



And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

*Minnie Louise Haskins
Quoted by King George VI in a
Christmas Broadcast, Dec. 25, 1939.*

Focus on the Cover

New Year's — Look Forward!

Leroy (Satchel) Paige may or may not have been baseball's greatest pitcher. No one will ever know, since, as a black, he was not admitted to the major leagues until he was 42. In exhibition, he once struck out Rogers Hornsby five times. Joe Dimaggio called him "the best I've ever faced, and the fastest." Satchel Paige was also quick-witted, producing the memorable phrase, "Don't look back. Something may be gaining on you."

The Apostle Paul gives admonition right along this line. "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13, 14.

In life there are many beautiful things to remember. If a thing is pure, if it is true, if it is honest, if it is clean, if it is of good report, the Bible admonishes, "think on these things" — think of all the great things God has done. It is good to review the mercies of God. The counsel of God is clear. "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth . . ." Eccl. 12:1. "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." Exodus 20:8. There are many sweet and beautiful things we all need to remember every day that we live. Don't ever forget God and His providential leading in your life.

Some things we need to forget. We can't carry a heavy bag of past woes, past injustices, past sins and past failures into the Kingdom. We all need to learn from the past, but then forget all those old miserable events that can plague our present life. What good is it to keep a long rosary of grievances — go over them every day and keep the misery count high in your life? God doesn't want you to remember old injustices, old hates and old grievances, or old sins.

God says, "Forget it. Press on!" I love that. Don't you? If you really believe that, you don't need to have an enemy in the world (as far as you are concerned). And you don't need to be down on anyone. We know a family, far off in another part of the country, who have been great haters. They love to hate. And they hate good! (If there is such a thing.) They hate old friends. They even hate the church and the brethren — if the brethren don't perform *exactly* as they think they should. (Isn't that awful? *It is*.) Luckily, somehow they haven't started to hate us yet. But they kind of expect us to immediately adopt, in a moment's time, their present hates. When we visit them, we find that people who were their friends are now their enemies — people they once liked, they now "can't stand." They want us, without any reason, to immediately follow their hate line. We won't do it. I will say, "I thought you loved those people?" Their response, "That was before we found out what rats they are." This family is offended if we don't follow their flimsy hate feelings.

Not too long ago, we walked into their house and the first thing I said was, "Well, who do we like and who do we hate?" They were taken aback. I followed through with, "We can't follow your hates. We can't adopt your miseries. Much as we love you, we just can't do that." They almost started hating us! But we got them laughing over their ridiculous immature thinking. They were losing all their friends. Thank God they are now changing, and that is a miracle.

Friends, in this short life we simply cannot carry around with us the wicked past. We must leave it all behind and look to Jesus only. We can't afford to hold ill feelings, bad attitudes or a guilt complex because of our own past sins. Take it all to Jesus, the Great Forgiver, who casts our sins "into the depths of the sea," (Micah 7:19) and remembers them no more. (Hebrews 8:12).

God doesn't want you to remember what He has forgotten. 1984 is here. Look forward to the best year ever. Don't look back!

B. E. Leach,
President, Southwestern Union.

Special Features

Mobile-Dental Clinic Serves Thousands

The annual Inner City Offering is to be received in the churches on Sabbath, January 14, 1984. This is a change from the date in June on which this offering has been taken in past years.

The Inner City Offering is a North American Division offering, used in each of the union conferences for projects which minister to the special needs of low-income people generally living in the old central sections of most of our cities.

This fund is used in the Southwestern Union Conference to maintain the extensive ministry of the Mobile Medical-Dental Clinic in cities throughout the five-state area of the Union.

The Mobile Medical-Dental Clinic is a large tractor-trailer van equipped for various types of health screening tests as well as certain medical and dental services. It is owned and operated by the Southwest Region Conference. R. E. Brown, Southwest Region Conference personal ministries director is the Clinic director, and arranges the scheduling of its services. John Hope is the Clinic operator — he drives the rig, sets it up at each appointment, and generally oversees its operation at each place.

The Clinic renders its services at the invitation of a conference, a local church, school, or hospital. Sometimes it is co-



(above) The Mobile-Dental Clinic. (left) A glaucoma test being administered.



A group of children waiting for a dental examination.

sponsored by such agencies as the American Cancer Society, the American Red Cross, or a city or county Health Department. All personnel for local operation are volunteers, recruited by the local sponsoring organization. These include physicians, dentists, nurses, and other professionals, as well as nonprofessional people.

The basic services offered in most places are the following tests: blood pressure, pulmonary function, diabetes, and anemia. Others are offered at times if proper technicians are available: sickle cell anemia, glaucoma, and dental examinations.

During 1983, the Clinic worked in 49 cities. About 7,000 persons were served, and 41,963 specific services were conducted. The cash value of those services comes to \$347,000. About 1,000 volunteers participated in the operation.

Although the primary service of the Clinic is to the physical needs of the people, it is conducted in such a way as to give spiritual help as well. About 10,000 pieces of literature were distributed; 686 requests for Bible studies were received; 438 requests for the Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking and 963 requests for vegetarian information were received. All of this information is supplied to the local pastors for appropriate follow-up activity.

This is certainly one of the most effective programs of the church for making friends, and for manifesting the love of Christ in much needed, sympathetic service to human need. This work needs a generous response in the Inner City Offering on January 14. It would be greatly strengthened if we would give an average of one dollar per member on that day.

