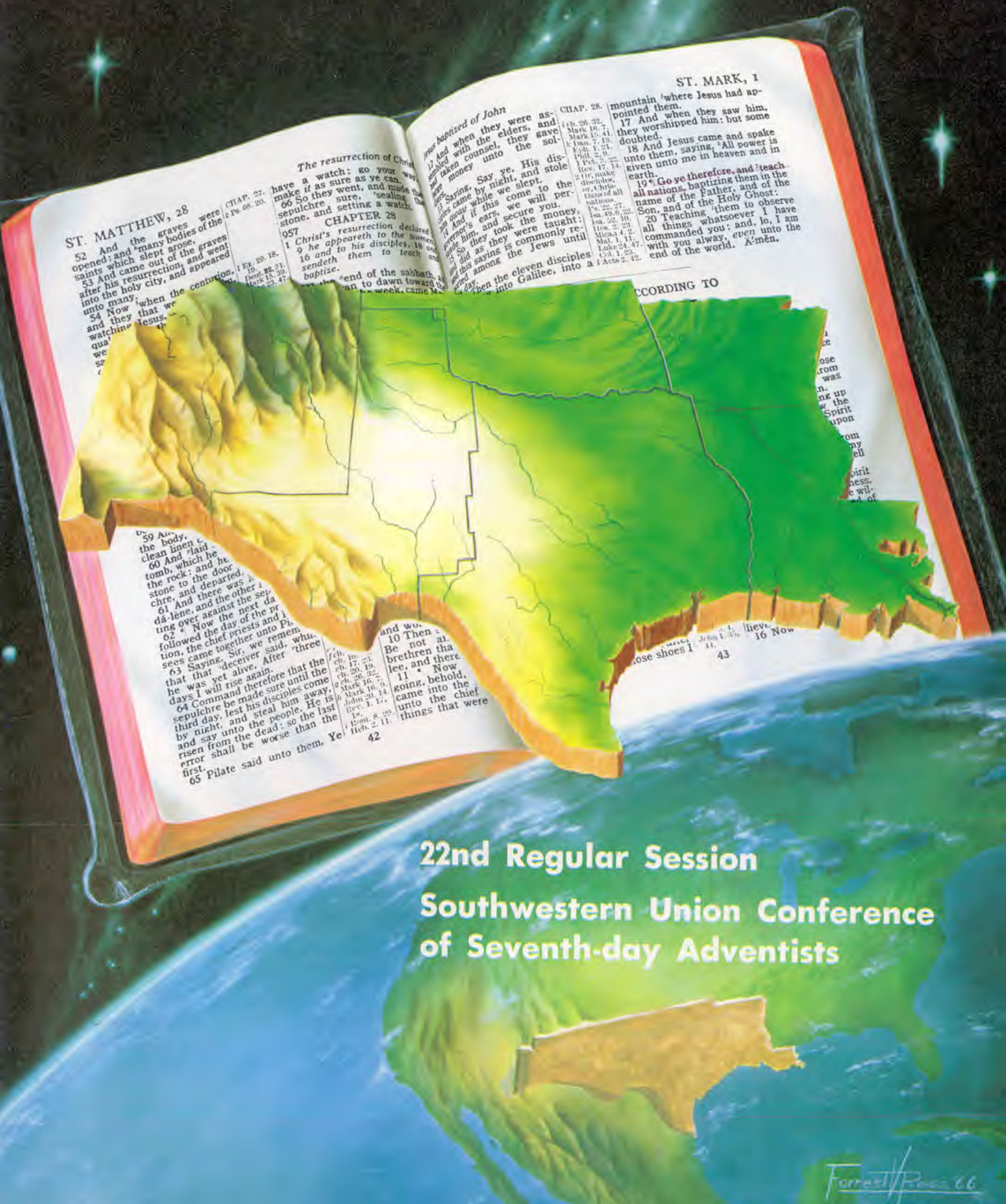


# SOUTHWESTERN UNION RECORD

FEBRUARY 14, 1976

## Reports Growth Progress



ST. MATTHEW, 28

52 And the graves were opened: and many bodies of saints which slept arose.

53 And his resurrection, and went after his resurrection, and appeared unto many.

54 Now that we watch with you, and they Jesus, we shall see him.

The resurrection of Christ

make it as sure as ye can.

66 So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

CHAPTER 28

1 Christ's resurrection declared

9 he appeareth to the women

16 and to his disciples; 18 and sendeth them to teach and baptize.

at the end of the sabbath, the sun to dawn toward the east, the third day, came

those baptized of John

12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave money unto

13 saying, Say ye, His disciples came while we slept.

14 And if this come to the ears of our rulers, we will persecute him, and secure you.

15 So they took were taught: and did as they commonly receive; among the Jews until that day.

Then the eleven disciples went into Galilee, into a

CHAPTER 28

mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

ST. MARK, 1

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ACCORDING TO

59 And the body, clean linen.

60 And he laid the rock, which he stone to the door, and departed.

61 And there was a church, and the other day, against the setting over against the

62 Now the day of the resurrection, the chief priests and followed the chief priests and

63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, when he was yet alive, that after three days I will rise again.

64 Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people: so the last risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

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### 22nd Regular Session

## Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

# RECORD

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

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# 22nd Regular Session Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

FEBRUARY 22-23, 1976



Southwestern Union Office, Richardson, Texas

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

The Southwestern Union in 1905 .....	3
A Look at Your Union Conference .....	5
President's Report .....	6
Secretary's Report .....	9
Treasurer's Report .....	9
The Association .....	10
Education Department .....	10
Temperance .....	12
Health Department .....	12
Public Affairs and Religious Liberty .....	13
Ministerial Department .....	15
Lay Activities, Sabbath School, Radio-TV .....	16
Publishing Department .....	19
Youth Activities .....	20
ASI .....	22
Southwestern Union College .....	22
Auditor's Report .....	24
Local Conference Reports	
Arkansas-Louisiana Conference .....	26
Oklahoma Conference .....	28
Southwest Region Conference .....	29
Texas Conference .....	30
Texico Conference .....	33
On the Record .....	36
Huguley Memorial Hospital .....	37
All-Out Evangelism .....	40

Report of the Southwestern Union Conference as appeared in the  
"Review and Herald" of June 22, 1905.

It will be interesting and informative to compare this report of 1905 to the 1975 Southwestern Union Conference session reports. See what 70 years have accomplished in our union conference territory. This report comes just four years after the initial organization of the union conference in 1901.

J. N. M.

## Report of the Southwestern Union Conference

The Southwestern Union Conference is composed of the following States and Territories: Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Indian Territory, and has an area of 382,089 square miles, and a population of 5,360,274, of which about 900,000 are colored. There are also hundreds of thousands of Mexicans who speak the Spanish language.

This union conference has a membership of 3,333, and a ministerial force of thirty-five, of which number three are colored. The most of this force of workers have been engaged in new fields, as the policy has been to push the work into new territory, where the message for this time has not been given. Good results have followed and twenty-two churches and companies have been raised up, and thirteen church buildings have been erected; two of these are for the colored people, one in Arkansas and one in Texas.

Our academy, located at Keene, Tex., is under the management of the union conference. The last two years have been very encouraging and prosperous. During the year which has just closed the school has had an enrollment of one hundred and sixteen, with a corps of seven teachers.

A vigorous effort has been put forth to pay off all the indebtedness of the institution, so that it may be better able to carry out the purpose for which it was established. Oklahoma has done nobly, and has now paid up her apportionment in full. Arkansas and Texas are doing their utmost to meet their obligations, and are hopeful that they also will soon be free from debt.

Vigorous efforts have been put forth the last two years to make the academy true to its name — "Industrial Academy." The industrial department work has been revived, and good work is being done in the different industries carried on by the school.

The tract societies have, the last two years, sold books to the amount of \$40,798.78, but we expect to do more in the future, as the canvassing work is reviving in all the three conferences, and the prospects are very promising. Organized efforts are being put forth to place a strong canvassing force in the field for our large denominational books.

Several young ladies who have taken up the sale of the *Watchman* and *The Signs of the Times* in our large cities and towns have been very successful. Others are preparing to engage in this work.

Last December a branch publishing house of Nashville, Tenn., was established in Fort Worth, which will be a great help in supplying our local societies with books promptly.

Our local tract societies have been doing well the last two years. The Texas Tract Society was heavily involved in debt about two years ago, but at the present time it does not owe the publishing houses a cent, having paid them up in full.

(Continued on page 25)



**1**  
An attractive and comfortable church home in Lubbock, Texas. This church was partially destroyed by tornado and restored to service.



**2**  
A church sanctuary amidst the beauties of the valley in Texas.

**3**  
Camping facilities amidst natural surrounding at Camp Yorktown Bay.



**4**  
A Seventh-day Adventist-operated hospital in Beeville, Texas—one of seven hospitals in the Southwestern Union Conference.

**5**  
Summer camp activities are enjoyed by the youth of the Southwest.

**6**  
A typical large city in the Southwest where lies the challenge to carry the gospel. To date 30,000 Seventh-day Adventists must take the gospel to 30 million people in the Southwestern Union territory.

1

2

4

3

5

6

# A Look at Your Union Conference

by DONALD R. McADAMS



In the spring of 1875 three brothers by the name of Rust moved from Battle Creek to Texas. These men aroused considerable interest in the Advent message and before the year was over Elder M. E. Cornell came and held a series of meetings in Dallas. The following year the first Seventh-day Adventist church was organized in Texas with a membership of 18 members. The Rust brothers continued to preach, but they needed help. Responding to their call, the General Conference advised Elder R. M. Kilgore of Iowa to take his family to the Lone Star State and there labor to build up a conference. James White promised "the cheerful cooperation of the General Conference, so far as that body can advise and help." Elder Kilgore arrived in May of 1877 and labored mightily for the Lord for eight years in the country's largest state. Despite much opposition he raised a large church in Cleburne and left the area around Keene one of the strongholds of the Adventist faith in Texas.

In 1877 Adventists also began to work in Arkansas, and in 1883 spread into Louisiana from Texas. In 1892 Richard H. Brock and G. W. Page held tent meetings in Oklahoma. By this time the work had also begun in New Mexico where Smith Sharpe, a minister from Kansas, held meetings in 1889. From these small beginnings, God's work in the Southwest has grown until today the Southwestern Union has over 30,000 members and reaches to nearly every corner of the five-state area of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico.

From 1889 to 1901 the work in the Southwest was organized into a district (district #5) under the direction of a superintendent. District organization was similar to our present Union Conference organization, but the districts were closely related to the General Conference Committee and unable to take independent action in response to the local needs of the work. It was primarily in response to the weakness of the district organization

that the Union Conferences were organized at the General Conference session in 1901.

The pioneer development of Union Conferences occurred in Australia. Here, the young A. G. Daniells, following the counsel of O. A. Olsen, the General Conference president, organized the first Union Conference in 1894. This Union Conference, with a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and executive committee, became the model for the organizing of the districts in North America into Unions.

The problem with the way the church was organized in the 1890's was that there was too much centralization of power in the hands of the General Conference in Battle Creek. All matters throughout the world field that could not be handled at the local conference or mission level had to be decided by the General Conference Committee. Even minor administrative decisions had to be made by the General Conference. Responding to this situation Ellen White wrote on April 5, 1901, "New conferences must be formed. It was in the order of God that the Union Conference was organized in Australasia. The Lord God of Israel will link us all together. The organizing of new conferences is not to separate us. It is to bind us together." (*General Conference Bulletin*, April 5, 1901, pp. 68, 69.)

At the General Conference session which met in Battle Creek in April of 1901, a special committee was established to direct in the reorganization of the Church. One of the recommendations of this committee, which was accepted by the delegates, was the establishment of the Union Conferences. The Union Conferences and Union Missions became the constituent elements of the General Conference. They were to be self-governing and in the main, self-supporting. The new arrangements in Elder A. G. Daniells words, brought about "an  
(Continued on page 24)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

# Five Great Progressive Years

B. E. LEACH, President  
Southwestern Union Conference



TO: Delegates assembled and constituents of the Southwestern Union Conference.

*The service of Jesus true pleasure affords.*

*In Him there is joy without an alloy;*

*'Tis heaven to trust Him and rest on His word;*

*It pays to serve Jesus each day,*

*It pays to serve Jesus, it pays ev'ry day,*

*It pays ev'ry step of the way'*

*Tho' the pathway to glory may sometimes be drear,*

*You'll be happy each step of the way.*

It is a great honor and a high privilege to have a part in the great work of God.

There is no endeavor in the world today that begins to compare with the significance and the importance of the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is God's last-day remnant church. It is a church ordained of God to do a special work — to preach the everlasting gospel that will encompass the whole world and prepare a people for the glorious appearing of Jesus in the clouds of glory.

It is with a feeling of deep humility and a thankful heart that I bring you this quinquennial report. Without the blessing of God and His divine leading this report would not be possible. At this time I wish to pay tribute to our conference presidents, our departmental men and women, our office secretaries, our pastors, and our dedicated laymen throughout the Great Southwest.

Big, important things have happened here in our Union that will affect the Lord's work until He comes. We praise the Lord for these victories. Without His providential leading they would never have happened.

When we speak of the growth of the work our minds immediately turn to acquisition to the church by baptism and profession of faith. This is the truest barometer we have for, after all is said and done, it is the growth of a consecrated membership that best tells the story of God's blessing upon our endeavors. It is a joy to report to you that the past five years have been strong and encouraging. While it is not all that we would desire, yet we can take courage in the fact it is the best ever for any comparable five-year period. God's blessing upon ministers and laymen, working hand in hand, can be clearly seen by these figures. Church membership now stands at 32,991. Five years ago our membership stood at 26,953, a growth of 6,038 compared to a growth of 4,428 for the previous five years. The Arkansas-Louisiana Conference now has 6,056 members, Oklahoma, 5,149; Southwest Region, 6,538; Texas 11,753; and Texico 3,495. Church organizations now total 340. During the fourth quarter of 1975 we passed the Central Union in membership. Among the 10 Unions in North America we are not number seven any more, we are number six.

### Buildings

The Biblical injunction to build, "Let them build me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them," has been fol-

lowed. Great strides have been made. Thirty-seven new churches have been built, 16 purchased, and six are now under construction. Twenty-five new church schools have been built or are now under construction or major remodeling completed. The Texico Conference has built a beautiful new office and Adventist Book Center in Amarillo. The Keene church is building a fine new Chisholm Trail Academy. A new addition to the dining room facilities has been built at Valley Grande Academy. Sandia View Academy has made excellent improvements by building a new gymnasium with adjoining classrooms and a complete redecorating of dining room facilities, giving them one of the most attractive dining rooms I have ever seen at an academy. Ozark Academy has completed a new Industrial Arts Building and have made their dining room very attractive. Also improvements have been made in the boys' dorm, Baker Hall. The new Gentry church, just off campus, is one of the best planned and most beautiful in this denomination. Jefferson Academy has completed their new gymnasium and made other improvements.

### Finances

Financial prosperity is many times a very good indicator of spiritual prosperity! "Where your treasure is there will your heart be also," is not some old common-sense adage. It is Biblical truth. Our people have been faithful. Faithfulness in tithes and offerings does tell a glowing story of love for the church. Strong gains in tithe-giving has been registered in our conference treasuries each year. The total tithe for the past five years amounted to \$33,437,223.42. Tithe-giving for the previous five years was \$19,077,594.44, an increase of \$14,359,622.98, a 75.26% increase! Thank God for that dynamic growth. Mission giving amounted to \$7,091,525.83 compared to \$5,428,258.00, an increase of \$1,663,267.88. Evangelistic giving in our conferences also grew significantly.

During the past five years we have worked diligently to build a strong financial base in the Union organization, in our conferences, and in our institutions. The Lord has blessed these efforts. Our Union now has its full operating capital reserves, as does the Oklahoma Conference. Several other of our conferences and institutions have made important progress in this vital area.

### Christian Education

I love Christian education. It is our number-one evangelistic program. There is something wrong when we can get all excited about the heathen overseas and at the same time neglect our own precious youth at home. The very best thing we can do for our worldwide mission program is to save our own young people here in the homeland. Let us give the training of our priceless boys and girls, our wonderful youth, our best attention and top priority in everything we do. All of our young people should have the blessed privilege of being in our own schools. When we put first things first and do this, the mission program of this great church will flourish and bloom as never before. They will go with enthusiasm to the ends of the earth, and they will get this work finished. *Don't you ever forget that!*

We are proud of our church school teachers and our academy and college faculties. It is an inspiration to see the soul winners labor so faithfully on behalf of our tremendous youth. We now have 85 church schools and

3,450 students, a loss of 88 over enrollment five years ago. I hope that statistical information will shock you into action. Academy enrollment now stands at 807 compared with 696 at the beginning of this quinquennium. I want to thank Elder Wines for the leadership he has given in the Educational Department.

### **Southwestern Union College**

Southwestern Union College is my pride and joy! The past five years have been thrilling, exciting years in the growth and development of our fully accredited four-year Senior College. Enrollment has grown from 415 in 1970 to 707 in 1975! a 70.36% gain. This is most encouraging — especially in view of the fact that so many small colleges have lost in enrollment, some even closing their doors during this time. The college has a well-qualified faculty of which we are proud. During the past five years a "new campus" with its Seven Flag Mall has been developed. Down on Old Betsy is found the meaningful Pioneer Entrance, donated by the Alumni. And looking east from there you see day or night the impressive Three Angels' Messages display donated by my secretary, Mrs. Lena Day, in honor of her late husband, Bill Day. Also added — Heritage Hall, housing the Student Center, Music Department, Student Offices, Religious Activities Center, the Upper Room (Board Room), and the Raymond and Anna Beem Memorial Radio Station, KSUC-FM 88.3. Also added — complete campus lighting; Bishop Leiske Gymnasium — largest in the denomination (thanks to Bishop Leiske and The American Religious Town Hall); a beautiful new cafeteria (thanks to the Committee of 100); the new Dick Barron Memorial Evangelism and Communication Center (thanks to the many friends of Elder Barron); a reconstructed Humanities Building (thanks to Brandom Corporation); and a new Student Park (thanks to LeRoy and Sylvia Leiske); a completely renovated Hamilton Hall with new heating and air conditioning (thanks to Rex Callicott). The college has also acquired the Findley Annex, the Shopping Center now called The Village Mall, and the National Health Food Distributors. All the industries have been combined into one corporation known as "SUC College Industries." Ben Bowen was the first president followed by Dr. Marvin Anderson. God's blessing has rested on this new organization.

A new two-year nursing program has been approved and is under way with a \$500,000 Frank and Evelyn Moran endowment for its support. Truly a milestone was reached this year when the college achieved a realistic *balanced budget*. This budget, with capital funds intact, has brought great courage and strength to all. We thank Elder E. C. Wines, Elder LeRoy Leiske, Dr. Calvin Gordon, and Dr. Don McAdams, who have all served as president during this five-year period, and also Dr. Louis Larson, who served as academic dean; Ben Bowen and Dr. Marvin Anderson, who served as business manager. Best of all, a wonderful spiritual influence pervades the campus. It has never been better.

