I Would if I Could."

## SOUTH CENTRAL

### A BOMB FALLS IN WEST TENNESSEE

A motivational bomb of rededication, enthusiasm and greater commitment to community services fell March 24 in Jackson, Tennessee, located in the West Tennessee district where Elder and Mrs. Harold Cleveland were present to witness the event.

Elder Cleveland gave the charge for service, spearheading the organizational structure by the election of officers and with distribution of pertinent materials to all churches in the area.

Recognizing the seriousness of the charge, the newly elected president, Ms. Bernice Strong Washington, along with the new cabinet of officers, began immediately to focus upon procedures necessary for total involvement of all churches in the Memphis and West Tennessee areas. This initial plan resulted in the West Tennessee Community Services Federation Day, which culminated on May 5 at the Longview Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church in Memphis. Every church in the district was represented,

with the major portion of the participants in uniform.

Elder Cleveland's message provided the motivation, inspiration and challenge necessary to effect "new life" and to cancel the prevalence of "deadness" in spirituality and non-productivity in welfare ministry.

The meeting ended with a fellowship luncheon, followed by a session that dealt with the "hospital" concept of churches, and plans of South Central Conference as they relate to the restoration of Disaster Relief Vans and other anticipated accomplishments.

The West Tennessee Community Services Federation, having accomplished much during the short period of its formation, gives credit to God and will constantly rely upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit to continue ministering to the needy and hungry.

The major challenge of the Federation is to become militant soldiers in God's work, to SHUT DOWN THE HOSPITAL AND REACTIVATE THE ARMY.

—Dr. Elizabeth Martin  
Reporter/Secretary

## ELIZABETH WAGNER, ASSISTANT MANAGER MARRIOTT HOTEL

Elizabeth Wagner and husband, Pastor A. S. Wagner, III, are currently residing in Frankfort, Kentucky. Pastor Wagner serves as the district overseer for the Frankfort and Covington, Kentucky congregations.

Elizabeth comes to the South Central Conference from New York City and has been employed by the Marriott Corporation for the past five years where she began serving as a front desk clerk and is now a senior sales manager for the firm. Her present responsibilities are to book and co-ordinate conferences and conventions. This job also entails developing solicitation programs to bring sports teams, sales meetings and various organizations to the hotel.

Prior to entering the hotel industry, Elizabeth worked as a talk show producer for NBC network in Washington, D.C. and ABC in New York City for a total of six years. She earned the B.A. degree in communications and journalism.

Mrs. Wagner is also working on developing the quantity and quality of Black Christian Music. She has started her own entertainment management company, (Mainstream LTD) to assist and develop



West Tennessee Community Services Day participants



Pastor & Mrs. A. S. Wagner III and son

up-and-coming talent within the church family. With a combination of her talents and established relationships in the industry, she plans to open many doors for many people.

## MRS. ISOM-BATMON GIVEN JEFFERSON AWARD

Under the direction of Pastor Timothy Lewis, the crusade of 1989 in Knoxville, TN was a spectacular one. With the blessings of God and the efforts put forth, Mrs. Edna Isom-Batmon is a member of the Trinity Church. Mrs. Batmon, for over fifteen years helped numerous persons, young and old to achieve higher goals. Because of her compassion for people, she would stop at nothing to help a family or individual in need. It was also important to her that people were helped discreetly and felt no obligation for the help they received. Problems have surfaced where

she has taken personal time and money to aid others who were less fortunate than she.

Recently when the former Standard Knitting Mills closed, Mrs. Isom-Batmon helped eighteen employees to get their G.E.D. certificates. Some of these went on to other training. Therefore, because of her determination to help others, Mrs. Isom-Batmon, teacher/counselor with the private industry council has recently been selected to be the recipient of the Jefferson Award sponsored nationally by the Institute of Public Service in Washington, D.C.