C. R. Pritchett, *Inner City Director*.

Hill Country Has Adventist Light

High — not deep — in the heart of Texas is a small but active and enthusiastic church. Inhabitants of that area call it the Hill Country. One of the hills is Granite Mountain, the site of a quarry of pink granite which supplied the stone for the Texas State Capitol in Austin, 60 miles away. Among those hills flows the Colorado River, which has been dammed to form Lake Buchanan, Lake Lyndon B. Johnson, Lake Marble Falls, and Lake Travis.

Near the town of Marble Falls is the Highland Lakes Seventh-day Adventist Church, a beautiful building of native stone. Its members, fewer than 40, including some winter residents avoiding the climatic severity of their northern homes in winter, have toiled patiently and persistently to bring this church into being.

Until 1971, this was a large area without an Adventist church. The Texas Conference was concerned about this territorial gap. In July of that year a small company was organized, meeting in the mobile home of Melvin and Olive Starr, who had just retired and moved from Menard, Texas.

The Starrs, both registered nurses, had worked since 1960 in Menard, she in the hospital, and he in the nursing home which at that time were operated by the Texas Conference.

They had worked in other Adventist hospitals, and Melvin had given 18 years to literature evangelism in the Oregon, Texico, and Oklahoma conferences.

Melvin and Olive had long felt a conviction that when retirement time should come they ought to settle in some place where they could be helpful in establishing a church in a new area. In 1962, attracted by a real estate advertising flyer that came to their door in Menard, they took a little vacation trip to Marble Falls, and while there they bought a homesite, with that purpose in view. Now they assert, "We know the Lord led us here."

A few others were drawn with a similar purpose to the same area. For a while they went all the way to Austin to church; then they met for a while with a small group at San Saba, until they organized and began services in the Starr's home. The company of eight grew to 26 by 1975, when a church was organized, still meeting in the mobile home.

Looking around for a larger meeting place, they found a small frame office building, unoccupied for some time since its owners went out of business. They bought it and moved it to the Starr's property, and used it as a chapel for five years or more.

Growth continued through various types of outreach activity. A Revelation Seminar was held a few years ago by Larry Cook who was then the district pastor. Later, David Ripley, the present pastor, held another seminar. More recently, a third one was held by the two church elders, Conrad Bergey and Melvin Starr. Three Five-Day Plans to Stop Smoking have been held. The membership of the church has grown to about 38.

In 1980 the new church building was begun at a nice location on the state highway. It was ready for occupancy by October, 1981, and was dedicated in April, 1982. Its exterior neatness and interior beauty help to make it a witness to the community of the God worshiped there, and His message for these last days.

The small building formerly used as a chapel is now the Community Services Center, operated under the direction of Isabel McCord. Several non-Adventists come in and help with their work. A current project is that of making lap robes, bibs, and decorative pillows for patients in three nearby nursing



Highland Lakes, Texas, church.

(Left) Melvin and Olive Starr. (Right) Doone and Ben Covell, avid gatherers for the Sabbath School Investment Fund.





(Left photo) Community Services workers Esther Leslie and Isabel McCord, with pillows and a lap robe for distribution at nursing homes.



(Photo below) Highland Lakes Ingatherers (from left): Melvin Starr, Mildred Bergey, Doone Covell, Gladys Shelton, Esther Leslie, Ben Covell, and Dorothy Coyle.

homes. They are holding a Christmas party for nursing home residents who do not have families to do things for them.

Two members, Esther Leslie and Margaret Rentfro, conduct a weekly story hour for children every Sabbath afternoon.

The church's goal for Ingathering this year was \$1,216. On December 3, they reported a total of \$2,116.62, and were planning more work. A group of the members, some of them over 80 years of age, have worked the business establishments in six surrounding towns.

Sabbath School Investment is enthusiastically supported. Ben and Doone Covell, who spend summers at their home in Minnesota, won \$236 in prizes for their entries in four county fairs up north — home canned foods, flower arrangements, needlework, quilts, and pies. They brought all of this money back to Highland Lakes for Investment. What they earned up there selling onions, shrubbery plants, and flower bulbs, they gave to Sabbath school there.

Melvin Starr and Conrad and Mildred Bergey recently held a Five-Day Plan. Eleven persons enrolled, of whom seven finished successfully, including a banker and a physician.

Burnet County is no longer without a Seventh-day Adventist light.

Charles R. Beeler,
Managing Editor.

Spotlight on Soul Winning

El Paso Crusade

Members from the El Paso-Juarez area churches are all talking about the same thing — how wonderful it was to work together during the recent crusade led by Ken Cox and his team. Members of the Texico Conference worked side by side with those from the Southwest Region Conference and those from Juarez. Language barriers were broken down as



The beautiful Civic Center Theater in downtown El Paso held the capacity crowds each evening.



Smiling greeters met those who attended.



Phil Draper at the electric piano faces the audience. Average attendance was 1300, with 1800 attending on opening night.

members dedicated themselves in serving together. The crusade used multimedia presentations, music, and translated sermons to reach the hearts of those who attended. Translators were hard at work also in the well-organized children's divisions.

The meetings began October 29, and 187 joined the church on December 3 through baptism or profession of faith. A total of 54 more have signed up for baptism in the near future. Max Martinez and Arnold Trujillo will be following up the crusade with four meetings weekly for the next two weeks.

Please continue to pray for these new members and those who are still making decisions to follow Christ and become permanent citizens of His kingdom.



Billie Tunnell was the director for the nursery and its workers.