### **Medical Evangelism**

We are proud of our growing and thriving medical program. A total 170 physicians and dentists are now practicing in our territory and bring great strength to the work. We are operating six hospitals and two nursing homes — Menard, Hays Memorial in San Marcos, Memorial in Beeville, Marion County in Jefferson, as well as the Valley Grande Manor in Weslaco, and a nursing

home in Menard. Oklahoma has two hospitals, one in Ardmore and one in Jay, doing a great work. Also the Oklahoma Conference is developing a new retirement-home program. Our great need is for more Adventist nurses and paramedical personnel. It is impossible to have a truly Adventist hospital without the majority of the employees being loyal members of the church. We have long needed a "mother" institution. Our prayers have not been in vain.

### **Huguley Memorial Medical Center**

One of the most important providential events ever to occur in the history of the Southwestern Union was the gift Dr. Herbert Huguley made to the church for a large hospital where nurses and other allied health personnel can be trained. This large \$16,500,000 project is under construction and will be ready to open its doors early in 1977. It is located in South Fort Worth just 16 miles from our college. Elder Bill Wiist has done a very excellent work in disposing of the Huguley properties for more than the budgeted figure. Also prospects are the building will cost less than the projected cost. Ken Dupper is the assistant administrator.

### **Youth Evangelism**

The youth of the Southwestern Union are absolutely topnotch. My first love and my "hobby" is the youth work. There is no endeavor I know of that is more fruitful for God. I don't know of an area where even a little effort can bring to the church such rich eternal rewards. Our goal should be to save *every one* of our youth to this church. We want them ALL for God. The salvation of one young person is an event beyond our ability to comprehend. That young man may be another Robert Pierson, that young girl may be another Rachel Preston. Our outreach for our youth has been paying big dividends. Brother Wayne and Brother John Thurber started the AYA Team idea in Texas. Now there are more than 40 throughout the land. We have three very fine youth camps of which we are proud: Camp Yorktown Bay near Hot Springs, Arkansas; Lone Star Camp near Athens, Texas; and Camp Horseshoe Canyon near Binger, Oklahoma. In addition to our MV societies, our Pathfinder clubs, our youth congresses and festivals, the Southwestern Union maintains a Youth Action Line (214-235-5111) where any young person can call me (collect if necessary) if they have some special problem or special need. Two booklets have been published by the Southwestern Union, *How Wonderful Is Youth* and *Heart-Turning Year Is Here*, which have helped our people see the importance of our youth and their salvation — with strong emphasis on Christian education. 1975 was set aside as "Heart-Turning Year." Many hearts were turned to our young people and many wonderful projects were dedicated to the youth. Elder LeRoy Leiske was MV secretary at the beginning of this quinquennium and Elder Wayne Thurber has served with love and dedication for the past four and one-half years. The hearts of our young people are turning. As we turn our hearts to them, they will turn their hearts to us — and to God.

### **Lay Activities and Sabbath School**

The Southwestern Union is strong for Ingathering. Our per capita has been the highest among the 10 Unions of North America every year during the past quinquennium. The importance of Ingathering is seen by our people. They know it means souls for the kingdom.

Every conference now has a welfare or disaster van, all loaded and ready to go on a moment's notice if a tornado or hurricane should hit. A Mobile Medical and Dental Services Clinic has been put into operation to serve the inner cities.

Our Sabbath Schools are an evangelistic program of the highest magnitude. They are also great builders and supporters of our entire mission program. Sabbath School offerings for the quinquennium amounted to \$3,362,153.76, an increase of \$1,000,644.99 over the previous five years. We take our hats off to George Schram for his leadership in all these great endeavors.

### **Publishing Evangelism**

"When the publishing work prospers every other department of the church prospers." For years I have heard this statement made by strong leaders in this church. I believe it. This being true, then we are in for some fabulous blessings just ahead. HHES and Adventist Book Center literature sales amounted to \$8,836,906.14 compared with \$6,383,501.28 for the previous five years, and increase of \$2,453,404.86. Our Adventist Book Centers have advanced on all fronts. Texas, under the leadership of Max Trevino, has started a new branch in Westlaco. Elder Bud Otis will bring you a thrilling report telling of a forward march under Elder Bill Roberson and Ronnie Appenzeller, and of the prospects for the future.

### **Ministerial Evangelism**

Public evangelism has flourished in the Southwestern Union. The Southwestern Union is the place where For-dyce Detamore brought the three-week effort to full fruition — and then along with Elder Dick Barron spread it to the ends of the earth. Hundreds of evangelistic campaigns have been held. Baptisms and profession of faith for the five years reached 10,683 compared with 8,232 for the previous quinquennium.

New Testament Witnessing, a program where pastors link arms with laymen has been and is an integral part of our evangelistic drive. Elder Elden Walter, a pioneer in this great program, has effectively led our ministerial evangelistic forces. The record speaks for itself.

### **Leadership**

Effort was put forth to build a strong leadership quality in our ministry and among our administrative corps of workers. Five years ago Elder Robert Pierson called for more effective leadership. A most important Leadership Seminar, led by Elder R. R. Bietz, Dr. D. W. Holbrook, and Dr. James Crawford, was held in Ardmore, Oklahoma, at Lake Murray, which brought great blessings. Also the Southwestern Union is sending out a sheet called "Leadership Talk" which is published "regularly every now and then."

### **Sale of the "Irving Property"**

One of the signal blessings that has come to the church during this quinquennium is the sale of the Irving Property in Irving, Texas. This 55-acre property was originally valued at \$25,000 when Elder and Mrs. Frank Moran began talking with me about this prospective gift. It was finally given on a gift-sale arrangement where 90% went to the cause and 10% to the Morans. When it was given in 1965 the value had risen to \$110,000. The brethren made a "brave decision" and, with providential leading, decided to hold on until the new Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Airport opened. It was sold in 1974

for \$1,375,000, netting the church \$1,244,113.53 a mighty victory for God!

### **Association Evangelism**

One of our greatest evangelistic programs is our Association work. What a blessing to help people dedicate their substance to God and His Cause. It brings great courage to the heart to get estate matters settled while you have the choice. Those who die intestate (with no will of their own) must face the fact that the state where you live has laws that in effect make out a will for every citizen — which automatically goes into effect and distributes it by law if you don't have a will of your own. Friends, write your own will — *you* decide where you want your substance, which represents your time, talent, and labor — your life. And, whatever you do, remember God, the first One you will meet and the One Who will be your Judge when you come forth in the first resurrection or the second resurrection. Better yet make a trust, or an annuity, or outright gift to your conference. Much money and substance that could be going to God is going to the IRS — where few souls are saved! Elders V. L. Roberts, Kenneth Beem, and George Rustad served the Association work during this period.

### **The Hour of Prophecy**

If you want to hear this truth preached in all its beauty and all its fullness listen to Brother Bob Thrower and The Hour of Prophecy radio broadcast. This mighty voice for truth and righteousness is now beaming out all over the country, and whenever and wherever its convicting message is heard, men and women recognize that this is no ordinary message. This is the truth of God — this is God's last day warning message. The Hour of Prophecy now is housed in its beautiful new office building, built in faith and free of debt. Let us pray for this great venture of faith and for Brother Bob Thrower and Brother Ed Bielele, business manager.

### **Brandom Corporation**

An integral part of our work here in the Southwest is Brandom Corporation, a business established by laymen for one purpose only, to help students secure a Christian education. God has prospered this fine business with branches in Keene and Gentry. Hundreds of fine young people have had the privilege of earning and learning, and scores are workers in the church because Brandom gave them a chance. Reg and Diana DeVice, and Ralph Wetmore have built a strong and viable base for this important operation with the highest financial rating Dunn and Bradstreet gives. Recently the DeVices retired. Ben Bowen was elected president and general manager and Ralph Wetmore vice-president and general manager of the Gentry plant in Arkansas, and Kenneth Beem secretary-treasurer. The future looks bright.

### **Stewardship Evangelism**

When the pocketbook is converted you can know the work of regeneration has gone deep. Few things tell more about a man or his church than the record of love poured forth in generous stewardship. The Southwestern Union recently published a booklet entitled "You Will See Miracles" that has brought a blessing to many. Elder Cyril Miller served as stewardship secretary for most of this term. Many blessings have been received.

### **Appreciation**

There are no words to fully express my appreciation for the wholehearted support given to me by my co-

*(Continued on page 35)*



## Secretary's Report

K. C. BEEM, Secretary  
Southwestern Union Conference



TO: Delegates assembled and constituents of the Southwestern Union Conference.

The statistical summaries show that the membership of the Southwestern Union Conference on December 31, 1975 is 32,991. This is a gain of 6,038 over 1970 or 22.4%. During the past five years there have been 10,683 members added by baptism or profession of faith, an average of 2,137 per year. During the previous five-year period the new members totaled 8,232 or an average of 1,646 per year. Our baptisms in relation to membership continue to grow. During the past five years the ratio has

been seven to eight per cent each year or 39.6% for the period, compared with 36.5% in the previous five years. Apostasies and missing members erased from our records 4,024 during the five years, or 38% as many as were baptized.

There are now 340 churches in the Union, with 988 workers serving in these churches and in the offices and institutions. Of these, 245 are ordained or licensed ministers and the others are office workers, church school teachers, literature evangelists, and institutional personnel.

The enlarging and strengthening of the church during the past five years, as shown in these statistics, are the result of the marked blessing of God and the dedicated stewardship of the workers and laymen of the Union.

"In proportion to the enthusiasm and perseverance with which the work is carried forward will be the success given. God can work miracles for His people only as they act their part with untiring energy. He calls for men of devotion to His work, men of moral courage, with ardent love for souls, and with a zeal that never flags." *Prophets and Kings* p. 263

### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES IN THE SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE, 1971-1975

	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	Five Years	Previous Five Years
Beginning Membership	26953	28406	29351	30482	31751	26953	22525
Baptisms and P.O.F.	2190	1971	2160	2248	2114	10683	8232
Transfers Net Gain (Loss)	197	204	177	244	244	1066	339
Deaths	(294)	(347)	(349)	(374)	(323)	(1687)	(1362)
Apostasy and Missing	(640)	(883)	(857)	(849)	(795)	(4024)	(2781)
Net Gain	1453	945	1131	1269	1240	6038	4428
% of Beginning Membership	5.4	3.3	3.9	4.2	3.9	22.4	19.7
% of Baptisms	8.1	6.9	7.4	7.4	6.7	39.6	36.5
Ending Membership	28406	29351	30482	31751	32991	32991	26953

## Treasurer's Report

V. L. ROBERTS, Treasurer  
Southwestern Union Conference



TO: Delegates assembled and constituents of the Southwestern Union Conference.

"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Revelation 22:12

The delegates of this quinquennial session of the Southwestern Union Conference have assembled with the conviction that "The day of the Lord is near and hasteth greatly." Present-day events and conditions clearly indicate that we are rapidly approaching the time when the hope of the ages will be fulfilled, the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our God-given responsibility before that glad day arrives though, gives us deep concern. The Saviour plainly stated that "This gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world . . . and then shall the end come". *The end is near*, and the weighty obligation of warning a world of its coming

doom is upon us. A world, perishing in sin, must be enlightened. Overawed by the unfinished portion of our task, which is utterly impossible to complete in our human strength, we have no choice but to accept the command found in *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 290, "The Voice of God speaks, 'Go Forward'" and in Matthew 28:20, "Lo I am with you always, even unto the end".

With this positive pronouncement and encouraging promise the Southwestern Union is moving forward in faith believing that "If Christians were to act in concert, moving forward as one, under the direction of one Power, for the accomplishment of one purpose, they could move the world." *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 221.

The tithe income for the past five years gives unmistakable evidence of the Lord's leading and blessings on the work in this field. The following exhibit shows the total amount of tithe reported by the five conferences in the Union for the past five years:

1971	1972	1973
\$5,072,048.84	\$5,876,096.12	6,537,458.07
1974	1975	
\$7,572,100.15	\$8,409,520.24	
Total for Five Years	Total for Previous Five Years	Amount of Increase
\$33,467,223.42	\$19,077,596.44	\$14,389,626.98

Over the five year period the tithe income has increased 75.43%

The phenomenal growth in tithes has enabled the Union to grow stronger financially. The total net worth at the end of 1970 was \$258,308.00. The total net worth now is \$635,604.55, a gain of \$377,296.55, or an increase of 146%.

The Southwestern Union Conference Corporation has also made progress during the quinquennium. The 1970 report showed assets totalling \$823,744.00. The assets increased \$412,000.00 during the period to a total of more than \$1,235,500.00.

We have done exceedingly well in the past, but let us ever keep in mind, "We must give this message quickly . . . we have no time to lose. The end is near. The passage from place to place to spread the truth will soon be hedged with dangers on the right hand and on the left. We must look our work fairly in the face and advance as fast as possible in aggressive warfare." *Christian Service*, p. 79.

A detailed audited financial report will be presented later.

## The Association

G. H. RUSTAD, Association Secretary  
Southwestern Union Conference



The work of the Conference Association has grown materially over the past five years. This is as it should be in harmony with the instructions given in the Scriptures. "Thou shalt remember the Lord thy God, for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth." Deuteronomy 8:18.

The Association trust, annuity, and life-income agreements make it possible for our people to plan for their families and the cause of God. "Christians . . . should manifest wisdom and foresight. They should have their business in such shape, that were they called at any hour to leave it . . . it might be settled as they would have had it were they alive." *Testimonies*, vol. 3, p. 117.

The total value of the various trusts written during the past five years amounts to \$24,124,029.48. The value of all trust agreements written to date is conservatively estimated at over \$38,600,000.00. Based on past experience 60% of the total value of all trusts written accrue to the cause of God. Using this same formula over \$23,000,000.00 will eventually be left to the Lord's work. Over \$1,000,000.00 in cash has been received by the conferences and churches from matured trusts during the past five years. Much credit for this record goes to the faithful officers and field secretaries of the Conference Associations.

Surely God has materially favored His people! Shall we not in turn bless the cause of God with the wealth He has placed in our hands? We are five years closer to our Lord's coming than we were at the last session. Sensing the lateness of the hour, more and more of our people are requesting the Association to assist them in arranging their estates, so that their loved ones will be cared for and a goodly portion be used in the Lord's work, thereby making a wise distribution of their estate according to their wishes.

Think what it would mean to the finishing of the work if all would be faithful stewards in this respect!

## CHANGES AND CHALLENGES

### Department of Education

E. C. WINES, Educational Supervisor  
Southwestern Union Conference



TO: Delegates assembled and constituents of the Southwestern Union Conference.

During the five-year period covered by the reports published in this issue of the RECORD, Christian education has made progress in many ways.

School buildings have been constructed, purchased, or remodelled; new schools have been opened, or in some instances reopened, where no school had existed for some years. Enrollment has increased, or at least held stable, in the face of declining numbers of school-age children. Increasingly, teachers are becoming academically better qualified, their terms of employment more clearly outlined, their responsibilities better understood. A larger number of the youth of the Southwest who have been educated at Southwestern Union College are now teaching in the church's schools at all levels of education.

While there are many things for which to be thankful, problems still remain. It will also be within the purview of this report to briefly sketch the major challenges that face the educational program of the church in the Southwest as it looks to the future.

#### The Changes

Perhaps the most easily seen changes that have taken place in the Southwestern Union in the schools of the church, elementary through secondary, are those having to do with the appearance and size of the school plants.

The greatest single change in a school plant is in progress at Chisholm Trail Academy in Keene, Texas. This is the only senior day academy in the Southwestern Union. It was an integral part of the college until just a few years ago and shared its facilities. Now it is a separate entity, operated by a board elected by the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church, and is in the process of having an entirely new plant nearing completion. Before the current year is over, a significant portion of the building program will be sufficiently completed to be placed in use.

At Jefferson Academy, uniquely situated in the piny woods of East Texas, a new classroom building has recently been erected. This building houses the home economics department, the science department, and provides space for other classes which do not require special equipment.

At Ozark Academy, an industrial education building was completed early in the five-year period. This building houses a variety of classes emphasizing the practical

#### A PERSONAL NOTE

By the time this article is published, I will have moved to a new responsibility as the Director of Education for the Columbia Union Conference. It has been a great experience to work with and for the youth of the church during the 11½ years I have served in the Southwest this time.

My prayers and those of my family will be for the success of the future endeavors in this important field.

E. C. Wines.



Newly established greenhouse at Ozark Academy

as well as the theoretical aspects of industrial education. At the present time, planning for the construction of a new building to house classrooms, library, administrative offices, and an auditorium is in the advanced planning stage. The burgeoning enrollment in recent years has made this necessary. Another change at Ozark Academy is the addition of a number of rooms in the girls' dormitory.

A tremendously important and large project has been nearly completed on the campus of Sandia View Academy. This building is a combined gymnasium-music facility. The members of the Texico Conference have had opportunity to see this building since it doubles as a camp meeting auditorium. This structure has been financed by gifts of the members of the conference and has been built through the very diligent efforts of the staff and students of Sandia View Academy.

In the semi-tropical southern tip of Texas, Valley Grande Academy stands as a monument to the members of the valley who many years ago established this school to serve the children of the church in this geographic area. In recent years, the school has been operated by the Texas Conference and additional improvements have been made.

In the elementary and junior academies of the Southwest, far-reaching changes have been made in the physical plant. Arkansas-Louisiana has had four schools newly built, purchased, or extensively remodelled. Oklahoma has had eight; the Southwest Region has had three; Texas has had 10; and Texico has had two, with one more in the final stages of planning.

Twenty schools have been newly opened or have been reopened after a period of non-operation. These are distributed as follows: Arkansas-Louisiana, five; Southwest Region, three; Texas, seven; and, Texico, five.

However, the physical changes in the schools would be totally meaningless without the fine enrollment that has been maintained through the years. In spite of declining numbers of elementary-age children in the gen-

eral population (and probably on a per-family basis among Seventh-day Adventists as well), the enrollment in the elementary and secondary schools has remained stable or increased during these years.

Also during the years under consideration, many more teachers have attained greater professional qualifications.

During the five years that are now history, the Department of Education of the Southwestern Union Conference has coordinated the efforts of the five conferences and the five academies in developing and adopting a common policy for the employment of teachers and for their reimbursement.

The growth and development of the college is treated elsewhere in this publication, but it should be noted that increasing support for the college program from the academies has resulted as the college has developed and provided its graduates as teachers and ministers in the Southwestern Union.

In June of 1975, the Southwestern Union took a step that had been planned — and needed — for a long time. An elementary supervisor, Frances Clark, was invited to join the union staff. Until this time, only the Texas Conference had the services of a full-time trained elementary supervisor.

However, the strength of the Seventh-day Adventist school system is found, not in the organizational structure, necessary though this may be, but in the work that is done in the classrooms by the faithful men and women who teach the children and care for the other needs of our schools. There are nearly 200 on the elementary and junior academy level and almost half that many in the academies of the Southwest.

But examining the accomplishments of the past are insufficient to the challenge of the times. What of the future? What are its needs? What are its challenges?

### The Challenges

Certainly, not all of the problems of the future can be perceived by humanity. However, there are listed below some that are quite apparent at the present time, along with a brief examination of each one.

1. The church's membership is growing at a faster rate than is the enrollment of the schools. An analysis of this situation should reveal whether new converts do not have children of the age for school, or whether there needs to be greater indoctrination of new members into the doctrine of Christian education.