According to WBIR, a local television station, the purpose of the Jefferson Award is to recognize and honor the unsung heroes and heroines of the community for their community service work. Mrs. Isom-Batmon and four other local winners were selected from 125 nominees. These winners will be nominated for the journal awards. National award winners will be announced later.

This unsung heroine is a dedicated mother and grandmother active in the Christian faith, and all of her students say they each could write a book about the difference she has made in their lives.

## DUDLEY BAPTIZES GRANDS AT CAMP MEETING

What a joy came to the family of God when C. Dudley, president of the South Central Conference baptized his grandchildren, Karema LeJune and Charles Edward III along with twenty others during the South Central Conference Camp meeting this year. "I am now your brother," said Charles III to his grandfather. The children reside in Ellicott City,



C. E. Dudley baptizes his grandchildren

Maryland, and came to the camp meeting to be baptized by their "Popi."

### **CEDAR JACKSON APPEARS ON THE BOBBY JONES' PROGRAM**

Mrs. Cedar Jackson recently appeared on Bobby Jones' Gospel show here in Nashville, singing one of her original songs, "Signs of the Times," the title song of her latest album.

Cedar balances a singing ministry with a nursing career and a medical transcribing business. She is the mother of two sons and is the wife of Pastor Ollie Jackson who started his ministry in the South Central Conference. He presently pastors in Sacramento, California where the family resides.

Cedar has to her music credit two solo albums and other records and tapes that she has participated in. Her desire is to glorify God in every aspect of her life as she ministers to others.



Cedar Jackson and Bobby Jones

### **GOOD NEWS FROM McCALLA, ALABAMA**

One week before campmeeting we baptized our first four candidates for this year. New Life conducted a week of prayer in our little church and four precious souls have been baptized. Pastor R.I. Rugles officiated in the baptismal service and the Lord was glorified.

We are proud to be a part of the Global Strategy Team. Evangelist Timothy Lewis, my grandson, is being blessed with the outreach ministries that are being conducted conference-wide and we have extended an invitation to him to bring his team of workers into McCalla during the month of April 1991. We are excited about it. Evangelistic Outreach 1990—1991 Projections:

1990—Supported the Global Strategy program in Bessemer. Supporting the Summer Effort in Birmingham, Alabama.

1991—We are having a Global Strategy crusade in McCalla

Our church is small, but we take pride in sending all of our conference goals (Message Magazine—Evangelism Offering—Ingathering, etc.) to the office on time every year.

The spirit of love and unity flows through the believers here in McCalla. May the Lord soon come for His church.

### **ELDER F.S. HILL RECEIVES DOCTORATE DEGREE**

Dr. Franklin S. Hill, Sr., pastor of the Mt. Calvary S.D.A. Church in Huntsville, Alabama for the past six years, recently received the doctorate of ministry degree from Bethany Theological Seminary in Dothan, Alabama. Hill, a native of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and his wife have four sons, one daughter and eight grand-



Dr. F. S. Hill

children. All four sons trained for the ministry to serve the church. His daughter is also a dedicated church worker and supporter.

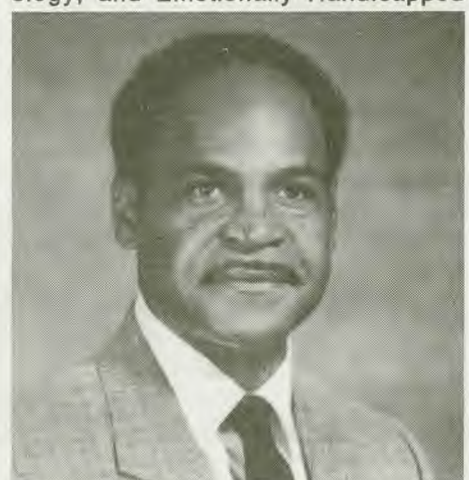
Hill is the president of the Greater Huntsville Ministerial Association of Seventh-day Adventists.