Kathy Clifford directed activities for those of cradle roll age.



Kindergartners enjoyed stories and fun under Donna Clifford's leadership.



Donna Frost and her coworkers kept things lively for the primary-age children.



Large crowds gathered in the YWCA to witness the baptism.



(Left) Fifteen pastors helped with the large baptism. (Right) El Paso Northeast welcomed its new members with a fellowship meal. The other area churches welcomed their new members in like manner.

Health Happenings in the Southwest . . .

Fred Murray, Director

News Briefs from Adventist Health System/Sunbelt REEVES COUNTY HOSPITAL

In an attempt to benefit the health of residents from the county in which it serves, personnel from Reeves County Hospital, Pecos, Texas took blood pressure readings of visitors to its booth during the three-day Reeves County Fair during October 1983. Of the 600 blood pressures taken, 20 were referred to their physicians for further treatment.

In an attempt to serve the spiritual needs of the patients who are in RCH, the chaplain's office has printed 28 different types of special devotional cards which are now placed on the breakfast trays of each patient.

ARDMORE ADVENTIST MEDICAL CENTER

While nearly 900 visitors to the booth of Ardmore Adventist Medical Center, Ardmore, Oklahoma, were waiting in line to get their computerized health-age analysis during the three-day Carter County Free Fair, they had opportunity to sign-up for free cookbooks or to enroll in any of several health education programs.

During first quarter, 1984, Ardmore Adventist Medical Center will be offering three health education classes:

Five-day Plan to Stop Smoking, Natural Childbirth, and Bread Making.

HAYS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Along with a presentation on self-monitoring of blood sugar levels, Florence Lemke, L.V.N., patient education coordinator at Hays Memorial Hospital, San Marcos, Texas, holds monthly meetings for diabetics and conducts a course on Living and Coping with Diabetes.

In concert with her, Dr. Holland St. John, an internal medicine specialist, speaks with diabetics on home monitoring of the glucose level.

Southwestern Adventist College

SAC.MAN Is On-Line in College's Computer

"The object of this game is your personal success," says SAC.MAN, a new Southwestern Adventist College computer game originated by Larry Wilson, assistant to the college president, and Steve Sowder, director of Southwestern's data processing center.

SAC.MAN is a computer program designed to help students anywhere in the United States decide whether or not to go to college, and which college to attend. It will be inaugurated January 15 at Southwestern.

Students interested may call 1-800/433-2240 after January 15 and logon SAC.MAN (SAC) on their computers via the phone. They will have 15 minutes of time on Southwestern's state-of-the-art BTI 8000 computer.

Persons living in Texas should call



Steve Sowder, right, explains SAC.MAN to Southwestern Adventist College student, Randy Oxentenko, a junior mathematical physics major from Dayton, Tennessee.

(Photo by Larry Cooke)



SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST COLLEGE'S 1984 SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS. Seated, from left: secretary, Shayne Bromme, a nursing student from Alvarado, Texas; treasurer, Rosemary Martinez, nursing, Oxnard, California; and vice president, Judy Lindsay, communication, Keene, Texas. Standing: sponsor, Dan Petr, instructor of biology; chaplain, Roy Robinson, theology, Keene; president, Curt Burghart, biology, Gentry, Arkansas; and sponsor, Dr. Marvin Anderson, college vice president for financial affairs. The class has already voted its gift to the college: a \$1400 donation to Southwestern's annual fund. Their gift will be matched by the Business Executives' Challenge to Alumni (BECA), which is funded by a group of business people interested in alumni gifts to Seventh-day Adventist higher education.

(Photo by Mark Brain)

1-817/645-0425. The game will be operational 24 hours a day, except during the Sabbath hours.

After the student plays the game, "he'll be able to make an informed choice about going to college," Wilson explains. "He then can study lists of majors and minors offered at Southwestern; get an overview of the college and its administration; learn tuition costs and financial aid information; find out about the community and housing availability; study job opportunities; and be briefed on application requirements and procedures."

The program also allows prospective students to communicate with the college by leaving messages in the computer.

"It's fun to play SAC.MAN, and we invite anyone considering college to give it a try," Wilson says.

SAC Contributes to "Collegiate Quarterly"

Students and faculty of Southwestern Adventist College contributed the artwork and two lessons to the January-March, 1984, edition of the *Collegiate Quarterly*, according to project coordinator Brennan Francois, college chaplain.

Urias Chagas, a senior theology major from Sao Paulo, Brazil, did the

illustrations for the entire quarterly, which is titled "The Committed Life." Lessons discuss commitment to Christ — or to other things — in the lives of various biblical characters. Chagas' drawings, done with pen, ink, and knife, overlap the characters' faces with their actions.

Lesson contributors wrote six-part



Several thousand people munched their way around the Leiske-Pultar Gymnasium at Southwestern Adventist College in November, enjoying native foods from 15 foreign countries during the college's annual international food fair. Pictured here, Elder Max Martinez, secretary of the Southwestern Union Conference, wears his own native costume, that of the Apache Indian, as he decides what to sample next.

(Photo by Paul Carvalho)

lessons for February 25 and March 3 on Jonah and Saul, respectively. Writers included Dr. Andrew Woolley, associate professor of English; Melinda Mabaquiao, a junior English major from Keene, Texas; Doug Clark, assistant professor of religion; Dr. Barbara Jones, associate professor of chemistry; Floyd Jones, patient business office director at Huguley Hospital; Earl Allen, former instructor of computer information systems; Dr. Hal Wright, assistant professor of physics; Kent Millard, sophomore theology major from Belleville, Ohio; Dr. Rob Sheppard, chairman of the religion department; Benjie Leach, director of Southwestern's Life and Career Planning Center; Sharon Leach, college public information officer; and Terese Thonus, instructor in modern languages.