2. There is ample instruction in the writings of the messenger of the Lord regarding the need for practical training. The changing economic climate and the increasing need for skilled craftsmen and technicians of all varieties places a challenge on the church to provide appropriate opportunities for the youth who choose careers in keeping with these needs.

3. Teachers who are beginners, those that are asked to teach in areas where their professional preparation is minimal, and those teaching in small schools where the opportunity for the exchange of ideas with fellow-teachers is limited are much more likely to succeed when sufficient supervisory assistance is available. A full-time elementary supervisor on the union level is a great help, but is insufficient. Conferences need to study how to provide the needed assistance in this area.

4. An increasing proportion of the ninth and tenth grade students in Seventh-day Adventist schools are now in attendance at junior academies (as compared to



(Above) The new church school plant at Harrison, Arkansas. (Below) The members at Bentonville, Arkansas, are building a church school for their children.



senior academies) throughout the union. Strengthening the secondary programs in these schools is a challenge and a necessity if this trend is to continue.

5. Many youth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are not in its schools. As far as possible, provision needs to be made for means of overcoming any economic hindrances to their attendance.

6. Customs change; principles do not. In this delicate area, care must be exercised to maintain principles and not to compromise standards, while at the same time making provisions for change within the guidelines of the Scriptures and the writings of the Lord's messenger.

7. The spiritual impact of the schools must be maintained and improved. The selection of teachers, the relationship of the pastors to the school, the life-styles of the churches supporting the schools — these and many other facets must be continually examined and re-examined in order to effectively improve the potential of the children to have the image of their Maker restored in them.

The changes during the five years have been largely beneficial; the improvements have been gratifying.

At the same time, the challenges would be staggering if there were not the assurance of divine support as the church follows the plans of the Lord.

## Temperance Department

E. C. WINES, Temperance Secretary

During the five years that are now history, the Temperance activities of the church in the Southwestern Union have played an increasingly interesting and meaningful part.

Early in the quinquennium, a five-day workshop was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, with representation from each of the conferences in the Southwest.

The purpose of this workshop was to give leadership training to a number of individuals in the field of healthful living and in conducting of Five-Day Plans to Stop Smoking.

Accordingly, Elder R. W. Bendall, then Temperance secretary of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference, was asked to arrange to conduct one of the Five-Day Plans that he was holding on a regular schedule in Tulane University in the city of New Orleans. This plan was to run concurrent with the workshop and would provide some "on-the-job training" to those who during the day were studying methods of conducting these plans.

As an outgrowth of the training and inspiration obtained in this workshop, many pastors and laymen have been conducting Five-Day Plans with outstanding success throughout the Southwestern Union Conference.

A typical response to this program of the church was seen in a recent publication for employees produced by the Shell Oil Company which devoted almost 10% of the entire issue to an article on smoking. More than two-thirds of the article told of the success of one of their employees in "kicking the habit" of smoking through the Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking.

The goals of the Temperance Department are identical in objectives to those of other aspects of the church work. It is to make men and women capable of understanding the gospel message and to make them fit vessels for the Lord and Master of us all.

## Department of Health

J. N. MORGAN, Secretary  
Department of Health  
Southwestern Union Conference



TO: Delegates assembled and constituents of the Southwestern Union Conference.

How to preserve and to improve health, how to prevent and to treat sickness are living, vital problems in the medical world today. Never before in the history of the human family have these great questions received the earnest, intensive, scientific study and wide publicity that are being given them at the present hour. Medical science in all its ramifications has made marvelous progress during the last half century.

One-hundred and eleven years ago the Seventh-day Adventist Church was called upon to establish a medical work that would follow the example of Jesus, the Great Physician. Through the years cries have come to the ears of the church over and over again, "Will men and women ever do a work that bears the features and character of the Great Medical Missionary?"

In the Southwest we are searching for the right ways to advance the gospel through the medical arm of service. "As Christ's followers, we are to work with all rational methods to preach the gospel of present truth, not only by words, but by deeds in healing the sick and suffering." *Ministry of Healing*, p. 28.

Christ declared that He came to recover men's lives. This work He left for His followers and is to be done by the most simple means. Families are to be taught how to care for the sick. The hope of the gospel is to be received in the heart of men and women. They must be drawn to the Great Healer.

The health work in the Southwestern Union has many facets — institutional, missionary, health education, recruitment, scholastic, and private practice. All of these areas are receiving attention to a greater or lesser degree. The union conference maintains a health department and leadership that is intricately involved in all areas of health work and promotion. This involves membership, contact, and participation in all separately operated boards and many committees of health-care institutions and organizations. Besides this a union-sponsored health-care council exists for coordinating and over-all policy making and works hand in hand with the Union Conference Committee on matters requiring their attention.

In the local conference, the department of health is a part of the conference program guided by the Executive Committee of the conference and the various conference owned or operated institutional boards. Each conference employs or assigns a director of health to foster health work in all of its phases. A word of thanks should go to each of these men and their associates for their efforts in planning and working during the past five years.

Briefly, I would like to share with you high points of health care activity during the past five years.

## INSTITUTIONS:

A major work has been going on during the past five years in the planning, development, and construction of the Huguley Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas. This new facility of 220 beds, with appropriate ancillary services and 20-suite doctors' building, is well under construction at a cost of approximately 16 million dollars. It has taken devoted effort on the part of union leaders and hospital leaders and the blessing of the Lord to bring this to pass. Major problems of site solution, funding, staffing, and doctor recruitment have required a major portion of the time of all who are involved in this project. Completion of the project is anticipated for late 1976 or early 1977.

Beside this project to be known as a union conference institution, there are eight other medical facilities operated by local conferences. These include hospitals in Ardmore and Jay, Oklahoma; Beeville, San Marcos, Menard, and Jefferson, Texas. Nursing home centers are located at Weslaco and Menard, Texas. Pertinent information on these institutions include:

## RECRUITMENT:

An on-going program or physician and dental recruitment is operated by the union conference in cooperation with local conferences. During the past five years nearly 40 doctors have located their practice in our territory. Other medical professions have likewise been the center of attention as we have tried to increase the Adventist working force in our hospitals.

## HEALTH EDUCATION:

Numerous health-education programs have been held in practically every conference. This has included such features as Five-Day Plans, stress clinics, nutrition classes on church level as well as public meetings that have been major highlights. Qualified workers have conducted health programs with both physical and nutritional emphasis at camp meetings. Several health evangelism teams have tried a new form of evangelism that brings the minister and doctor together in new soul winning methods. More of these are planned for the future.

One of the main emphasis of health education is the approval of a nursing curriculum at Southwestern Union College. The new program will permit nursing students to receive their training in a cooperative effort between the college and clinical training at the new Huguley Medical Center. This will be a great boost to the work of the church in the Southwest.

## PRIVATE PRACTICE:

A lot more could be said for the 170-plus physicians and dentists in private practice in our union. The contribution these people make personally and financially to the Lord's work cannot be measured.

We anticipate their numbers to greatly increase now that larger numbers of our own young people are completing pre-med or pre-dental at Southwestern Union College and finding their way to Loma Linda University Medical or Dental School, Kansas City School of Osteopathy, Guadalajara, Mexico; or some similar institution. This increase of medical professionals has brought courage to our hearts and we pray for their success as they return to our field to labor for the Lord.

These last five years have been to a great degree a time of base building. We are even now seeing the results of concerted effort by union and conference leaders and support from laymen and church leaders. The future holds the brightest days as the churches and laymen enter into a greater role in medical missionary work as commissioned by the Lord through Ellen G. White. We believe these last five years have not been in vain but will serve as the church's effort to relieve the suffering in the world and purify a people ready to stand in the presence of God.

## Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Departments

J. N. MORGAN, Public Affairs Secretary  
Southwestern Union Conference

TO: Delegates assembled and constituents of the Southwestern Union Conference.

We offer praise to God for His keeping and sustaining power over matters pertaining to the church, the State, and individual freedoms during the past five years. We have seen His providences and felt His guiding hand. It is good to know the Lord and to witness His gracious care over His church here in the Southwestern part of the United States. It is good also to share information concerning what God is doing and to evaluate as best we can the victories and defeats He allows to come our way.

While there have been many activities in our field during the past quinquennium that have required special effort and prayer by general, union, and local conference workers, I wish to report to you five that have required very special effort:

1. Labor Union, General Dynamics VS. Seventh-day Adventist workers.
2. Legislation
  - A. Child Abuse Act — church schools.
  - B. Saturday-Sunday Repeal.
3. Agency Shop Bill, Constitutional revision in Texas.
4. Sabbath problem.
5. Religious Liberty Chapter at Southwestern Union College.

### 1. LABOR UNION:

Some months ago a labor agreement was entered into between the AFL-CIO and General Dynamics Corporation, of Fort Worth, Texas, requiring all employees to support the Labor Union. Several members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church were affected by this action and relief was sought through the courts. Action by the Texas Conference, the Southwestern Union, and the General Conference authorized legal pursuit of this problem on behalf of our members employed by General Dynamics. The case was heard in Federal Court in

Dallas, Texas, and what appeared to us to be an easy victory turned to a stunning defeat. The judge's ruling was in favor of the Labor Union and General Dynamics in spite of the existing federal legislation in Taft-Hartley and the Conscience Clause accepted by the international AFL-CIO.

An appeal has been made through the Fifth District Court, in New Orleans, Louisiana, and was heard November 11, 1975. A decision now in favor of the church will come only with much prayer and fasting. If we will do this the Lord will have a great victory and many will learn about the true principles that govern His kingdom.

## **2. LEGISLATION**

### **a. Child Abuse Act — Church Schools:**

During the past year attempts were made in Texas and other states to enact stricter child care laws. Only in Texas, in our union, did such laws receive such strong political emphasis.

The Bill written to cover child care and abuse was comprehensive and required all non-accredited parochial and private schools to be licensed by the state department of public welfare. What at first had appeared to be an innocent Bill to protect children had become a definite entanglement of church and state.

Hearing on the Bill required many trips to the capitol of Texas and much behind-the-scene work with legislators. Testimony given by the church had its effect, however, and by negotiation the Bill finally was passed in a form that exempts elementary schools from the licensure provision. This was a real victory for the Lord. The issue was an emotional one and received a great amount of attention by schools, churches, state agencies and private citizens. We thank God for this victory to His church on earth and for the opportunity given to explain the principles of His government to so many individuals both publicly and privately.

### **b. Saturday-Sunday Repeal:**

A Bill was also introduced this year that would have repealed the Texas Saturday-Sunday Law. The church was asked to give testimony and again a large number of state leaders were informed about God's true Sabbath and the dangers involved in setting aside a particular day of the week for religious purposes. The issue is still controversial but a large number of legislators would like to see the state books cleaned of all blue laws. A close vote in committee means that it will be tabled for another year to come back again for discussion at another time. We believe the Lord is using these discussions to open the eyes of some who will stand for the right when the time comes.

## **3. AGENCY SHOP AND CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION:**

Two of the 19 right-to-work states are in the Southwestern Union territory. From time to time attempts are made to remove this provision from the State Statute Books. Such an attempt in Texas by Labor failed again this year. A Bill supported by "do pass" from the 16-member Labor Committee was turned aside in the House

and thus Texas remains a right-to-work state. However, while this was going on a new Constitution for the State had been written and in it was contained a right-to-work provision as a constitutional right. On a very close margin the new Constitution was turned aside by the delegates to the convention.

The 1975 session revived the Constitution, made some adjustments, among which the right-to-work provision was deleted. Some other issues were also deleted and placed on the ballot separately for the people to decide, but not the right-to-work provision. In November, 1975, the Constitution was defeated at the polls. The future will no doubt see many more attempts by Labor to knock Texas out of the right-to-work camp. Again the Lord will have a victory but we only hope and pray we have done all we could to forestall the eventual struggle.

## **4. SABBATH PROBLEMS:**

A host of Sabbath problems have plagued our members these past five years but for most a decided victory was won. For those that lost, circumstances have basically improved for the people involved. This is as the Lord would have it.

To date we have one legal case pending over the Sabbath, and to date all indications are that our brother involved will win a favorable decision.

We appreciate the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the efforts of the General Conference Department of Religious Liberty and the legal counsel for their excellent help in these times of crisis and need.

## **5. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY CHAPTER AT SOUTHWESTERN UNION COLLEGE:**

Young people are interested in what is going on and how they can enter in to the needs of today. This school year a Chapter for Religious Freedom is organized on the campus of Southwestern Union College. The first meeting has already been held by the student officers and the General Conference representation. This chapter is eager to participate in every way on the firing line or in the research to alert, warn and inform about matters of religious and individual freedom.

## **"LIBERTY" MAGAZINE**

A thermometer of our concern and interest in religious liberty matters is the circulation of *Liberty* magazine. The Southwestern Union has averaged out about one subscription per member per year during the last five years, or approximately 150,000 subscriptions. This is about 50% of our assigned goal. This same ratio is true of all 10 unions in North America with four unions having a bit over 50% of their assigned goal. Some years are better than others, depending on the adverse activity and its publicity to our churches.

We must never cease, however, to be vigilant at all times and aggressive in defending freedoms. We praise God for the victories and defeats that have come our way. They work together for good. I wish to join with you in a more dedicated service, a fuller commitment, a better understanding of duty and privilege and a closer walk with the Lord.

# Ministerial Department

ELDEN WALTER, Ministerial Secretary  
Southwestern Union Conference



TO: Delegates assembled and constituents of the Southwestern Union Conference.

The history of soul winning in the Southwestern Union Conference has been typically erratic prior to 1967. There have been outstanding years when high records were reached and then adjacent years when soul winning dropped to a discouraging low. As far back as we can trace, there has never been in the past a steady growth in our evangelistic endeavors. In contrast to this up-and-down picture of the past, in recent years there has been unprecedented growth and maintaining a high level in evangelism without dropping back to a low level of achievement. In 1970 and 1971, the Southwestern Union reached all-time record highs and in 1971 for the first time in history passed the 2,000 baptisms-per-year mark. The plans that have been laid for 1976 would certainly indicate a continued growth beyond anything we have yet dared to attempt. We believe that 1976 will be the first year in history when an entire union conference has added 10% to its membership through baptisms and professions of faith.

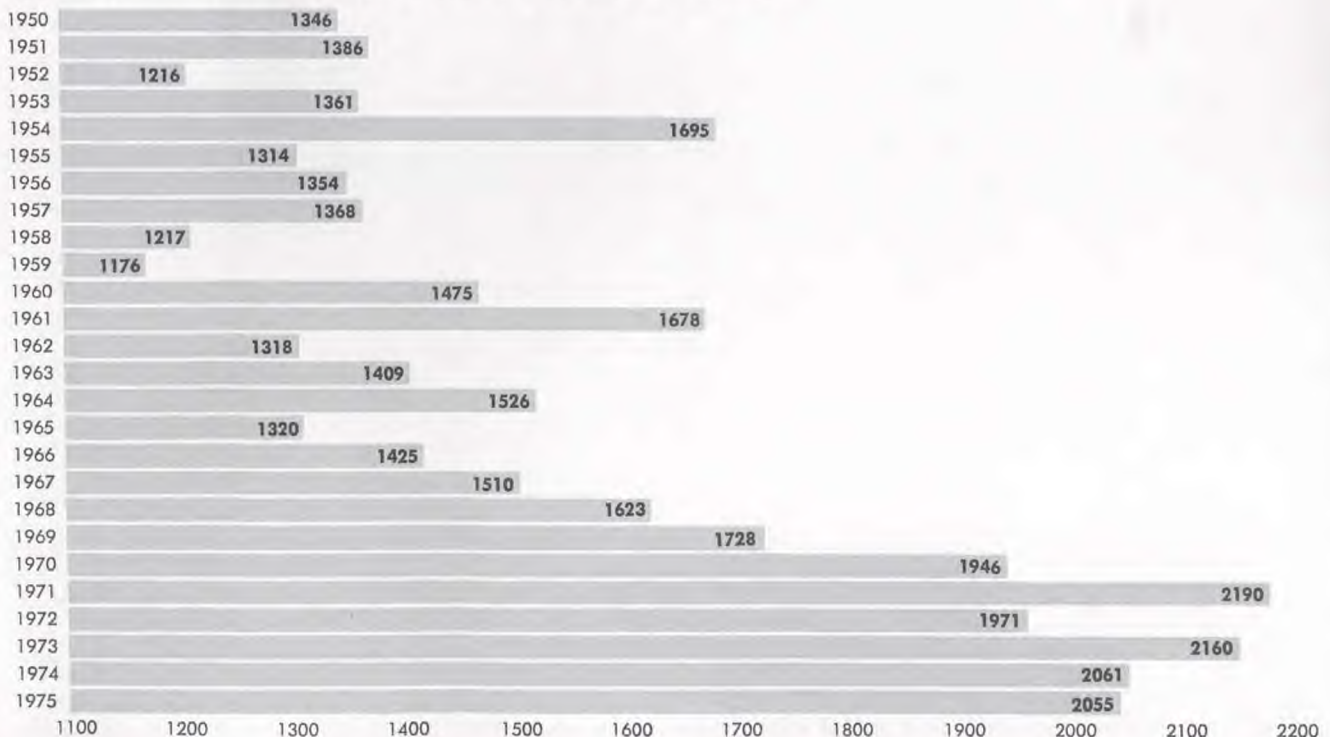
This wonderful record is no doubt a reflection of several factors: Each of the conferences in the Southwestern Union has assigned a man to direct the evangelistic pro-

gram for the conference during the last five years. This is now a strong department of our union conference. Each individual conference administration and the individual ministers in the conferences have made evangelism their first concern. An increasing proportion of time has been spent in soul-winning activity. There has been a constant education program in successful evangelism. Through the witnessing training work of the last five years, large numbers of our laymen are contributing in a real way to the baptism of souls. Yet the future prospects are even brighter because of the determined interest of the laymen across the field to enter into the work of soul saving more fully, and the support of the General Conference to the witnessing training program. The General Conference witnessing manual will be presented here in the next few hours. 1976 will see the greatest involvement of laymen in evangelism ever. According to the Spirit of Prophecy this will insure not only a greater degree of success, but also the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit.

Another feature of the Southwestern Union Ministerial Department in these last five years has been the summer field schools of evangelism for our young ministers in training at Southwestern Union College. Each of our conferences has benefited from one of these training schools, but the greatest fruitfulness is experienced through the young men and women who attended and are now working in the field.

"When we have an entire whole-hearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Holy Spirit without measure but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God." *Christian Service*, p. 253. Continue to pray with us that this may be our happy experience in 1976 and onward.

## SOUL WINNING IN THE SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE



# Lay Activities, Sabbath School, Radio-TV

G. M. SCHRAM, Departmental Secretary  
Southwestern Union Conference



TO: Delegates assembled and constituents of the Southwestern Union Conference.

Five more years have slipped by since we last met for a union conference session and what a five years they have been! God has blessed His work in the Great Southwest and I am pleased that I have had a part in His work in this territory. It is always a source of wonderment that God chooses to use men and women to spread His message to the world. What great patience He has! How He longs to see His work finished!