### **AARON WALLACE APPOINTED TO FLORIDA'S EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION BY GOVERNOR MARTINEZ**

Aaron Wallace, local elder of the Ethan Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church in Panama City, Florida who also serves as a consulting teacher/guidance counselor with the Bay District Schools for the Emotionally Handicapped, was recently nominated by Governor Bob Martinez and Betty Castor, Commissioner of Education, and confirmed by the Florida Senate to serve as a Commissioner, Education Practices Commissioner.

The Education Practices Commissioner (EPC) is an autonomous quasi-judicial agency administratively assigned to the Department of Education. The Commission acts as the final agency in disciplinary actions against holders of Florida Teaching Certificates and is composed of five teachers, five administrators and three lay people (two of whom are school board members). Elder Wallace is also a member of the South Central Conference Executive Committee.

Wallace received his Bachelors Degree from Park College in Parkville, Missouri, graduating Magna Cumulative Laude in Social Psychology. His Master of Science Degree was received from Florida State University in Elementary Education, Sociology, and Emotionally Handicapped



Aaron Wallace

Education. He is also a graduate of the Public Administration Institute (Police Administration) from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and is a retiree from the United States Air Force.

## SECOND CONGREGATION ORGANIZED IN CHATTANOOGA

The work of Seventh-day Adventists in Chattanooga, Tennessee has its beginnings with persons such as William Cleveland, Anna Knights, J.G. Thomas, Lindsay Jones, F.S. Hills, the Bradfords, Matthew Greens, the Storeys during the earlier part of the century. None ever imagined in those days that it would reach the proportions to which it is seen today.

Father Cleveland, the church elder at the time, supervised and did most of the construction on the Eighth Street building and began the church school program. It was felt that from this spot, the church would be taken to glory, but in later years other ministers came to be used by God for the development of the work.

And still later, Dr. P.E. Vincent served as the spiritual leader to build a new church facility and school as well as a welfare center in another section of the city. This gave new concepts to the members of further expansion and growth. A new congregation was established in near-by Cleveland by layman J.I. Milner which helped to give witness in that area. Students from the Southern College are helping with this evangelistic out-reach program.

Recently, Evangelist Timothy Lewis of the South Central Conference brought his team of workers to the city and conducted a Spring crusade on the other side of the city out of which a second congregation of 128 members has been established. They are currently in the process of purchasing another building in which to worship. Pastor Antoine Maycock is the pastor. He states that "In a year or so, we hope to lay grounds for a third church in Chattanooga."

## DOTHAN PATHFINDER SAVES MOTHER'S LIFE

When a Dothan Pathfinder realized the graveness of her mother's inability to expel food from her throat that had lodged there during the course of their meal, she immediately applied the lessons that she had been taught during her pathfinder



Second congregation in Chattanooga, Tennessee, 1990



Dothan, Alabama Pathfinders

training for persons who are choking. The therapy proved to be a blessing in saving her dear mother's life.

## DOTHAN CHURCH ESTABLISHES A PATHFINDER UNIT

Under the leadership of Ms. Bonita Lee, the daughter of Jesse Lee, a new

pathfinder organization is in place in the Bethany Church in Dothan, Alabama. This unit has achieved outstanding merits and distinctions for their witness in Dothan and nearby cities. Elder Ronsard Broussard is the pastor of the church. The group gave marching drill performances during the recent visit of the conference president, C.E. Dudley.

## DISTRICT DAY HELD IN DOTHAN

Recently when President C.E. Dudley visited the Dothan district, all of the congregations in the area came together to hold a united worship service. Churches in the district are Ozark, Dothan, Panama City and Marianna. The president seeks to visit each district once each year, a practice that he has engaged in for the past twenty-eight years.