Arkansas-Louisiana

DON SCHNEIDER, Correspondent

Forrest City Church Dedicated

The existence of the Forrest City, Arkansas, Church is the answer to prayers of long ago, the fulfillment of hopes and dreams, and a monument to the goodness of God and the marvelous way He blessed the fervent efforts of a few dedicated workers to His cause.

Prior to 1966 there was no organization of Seventh-day Adventists in Forrest City, but that year Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clayton, and others began an effort to enroll their neighbors in Bible studies. As a result, 36 people were graduated from the Bible course, and from this nucleus, a branch Sabbath school was formed in the summer of 1968, and then organized into a company April 12, 1969.

In 1976, Elder and Mrs. Eugene Ryan, dark-county evangelists, came to Forrest City to work. Elder Ryan (now deceased) and his wife worked untiringly and lovingly, planting the seeds of truth and awakening interests that helped to open the way for a long-hoped-for place of worship.

An evangelistic campaign in the summer of 1976, with J. C. Baker, pastor of the Monroe, Louisiana, district, and K. E. Simpson, pastor of the Pine Bluff, Arkansas, district, and their wives resulted in the addition of 11 new members for the Forrest City company.



Elder V. O. Schneider spoke during the afternoon service.

With God's blessings as the members began to pray, fast, and sacrifice, and with help from the Business and Professional Advisory, construction on their church began in October, 1976. The first worship service in the new building was held February 26, 1977, and on November 19, 1983, with a membership that has grown to 47, the church was dedicated debt-free, a monument to God's blessings and a dedicated people.

Don Schneider, Arkansas-Louisiana Conference president, gave the morning message reminding the members that "the world at its worst needs the church at its best." In the afternoon, V. O. Schneider, a former pastor and the father of our conference president, brought a challenging message.

Dave Woodruff, pastor, said that "even though we are happy to be dedicating this church to God's use, even more important is the dedication of the shepherd of this flock and of the sheep." Even though there were only 25 members to meet in the first service in the building and now there were 47, Woodruff challenged his "sheep" to find others for God's fold.

The prayer and the desire of every member of this new church is that "it may ever stand as a beacon of light in the community, a testimony of praise to God, the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who alone, in answer to the prayers of faith, can make our dreams come true!"

Marye Palmer,
Communication Secretary.



The Forrest City, Arkansas Seventh-day Adventist Church was dedicated November 19.



Terence Futch, conference treasurer, prepares to burn the mortgage while the pastor, Dave Woodruff, Don Schneider, conference president, and local members look on.

The Quiet Hour announces the release of its radio broadcast on station **KJOE**, 1480, in **Shreveport, Louisiana**, at **10:30** on Sunday mornings. Tune in to Pastor J. L. Tucker and his son, LaVerne, as they bring you inspiration and music. Until then, in the words of Pastor J. L. Tucker, "Have faith in God, and keep looking up."



**ADVENTURE
IN FAITH
with**

ARLASDA OUTREACH

2% - 4%



Revelation Seminar in Benton.

Successful Seminar Held in Benton

The Benton, Arkansas, church finished its first Revelation Seminar with great success, using the new lessons.

Even though they were not able to secure the 5,000 brochures which they asked for, they used what they had and went ahead with their plans, but with a different approach.

Since Benton had just added 27 new members from the Buddy Brass evangelistic crusade in July and August, it was decided to hold the seminar for the new members along with the interests from the evangelistic meetings.

Letters went to new members and brochures to all the interests of the evangelistic meetings. The resulting attendance was thrilling and challenging as local elders Bus Pillsworth and Ted Romanski led out three nights a week.

The pastor, Philip Young observed, "Our new family was very excited about the Scriptures they studied each meeting. Everyone participated enthusiastically and wanted to learn more from their lessons."

Comments were made such as, "These lessons are wonderful," and "After we leave here each night, we hurry home to get our next lesson done!"

Many of the older Benton members also attended the seminar for the full time. The attendance averaged about 27.

Plans are being made for holding another seminar in the spring.

Kathy Young,
Communication Secretary.

Singles Weekend January 27 and 28, 1984 Hot Springs, Arkansas

FEATURES:

Friday night — Happiness,
Where Do I Find It?

Sabbath morning — Single
Parenting.

Sabbath afternoon — Building
Block of Recovery Following
a Divorce.

Weekend speaker — Rita
Morris, Arkansas regional
director.

Contact Rita Morris
P.O. Box 1004,
Hot Springs, AR 71902.
Phone: 501/623-8955.

Hammond Reports Fun and Growth

On a recent Sabbath, Jerry Waggoner, pastor of the Hammond, Louisiana, church was informed that he either had to buy more chairs for the Sabbath School or throw some people out the door. Says Waggoner, "To me that was music to my ears, and I praise the Lord that He has allowed the Hammond church to continue its growth."

On October 31 about 50 people enjoyed a night of fun at the school. Then on November 5 about 150 people went on a hayride at the Walter Mitchell home.

On November 12, Jerry Waggoner had the privilege of baptizing Luke



Pastor Jerry Waggoner with Geneva Luneau and Luke Wilkinson who were baptized November 12.