## Sabbath School

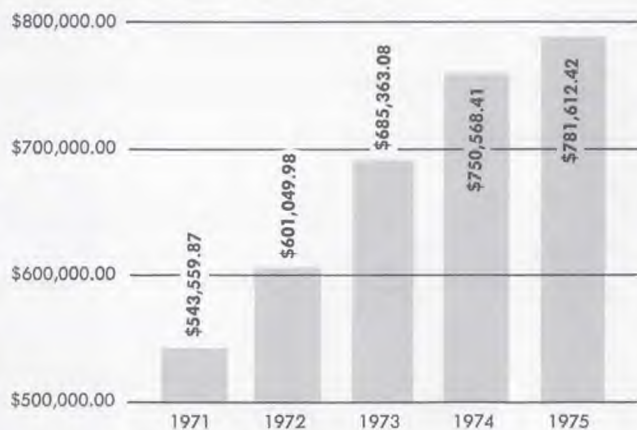
Let's start with a review of the happenings in the Sabbath School. First of all I suppose everyone is interested in the offerings. You'll be glad to know that in the past five years, the Sabbath School offerings have amounted to \$3,362,153.76. This is an increase of \$1,000,644.99 over the previous five-year period, (see graph) a remarkable gain, for which we praise God. Little did our forefathers realize the great potential they were tapping when they decided in 1909 to use all the offering of the Sabbath School for world missions advance.

The Sabbath School Investment plan, during the period under review, has brought in \$549,217.72 (see graph).

Much of our Sabbath School activity is beamed at our children and young people to give them guidance and undergirding for life. You will be pleased to know that our young people, too, provide resources for the ad-

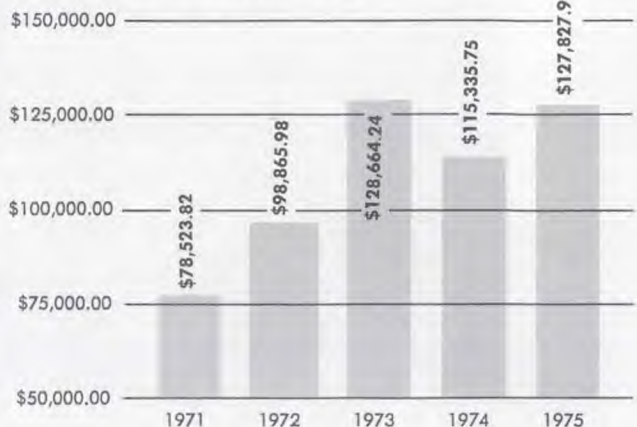
vancement of God's cause. I think just now of the plan started in our union a few years ago known as the Vacation Bible School Task Force Teams. These are teams of young people from our college and academies who dedicate their summer to conducting Vacation Bible Schools in places where there would be none otherwise. Take Brownsville, Texas, as a case in point. In 1973 a team of four girls was sent there to help raise up a new church for the Spanish-speaking people. After a very successful VBS which drew some 110-125 children daily, evangelistic meetings were held by the pastor, Elder Pasquel Pena. Several were baptized as a result and today there is a brand new, fully paid for and dedicated Spanish church in Brownsville, Texas, (see photo). Then there is Lafayette, Louisiana. This last summer a team was sent into this city where there was no church. They were unable to find a suitable place for a regular VBS, so using some ingenuity, they offered their services to the city in connection with their recreation program for the summer. They were sent into one of the most difficult sections of the city. The children there were almost totally undisciplined. By using the VBS materials and teaching the children about Jesus and His love, they achieved a high degree of respect. When the city fathers paid a visit, they were amazed at what had been accomplished. To make a long story short, the

## SABBATH SCHOOL OFFERINGS, 1971-1975 Southwestern Union Conference



## SABBATH SCHOOL INVESTMENT OFFERINGS 1971-1975

### Southwestern Union Conference



Julie Humphreys leads the children in Brownsville in learning the 23rd Psalm. 110-125 children were in attendance daily. (Right) Brownsville church.

The VBS team sent into Lafayette and some of their helpers in connection with the city recreation and summer day camps.





VBS team generated many Bible studies, some of whom I understand have already been baptized.

During this five-year period 390 Vacation Bible Schools have been held with some 12,648 non-Seventh-day Adventist children in attendance.

You will be interested in the fact that our Sabbath School membership has grown from 20,372 as of December 31, 1970 to 24,997 in September 1975. The distressing factor which doesn't always show is that the church membership is 32,509 which is larger than our Sabbath School membership. These proportions should actually be reversed.

As a strong contributing factor in the development of good Sabbath Schools and good programming, quarterly workshops have been held in several of our local conferences. Such workshops tend to help our Sabbath School teachers and leaders keep "on course" in their objectives and training of our children. We must keep in mind that the Sabbath School is the largest church school that we operate anywhere, for it reaches and teaches all of our children and church members with the story of redemption. How important it is then, that these Sabbath Schools constantly upgrade their efficiency in reaching our children and members with the love of Christ and the thrilling prospects of eternal life. According to the records 3,770 Sabbath School members were baptized this past period. If the whole story were known, this number would doubtless be much higher.

### Lay Activities

Laymen on the march for God is really the name of the game in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and they really have been on the move these past five years,

distributing over 5,800,826 pieces of literature and giving more than 182,178 Bible studies. This is a good record, but not nearly as good as it should be. Just suppose everyone had given out just one tract a day during the past five-year period that would mean approximately 50 million pieces of literature! Surely everyone could put out literature.

Our Community Services people have been busy helping take care of the victims of disaster, mostly in Oklahoma it seems, with more than 30 tornadoes striking that state in the past five years. Much credit goes to our Conference Community Service Directors for the efficient help they have provided in times of disaster. Take Tulsa, Oklahoma, for instance. Just before Christmas of 1975, a tornado struck in an affluent section of Tulsa, and 200 homes were destroyed or damaged. Mrs. Wolfe and her two Disaster Services vans spent two weeks in that area.

A new addition to our Community Services this past five years is the Mobile Medical-Dental Clinic, a 38' semi-trailer and tractor outfitted for medical and dental service. This has been a joint operation between the Southwest Region Conference and the Southwestern Union with much financial help from the General Conference and our local Conferences. This unit has been responsible for bringing assistance to more than 50,000 people in the five states of our union at an estimated value for services amounting roughly to \$250,000. (Based on the usual price for such services)

Much credit for the success of this unit goes to Elder J. C. Hicks who has been the field director of the Mobile Medical Services for Inner Cities the past two years. (See

*Dorothy Yura - Activity Director*  
**STOUT PERSONS**  
NURSING CENTER OF AUSTIN (HOLY CROSS)  
Mr. J. C. Hicks  
P.O. Box 6289  
Dallas, Texas 75242  
*Yura, Dorothy*

*Dear Sir,*  
*I would like to thank this opportunity to thank you for the understanding that you and your people are doing with your Mobile Dental Van. One of the patients from my husband's home was in much pain, and in need of a dentist, we were unable to make an appointment for him. I had him brought to your van and they were gracious enough to take him right on in and he received the relief of the pain. As you know neither husband, son, or medicine pays for dental care and there are few nursing homes that can afford to have dental done. Again we thank you for you in your Holy Spirit.*

**Baylor College of Dentistry**  
Department of Community Health and Preventive Dentistry  
800 Hall Street, Dallas, Texas 75226  
November 13, 1972

Mr. George Schram  
Coordinator, Community Services  
Seventh Day Adventist Church  
600 S. Central Expressway  
Richardson, Texas 75080

Dear Mr. Schram:

The Department of Community Health and Baylor College of Dentistry would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to you and the Seventh Day Adventist Church for the privilege of working with your mobile health clinic.

We desire opportunities in which dental students can participate in the delivery of dental care to the students community both as a learning experience for the students and as a community service. Your valuable assistance in making this unit available is deeply appreciated.

Thanking you very much, I am

Sincerely yours,  
*Herbert V. Randolph*  
Herbert V. Randolph, D.D.S., M.P.H.  
Assistant and Dean

**The University of Texas Health Science Center**  
7302 Royal Court Drive  
San Antonio, Texas 78229  
(512) 676-6661

Dental School  
Office of the Dean  
December 16, 1975

Elder J. C. Hicks  
Southwestern Conference  
P. O. Box 400  
Richardson, Texas 75080

Dear J. C.:

The experience the students, faculty and assistants had in rendering dental care at the Madona Neighborhood Center on October 1 through 3 was a very interesting one. It not only helped them to help these less fortunate than themselves but it gave them an insight into the great needs of the people not only from a physical standpoint but from a moral standpoint.

The Southwestern Conference Region making this available for our use is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
*Charles F. Smith*  
Charles F. Smith, D.D.S.  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

**MADONNA**  
1906 CASTROVILLE ROAD  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78217  
PHONE 512 422-314

December 18, 1975

Mr. J. C. Hicks  
Southwestern Union Conference  
P. O. Box 400  
Richardson, Texas 75080

Dear Mr. Hicks:

The children and the staff at Madonna Center would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your organization for providing a much needed service to our community.

Your mobile dental clinic is of great value but nothing can be of greater value than the love and thoughtfulness that you provide to others.

May you and every member of your organization enjoy a happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

**CITY OF NEW ORLEANS**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF DENTAL HEALTH  
MONTELEONE HOTEL  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112

MOON LANDRIEU  
ADVISOR

December 6, 1974

J. C. Hicks  
Inner Cities Director  
Southwest Region Conference  
of Seventh-day Adventists  
P.O. Box 4289  
Dallas, Texas 75222

Dear Elder Hicks:

A belated report to you on our use of the Medical-Dental Trailer on October 7-11 and October 14-18, 1974. Our enthusiasm in using such a magnificent facility is topped and of course we would welcome use of it again.

During this two week period in October we treated on the trailer 138 patients, providing them with 476 services such as examination, prophylaxis, fluoride treatment, oral hygiene instruction, prophylaxis, x-rays, extraction and amalgam and composite fillings.

We do not have any data during the week it was used at the American Public Health Association Meeting, perhaps Dr. Robert Munnin has already furnished this information to you.

Looking forward to future activities of mutual interest I am

Sincerely,

Such comments as these certainly do not hurt the name of Seventh-day Adventists!

### Five Years of Laymen Outreach in a Nutshell

Literature Distributed	5,800,826
(Including Ingathering papers)	
Bible Studies	182,178
Hours of Service For Others	1,004,689
Missionary Contacts	2,381,148
Friendship Camps	15
Garments Distributed	2,467,125

letters of appreciation). Such comments do not hurt the work of Seventh-day Adventists.

As you probably know, the Hour of Prophecy broadcast has been accepted on station WWL in New Orleans. This is a station owned by the Loyola University. Their Audition Board reviewed the Hour of Prophecy program, and it is my understanding that one of the members of that board made the comment that went something like this: "Let's let them have the time, the Adventists are good people." I would like to know how this person knew this. I do know that the Mobile Medical-Dental Clinic has made several trips to New Orleans and has been well and widely received.

There is an ever increasing number of our laymen taking up public evangelism. This is long overdue, but will become one of our strongest arms for reaching the multitudes. In Arkansas-Louisiana, for example, Conway, Berryville, Hope, and Bossier City all have churches that have been raised up as the result of laymen taking the gospel to those cities during the past five years.

During the past five years six conference-wide lay congresses have been held which have played a strong part in inspiring our laymen to participate more fully in the cause of soul-winning. Two of these congresses were held in conjunction with camp meetings and proved to be a valuable innovation benefiting both the people themselves, the attendance and the effectiveness of the camp meeting. Elder Miller, president of Texas, said of his Camp meeting Lay Congress, "Our Texas Lay Congress held last June in connection with Camp meeting was outstanding. It was a blessing to camp meeting and to the congress for them to be held together. The attendance at camp meeting was much larger than usual. This was due primarily to the fact that delegates were chosen by the local churches and their attendance was

expected. It was a blessing to the camp meeting in that we had a larger number of people who could afford to come who might not have been able to attend otherwise. By combining the two meetings the expenses were less for the camp meeting, the congress, and the delegates. We think the idea is so good we plan to use it again."

Our Southwestern Union lay members helped win 1085 souls these past five years. We all need to remember that God's work (our work) will be finished when the church members join with the officers and ministers in doing the work of God. (*Ibid.*, p. 68)

Look at the Bible studies given — 182,178! And these were reported by only approximately 12% of our members. There were probably many more. This is basic "seed-sowing" for successful reaping.

A report such as this would not be completed without commenting on the most intensive "soul and dollar search" of the year. I refer to the Ingathering. These past five years have been years of real achievement in this area. We have led the entire North American Division every year as far as the per capita are concerned. We have moved from \$626,003.19 received for 1971, to \$720,951.16 for the 1975 crusade. That's a gain of almost \$100,000.00 for which we thank God! (see graph). Incidentally, the 1975-1976 Ingathering amounted to \$724,609.26 thus far.

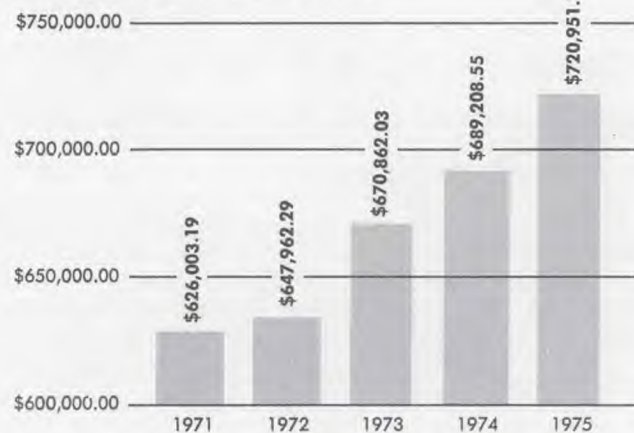
There are many projects both here in the Southwestern Union as well as in the world field that would not be possible were it not for the Ingathering. We must stop right here and pay tribute to our loyal pastors and laymen who have made all this possible. Their whole-hearted support is greatly appreciated.

The soul-winning aspect of Ingathering is not as evident as the dollars gathered since it takes longer to win a soul than it does to gather a dollar. However, many in the church today trace their experience back to an Ingathering visit.

During the past five years another service has been sponsored by the Southwestern Union Lay Activities and Sabbath School Department, namely the annual Student Minister Fellowship Seminar conducted at Southwestern Union College. During this seminar our future ministers are given a glimpse of the life and work in which they will be involved when they are finally assigned to a church or district, or both. Guest speakers have included Walter Scragg, now president of the Northern Europe-West Africa Division; Walter Fordham of the General Conference Inner Cities Service, Dr. Bob Weaver, M.D., of Gentry, Arkansas, as well as many others. We really are thankful for the good resource of speakers and experienced men we can turn to, to help our young ministers get started in the right direction. The Southwestern Union College Religion Department chairman, George Reid, and his staff have been most helpful and cooperative in this venture.

### INGATHERING, 1971-1975

#### Southwestern Union Conference



### Radio-TV

The air waves are tremendous mediums of communicating God's Word. We are thankful for the Voice of Prophecy, Faith For Today, Hour of Prophecy, and the many local pastors who have been on the air in our union helping spread the gospel story.

One adjunct to the radio-TV programs is the Bible correspondence schools. You will be interested in learn-

(Continued on page 35)

# Publishing Department

HAROLD F. OTIS, JR., Director  
Publishing Department  
Southwestern Union Conference



TO: Delegates assembled and constituents of the Southwestern Union Conference.

Greetings from the Literature Evangelism Department of the church! The Publishing Department is responsible for meeting more people in the public than any other department of the church. How are things going? Great, is the word to sum it all up! This report is really the product of a lot of dedicated men and women in the Southwest. You have had two other men serve in your Publishing Department during the last five years. Elder W. E. Roberson served from 1970 to early 1973. Elder Ron Appenzeller served from early 1973 to the fall of 1975. I was asked to serve on September 24, 1975, thus this report belongs to my forerunners. It is a great report to which I hope to be able build upon their work.

The Publishing Department is one of the largest employers of Seventh-day Adventists in the Southwest. We have a great team and I would like for you to meet the leaders of this team.

## Adventist Book Center Managers

Arkansas-Louisiana ..... George Sharpe  
Oklahoma ..... Joe Green  
Texas and Southwest Region ..... Max Trevino, Sr.  
Texico ..... Don Barrett

## Publishing Directors

### ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA

Director: Jim Cobb  
Assistants: Jerry Fletcher, Jim Folger, and Rayburn Smith

### OKLAHOMA

Director: Denton James  
Assistants: Dave Hollen and Bruce Schmidt

### SOUTHWEST REGION

Director: Otto Kirkland

### TEXAS

Director: Charles Williams  
Assistants: J. D. Davis, Otto Kreuzer, Tom Kapusta, Richard Ohler, and Carl Tanksley

### TEXICO

Director: Larry Boggess  
Assistants: Tom Simons, and Tony Trevino

## Home Health Education Service

Director ..... Harold F. Otis, Jr.  
Treasurer ..... Carol Good  
Credit Manager ..... Evelyn Carver  
Literature Evangelist Accounts ..... Kevin Hunt  
Literature Evangelist Services ..... Carol Cheadle  
Credit Clerk ..... Joyce Medford  
Shipper ..... David Carver

Now the figures that this team have put together during the last five years:

## Total Adventist Book Center Sales

1971 - 1975 .....	\$4,622,587.22
1966 - 1970 .....	\$2,797,960.52
GAIN .....	\$1,824,626.70

## Literature Evangelist Sales

1971 - 1975 .....	\$4,214,318.92
1966 - 1970 .....	\$3,585,540.76
GAIN .....	\$ 628,778.16

I am sure you will join with me in saying praise the Lord for the wonderful progress of the literature ministry through the last five years.

I would like to have these figures become more real to you because behind each of these sales figures represent hundreds of hours of dedicated work and hundreds and hundreds of fine souls for the kingdom.

I wish time and space would permit us to tell you some of the wonderful stories behind these sales figures. I would like to tell you about the lady who came into one of our Adventist Book Centers and purchased a couple of our Spirit of Prophecy books. She went home, read them, came back to our center in her Cadillac and asked for a copy of every book that we had written by Ellen G. White. Is this a potential soul for the kingdom? Yes, I fully believe this lady will one day find her place among God's remnant people.

I would like to tell you the story of one of our faithful veteran literature evangelists of 18 years, Mrs. Morris in Houston. Mrs. Morris went out and made a contact with two young couples who were playing in a rock band. They showed an unusual interest in our literature. She made arrangements to go back and give them Bible studies each week. After a few months these young couples came into the church and into the literature ministry and during 1975 were two of our top literature evangelists in the Texas Conference and one of them is an assistant publishing director for the Texas Conference today.

As I say, I would like to tell you many of the wonderful stories behind these sales figures. Behind these figures represent one-hundred very dedicated literature evangelists and a very fine staff of workers in our Adventist Book Centers. All of these literature evangelists, ABC workers, publishing leaders, and HHES employees are dedicated to finish the work through the printed page.

## Prospects for the Future

During a recent Institute at Southwestern Union College in Keene, Texas, January 1-3 the literature evangelists of the Southwestern Union made a commitment to the Lord for each one to win two of their customers to the message in 1976. With 100-plus literature evangelists doing this, that would mean over 200 baptisms each year by our literature evangelists. Over a five-year period that would be over 1,000 baptisms which we are looking forward to before the next regular union session.