Smiling Dothan Pathfinder and grateful Mom

*Nothing is more costly, nothing is more sterile than vengeance.*

—Winston Churchill

**SOUTHEASTERN REFLECTIONS OF THE 55TH GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

**Attendance**

Between fifty-five and sixty thousand people from all parts of the world came to Indianapolis, Indiana to attend the Fifty-fifth General Conference Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. All races and nationalities from 99.2% of earth's population were represented. It was interesting to see that the complexion of the church is literally changing. Approximately 88% of the membership today is made up of people of color from everywhere on planet earth. The church which has been based in the United States of America has done such a commendable job in mission services around the globe from 1874 until the present, most of the membership is found outside of America today. The growth among Blacks in the home base has also moved at a very rapid pace. These people now represent 27% of the division membership and give to the church 17% of its tithe income from the home base and 12% of the income for the entire world church. It is projected that by the year 2000 A.D. five million of its members will be found on the continent. "Ethiopia is stretching forth its hand to God." Today, the Inter-American Division is the largest in the world.

**NO ORDINATION FOR WOMEN**

The ordination of women to the gospel ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church was an issue that received a considerable amount of attention during the General Conference Sessions held in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was a proposal that was to have its effect on the church in many parts of the world field, thus delegates were lined up about three or four blocks to speak to the issue which has been seething for quite some time.

Among those in favor of the issue was Captain Herman Kibble of the United States Navy who gave a very passionate and moving speech in the affirmative which expressed the feelings of many American delegates. After about three hours of spirited discussion, delegates voted to close debate and vote on the recommendation. By a vote of 1,173 to 377 the delegates voted to accept the recommendation not to ordain women to the Adventist ministry.

**GC PRESIDENT ATTENDS THE NAD BLACK CAUCUS**

The NAD Black Leaders held a meeting each day to keep the members abreast with the happenings of the session that were developing. History was again realized when for the first time, the president of the General Conference made a visit to these meetings to express



*Captain H. Kibble, U.S. Navy*



*Placards outside the GC stadium protesting the actions taken against ordination of women*



*55,000 attend the 55th GC Session*



*President Folkenberg and C.E. Dudley*



*Some of the Black leaders in attendance*

his concerns about the role that is being played by this people for the finishing of the work. R. S. Folkenberg, the newly elected president of the GC, expressed his best wishes for the group in its plans for growth and development. He also stated that his hopes were "to begin building bridges" between all peoples of the church so that the kingdom will soon come.

### **C. E. BRADFORD RETIRES**

Charles E. Bradford, the first Black to serve as the president of the North American Division, announced his retirement and turned the torch and records over to Alfred L. McClure, the newly elected leader. McClure has served as the president of the Southern Union-NAD for the past ten years. He is succeeded by Malcolm Gordon, the former president of the Florida Conference.



*Bradford passes NAD torch to McClure*

### **THE SESSION CHAIRMANSHIPS SHARED**

Along with others of the vice-presidents who served as chairmen of the sessions was Calvin B. Rock, former president of Oakwood College. Rock was elected to the vice-presidency at the 54th Session in New Orleans, Louisiana.

### **THE RAINBOW OF PEOPLE WORLD-WIDE**

Pygmies from Africa, Indians from Southeast Asia, Native American Indians and Canadian Mounted Police, Nigerians,



*Chairman C. B. Beck*



*Pygmy representation from Africa*

West Africans, Soviet Union citizens, people from the Republic of China, Nationals from South America, Japanese, regional leaders from the North American Division, and natives from the South Seas Islands —this diverse group, along with many others, were in attendance.

## WORLD LEADERS IN ATTENDANCE

Worldwide S.D.A. leaders came. Some will continue to serve in their various divisions; some retired. Any GC session brings the announcement of individuals who have given years of service to the church. Those who retired at this session included: George H. Akers, education director, Charles E. Bradford, president for North American Division; Frank L. Jones, associate treasurer; Enoch Olivera, general vice-president; Don A. Roth, associate secretary and J.R. Spangle, ministerial association associate.

## WOMEN AT GC

During the session, the shepherdess of the Regional Conference Church held a "Hands Across the Ocean" banquet to welcome the ladies of the church from all parts of the globe. This was sponsored by the ladies of the South Atlantic Conference. Hundreds attended.