Wilkinson and Geneva Luneau in one of the most beautiful services ever in the Hammond church.

Pastor Waggoner has this to say about the Hammond church: "Yes, the Lord is watching over Hammond, and the people are really enjoying it. We have our problems with the devil and the world, but we believe a happy church can be a better witness for the Lord, and we are trying to do our best with God's help."



Hammond Hayride.



"Duck a little more! You almost got an apple!"

Ozark Adventist Academy

OAA Maranatha Club Visit Area Churches

More and more adventists around the world are beginning to use the Biblical greeting, Maranatha. This watchword used by the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 16:22 means, Our Lord is coming!



Maranatha group from Ozark Adventist Academy that preached recently at the Sulphur Springs, Arkansas, church from left to right are: Mike Pyeatt, Jim Landelius, Aaron Moses, and Rhonda Pyeatt.

About 40 dedicated young people, students at Ozark Adventist Academy, are members of the Maranatha Club, a witnessing group that is preaching the advent hope in nearby churches on Sabbath mornings. It is a real blessing to see these youth sharing their faith and explaining the Bible truths that they have learned in the classroom. As one member of Maranatha said, "If we fail to share what we have learned in class, we will surely lose it."

The Maranatha activities also give these students an opportunity to develop speaking abilities. Several of the young men in the club have now made decisions to become ministers in the Lord's work. We pray that God will richly bless each student that participates in this program.

Wayne Easley, Religion Department,
Ozark Adventist Academy.

Oklahoma

BEAMAN SENEAL, JR., Correspondent

Tulsa Establishes New Members

In addition to the expertise of the Kenneth Cox evangelistic team, membership participation played a key role in

the fruitfulness of the recent Cox Crusade in Tulsa. Particularly in three phases of ministry has this involvement been productive: Operation Andrew, Crusade Visitation, and New Member Ministry Classes.

Operation Andrew. The church was divided into several bands of approximately 10 members. Each member of the church was challenged to pray for 10 individuals, and to invite them to the crusade. An example of this ministry was the witness of Archie Sumpter, a Snap-on Tool distributor, to one of his customers, Jim McBride, who operates his own repair service for foreign cars. Jim and his wife Erin attended the meetings and were baptized and now attend the class of Archie Sumpter and Tommy Huff.

Crusade Visitation. The next vital phase began during the crusade — the visitation by church members in the homes of the interested people. For example, Ruth Long worked all day at her used car lot, then rushed home to change into her greeter uniform. Next, she met her prayer and visitation partner, Jean Sumpter, at the church in order to visit until time for the evening meetings. One of their baptismal prospects became very ill during a very significant time of the crusade. They kept visiting her — taking recorded tapes of services she missed, and even initiating an anointing service on her behalf. The result was the joy of seeing her baptized. She now is in their New Member Ministry Class.

New Member Ministry Class. The third phase of ministry started with a sizable number of Tulsa members taking the intensive training given by Elder Dan Caslow, a specialist in the folding of new members, before the crusade began. Consequently, on the closing evening of the crusade, Kenneth Cox and Hubert Cisneros, church pastor, were ready to launch seven new classes with properly trained leaders. The new members were assigned to specific classes. In reality some of the teachers were able to share in winning nearly their entire class through Operation Andrew and the Crusade Visitation. Now for one full year the new members will have the privilege of close fellowship as they participate with the teachers in the New Member Ministry Class.

Dennis McGehee, general Sabbath school superintendent, states that through get-togethers in individual homes, Bible studies, and social activities, each teacher is taking responsibility for helping new members become acquainted with the other church members. Potluck meals, picnics, and a



Dennis McGehee (left) joins Jerry Schnell, (Center) Oklahoma Conference personal ministries director, and Hubert Cisneros, church pastor, in planning and implementing a strong follow-up program.



Archie Sumpter and Tommy Huff flank their new members Erin and Jim McBride.



Ruth Long and Jean Sumpter rejoice with Bill and Arlene Smith (center) who have joined their class. Bill and Arlene had just moved to Tulsa from Michigan in time for the Cox Crusade. Bill's brother John is a teacher at Oklahoma Academy.



Left to right: Jerry Hannah, teacher, Mr. and Mrs. Larimer and Hubert Cisneros take part in a discussion during their class. The Larimers requested baptism after viewing the videotapes of the mass baptism.

Brenda McGehee (right) welcomes Bob and Debbie Westerhouse who were married the same day as they were baptized.



great deal of personal visitation have all contributed to the follow-up program.

This program united with a strong visitation program by the church pastor has resulted in an average of 50 new members attending the Tulsa Church each Sabbath.

Jerry Schnell,
Personal Ministries Director.

Southwest Region

W. C. JONES, Correspondent

Stewardship Week Held at Berean

Elder Harold Lee of the Allegheny East Conference was the guest of the Berean church of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, October 1-8, 1983. At the invitation of M. V. Singleton, pastor, he conducted a seminar of stewardship emphasis.

The series began with a presentation on home budgeting and the relationship of conscientious management of money to stewardship responsibility. Lee emphasized that "Stewardship is the management of life — not just of money. It is the heart of the Third Angel's Message."

Evelyn Edwards, Reporter



Harold Lee presenting Stewardship Emphasis seminar.