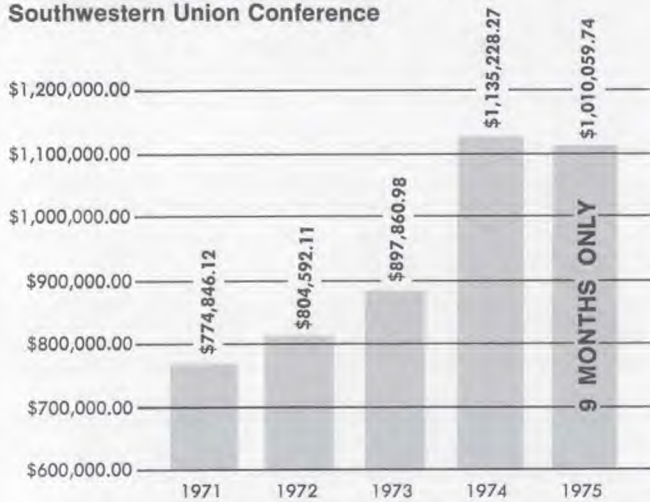
We also are dedicated to doubling our force of literature evangelists from 100 to over 200 and we are shooting for two million dollars a year in annual literature

evangelist sales. We feel that with the blessing of the Lord and the vision of our publishing leaders and literature evangelists that these goals are very realistic and we look forward to achieving them in the very near future.

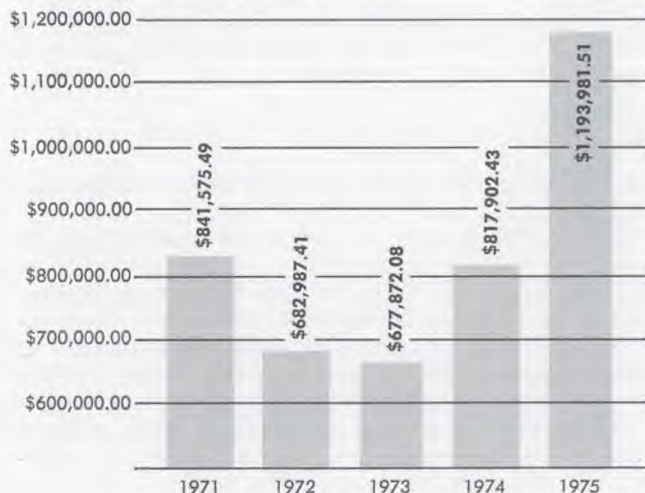
We are also looking forward to having a good follow-up program to all of our paid-out accounts. This has proven successful whenever it has been done on a consistent basis, and we feel that the future of the publishing work lies in developing a good follow-up program to our paid-out accounts.

We commend the men and women who made this report possible and we dedicate ourselves to the great challenge of finishing the work in the Southwestern Union in the days and months and years that we have left before we see the lovely face of our Saviour.

**ANNUAL ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER SALES**  
(Fiscal Year April 1-March 31) 1971-1975  
Southwestern Union Conference



**ANNUAL LITERATURE EVANGELIST BOOK SALES**  
1971-1975  
Southwestern Union Conference



TO: Delegates assembled and constituents of the Southwestern Union Conference.

Last night a Sophomore student from SUC came to my home carrying with him a Bible and a little booklet on prayer, prepared by J. L. Tucker of the "Quiet Hour." The reason for his visit — he wanted his life to really count for something in doing God's work. Nothing else was of equal importance.

He tells me that there are a large number of students who want to become deeply involved with the work of preparing the way for the Lord.

All over the great Southwest there has been an awakening of our older young people in this same direction. They are beginning to see that God is not waiting for perfect people upon whom to bestow His Spirit, but rather perfectly (completely) dedicated people who are anxious to experience a changed life and character and attitudes that the Lord can give them.

Involvement is the word — involvement in personal witnessing, involvement in public evangelism, involvement in Christian storytelling, branch Sabbath schools, and vacation Bible schools for the younger children; involvement in becoming friends of the aged in the nursing homes, in their own homes; involvement with their peers through Gate programs, music witnessing, park and campus witnessing and radio; involvement in summer camp witnessing, and involvement in many varieties of Taskforce action, from magazine sales and distribution to re-decoration of schools and churches.

The campuses of our schools have on occasion been dramatically moved by the Holy Spirit working through our young people. Youth working for youth — this is as it should be. I'm reminded of the quotation from *Gospel Workers* that says, "We should educate the youth to help the youth, and as they seek to do this they will gain an experience that will qualify them to become consecrated workers in a larger sphere. Thousands of hearts can be reached in the most simple, humble way."

In this report I prefer not to take the usual route and provide you with graphs and charts to indicate to you how many Master Guides have been pinned, or how many canoe trips have been made, or how many kite-flying contests have been held etc. etc., but rather I would like to share with you what the Spirit of the Lord has been doing through our young people and for them. There are some vital quotations from the Spirit of Prophecy that have guided us in leadership of the youth in these recent years.

First of all from *Life Sketches*, p. 213, "God will have men who will venture anything and everything to save souls. Those who will not move until they can see every step of the way clearly before them, will not be of advantage at this time to forward the truth of God. There must be workers now who will push ahead in the dark as well as in the light, and who will hold up bravely under discouragements and disappointed hopes, and yet

work on with faith, with tears and patient hope, sowing beside all waters, *trust the Lord to bring the increase*. God calls for men of nerve, of hope, faith, and endurance, to work to the point." With courage from this counsel we have moved forward with the youth program that has been considerably different from the normal routine of the past. As with any new venture we have had much to learn and we have modified and changed and altered our course as the Lord would provide experience, encouragement, and counsel. We have not been without criticism and without discouraging times. There have been those who have attempted to stop the program completely, but again the Spirit of Prophecy has helped us with courage. "This class, I saw, gained no experience for themselves in regard to warfare against sin and Satan. They were more inclined to fight against the faithful soldiers of Christ than against Satan and his host. Had they girded on the armor and pressed into the battle, they would have gained a valuable experience which it was their privilege to have. But they had not courage to contend for the right, to venture something in the warfare, and to learn how to attack Satan and take his strongholds. Some have no ideas of running any risks of venturing anything themselves. But somebody must venture; some one must run risks in this cause. Those who will not venture, and expose themselves to censure, will stand all prepared to watch those who do bear responsibilities, and will be ready, if there is a semblance of chance to find fault with them, and injure them if they can." *Life Sketches*, p. 213-214.

The new emphasis required a great deal of funds. This we did not have but God provided for it. Another quotation that kept us going is this one from *Testimonies*, vol. 3, p. 316, "There is a fearfulness to venture out and to run risks in this great work, fearing that the expenditure of means would not bring returns. What if means are used and yet we cannot see that souls have been saved by it? What if there is a dead loss of a portion of our means? Better work and keep at work than to do nothing. You know not which shall prosper, this or that." God has literally provided miracles for us that have shown us His support and has given us courage to move on.

The central core of our youth work as I view it now is the young people themselves. First of all, we must meet their needs, understand their hearts as God is able to help us into a relationship with the Lord so that they in turn can begin to share that experience with others.

"Often those whom we pass by with indifference, because we judge them from outward appearance, have in them the best material for workers, and will repay all the efforts bestowed on them." *Ibid.*, p. 208.

"In our work for the youth, we must meet them where they are, if we would help them. When youthful disciples are overcome by temptation, let not those older in experience deal with them harshly, or regard their efforts with indifference. Remember that you yourselves have often shown but little strength to resist the tempter's power. Be as patient with these lambs of the flock as you wish others to be with you. God has so constituted us that even the strongest desire sympathy. How much more, then, do children need it? Even a look of compassion will often soothe and strengthen the tried, tempted child." *Ibid.*, p. 209.

These quotations have truly given us a terrific challenge in working with our own young people. I dare not

judge by their outward appearance. I must meet them where they are. I must understand how the evil one is working for them and recognize that kindness and courtesy and sympathy are the attributes that God must find within me if I'm to be effective in helping these young people. This is true of every one of us but what rewards there are if we can find this. When our young people have had an experience with the Lord it's not difficult for them to share that with other young people. Today they have the courage to do that. Today they tell it like it is, they stand fearlessly for the right. I praise the Lord for the evidences that the young people have given to us that this is God's plan for them, and it does work in witnessing for others. "Thousands of hearts can be reached in the most simple, humble way. The most intellectual, those who are looked upon and praised as the world's most gifted men and women, are often refreshed by the simple words that flow from the heart of one who loves God, and who can speak of that love as naturally as the worldling speaks of the things which his mind contemplates and feeds upon. Often the words well prepared and studied have little influence. But the true, honest words of a son or daughter of God, spoken in natural simplicity, will open the door to hearts that have long been locked." *Christian Service*, p. 124.

Much of our work with young people in witnessing has been in the use of music as a medium. We have all seen how Satan has used music in a most effective way in turning the hearts away. Certainly God has been waiting for us to use the simple songs as a true witness in turning people to the Lord. "Students who have learned to sing sweet gospel songs with melody and distinctness, can do much good as singing evangelists. They will find many opportunities to use the talent that God has given them in carrying melody and sunshine into many lonely places darkened by sorrow and affliction, singing to those who seldom have church privileges." *Ibid.*, p. 66.

"Students, go out into the highways and hedges. Endeavor to reach the higher as well as the lower classes. Enter the homes of the rich as well as the poor, and as you have opportunity, ask, "Would you be pleased to have us sing some gospel hymns? Then as hearts are softened, the way may open for you to offer a few words of prayer for the blessing of God. Not many will refuse to listen. Such ministry is genuine missionary work." *Ibid.*, p. 66.

I wish everyone reading this article could have been present at some of the witness occasions when our young people sang with tears in their eyes and with a prayer in their hearts and followed that singing with a simple, from-the-heart description of what God has done for them, of what God means to them.

As I have beheld what's been happening and the effects, I have begun to see "the gleams of the golden morning." All of these things we used to talk about as that which we hoped to see in the future, now we are seeing in demonstration.

As a constituency, let's pray for two specific things: 1. that this work which has started among our young people can grow and expand and become an even greater instrument in the gospel work, and; 2. that we who are older can have a like experience putting away our tendencies to major on minors and in boldness and faith begin to build up the Lord's house rather than tearing down.

Our chosen theme for this Bicentennial year is this: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."



**W. B. ROBINSON**  
 ASI Secretary  
 Southwestern  
 Union  
 Conference



## Southwestern Union College

**DR. DONALD R. McADAMS, President**  
 Southwestern Union College



TO: Delegates assembled and constituents of the Southwestern Union Conference.

Do these three letters mean anything to you? If you are a Seventh-day Adventist in business for yourself, ASI should mean a great deal to you.

ASI — "Association of Privately Owned Seventh-day Adventist Services and Industries".

What is the purpose of the ASI? Quoting from the ASI Constitution:

"The objectives of the association shall be:

1. To encourage and promote the development and operation of institutions and enterprises owned by Seventh-day Adventists.
2. To encourage members to unite their efforts with those of denominationally operated enterprises in the furtherance of the gospel in their communities according to their abilities and opportunities.
3. To provide means by which members of the association can become more effective in their work through exchange of information, coordination of objectives and effort, and the inspiration of Christian fellowship."

The organization is presided over by a layman. At the present time, Roger F. Goodge, principal of Little Creek Academy in Knoxville, Tennessee, is president. The executive secretary is Elder J. J. Aitken, of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

There are now 382 members in the association divided as follows:

Clinics .....	38
Educational Institutions .....	16
Foundations .....	5
Homes for Handicapped .....	8
Hospitals .....	31
Industries .....	102
Miscellaneous .....	8
Nursing Homes .....	80
Personal Membership .....	70
Retirement Centers .....	24
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>382</b>

In 1972 the Southwestern Union had only two members in this excellent organization, one in Oklahoma and one in Texas. Now, thanks to an increasing interest in the objectives of ASI and the promotion by your local secretaries (usually the secretary-treasurer of your conference), the number has grown to 12 in this union.

The ASI has a yearly convention. This past year 260 attended the convention at Flagstaff, Arizona. Many called it a "mini-camp meeting" because of the spiritual blessings gained.

You may obtain further information from your local conference treasurer or write directly to:

Elder W. B. Robinson, ASI Secretary  
 Southwestern Union Conference of S.D.A.  
 Box 400, Richardson, TX 75080

TO: Delegates assembled and constituents of the Southwestern Union Conference.

It is a great honor and a privilege to present to the constituency of Southwestern Union College this brief overview of the progress experienced at your college during the past five years. We should all keep in mind the fact that no one individual is responsible for what has been accomplished. A glance at the record will show that, since the last union session, your college has been under the direct guidance of four presidents, Elder E. C. Wines, Elder L. J. Leiske, Dr. Calvin Gordon, and myself. We have all received invaluable aid from the college dean, Dr. L. J. Larson; from the business managers, Elder L. C. Strickland, Mr. Ben Bowen, and our new business manager, Dr. Marvin Anderson, the dedicated faculty and staff, from the Board, especially our tireless and dedicated Board Chairman, Elder B. E. Leach, and from the forward-looking men and women of the great Southwest who form our constituency. But our college has not been established by human effort alone. It is the spirit of God that has blessed us so mightily. Truly, we must say with Nehemiah of old, "... this work was wrought of our God."

During the past five years many physical changes have been effected upon the campus itself and in the immediate environs of the college. Perhaps the most noteworthy of these are: the completion of the cafeteria building,<sup>1</sup> in which the Committee of 100 took a very important part. The dining room is recognized as one of the most beautiful in the denomination, and attracts many guests from the community. The Leiske Gymnasium and Pultar Pavilion,<sup>2</sup> the construction of which was aided in the amount of \$100,000 by a gift from Town Hall Estates. The Richard Barron Memorial Building,<sup>3</sup> housing the departments of religion and speech, as well as a chapel dedicated to student religious activities. The remodeling ("renovation" would be a better word) of the first building on the campus, that originally housed the admin-

New Barron Memorial Chapel and classroom complex on the SUC campus.





Aerial view of Southwestern Union College. Numbers on the photo correspond to the small numbers by the buildings named in the article.

istrative offices, the dormitories, and the classrooms, the building we now call Heritage Hall,<sup>4</sup> in honor and memory of the pioneers whose vision led them to found the institution. Atop Heritage Hall is seen the lofty antenna of KSUC, the FM radio station that was a gift from, and the fulfillment of a life-long dream of, Raymond and Anna Beem. A greatly appreciated contribution to the musical phase of the campus activities is the new Casavant organ installed in Evans Hall Auditorium<sup>5</sup> as a gift to the college from Dr. and Mrs. L. E. C. Joers, of Jay, Oklahoma. Other less noticeable, but nonetheless important, recent additions to the physical features of the college are: the swimming pool, occupying the building that formerly housed the gymnasium,<sup>6</sup> the Humanities Building that occupies the remodeled structures on the corner of College Drive and Hillcrest, extensive remodeling and air-conditioning of both dormitories, the paving of the airport runway, campus lights, the student center and college bookstore located in the basement of Heritage Hall, and the computer center, at present operating in the administration building, soon to be installed in the basement of the science building. The total value of the above-named improvements, with some additional capital expenses, amounts to over 2.8 million dollars.

Turning now to the academic achievements that have been realized at the college during the last five years, accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, initially granted in 1970, was renewed in December of 1974 for a period of 10 years, the Texas Education Association approved the teacher-training program of the college, the two-year nursing program received approval from both the Texas and General Conference authorities, the State approved our major in Health Care Administration.

During the past year, the industries were organized as an entity apart from the college, with the manager of financial affairs as president. This group is comprised of Southwestern ColorGraphics (formerly the College Press), National Health Food Distributors, and the Village Mall Shopping Center which includes the College Market, the Railhead, a quick service snack shop; and the Champlin Service Station.

Late in the 1974-75 school year a computer hook-up was effected with Texas Christian University that affords our college the efficiency and time-saving features of one of the finest electronic functions in the country.

The administration of your college has carried on a continuous policy of encouragement for the professional improvement of the teaching faculty. As a result, Southwestern Union College takes its place among the Adventist colleges with the highest percentage of advanced degree teachers. At present 42.2% of the teachers in Southwestern Union College hold the degree of Doctor of Philosophy or Doctor of Education.

With the conclusion of this brief view back over the recent history of your college, it is my pleasure to express to you, the members of the constituency, the sincere gratitude of the entire Southwestern Union College family — students staff and administrators, and Industries employees — for the unflagging support you have shown us. As we face the future, we can see many problems and challenges; but our courage is high. We shall continue to look to you for support and guidance, we shall always seek to fulfill Heaven's purposes for our college, that Southwestern Union College will advance and become the finest college anywhere, because we can, at this moment say with the prophet Samuel, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

# Auditor's Report

L. C. STRICKLAND, Auditor  
Southwestern Union Conference



TO: Delegates assembled and constituents of the Southwestern Union Conference.

At the present time the Southwestern Union auditing department has the responsibility of auditing 31 sets of books (72 Balance Sheets) within the organizations or institutions located throughout the great Southwestern Union. Each set of books must be audited for conformity with denominational policies and general accounting standards. An "Auditor's Statement" is issued with the year-end statement of each organization verifying that the required auditing work has been accomplished and the accounting records are in order. Fortunately the fiscal years are staggered throughout the year with different types of organization's year-end dates coming at the close of each of the quarters during the year. As a matter of interest and information a list of the organizations coming under the Union Audit in order of the year-end dates follows:

Fiscal Year Ending	Name of Organization	Location	Miles From Keene
March 31	Ark.-La. ABC	Shreveport, LA	240
	Oklahoma ABC	Oklahoma City, OK	240
	Texas-SW Region ABC	Keene, TX (Weslaco)	0-495
	4 Texico ABC	Amarillo, TX	370
June 30	Chisholm Trail Academy	Keene, TX	0
	Jefferson Academy	Jefferson, TX	230
	Ozark Academy	Gentry, AR	390
	Sandia View Academy	Corrales, NM	675
	SVA Industries	Corrales, NM	675
	Valley Grande Academy	Weslaco, TX	495
	VGA Laundry	Weslaco, TX	495
	Southwestern Union College	Keene, TX	0
	9 SUC Industries	Keene, TX	0
Sept. 30	Ardmore Adventist Hospital	Ardmore, OK	140
	Hayes Memorial Hospital	San Marcos, TX	200
	Jay Memorial Hospital	Jay, OK	350
	Marion County Hospital	Jefferson, TX	230
	Memorial Hospital	Beeville, TX	310
	Menard Hospital	Menard, TX	200
	Menard Manor	Menard, TX	200
	8 Valley Grande Manor	Weslaco, TX	495
Dec. 31	Ark.-La. Conference	Shreveport, LA	240
	Oklahoma Conference	Oklahoma City, OK	240
	SW Region Conference	Dallas, TX	45
	Texas Conference	Fort Worth, TX	25
	Texico Conference	Amarillo, TX	370
	Ark.-La. Association	Shreveport, LA	240
	Oklahoma Association	Oklahoma City, OK	240
	SW Region Association	Dallas, TX	45
	Texas Association	Fort Worth, TX	25
	10 Texico Association	Amarillo, TX	370
31 Total			

W. B. Robinson, associate auditor, and I have the privilege of visiting each of the above organizations several times a year in the course of the audit program. We are thankful for the excellent work being done by those who have the important responsibility of keeping the

financial records of these organizations. Their faithful, accurate and prompt work enables the various responsible boards or committees to have a clear view of the correct current financial standing as well as the necessary financial information for long range planning.