Two of the "Women of Distinction" were honored during the meeting served as members of the Nominating Committee: Mrs. Eleanor M. Scale, director of ECW/SDA Research Centre, Avondale College, SPD; and Mrs. Ruth N. Moomba, treasurer of the Dorcas Federation and Dorcas Society Leader, Eastern African Division from Lusaka, Zambia.

Pastor Hyveth Williams of Boston, Mass. was a delegate. Mrs. Carol Monk and her ladies hosted a Black Art Exhibit during the meetings.

## REGIONAL CONFERENCE/ CHURCHES BOOTH

Among the various booths that could be visited in the exhibition hall, one which told the story of the progress of the work in NAD Regional Circles could be visited. When the GC was in its planning stages, the Black leadership also made plans to tell of the blessings of God in behalf of their work. They designed a booth which told the story in pictures, and distributed 20,000 copies of the North American



World leaders



NAD Regional booth

Regional Voice; also copies of the book, "150 Black Profiles of Leaders in the NAD," by Delbert Baker and D.S. Williams and the book, "A Star Gives Light" by Dr. N. Marshall and her associates. The project was planned and directed by J. Paul Monk, president of the Central States Conference. E.W. Moore and his associates manned the booth daily. Thousands were gratified to learn of the functions and blessings of the work among the Black people in the United States.

## NEAL C. WILSON SURRENDERS THE REINS OF LEADERSHIP

One of the marks of a Christian leader is the ability to accept change even when it is contrary to his ideas and aims.

Such was the case with Neal C. Wilson, former president of the General Conference for the past 12 years. It wasn't easy for him to realize that it was time for



N. C. Wilson, former GC president, and R. S. Folkenberg, newly elected president

him to step down at the request of the Nominating Committee during the time of The 55th GC Session. But, as he has noted, that is a part of church policy.



"Anyone who allows himself to be nominated for an elective position in this church ought to understand and feel no regrets when the process that elected him also using the same process, may decide they would like to elect someone else," he said.

Wilson indicated that he would have liked to continue in the post but called for the delegates to vote in support of the nominated president, Robert Folkenberg. "My appeal is that we give him our strong, undivided support and may I tell you he is going to need it," he continued.

Wilson who was N.A.D. president assumed the GC leadership upon the retirement of former president, Robert H. Pierson, who stepped down because of health problems at the time of the Annual Council of 1978.

Few men have a clarity of mind or the ability to speak extemporaneously as does Wilson. His recall of names and his interest has been called phenomenal. His dedicated leadership will be felt for years to come.

On Friday evening, July 13 (during the vesper hour), C.E. Dudley, chairman of the NAD Black Caucus, Delbert Baker, editor of the Message Magazine and D. S. Williams, associate director of the Temperance Department of the GC made presentations to former president N. C. Wilson of the General Conference and C. E. Bradford of the North American Division. Copies of the volume "150 Profiles of NAD Black Leaders" were presented. The compilation was sponsored by the NAD Black Caucus. Baker and Williams are the authors.

## DIGNITARIES ATTEND

Among the many delegates in attendance to the GC Session could be found Prime Minister Kissekka of Uganda, Africa, who is a member of the church; Pastor Noble Alexander of Cuba who was incarcerated in Cuban prisons for twenty years because of his religious beliefs. He was among those who were released during Jesse Jackson's visit to the country and is now serving as a pastor in the Northeastern Conference.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND SESSION DELEGATION

Two hundred and twenty persons made up the nominating committee which selected those persons to serve the



Prime Minister Osaka of Uganda, Africa



One of the representatives from Nigeria



Representatives from the Far East



President and Mrs. R. S. Folkenberg



Elder and Mrs. A. C. McClure

church in all parts of the world. The worldwide growth is phenomenal. In spite of apparent efforts to hold the representation in check, it appears that third world countries continue to move forward and be in positions of influence. It was interesting to see changes in the groups on the nominating committee. However, it should be

pointed out that because there are no Regional Unions in North America, special concessions are made for six Blacks from that division to serve on the committee. Those serving this year were C.E. Dudley, M.C. White, A. Kibble, L.R. Palmer, S.H. Brooks and R.P. Peay.