100 Attend Thanksgiving Retreat

Wednesday, November 23 began a fantastic Thanksgiving Weekend for the 8th annual Youth Retreat at Lone Star Camp. The personnel consisted of B. E. Wright, conference youth director, M. W. Singleton and J. Black, pastor and assistant of Berean Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Kenneth Thibodeaux, of the Smyrna Church, Houston, Texas.

The excitement began with the first meeting of getting acquainted.



Hezekiah Brinson stands with his male chorus from New Orleans. They presented special music at the Thanksgiving Retreat.



Representatives from Pine Bluff, Arkansas — the Mickens sisters. Both are nurses.

Thanksgiving Day was spent in sessions of giving thanks and understanding one's self. There was a recreation period following a special dinner. Friday was a continuation of sessions with an impressive candlelight service for Friday evening vespers.

The Sabbath was truly happy, for it began early in the morning at 7:30, with discussions on Peer Pressure or Being Cool at School. Hezekiah Brinson, of Ephesus Church, New Orleans, formed a 50 voice camp choir, who presented excellent music for the weekend.

Walter Ard gathered youth from Hammond, drove to New Orleans and stopped by Baton Rouge providing transportation for the youth in Southern Louisiana. Other young people came from many directions of the conference, totaling over 100



Pastors M. V. Singleton, B. E. Wright, and J. Black with W. C. Jones, conference president.



Students from Southwestern Adventist College admire the bus in which Walter Ard transported the youth from Hammond, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans.

campers. B. E. Wright and Nancy Jones are very appreciative to those who worked diligently in making this program so successful.

Doris Jones, Reporter.



ALBUQUERQUE BAPTISM — Pastor W. G. Downes conducted a Revelation Seminar at a skating rink in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The students came from miles in all directions. After careful study of God's word 11 souls united with the Unity church in that city.

Pritchett Holds Crusade in Austin

The Alpha Church in Austin, Texas, recently held a four-week Health and Happiness Evangelistic Crusade, with guest speaker Elder C. R. Pritchett of the Personal Ministries and Sabbath School Department of the Southwestern Union Conference.

Attendance of the meetings was good, enthusiasm high and the messages well received. Members remarked that it was refreshing to hear old truths preached from new perspectives.

Four persons were baptized following the meeting.

Lois Robinson,
Communication Secretary.



C. R. Pritchett



John Watrous works at laying bricks.

penry, block and brick laying, and basic electrical wiring.

The assistant teacher, Rebecca Burton, is teaching the girls cake decorating.

Next semester the boys will be learning wood handicraft, while the girls learn typing.



Stephanie Starr, left, and Paula Barron, right, finish decorating a heart cake while Mrs. Burton supervises.

Texas

WARREN SKILTON, Correspondent

Santa Anna Pupils Learn Manual Arts

The Santa Anna Adventist School has started a practical arts program this year for students in grades 5-8. The class meets after school on Thursday from 3:30 — 4:45.

Stephen Burton, the teacher of the school, teaches the boys skills in car-



Byron Doudy develops basic carpentry skills.



Kim McGee, left, and Laurie Tucker, right, decorate a doll cake under Rebecca Burton's instruction.

Master Guide TRAINING

10 HOURS OUTDOOR SKILLS

March 11-16, 1984

Nameless Valley Ranch

(During Old Fashioned Camp Meeting)

Gulfhaven Juniors Gather Food

The Houston Gulfhaven Pathfinders along with John Pike and Louis Alberti have recently completed their annual food drive to gather canned goods and foodstuffs. The food that was collected will be used to prepare baskets for distribution to those who are in need.

The Pathfinders distributed sacks to neighborhood homes with an attached statement of the purpose of the drive. Then when other young people were out collecting candy on Oct. 31, the Pathfinders collected these sacks of food, receiving over 600 items.

Many families that would not otherwise have had a very happy holiday season will now be able to rejoice in the fact that someone had taken the time to help.

Frank B. Martin Jr.
Communication Secretary.

Investment for God?

Ask About The

“Revolving Fund”

TEXAS CONFERENCE
ASSOCIATION OF SDA

Call 817/645-4744

Please
GIVE
Monthly

1% TEXAS EVANGELISM
1% TEXAS ADVANCE

Thank
you!



TEXAS EVANGELISM OFFERINGS HELP FUND THE 1,000 DAYS OF REAPING CRUSADES

- SUGGESTED INDIVIDUAL GIVING FOR EVANGELISM IS ONE PERCENT OF INCOME, (with \$100 income, the tithe would be \$10, and evangelism \$1)
- All evangelism funds are to be remitted to the Texas Conference Office monthly. One fourth of one percent will be used conference-wide.
- All funds above 1/4% will be returned as a dividend check for local church evangelism. (It's like putting money in the bank for future evangelistic needs.) One appeal and one offering raises evangelistic dollars for church and conference. TRY IT, YOU'LL LIKE IT!

THANKS TO YOU, THE PLAN IS WORKING. TEXAS IS A NATIONAL LEADER IN CHURCH GROWTH!

- Fifty-seven new congregations have been established in the past five years.
- Over 1600 souls were won to Christ in 1981 and almost 2,000 baptisms in 1982.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY FOR THE THINGS HE HAS DONE!

Easleys Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Oscar and Edna Easley celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 18, 1983.

They were married in Wewoka, Oklahoma, in 1933. They have four children: Wayne, Gentry, Arkansas; Patricia Timms, Keene, Texas; Warren, Keene, Texas; Nelda Green, Cleburne, Texas; and seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

An open house was held for them at their home in Keene. They have lived in Keene for 29 years and are members of the Cleburne church.