Even though the auditing program deals with, almost entirely, financial matters of the church, it is very inspiring to us who have this privilege of traveling throughout the union territory to see how these organizations are carrying out the *main* objective of the church. May God's continued blessing rest upon each of these great soul-winning organizations and the work soon be finished.

## A Look at Your Union Conference

(Continued from page 5)

organic connection or union of all the parts of our organization and field by placing on the Union Conference Committee the presidents of local conferences who are elected by the local churches; and further by placing on the General Conference Committee the presidents of Union Conferences, superintendents of Union Mission Fields, and the chairmen of all department committees. Thus, every church, every department of the work, and every institution in the denomination is represented in the local and union conferences, and in the General Conference as well." (A. G. Daniells, *Review and Herald* 83:6, 7, March 29, 1906.)

In the years that followed the overseas Unions joined together into divisions of the General Conference for the more effective carrying forth of the work. But in North America no division structure has ever been established. The Union Conferences remained the constituent parts of the General Conference and deal directly with the General Conference Committee and the General Conference Departments.

The territory of the Southwestern Union Conference has changed several times since the organization of the Union Conference in 1901. At one time the Southwestern Union Conference included the territory of Missouri, Colorado, Kansas, and Arizona. And Louisiana has been part of the Southwestern Union Conference only since 1932. But the Union Conference has continued without a break since 1901 and serves today as the center for the Adventist work in the great Southwest.

We can be thankful for the wonderful organizational structure of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. From church to local conference, from local conference to union conference, and from union conference to General Conference, we maintain close administrative cooperation and democracy at every level. Certainly God has led out in the establishment of such an organization. Local leaders responsible to local committees can take initiative in organizing the evangelistic church of the work and in meeting administrative problems. At the same time every level of organization cooperates smoothly with the smaller units which makes up its membership and with the larger unit of which it is a part. As Adventists we have a church organization that through this interlocking structure gives us the coordination of a highly centralized church, but preserves the autonomy at every level to insure that the Church remains democratic.



## The Southwestern Union in 1905

(Continued from page 3)

The Arkansas Tract Society has an old debt of about seven thousand dollars, but has, during the last two years, been able to settle for all books it has ordered, and also to pay for the stock of books on hand. This is indeed encouraging for Arkansas.

Another encouraging feature of our work is the success attending our union conference paper. When this union conference was organized, it was thought that one good-sized paper could better occupy and represent the field than three small ones. The three State papers were merged into one union conference organ. Its pages are filled each week with reports and articles from the workers, and it has seven hundred regular subscribers who watch eagerly for it. Except the first year, it has never been a great financial burden. During 1903 it lacked only fifty-four dollars of being self-supporting, and for 1904 it lacked only \$14.75.

There are two sanitariums located in this union conference — one in Little Rock, Ark., and the other in Keene, Tex. They are doing good work, and are in a prosperous condition. Treatment rooms are being fitted up in several of the large cities.

The mission work among the colored people has received special attention the last two years, and the prospects are very encouraging for a good work to be done for that people. We have several efficient colored workers who are pushing the evangelical work among their own race. Two large preaching tents, one for Arkansas and one for Texas, have been ordered for use among the colored people, and will be in the field this summer. It is hoped that these tents can be kept in the field every summer. They have been purchased by the union conference for the colored work, and will be used only by them.

An industrial school is being established in Arkansas. Forty acres of land has been purchased, and a small building erected; but more facilities must be provided as finances will permit. We must educate the colored people so that they will be able to labor intelligently for their own race.

We have a large population of Mexicans in Texas. We have been able to do but little for this people as we have no efficient workers who can speak the Spanish language. Then again, our resources are so limited that had we had the workers, we could not have supported them. But we hope and pray that the way will yet be opened up so that we shall be able to do progressive work among this people. We believe that this people also ought to hear the last message of mercy to a fallen world.

When the Southwestern Union Conference was first organized, it was well able to carry forward its missionary work for the colored people and the Mexicans within her border, and also to help some outside of her own territory, but when it was reorganized in 1902, and the strong conferences of Colorado, Kansas, and Missouri were taken away and added to Nebraska and Iowa, we were left very weak financially. At the time of the re-organization it was understood that we should receive assistance, as the principal sources of financial help had been taken away from us. We have received some help, for which we are very thankful, as without it little could have been done. But no regular income or resource has



For many years the union office was located in Fort Worth at 2829 West Cantey Street.

been provided. Some arrangements should be made at this conference to aid the Southwestern Union until its own resources will be sufficient to enable it to do the work which the Lord in his providence wants done.

Our people are quite faithful in paying their tithe. The amount per capita is about eight dollars, an increase of about one dollar over last year.

Texas is supporting a minister in Arkansas, while the Oklahoma Conference has appropriated \$1,699.60 to fields outside of her own territory.

Experience has taught that a wise and economical use of the tithe gives encouragement to our brethren to be faithful in paying in their tithes and offerings. There is nothing that encourages our people more than to know that aggressive work is being done in new fields, and that souls are being brought into the truth.

Another matter that should come before this General Conference is that of the Southern Union Conference's ceding the conference of Louisiana to the Southwestern Union. Geographically it belongs to the Southwestern Union Conference, and also naturally. Louisiana sends her young people to our academy; she has splendid railroad connections with Texas, and would naturally get her supplies of books from the Nashville branch publishing house at Fort Worth, Tex.

Our plan in the Southwestern Union Conference for the promulgation of the everlasting gospel in the future is to push out into new fields with tent companies, and to locate more Bible workers in the large cities. We have found the efforts of the Bible workers productive of good results. Plans and arrangements have also been made to push the sale of our books and papers, and quite an army is at present engaged in this important work.

We realize to some extent that the field is ripe for the reapers, and that while the work meets with more or less opposition, the faithful workers will reap in due time if they faint not. There are precious souls who are longing for the glorious truths of the third angel's message.

The Lord has gone before us, and we are of good courage. The work is the Lord's, and he is at the helm, guiding and directing in the great work of saving souls for whom he shed his life-blood. He has promised to be with us always, and with him as our helper and strength, we will press on till the work is finished and the victory won, and our blessed Lord comes to take us to our Eden home. Yes, then we will lay the burden down, and evermore be at rest in the kingdom of our God.

N. P. Nelson, *President*.

# Arkansas-Louisiana

W. H. ELDER, President  
Arkansas-Louisiana Conference



TO: Delegates assembled and constituents of the Southwestern Union Conference.

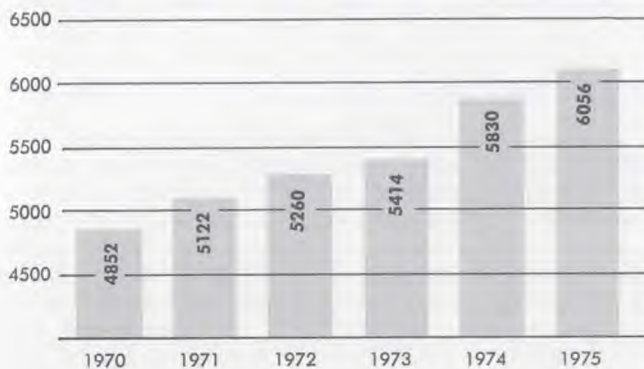
It was reported that when Stanley met Livingston there in the wilds of Africa, he gave to the missionary-explorer a large bundle of letters and cards from relatives and friends back in England. Livingston pushed them aside for the moment. "I've waited years for these," he said, "now they can wait a bit longer. Please tell me first of all how the world is getting on." The famous old gentleman was hungry for a report of the world's progress and Stanley, the newsman, brought him up to date.

Everyone seems to long for the recitation of a good report. This desire was the basis of the wise man's philosophical statement, "A good report maketh the bones fat. . . ."

Most of the time covered by this report was under the administration of Elders E. F. Sherrill and P. I. Nosworthy. It is a report of strong, dedicated leadership with obviously good results. In the latter part of 1974 Elder Sherrill moved to the presidency of the Arizona Conference, and Elder Nosworthy retired from conference administration.

At the close of this quinquennium we went over the 6,000 mark in total membership. This represents a gain of 1,204 in net membership for this five-year period.

## ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA MEMBERSHIP GROWTH 1970-1975



This is a very notable achievement, and we praise the Lord for it, but we aren't satisfied. This gain must be greatly eclipsed by future growth in our two-state conference if we are to finish the work of God here.

The baptisms and professions of faith show a very fine acceleration for the past two years. We have not quite reached the half thousand mark for the year's total as yet, but the present bicentennial year finds our sights set on the objective of 1000 souls.

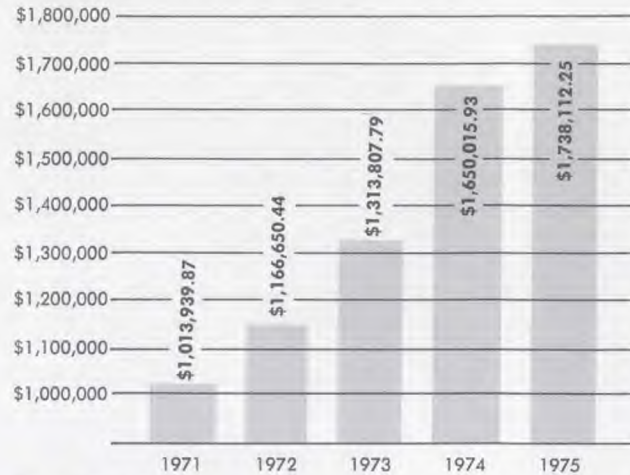
Below is the register of baptisms and professions of faith combined for the past five years.

1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
421	305	312	459	464

Our very genial secretary-treasurer, Elder B. P. Haskell, who came to this second administrative post somewhat over a year ago, reports that the total tithe figure for this past quinquennium amounts to \$6,882,526.28.

It is interesting to note that the first year of this quinquennium was our first million dollar year for tithe. The accompanying graph shows the increase year by year.

## ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA TITHE, 1971-1975



Truly God has been good to His people in giving the material blessings as reflected in this report. We believe that increased faithfulness on the part of our present membership combined with tithe from additions to our church fellowship through baptisms and church letters, we should go over the \$2,000,000 tithe figure for 1976.

Our missions giving during this past quinquennium period has not kept pace with our tithe growth, but still gives a very healthy picture.

1971	1972	1973
\$128,380.25	\$144,839.80	\$140,920.67
1974	1975	
\$176,883.09	\$179,054.47	

The servant of the Lord has said, "The home missionary work will be further advanced in every way when a more liberal self-denying, self-sacrificing spirit is manifested for the prosperity of foreign missions; for the prosperity of the home work depends largely, under God, upon the reflex influence of the evangelical work done in countries afar off." *Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 27.

Our conference has been an Ingathering Vanguard conference for the past several years now. Every succeeding year our good people are making more contacts for Christ during the Ingathering program and are gathering in more and more funds for the support of God's work. Below is a listing of the Ingathering totals for the years 1971-1975.

1971	1972	1973
\$123,200.00	\$130,275.39	\$135,178.31
1974	1975	
\$153,047.54	\$146,908.71 + Jan rem.	

Our Adventist Book Center reports total sales of \$900,126.22 for the past five-year period, which represents a per-year average of \$180,000 +-. A new Mobile Book Center has been purchased fairly recently and Elder George Sharpe reports that the fall book sales have greatly accelerated as a result of this facility.



Mobile Book Center



Beacon Hill educational plant, DeQueen.

The publishing department added another assistant during the period covered by this report and amassed a total sales of \$1,028,494.80. The leadership of this department is brand new at this writing. The plans are for a program structured for a better follow-up of paid-out accounts as well as doubling the sales. At a recent publishing rally our literature workers pledged themselves to a Bible study every week of the year.

New congregations and new church buildings have been at a high level during this past quinquennium. New church congregations have been organized at Mountain View, Sulphur Springs, Russellville, Berryville, North Little Rock, Osage, Bossier City, Chalmette, Houma, and Slidell. New companies were formed at Conway, Hope, Morrilton, Covington, and Lafayette. We are thrilled that God has given us so much evidence of growth during this past five-year period, but the future looks even more promising in terms of new territory secured for the Lord Jesus Christ. New church buildings have either been built or purchased in the following cities: Mountain View, Sulphur Springs, Gentry, Fayetteville, Berryville, North Little Rock, Umpire, Morrilton, Hope, Lincoln, Monticello, Osage, Russellville, Lake Charles, New Orleans-Spanish, and New Orleans First.

New church school buildings have been constructed at Harrison, Mountain Home, Bentonville, DeQueen, Monroe, and Springdale.

Our educational system is growing greatly in both quantity and quality. Several new schools have been opened recently with other areas in the wings waiting for this coming year. Enrollment has zoomed to a new high.

More of our teachers are certified and degreed than ever before. Truly, the days ahead look brighter for Christian education in Arkansas-Louisiana.

Ozark Academy is making an outstanding contribution



New Gentry church

New Orleans Spanish church



to our overall soul-winning program. Of course, the challenges there are always many and great, but it has never really looked so good. Elder Richard Bendall and his corps of dedicated teachers are working tirelessly to give a good ministry to our young people. The enrollment has fluctuated somewhat during the five-year period covered by this report, but apparently has stabilized at around 250 for the past two years. In order to take care of the increased enrollment six new rooms have been added in the basement of the girl's dormitory and two new house trailers have been secured as living quarters for the boys. The increased enrollment has also created an immediate need for updated classroom and administrative facilities. For over a year now study has been given to the building of a new administrative complex on the campus which will replace the present administration building, home economics building, and music center. These plans were presented to a constituency meeting in April of 1975 with full approval being granted.

A very vital new addition at Ozark Academy is a farm program made possible by the O. D. McKees of Collegedale, Tennessee. This program has already added a new dimension to the academy, both in the area of training and finance.

Brandom's manufacturing plant under the direction of Mr. Ralph Wetmore is continuing to give good stability to the work program of our academy.

To the Lord, of course, goes all of the credit for every accomplishment in His work. However, He works through the consecrated human implement and therefore our pastors, teachers, colporteurs, departmental leaders, and laymen deserve thanks for a work well done.

Our departments are staffed by very capable men who are pastors at heart. Pastor Jim Cobb is secretary of the publishing department. His three assistants, Rayburn Smith, Jerry Fletcher, and Jim Folger are professionals in their field. Elder Arden Clarke is secretary of the association and field worker for the department of trusts and wills; Elder Floyd Eccles is secretary for education and temperance; Elder Jim Herman is youth director; Elder Jim Griffin is secretary for ministerial, stewardship, church development, and religious liberty; Elder Pete Kostenko is secretary of lay activities, Sabbath school, and communication, and Elder George Sharpe is manager of the Adventist Book Center.

Soul winning is always the first matter of consideration on the agenda and, of course, public evangelism is a key factor in soul winning. The evangelistic team of Johnson and Tucker has been holding meetings in many of our conference areas with good success. Our new evangelists, Elder Dave Wolkwitz and Pastor John Morrison, will be holding meetings in many of our cities.

We face the future with a sense of strong confidence in the leading of the Lord. This is His work and we believe that He will direct us to do it well.

# Oklahoma

ROBERT RIDER, President  
Oklahoma Conference



TO: Delegates assembled and constituents of the Southwestern Union Conference.

To measure the progress in the Oklahoma Conference during the past quinquennium is like trying to follow the ripples from a pebble thrown into the beautiful waters of an eastern Oklahoma lake. Though the ripples inevitably fade from view, the movement is still present, blending itself into the overall movement of the mighty lake.

The pebble was thrown from the hands of the president during the years 1971-75, Elder C. W. Skantz, who is now the president of the New York Conference. The direction was from his great heart of love, his vision and willingness to "try the untried" in order to advance the work in every phase. The Holy Spirit blessed and guided the pebble with gentle force, precipitating unending ripples of progress.

The true progress cannot be measured in facts and figures for it is found in the spirit of the laymen and workers. If in the desire for material advancement, we forget the spiritual condition of our own members, what has been gained? Here again, we cannot measure the spiritual growth in feet and inches, but we know that growth has taken place, for an unequalled quality of enthusiasm, positive attitude, loyalty, and devotion to God's cause has been evident. This we consider to be the real progress in Oklahoma, and we value this above anything we can report, for without the undivided support of such a laity and corp of workers, there would be nothing to report.

However, since success can *also* be told in facts and figures, we are happy to record the onward march of the work in Oklahoma during the five-year period as follows:

#### Churches Dedicated

Okeene  
Lawton  
Coalgate  
Ardmore  
Nowata  
Durant  
Oklahoma City Central

#### Churches Organized

Midwest City  
Okmulgee  
Cincinnati Hills (Tulsa)

#### Churches Under Construction

Miami  
Pauls Valley

#### Church Expansion Programs

Bristow  
Jay  
Durant

#### Branch Adventist Book Center

Ardmore

#### Community Service Centers

##### Opened or enlarged

Tulsa  
Guymon

#### New Elementary School Buildings

Beavers Memorial Jr. Academy (Ardmore)

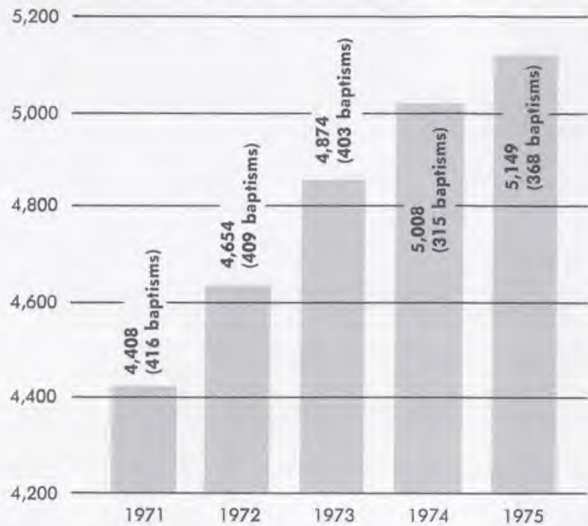
#### School Expansion Programs

Bristow  
Okla. City Parkview Jr. Academy  
Tulsa Jr. Academy

Hundreds of thousands of dollars were invested in these projects, while at the same time the tithe, missions, Ingathering, and evangelism funds showed steady growth as indicated in the table at the bottom.

The faithful stewardship of the Oklahoma constituency made it possible to carry on an aggressive evangelism program. The conference reached the 5,000 membership mark at the end of the fourth quarter, 1974, and envisions 6,000 members by 1980. The willingness of the church and Sabbath school officers to "carry the load" of the church organization allowed the pastors to spend more time in direct soul winning. The baptisms and growth for the five-year period are shown in the accompanying graph.

### OKLAHOMA MEMBERSHIP AND BAPTISMS, 1971-1975



It is a privilege to be associated with Elder Max A. Trevino who capably handles the work of secretary-treasurer. The other members of the departmental staff include: Ronald Herr, assistant treasurer; Gary D. Grimes, lay activities, Sabbath school, communications; Denton James, publishing; V. O. Schneider, trust services; Beaman Senecal, Jr., education, youth, temperance; Vera Wolfe, community services; Dale Tunnell, evangelist; Joseph C. Green, Adventist Book Center manager; John Tubbs, Adventist Book Center branch manager. Each department has made giant strides forward during the past five years and innovative future programs are constantly on the drawing board. Our departments exist for one purpose: to serve the field, assisting the pastors and laymen in every way possible.