Regional representation on the nominating committees

## IN THE NEWS

### NEW IMAGE SPOTS TV CAMPAIGN

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

Over and over again this fall, citizens in the Spokane, Washington 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."

"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 made up the scheduled rotation for the upcoming campaign. Just during the first week of satura-

tion 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 dollars.

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.

### CAROL WASHINGTON WINS SERVICE AWARD

More than 175 employees of Memorial Hospital and Memorial Health System were honored recently for their years of service at its annual banquet at Century Center in South Bend, Indiana. Among those who received the twenty-five year service award was Mrs. Carol Washington of South Bend. She is a member of the

Berean S.D.A. Church of that city and works in Post Anesthesiology Care Unit at the hospital. She is to be applauded for her faithfulness and longevity in service to mankind.

## OAKWOOD

### TED GUNN NEW DEAN OF MEN

Artistic, athletic, friendly, firm and youthful, Ted Gunn, formerly on staff at Developmental Learning Resource Center (DLRC), was selected by V-P Kermit Carter as the new dean of men to replace Mr. Winton Forde who has entered development and trust services for the college.

Gunn, a native of New York City, holds the master's in vocational technology from Alabama A & M University. His wife, Ruth, is an assistant professor of business. They have two teenage daughters.

Mr. Gunn brings to the residence hall vigor, charisma and creativity. As such he should relate well with the young men of Edwards Hall.

### YATES APPOINTED ASSISTANT VP FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND DIRECTOR OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT

Rose M. Yates, Ph.D., who has served as director of Title III over the past several years, has been appointed assistant V-P for Academic Affairs effective July 1, 1990. She is also director of the new Office of Grants Management which will coordinate proposal and grant writing for the entire campus. The office is funded in part by the Lilly Foundation.

Dr. Garland Dulan, V-P for Academic Affairs, made the announcement on July 10, 1990. The appointment allows the V-P more time to address other crucial academic concerns.

While Dr. Yates currently directs Title III, a director for this position is being sought, and the appointee will report directly to her.

### MARRIOTT CORPORATION APPOINTS NEW FOOD SERVICES DIRECTOR FOR OAKWOOD

A new director of food services for the college has been appointed to replace Mr. Eugene Myles who served in that capacity

over the past two years. The new appointee is Keysa Minnifield, currently the Marriott manager for Loyola University in New Orleans, LA, where she supervises a staff of 65.

Minnifield holds a B.S. degree in biology from Jacksonville State University. She has been with Marriott since 1985.

Young, articulate and people oriented, Ms. Minnifield seems to be the right person for the job. She is a Seventh-day Adventist with roots in Bessemer, AL. Her parents are active churchgoers who always attend the annual South Central Camp meetings on campus.

She is looking forward to the challenge at Oakwood.

## OBITUARY

### FRANKLIN VINCENT MORGAN

May 4, 1969-July 28, 1990

Specialist Franklin Vincent Morgan was the second child and only son born to Pamela and Vincent Morgan on May 4, 1969.

Franklin spent his early school years at Emerson Elementary School, Brooklyn, New York. He entered Teaneck High School in the 10th grade and graduated June 1987.

Upon graduating from high school, Franklin decided to enter the military and do service for his country. Consequently, he enlisted in the Army in his senior year and in September 1987 he entered Fort Wood, Missouri, where he spent one year.

In November 1988, Franklin was stationed in Germany as a specialist where

he did yeoman service for his country. He was a member of the Army basketball team and prized himself as being the team's "Patrick Ewing."

In his early years, Franklin was an active member of the First S.D.A. Church, Teaneck, and was involved as a member of the Children's Choir, Pathfinder Club and took part in Adventist Youth activities. He was baptized at an early age with his sister by Pastor Clements.