Edna and Oscar Easley.

Texico

DON SULLIVAN, Correspondent

Small Group Builds Church

Nine adult members of the Ruidoso, New Mexico, area are making progress in building a church. In the past years they have worshipped at the Presbyterian and Methodist churches because of their kindness to us.

During the years the members purchased land near the highway in Ruidoso Downs and later bought two small buildings about the same size, and moved them from Roswell to the land site. They have connected the two buildings to a new building in the center that will be the sanctuary. Over all they have put a pitched roof and have covered the building with siding.

The water, gas, and electricity lines are up to the building, but have not been connected. But the Lord keeps opening a way for the work to keep on course. The members are now worshipping in one of the small rooms connected to the larger center room. A subfloor has been

larger center room. A subfloor has been installed in the center room but more flooring is needed on this, and a carpet needs to be laid. Then there will need to be pews for the sanctuary.

The elder and his wife, Jake and Florence Harris, live in Ruidoso Downs and the seven other members live approximately twenty miles in different directions from the city. They are enthusiastic and of good courage for the completion of this church for the glory and praise of our Lord

Perhaps there are readers of this article who would be interested in moving to work in this dark area.

J. C. Harris, Church Elder,
Box 747, Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346.



Texico Youth Enjoy Pathfinder Jamborees

The chain-gang race . . .



El Paso Pathfinders compete in wash-stand lashing during their October Jamboree.



Two small buildings were brought to the site in May, 1983.



and rope jumping activities keep the young people "hopping" during the Jamboree in Lubbock, November 6.



A blind-man's race in Albuquerque on October 23 was included in the Jamboree activities.



The church building as it nears completion.

Souls Won in Lay Meetings

The Odessa Church recently experienced a real blessing in the form of a series of lay evangelistic meetings conducted by one of its members, David Farmer. David was assisted by his wife, daughter, and many of the members of the Odessa church.

The series was called The Happy

Life Crusade and in his sermons David highlighted the home, marriage, and everyday living. At the same time he presented Christ and the distinctive truths of the Bible. The meetings began in a tent pitched near the outskirts of Odessa, but near the completion of the first week a wind storm blew down the tent so the meetings were moved to the church.

The final night of the series David made a call for dedication and rededication to Christ. A number of people responded, among whom were three who made the decision to unite with the Adventist Church.

One was David's aunt, Billie Fredenburg, who had been reared in the Adventist Church but had not remained active through the years. She was baptized November 19 by Jerry Oster, the new pastor of the church.

The other two were Berl and Dinah Johnson. The Johnsons live in the town of Andrews, forty miles from



Left to right: lay evangelist David Farmer, and his wife, Kathy; Billie Fredenburg; Berl and Dinah Johnson.

Odessa. They drove that distance every night to attend the meetings. They come from a Baptist background but now they want to be part of God's remnant church. They will soon be uniting by profession of faith and will be members of the group in Andrews, that we trust will some day be organized into a church.

Jerry Oster, Pastor.



Construction continues on the new Santa Fe English church, which is pastored by Terry Clem.

LEGAL NOTICE

Special Constituency Meeting of the Texico Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Texico Conference Executive Committee is calling a special constituency meeting to be held at Sandia View Academy, Corrales, New Mexico, at 10:00 a.m., Sunday, February 12, 1984. The purpose of the meeting is to study the program of Freedom '84, the Restricted Use Fund, and the future development of the Texico Conference, Christian education, and Sandia View Academy.

Delegates are to be chosen in accordance with the constitutional provisions which call for one delegate per church and one additional delegate for each 25 members or fraction thereof.

D. K. Sullivan, President;
Arnold Trujillo, Secretary;
Ed Stacey, Treasurer.

Minute Manna for Marrieds

by ROBERT H. PIERSON

A service provided by: Home and Family Service, General Conference

And I Wish You a Pleasant Evening

In a recent letter, a friend of *Minute Manna for Marrieds* shared an idea. The children had wanted to go out for supper, but money was tight. Sensing their disappointment, their mother put forth a little extra effort and a family tradition was born. She wrote:

"So when the kids weren't looking, I decorated the kitchen like our favorite Mexican restaurant and tried to fix the dishes we usually order as best I could. When I had all the candles lit and the dinner ready, I called the rest of the family from the basement. When they had all congregated at the top of the stairs, I invited them into the 'non-smoking section' of the 'Plato Grande' and wished them a 'pleasant evening.'"

"I was tired," she continued, "by the time we had all the dishes done, and the energy I expended getting dinner I didn't expend on my overloaded ironing basket, but I went to sleep happy as a lark."

I like that, don't you?

Describing the reaction of her husband and two little ones to her novel effort, she draws this conclusion: "Their response was

so heart-warming, I just couldn't help thinking that the things that make the difference in a family aren't really all that complicated, don't really take all that much money, and yet so seldom do we make the effort."

Worth thinking about, isn't it? And perhaps, doing something about too!

Perhaps you have some good suggestions. Let me hear from you. Write c/o General Conference of S.D.A., Home and Family Service, 6840 Eastern Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012.

New Releases

Spicer: Leader with the Common Touch

By Godfrey T. Anderson

Paper, 128 pages, Price \$5.95, available at your local ABC.

During the first half of the twentieth century William Ambrose Spicer was a leader in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, highly trusted and deeply loved in all parts of the world. Beginning in 1903 he filled the position of secretary of the General Conference for nearly twenty years. Following that, the denomination chose him as president in 1922, and he served in the capacity for eight years. Then, until his retirement in 1940, he held the post of field secretary.