The senior members of the Oklahoma Constituency are loved and appreciated and a fine center is being planned for them, just 15 miles east of Oklahoma City, in a beautiful rural setting. You will hear more about this project in the months to come.

TITHE	\$810,260.21	\$936,911.03	\$1,066,477.48	\$1,202,976.65	\$1,300,978.55
Mission Offerings	104,687.82	116,441.12	138,990.60	151,321.49	168,407.26
Ingathering	106,380.42	117,262.01	125,860.80	138,230.28	139,321.91
Evangelism	52,741.38	67,989.57	64,470.43	66,682.71	59,151.43
Total these funds	\$263,809.62	\$301,692.70	\$ 329,321.83	\$ 356,234.48	\$ 366,880.60



Durant church with new Sabbath school wing



Members of Cincinnati Hills church, organized December 6, 1975

We pay tribute to the Oklahoma teachers, hospital personnel of Ardmore and Jay, literature evangelists, and office secretaries, for the contribution each makes in his own area of service. These workers, along with the pastoral and departmental staff, and a loyal constituency, are dedicated to keeping the ripples spreading outward, ever outward, until all is accomplished. We do not have time to look back, resting on past achievements, for until the day of the coming of the Lord, there is work to be done, and His power is promised to see it through.

It is our great honor and privilege to have been invited by the Oklahoma Conference to hold in our hands the pebble to create, with the Lord's blessing, the ripples during the coming quinquennium. Let us, in advance, thank the united laymen and workers of Oklahoma for the prayers and support that will make the ripples greater and stronger than ever before.

## Southwest Region

W. J. CLEVELAND, President  
Southwest Region Conference



TO: Delegates assembled and constituents of the Southwestern Union Conference.

Five years have faded into history since the last union constituency session. These have been years of significant progress for the Southwest Region Conference.

Soul-winning is the first order of business in Southwest Region. Our faithful pastors and laymen have accepted the challenge and have baptized over 1,600 souls during this quinquennium.

Our membership stands at 6,600. We are the second largest conference in membership in the Southwestern Union Conference. Our Conference Committee voted recently a wide-reaching plan of evangelism designed to reach every village, town, city, and hamlet with the everlasting gospel. Our baptismal goal is 1,000 souls in '76.

A number of new buildings have been purchased, built and dedicated. Elder O. A. Jackson led the Ephesus church in the purchase of a new edifice and educational building in New Orleans, cost, \$150,000.00. Elder E. Miller and congregation purchased a new church and educational building, costing \$105,000.00. Elders C. McNorton, L. Draggon, and R. F. Warnick combined their



Oklahoma Retirement Center duplex



New Little Rock church and educational building opened December, 1975

Ephesus church and educational building, New Orleans, dedicated November, 1975



Beavers Memorial Junior Academy, Ardmore

Guymon Community Services Center





Jefferson, Texas, church dedicated December, 1975



Manhattan Heights church, Lubbock, dedicated August, 1975

labors to build and dedicate a new church at Jefferson, Texas, estimated value, \$20,000.00. Pastor B. Wright and congregation dedicated free of debt, our Manhattan Heights church in Lubbock, Texas. In a few weeks Elder H. W. Kibble, Jr., and the Berean Baton Rouge church will break ground for their new \$250,000 sanctuary.

We were astounded in 1974 when our tithe climbed to \$745,000.00. Imagine the amazement of the officers when the 1975 total tithe came to \$894,840.93, a gain of \$149,283.75 over 1974, or a gain of \$400,486.12 over the past five years. To God be the glory. Our tithe goal this year is \$1,000,000.00.

The Southwest Region Conference operates eight schools with 53 teachers and a total enrollment of 1,500 students. During this period Southwest Region moved its camp meeting operation from the campus of Jarvis Christian College at Hawkins, Texas, to the campus of our own college, Southwestern Union College at Keene, Texas. Attendance has trebled.

At our recent workers' meeting our pastors reported \$84,000.00 for Ingathering, the highest amount ever turned in.

Beyond any doubt the Lord has blessed the Southwest Region Conference over the past few years. We are thankful for Divine guidance, our dedicated pastors, and faithful, loyal Laity. Pray for the work in Southwest Region.



Elder W. J. Cleveland and Mrs. Dorothy Logan congratulate Sister S. A. Armstrong, 92 years of age, who raised \$100.00 for Ingathering. She is a charter member of the Hot Springs church and is head deaconess.

## Texas

CYRIL MILLER, President

Texas Conference



TO: Delegates assembled and constituents of the Southwestern Union Conference.

Time is turning into history and soon history will be given over to eternity. The record for 1975 is now complete. It was a very dramatic year for God in Texas and around the world. Last-day prophecies were fulfilled in every land. Our General Conference Session in Vienna was truly a crossroads for earth's last hours. Progress reports for the previous five years were amazing! Prospects for the next "?" years are astounding!

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Texas has one reason for existence — that is to prepare a people to meet God.

Among the 9,500,000 inhabitants in our territory, here are 11,753 Texas Conference members, approximately one out of every 800 population. The Conference is divided into 43 districts which are supervised by 36 ordained and 17 licensed ministers. There are 100 organized churches and five companies.

The membership of the Texas Conference is both liberal and loyal. This is reflected in a net gain of 1,879 in total membership, and an annual tithe increase of \$1,813,432, which nearly doubled. The tithe received in 1975 alone was \$3,499,614. During the five-year period a total of \$1,250,991 was raised in Ingathering crusades and \$1,244,330 through Sabbath schools for our worldwide mission work. You will notice the annual tithe and offering charts reveal a dynamic growth.

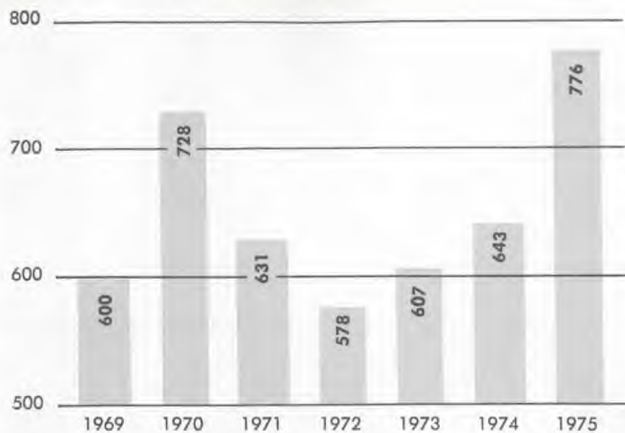
Major evangelistic crusades have been conducted by our union evangelist, Elden Walter, and by our conference evangelists, J. J. Millet and Bob Thrower. Ron Halvorsen conducted major crusades in Houston and Fort Worth. Jere Webb held meetings in Dallas and San Antonio this past year. Fordyce Detamore and Joe Crews directed evangelistic meetings in Dallas and San Antonio. Last but not least, our Texas pastors also proclaimed God's truth in numerous soul-winning crusades. As a result of the combined efforts of our members and ministers, we saw 3,235 baptized during the previous five years. Note the baptism and membership graphs on page 31.

New Testament Witnessing was emphasized at two camp meeting sessions, as well as ministers' meetings. In 1975 the Lay Congress Camp Meeting focused attention on soul-winning in a variety of workshops. Last year, the increased lay activity, combined with more well-planned crusades, resulted in 776 precious souls baptized which was an all time high for Texas soul-winning.

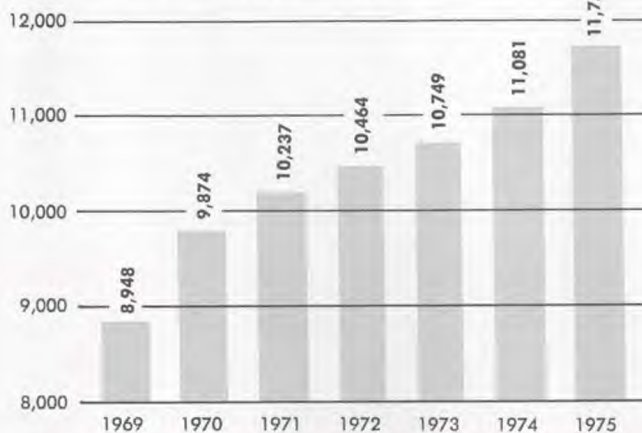
During the past five years 37,810 *These Times* have been sent to our friends and neighbors.

The Voice of Prophecy, both Spanish and English, the Hour of Prophecy, Amanacer, the Quiet Hour, and the Amazing Facts broadcasts are heard virtually all over the conference. Faith for Today has just recently been released in the Houston area and is being enthusiastically

## TEXAS BAPTISMS, 1969-1975



## TEXAS MEMBERSHIP, 1969-1975



received. It Is Written is being viewed in the Valley and soon in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. In addition, numerous pastors are conducting local radio programs. Bible course enrollments and Gift Bible applications continue to come in from the field which also increases our soul-winning potential.

A total of 124 vacation Bible schools have been conducted with a total enrollment of 7,676. Most of the boys and girls were from non-Adventist homes. A Task Force Team of academy and college students has opened new work in dark counties as well as assisting with VBS in smaller churches.

In an effort to acquaint Government and community leaders with the great religious issues before our nation, we are sponsoring 8,343 subscriptions of *Liberty* magazine.

Through the providence of God, Bob and Wilma Thrower accepted a call to come to the Texas Conference to serve as a full-time revivalist. That was in the summer of 1965 and two years later The Hour of Prophecy began broadcasting once daily on a 250-watt station out of Uvalde, Texas. Presently we have 14 daily and weekly Hour of Prophecy broadcasts, including two

giant Mexico and three 50,000-watt clear channel American stations.

Edward Beierle joined Bob and Wilma in the fall of 1974. He serves as business manager. This past year Ed supervised in the erection of a new Hour of Prophecy office building. Through the spoken word and printed page, thousands and tens of thousands are now being reached with God's truth. The circulation for the Hour of Prophecy Newspaper is now 45,000 and will reach 60,000 early this year. Let all of us make the Hour of Prophecy a matter of definite prayer in our family and private devotions.

The number of Five-Day Stop-Smoking Clinics has steadily increased over the years until in 1975 we held a total of 74 very successful programs. In conjunction with the Stop Smoking Clinics a total of 10 cooking and nutrition classes were conducted. We estimate that several thousand people in Texas are healthier and happier now as a result of our health-education, public-service activities.

Our Community Services program has made considerable progress with the opening of a large service center in Houston, and also with the addition of a new storage and warehouse in Keene which houses our disaster van and a large supply of clothing and emergency equipment readily available in the event of any type of disaster.

We are now operating four hospitals and two nursing homes, all on sound financial footing and our number of physicians and dentists has grown to approximately 90 Seventh-day Adventists who practice in Texas. With the opening of the Huguley Hospital Doctors' Clinic this year, we anticipate a large influx of all types of medical personnel into the South Fort Worth area.

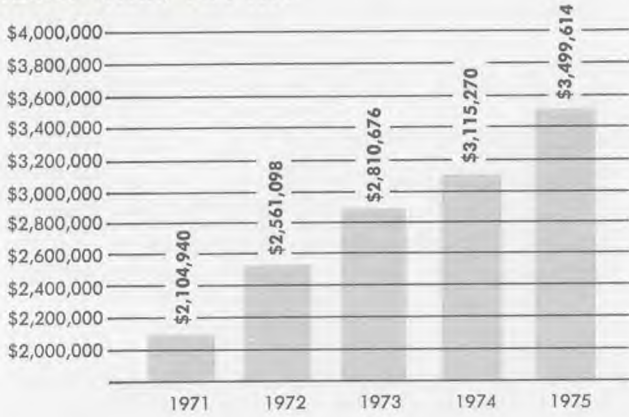
We are very proud of our youth. In addition to a full summer of camping for our children, several friendship camps and a blind camp for the underprivileged were conducted. In addition several successful Bible conferences were held for our own youth. A recent Bible conference conducted sparked a genuine revival on our academy campuses. Thirty-four Pathfinder clubs were active during this period.

Last year we distributed over \$1,000,000 worth of truth-filled literature in Texas. Approximately one-half of this was sold by our literature evangelists and half by our Texas Adventist Book Center.

Five-year comparative report of Texas Publishing Department — 1966-1970 vs. 1971-1975:

	1966 to 1970	1971 to 1975	Gain (Loss)	% Gain (Loss)
Baptisms	52	100	48	92%
Free Literature Distribution	50,637	99,161	48,524	96%
Prayers Offered	18,451	27,304	8,853	48%
Bible Enrollments	10,100	25,481	15,381	152%
Bible Studies	1,594	2,338	744	47%
Sales	\$1,288,046	\$1,729,403	\$441,357	34%
No. of L.E.'s with \$15,000 or more in sales	15	31	16	106%

## TEXAS TITHE, 1971-1975



Brother Max Trevino, our efficient ABC manager, reports that sales to our churches in this five-year period more than doubled. Sales for the year 1975 were \$551,728.

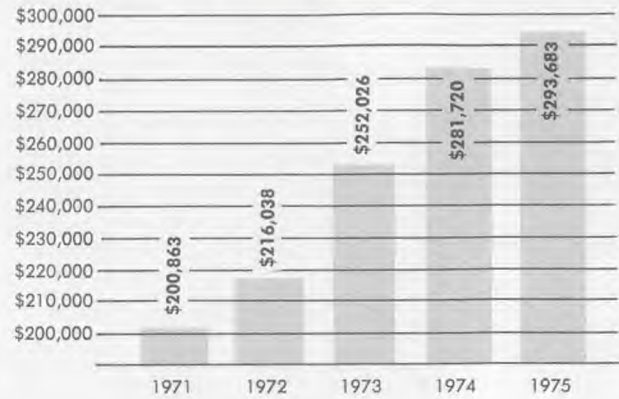
The Book Center has been completely remodeled and redecorated, as well as outfitted with new equipment. At the present time expansion is underway with an addition of 2,400 square feet. Black-top off-street parking is planned to accommodate 18 cars. The center has seven full-time and three part-time employees. A branch center was opened in October of 1974 in downtown Weslaco.

During this year 1975, the Lord has blessed the Association work in the Texas Conference. We feel the spirit of God has blessed and impressed many families of the importance of having a Christian will or some other vehicle through which they can more efficiently plan their estate to bring glory to God's work.

During 1975, 223 Christian wills and 99 living trust agreements were written. Over the five-year period 1971-1975) a total of 888 Christian wills and 438 living trusts, and three annuities were set up.

Gifts that have gone into the Lord's work through

## TEXAS SABBATH SCHOOL OFFERINGS, 1971-1975



maturities in our Association during the last five years totaled \$1,764,240.

Education in the Texas Conference is big business. The expenditures made on both the local church and the conference level show just how very much the constituents believe in their young people! During this past five-year period some exciting things have happened. Six new buildings were constructed; teacher qualification has been greatly improved, and a self-evaluation system for our schools, which was developed by the General Conference, has brought about a sense of awareness to our schools as never before seen. In the 1970-71 school year, there were 26 schools; in the 1975-76 school year there are 33. The opening reports for 1970-71 and 1975-76 respectfully indicate the following facts:

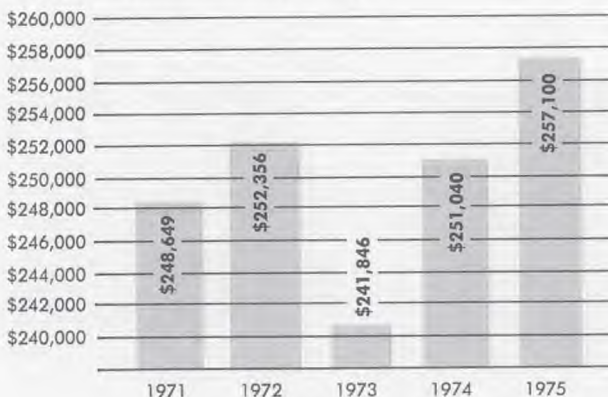
Kindergarten through 10 grade	1397; 1412 - a gain of 15
Chisholm Trail Academy	161; 185 - a gain of 24
Jefferson Academy	98; 78 - a loss of 20
Valley Grande Academy	104; 154 - a gain of 50
	overall gain of 69 precious young people

With God's help during the next five-year period, the spotlight of Christian education will make its way into every home in the Texas Conference.

Last year we saw a 12% increase in tithe during a recessionary year; the largest amount ever raised in the Ingathering; the largest number baptized; the largest number of books sold in the ABC's and by the literature evangelists; actually a substantial gain in nearly every area. We see this as an indication of the Lord's blessing to His people, and of the dedication of God's people to Him and we take this opportunity to say "Praise God!"

The future belongs to God and God's people. We have a wondrous work to accomplish — a world to win and warn — a lost and hopeless race imprisoned on a rebel planet to save! Let's not live in the past or merely for the present. Jesus lived in the present for the future — so should we. It's the way to life eternal. Christian friends, our future is forward!

## TEXAS INGATHERING, 1971-1975





# Texico

DON R. CHRISTMAN, President  
Texico Conference



has made it possible to increase our total number of workers from 65 in 1971 to 89 at the close of 1975.

The following report will detail some of the numerous special blessings that God has poured out upon His work in Texico — the new auditorium-classroom-music room complex valued at nearly a half-million dollars, but costing less than half that amount; the new conference office constructed on the prominent Canyon Expressway in southwest Amarillo — and many other accomplishments for God.

With Elder Don Sullivan, conference treasurer, and our loyal staff of office workers, pastors, teachers, literature evangelists, medical workers, we can truly say, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!" We want to dedicate every talent, every effort toward the great objective of finishing His work so that long before another union quinquennium we might be with Him in the home He has prepared for us.

## Sabbath School Department

Sabbath school workshops have been given emphasis — average of two a year besides at camp meeting each year.

Numerous vacation Bible schools were held with increased emphasis on the follow-up. Hereford church followed their VBS with a story hour lead by "Uncle Ernie" Lombard. Some of the children began attending Sabbath school.

## Lay Activities Department

For 20 successive years the Texico Conference has been a Minute-man, or Silver Vanguard Conference.

Health and nutrition schools have been held at Amarillo, El Paso, Las Cruces, Alamogordo, Portales, and at the 1975 camp meeting.

The Texico Disaster Van has been busy during the five-year period going to numerous flood and tornado areas. The picture shows boy receiving a new pair of shoes — Weed and Sacramento, New Mexico, forest fire tragedy which destroyed 12 homes.

Numerous laymen have moved into Texico to join the Texico army of laymen, notably at Spearman, Saragosa, Ruidoso, Baird, and currently at Hobbs.

## 1975 Camp Meeting

1975 Texico Camp Meeting was proclaimed "The best ever" by many. Elder Glenn Coon, Elder Frazee, and other speakers were used by the Holy Spirit to bring spiritual refreshment.

Even the children listen attentively as Jan Abrams illustrated spiritual lessons.

The practical was not overlooked with classes in gardening, cooking, auto mechanics, Christian ethics and Sabbath school work.

R. B. Wing,  
Sabbath School, Lay Activities,  
and Communication Director.

TO: Delegates assembled and constituents of the Southwestern Union Conference.

Doors of opportunity have opened and God has worked many miracles during the past five years in the Texico Conference.