Franklin re-enlisted in the Army for an additional two years and was looking forward to the second term of service. Unfortunately, before this desire could be realized, his life was suddenly cut short on July 28, 1990.

He leaves to mourn and sorrow, his mother, father, his loving sister, Patricia with whom he enjoyed a very close relationship; his sister Loletta, two brothers, Alphonso and Keith, his paternal grandmother, godmother, godfather, a number of aunts and uncles, a host of cousins and numerous relatives and friends. Asleep in Jesus, rest in Jesus, Franklin dear.

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The official organ of the North  
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Contributing Editor: E. E. Cleveland

Published monthly by the supportive Regional Conferences of North America and printed by Papers, Inc., Milford, Indiana  
Subscriber rate \$8.50 a year

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

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

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

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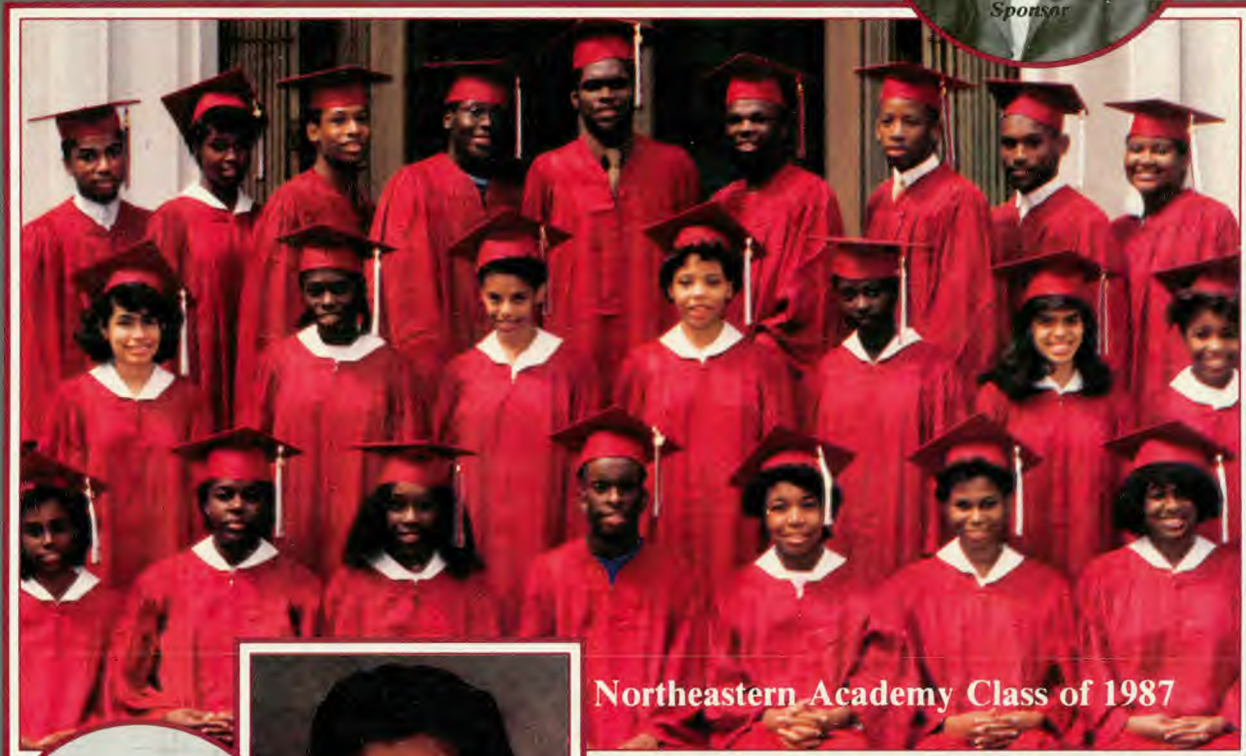
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