Under the dedicated leadership of Elder George Rustad, president; and Theron Collins, treasurer, a strong evangelistic program was launched which greatly strengthened both the English and Spanish work. Evangelists Harold Friesen, Isaac Lara, and lately Silvio Fernandez, have cooperated with church and district pastors in baptizing more than 1,000 souls during this period.

As of December 31, 1975, the conference membership total is 3495 — a net membership increase of 473 over the five-year period.

New churches have been built and 11 new churches were organized during this same period.

Faithful members have given \$3,769,000 in tithe during the past quinquennium. The 1971 tithe totaled \$553,000 continued to increase yearly until the 1975 tithe was \$975,588.00.

We thank God for the dedication of our members toward a finished work, as their faithfulness in giving



New Texico Conference office building and Adventist Book Center.



SVA's new Auditorium-Classroom-Music Complex

## Youth - Education - Temperance

What do we find in five years' retrospect in the Texico Youth, Educational, and Temperance Departments of the Texico Conference? The working with vivacious youth is very gratifying, and when we look at cold statistics, we have to interpret this back into living happenings to really appreciate what has transpired during this quinquennium.

Looking at the educational phase of our work we see that during this period the enrollment of our church schools in 1971 of 256 climbed to 317 for the 1975-76 school year. At a time when the public school system is closing down some of its classrooms and even schools, this is encouraging for Christian education and our Adventist schools in particular. Think what our enrollment would be if all our eligible students matriculated in SDA schools!

We are particularly cheered by the addition to our school roster, the three-teacher, 59-member Saragosa school. When you stop to think that this school is only in its second year of operation and that the work in Saragosa itself is only three years old, we are led to exclaim "What hath God wrought!" We know for sure that the individuals in this area have truly yielded to the Lord's influence and have been tremendous workers for Him to see such marvelous things happen.

On the other side of the picture, however, we don't see vast numbers, but we see the faithfulness of a few who consistently carried on in the face of great odds to see their children have a Christian education. I am thinking of such schools as Clayton, Hereford, and our new addition this year, Abilene, where just a handful of students have gathered around a dedicated teacher.

Taking a look at our summer-camp program, we see a trend in attendance surging upward over the past three years, and as we plan to seek for a permanent campsite that we can call our very own, we realize this will do much to enhance our camping program. We can't help but marvel at the dedication of folks who will take time off from their busy program to serve at the camp. Our budget has not made it possible to have paid workers, but we have appreciated so much the gracious help of our church members to see our camp succeed and grow. It's just figures again, but when you think that 2330 MV honors have been awarded Camp Texico youngsters during these five years, you can't help but realize that this has made these young people just a little more appreciative of nature, a little more creative with their hands, a little more useful to the work of finishing the gospel.

And now a quick look at the temperance department. In our own circle, our work is to impress upon our youth the value of an abstemious, temperate life. And, as we reach out to those in the world about us we lend the helping hand of the Five-Day Plan to those struggling with tobacco, and the 4-DK program to those caught in the throes of alcohol. During these five years 87 plans have been conducted in Texico. This has reached 3145 persons. Surely there will be scores in the kingdom as a result of this outreach program. The 4-DK program is rather young in our conference, but it is springing into action, particularly in the Panhandle area where Keith McBeth is doing a fine work.

Nathan Merkel,  
Youth Educational,  
and Temperance Director.



New El Paso English church



New Albuquerque Heights church

## Publishing Department

"The world is to receive the light of truth through an evangelizing ministry of the word in our books and periodicals. . . . From our books and papers bright beams of light are to shine forth to enlighten the world in regard to present truth." *Colporteur Ministry*, p. 5.

Truly in all areas of the world we have seen the power of the printed page in telling the world of a soon coming Saviour.

We rejoice in Texico to see the growth that has been made in the last quinquennium through our Publishing Department.

We have witnessed, as a result of the power of the printed page, 49 individuals who have chosen to follow the light that they received by this most powerful agency: By God's grace, plans have been layed that there will be at least a 100% gain in souls during the next quinquennium.

God has also blessed in the amount of literature sold. During the last quinquennium there was placed \$504,-563.00 of truth filled literature to be a silent witness to the glory of God. This figure is a 36.3% increase over the previous quinquennium period. This we are truly grateful for.

Since 1975 has shown a 32% gain over 1974 we believe that for the next quinquennium period we should be able to see a growth of from 50 to 100% gain in the area of dollars worth of literature sold.

God has richly blessed our field in the past, and now with two field directors, Tom Simons in the East District and Tony Trevino in the West District, we believe that God has even greater blessings awaiting us. We must mention Brother Ben Richard who even though retired from the Auto Body Shop has been very faithful over this past quinquennium. Brother Ben has delivered right at

\$100,000.00. We truly praise God for giving us Brother Ben.

We are very proud of our student literature evangelists who have worked in Texico these past five years. Their combined efforts have helped swell our sales by \$62,538.00. For their untiring efforts, scholarships are granted that they may continue their education. In 1975 Texico students were among the leaders in dollars sold.

This report of the growth of the Publishing Department in Texico is a result of the hard work of our dedicated literature evangelists. To them I extend a big THANK YOU. Also, to you literature evangelists, do not be satisfied with past accomplishments, press forward, attempt great things for God, and HE has promised to reward your faith.

*Yours for a finished work,  
Larry Boggess,  
Publishing Director.*

### **Texico Adventist Book Center**

We have made numerous changes here in Texico in the last five years. We changed our name from Texico Book and Bible House to Texico Adventist Book Center. We changed managers in November, 1973. We changed our mode of having sales in the churches and schools: We put our new Bookmobile into service in the fall of 1973.

Our sales averaged over \$549.00 in 1974 and over \$655.00 in 1975. More than \$54,000.00 of our wonderful books, music, and foods have been sold from the bookmobile since it started in late 1973, so this has been a great service to our members in the wide-spread area of Texico.

Our latest and greatest change has been our location. We moved from our old store into the new building during September of 1975, and hastily prepared for our open house on September 28, 1975. Thanks so very much to each of our members here in Texico for making our new building possible. It is a real blessing to us to have pleasant quarters in which to operate our Adventist Book Center. The Lord is richly blessing us and we pray daily that we will do His will in performing our duties. Thanks again to each of you for your support. We appreciate your business and your prayers.

*D. E. Barrett,  
Manager.*



Inside Texico's new Adventist Book Center

## **The Union President's Report**

*(Continued from page 8)*

laborers in this work. My special appreciation goes to our conference presidents, those who have served as fellow officers during this term. Elder V. L. Roberts, my very competent treasurer; Elder Cyril Miller that great mover for God who served as secretary for four years, Elder Ivan Toews, who served as Association secretary and did so much to help dig in and move us forward financially, and Elder Kenneth Beem, my good friend and balance wheel, who has served as secretary for the past year.

The Union organization was given to this church by inspiration. It is the basic unit that makes up the General Conference. It is the cohesive organization that keeps the church in balance and moving at a dynamic pace toward a finished work. Strong Unions are made up of strong Conferences, strong Conferences are supported by strong churches, and strong churches are composed of stalwart Christians who love God and his church supremely.

My confidence in the Seventh-day Adventist Church has never been stronger. This is God's true last day remnant church. Its destiny is sure. It will soon triumph in a blaze of glory. May we all be in that number when Jesus comes to claim His own.

My courage is good. The greatest days for the Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are just ahead. "God Honors Faith" and He will honor yours as you move forward simply because you believe every word of a living God. Be of good cheer and watch for the providences. We are almost home.

### **Lay Activities, Sabbath School, Radio-TV**

*(Continued from page 18)*

ing that the new plan of placing one enrollment application card in the hands of each church member the week before the offering for either Faith For Today or Voice of Prophecy has greatly increased the number of applications going to these schools from our union. For instance in 1973 the number of enrollment applications sent in to the Voice of Prophecy from our union was 25,413. The report for 1975 shows that 49,673 were sent in. This is a good increase. You will be interested in the fact that the Southwestern Union leads the North American Division in number of applications to the Voice of Prophecy per member.

We are told by the Voice of Prophecy that 17.6 applications equals one graduate, and that of every 7.5 students who graduate, one is baptized. This would mean 492 baptisms on 65,000 applications.

We are pleased with the outreach of the Hour of Prophecy and believe that its best days are just ahead. The foresight, enthusiasm, and dedication of the leaders of the Hour of Prophecy are proving the worth of this venture for Christ.

The next few years are going to be really exciting ones in the Southwestern Union. Our church members are participating more and more in active witnessing for their Lord.

May God help us all to be wise enough to take advantage of the great opportunities just ahead, and by joining hands in God's work, help hasten the day of Christ's coming.



# on the record

a heart-to-heart chat with your union conference president

## "With Malice Toward None, with Charity for All"

Abraham Lincoln is recognized as the greatest president in the 200-year history of the United States of America. That is a great honor for we have had several presidents who can be designated as great.

Why was he so great? What was the secret of his greatness? The history of his accomplishments certainly provides him a spot among the truly great. He saved the Union. He, by writing his Emancipation Proclamation, freed the slaves. He was a simple, plain man of the people with little formal education — but one of the very elite when it came to the use of words. His Gettysburg Address stands as a model in effective expression. I love to read those great words, never tire of hearing them.

Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president, came from a primitive background but he had something in him that destined him to greatness. He was a man of high principles, a man of determination and purpose, a man of tremendous courage, who was not afraid to express his convictions and stand for what he believed was right. Some of these things can be said about other of our American leaders as we look back in this bicentennial year.

What made him the greatest? The answer, I believe, is found in the dimension of his soul. Abraham Lincoln had a great heart, a great understanding of life, a great understanding of people. He had a mammoth portion of the noblest of human graces — virtue that, when habitually practiced, sweetens and glorifies life — **MAGNANIMITY**.

Abraham Lincoln was a great forgiver, "With malice toward none, with charity toward all. . . . Let us bind up the nation's wounds" were words right from his heart. When the war between the states was over, he sent word to his generals to let the Confederate soldiers keep their horses. He said, "They will need them for plowing in the spring." He loved the South. He had only one thought — to get the Confederacy re-established and restored as an integral part of the Union.

No president in office was vilified as was Lincoln. He was a "slow runner" — easy going. Some called him lazy. They called him a lot of other things that I wouldn't print! Even his "friends," supporters and cabinet members could hardly bear him at times. Edwin Stanton publicly denounced him as a "low, cunning clown," and called him "the original gorilla." Incredible as it seems, Lincoln appointed him Secretary of War because he saw Stanton as the best man for the job. After his appointment Stanton, on one occasion, called Lincoln a fool. This was reported to the president. Lincoln calmly replied, "Did he call me that? Well, I reckon it must be true then for Stanton is generally right." It was Stanton who, at the bedside of the dead

president said in tears, "There lies the greatest ruler of men the world has ever seen. He now belongs to the ages."

Lincoln was the greatest, an inspiration to all men of integrity and goodwill — but he was still only human, he was just a man.

When I think of greatness, and when I think of magnanimity, there is only ONE who forever heads the list, not just a bicentennial of time but for all eternity behind us and all eternity before us. That Man is my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Jesus loves you and me with an everlasting love, a love that brought Him into this sinful world, not to give us what we deserve but instead eternal life, if we will come to Him just as we are and accept Him in simple faith. Jesus' beautiful spirit of mercy and grace led Him to Calvary, where He died for us on a cruel cross, and bore the sin and the shame, and took full blame for all the sins of every sinner who ever lived. Such love is too wonderful for outcasts like us to begin to understand. We will never, even in eternity, begin to understand the magnificent magnitude of His magnanimous gift.

That is why I love Him so much. If my Jesus can do that for a poor, undeserving sinner like me, my only response must always be "Thank you, Jesus. What can I do for Thee?"

And talk about words. No one ever spoke words like these: "He that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out." "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." "Neither do I condemn thee, go thy way and sin no more." "I will never leave thee or forsake thee." "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

These words are words of life to every sinner who will only come. How can we read them without melting in humble faith at His feet.

Come now, come to Jesus — the ONE who loves you. He bids you to come — no matter who you are or what you have done. If you have drifted, He will take you back and, best of all, will treat you just as though you had never gone away. Won't you come now? His great heart has a saving malice toward none, a charity for all — including you and me.

Yours in humble gratitude for our wonderful Jesus,

B. E. LEACH.

 NSPIRED . . .

"The attributes which God prizes most are charity and purity." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 85.

**GOD HONORS FAITH**



**Huguley Memorial**  
**Seventh-day Adventist Health Care Center**

# Huguley Memorial Hospital Advances on Schedule

WILLIAM V. WIIST, Administrator

ROBERT EDWARDS, Director, Development and Public Relations



W. V. Wiist



Robert Edwards

TO: Delegates assembled and constituents of the Southwestern Union Conference.

A project of miracles — that is what many have said about the Huguley Memorial Hospital which is being constructed on I-35 just south of Fort Worth and is due to open in early 1977.

From the start, numerous providential happenings have occurred. First of all, the large bequest by Dr. Herbert T. Huguley estimated at \$3,000,000 in 1967 more than doubled in value during the intervening years. This formed a strong financial base on which to proceed with the project.

As the result of extensive surveys and planning procedures by both the Southwestern Union Conference and various Fort Worth-Dallas Metroplex governmental groups, it was determined that a major medical institution was needed in the South Fort Worth area. Fort Worth community leaders approached the Southwestern Union Conference extending an invitation to locate in this area promising their total support.

Where could adequate land be found for a project of this dimension? Another providential opening occurred. Fifty acres of prime location land became available in the "need" area for a fraction of its real value.

Further planning encompassed the idea of establishing an association with the Southwestern Union College in the development of paramedical training programs. Already the nurses training program is underway and it is anticipated that in time various other training programs

will be initiated resulting in a steady supply of paramedical professionals to Huguley Memorial Hospital as well as other Union-wide medical institutions.

The \$16,250,000 project cost will be financed through three avenues. First of all, Dr. Huguley's bequest of over \$6,000,000 formed the base for financial stability. Secondly, a voluntary support program encouraging contributions from foundations, area corporations, and nearby communities would seek gifts totaling \$3,250,000. Thus far, approximately \$2,025,000 has been obtained. Thirdly, the remaining \$7,000,000 would be available through financing. In November, 1975, this amount of bonds was sold in an unbelievably short time — 2½ days, reflecting the extent of confidence in the Adventist organization. This was a remarkable achievement and a further portrayal of the hand of Providence.

The first phase of construction will complete nursing units for 150 beds with all supporting ancillary facilities. The top two floors of the nursing tower are being "shelled in" and will be completed as the need arises providing for 70 more beds.

The 20 suite medical office building being constructed adjacent to the hospital will soon be completed. Six suites will be finished during February. A number of physicians have expressed their interest in using this accommodation and it is anticipated that many of the suites will be in use prior to the hospital opening.

The hospital project is directed by the Board of Trustees with B. E. Leach, president of Southwestern Union



Aerial photo, looking north, taken shortly before construction began shows hospital's close proximity to Interstate 35W and city of Fort Worth, in background, yet the hospital is only 16 miles from Southwestern Union College.



Huguley Hospital complex under construction

Conference, as chairman; Cyril Miller, president of Texas Conference, as vice-chairman; and, W. V. Wiist, hospital administrator, as secretary.

Other members of the board include, K. C. Beem, secretary, Southwestern Union Conference; Jim L. Bothe, businessman, Keene; Rex E. Callicott, businessman, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; W. J. Cleveland, president, Southwest Region Conference; Calvin Gordon, Ph.D., assistant to the president, Southwestern Union College; L. W. Homer, M.D., Madison, Tennessee; John Kozel, assistant treasurer, General Conference; John Koobs, administrator, Beeville Memorial Hospital; Don McAdams, Ph.D., president, Southwestern Union College; Ron McCartney, M.D., Keene; John N. Morgan, director of Health Department, Southwestern Union Conference; Ray Pelton, associate director, Department of Health, General Conference; Robert Rider, president, Oklahoma Conference; and V. L. Roberts, treasurer, Southwestern Union Conference.

As the time of opening approaches, the critical area of staffing and physician procurement becomes very prominent. Major staff appointments thus far include the following:

W. V. Wiist, Administrator, has been involved with the project since 1971. Previously he was administrator of the Ardmore Seventh-day Adventist Hospital, Oklahoma.

Kenneth Dupper, Associate Administrator, was with Hackettstown Community Hospital, New Jersey prior to joining Huguley Memorial Hospital. He holds a M.S. degree in hospital administration.

Mrs. Norma Johnston recently accepted the position of assistant administrator for nursing. She comes from Loma Linda where she was assistant director of nursing.

Robert Edwards is now serving as director of public relations and Development. Most recently he served as director of communications for Texas Conference.

Eugene Pierson will be the maintenance Engineer in charge of plant operation. He comes from Wyoming where he functioned in this capacity. Preventive maintenance will be stressed.

Three physicians already are or soon will be involved with the hospital program. They are:

Ron McCartney, M.D. — Dr. McCartney will serve as radiologist. Currently, he is active with medical staff development and is concerned with medical liaison work with community hospitals.

L. W. Homer, M.D. — Dr. Homer is a pathologist currently serving as chief of medical staff at Madison Hospital, Madison, Tennessee.

Gerald Mitchell, M.D. — Dr. Mitchell's specialty is internal medicine. He presently is with Scott & White Hospital, Temple, Texas.

Drs. Homer and Mitchell will be joining the Huguley staff in early summer. They will also become involved with professional staff development.

The establishment of Huguley Memorial Hospital will certainly be a milestone in medical evangelistic work in the great Southwest. The hospital's purpose is to treat the "whole" person — emotional, physical, and spiritual. Strong community-health and preventive-care programs are envisioned. It will also serve as a base for paramedical training and will provide expertise to other hospitals throughout the union. It is with these objectives in mind that Huguley Memorial Hospital will function as providential openings continue.



*"The greatest work to which human beings can aspire is the work of winning men from sin to holiness."*  
Ministry of Healing, p. 398.

*"The conversion of souls to God is the greatest, the noblest work in which human beings can have a part."*  
Testimonies, vol. 7, p. 52.

**JESUS SAID:**

**"Likewise I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 15:10.**

# ALL-OUT *Evangelism*

The great work of the church is to carry the gospel to the whole world in this generation. "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world . . . and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14. The genuine Christian can find no joy that excels the satisfaction that comes in fulfilling the will of Christ that we go forth in an all-out effort to win precious souls.

To this work we are committed. The lateness of the hour and the crisis we face demands that we now lay aside every weight and dedicate our whole life to pure soul-winning work.

Evangelism is the whole work of the whole church. A true born Christian will find his greatest joy in working for souls. He will carry forth this work at all times and under all conditions. He will put this great work first and make it the one ambition of his life. His love for God and his love for man will lead him to encounters of eternal consequences. Through the power of the Spirit, great exploits will be done. Souls of men and women, boys and girls, in all walks of life will respond and give their all to Christ. Only in eternity will the dedicated soul winner begin to understand the high honor and privilege we have, as Christians, to join with Christ in doing the most magnificent work of all eternity.

**"THE WORK THAT CENTURIES MIGHT HAVE DONE  
MUST CROWD THE HOUR OF SETTING SUN."**

We are now in the final hours of this old world's history. It is a crisis hour. If we are ever going to do the work appointed to the church, we must do it now. God's call now is for all-out surrender and all-out work for souls.

Will you respond? The time to start is now, on our knees.

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