Elder Spicer's overriding interest through all his years of service centered in the foreign mission outreach of the church. He traveled widely, by his own testimony having been overseas almost every year from 1900 to 1940. He had an unshaken confidence in the work and mission of Ellen White and in her counsel to the church. Having had early contact with her on a firsthand basis, as well as with some of her detractors, he emerged with an implicit faith in the supernatural quality of the messages she gave to the church.

A favorite quotation of his, which he frequently applied to the Advent Movement, was "The waves may be defeated, but the tide is sure to win." He succeeded in inspiring both courage and optimism among the church employees with whom he dealt in all parts of the world.

Dr. Godfrey T. Anderson, former president of Loma Linda University, is the author of *The Past Is Always Present and Outrider of the Apocalypse: The Life and Times of Joseph Bates*.

The Publishing Ministry

By Ellen G. White

Christian Home Library

CHL Binding, 416 pages, Price \$6.95, available at your local ABC.

"The pen is a power in the hands of men who feel the truth burning upon the altar of their hearts, and who have an intelligent zeal of God, balanced with sound judgment."

Whenever we blend in equal proportions truth in the heart, intelligent zeal, and sound judgment, the publishing work of the church becomes truly a ministry. How can we maintain truth, zeal, and judgment in a proper ratio? In the counsels of Ellen G. White, God has provided the help needed.

Since 1902 several books containing Mrs. White's admonitions regarding the publishing

ministry have appeared, and they have furnished incalculable inspiration. But the previous publications did not address several areas of vital concern, such as the establishment, operation, and management of publishing houses. This new compilation speaks to these important matters as well as to the publishing outreach as a whole.

Topics dealt with include the early history of the publishing work, how to establish and operate publishing houses, how publishing-house leaders must relate to the perils peculiar to their task, how to keep the productions of our presses truth-filled, how to succeed as a publishing leader, how to market church publications, and how the publishing ministry will gloriously triumph in these last days. Everyone involved in Adventist publishing will want to prayerfully ponder the inspired counsel compiled in this new and excellent release. God's work deserves our very best. The advice presented in this book provides direction so that we can give of our very best, "holy, acceptable unto God."

At Rest

BROWN, Mildred, was born Sept. 27, 1904, at Van Wert, OH, and died in DeRidder, LA, Nov. 23, 1983. She was a retired teacher and homemaker and a faithful member of the DeRidder church.

A memorial service was held in DeRidder on Nov. 25, with final services in Columbus, OH, Nov. 28. Interment was in Columbus.

She is survived by her husband, Cecil; one sister, Eva Forrette; and three nephews, Dr. Ralph Lee, Robert Lee, and Charles Forrette.

K. E. Simpson.

HEDRICK (Boston), Ellen, was born Jan. 22, 1915, and died Nov. 10, 1983, in Lovington, NM. She was a member of the Texico Conference Church. Services were held by Elder Lewis L. Dinwiddie. Interment was in the Lovington Cemetery.

HEROD, Melanie, was born Dec. 3, 1971, in Siloam Springs, AR, and died in Decatur, AR, on Sept. 30, 1983.

She was baptized, along with her parents, in the same church where her funeral was to be held exactly two weeks later. Melanie knew she was not going to live, but she accepted the fact and had no fear. Her words were, "This is a blessing in disguise."

She is survived by her parents, Sam and Margaret Herod of Decatur; one brother, also of Decatur; and one brother, Drew, of Atkins. She awaits the call of Jesus in the Word Cemetery, a quiet spot in the country which she herself had picked out.

HUGHES, Francis A., was born Dec. 30, 1901, near Topeka, KS, and passed away suddenly on Nov. 7, 1983, in Cleburne, TX. A faithful Seventh-day Adventist Christian all his life, he was a member of the Keene church at the time of his death.

When he was about 10 years old the Hughes family moved to Alberta, Canada, where they homesteaded a farm. In the mid 20's he returned to the states and lived for several years in Tennessee where he met Mamie Songer.

Francis and Mamie were married in 1931. A few years later they moved to Jefferson, TX, and in 1951 they came to Keene, TX. On a happy occasion in 1981 they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by retaking their marriage vows as they had also done on their 25th anniversary.

For over a quarter century, they owned and operated a small bakery in Keene and during that time they baked and sold well over a half million loaves of home-made bread.

He is survived by his wife, Mamie, of Keene; one brother, Lee Hughes, of Ottawa, KS; one son,

Leroy Hughes and his wife, Joan, of Keene; four granddaughters, two great-grandchildren, and a number of nieces and nephews.

Services were conducted by Elders K. D. Johnson, Hubert Reed, and Dudley Tomblinson. Interment was in the Keene Cemetery where he awaits the call of Jesus.

McCOY-AULT, Lottie, was born Dec. 12, 1897, at Hennessey, OK, and died July 28, 1983, at Addington, OK. After completing her education at Southwestern Junior College and Union College, she taught school at Wewoka and Ketchum, OK; Wichita Falls, New Hope, and Jefferson, TX; Little Rock, AR; Roswell, NM, and Phoenix, AZ. She helped establish the work among the Navajo Indians, teaching at the Lake Grove Indian Missions in New Mexico. Lottie was married to Albert Ault on March 12, 1954. Surviving are her husband Albert Ault, a brother Hugh McCoy of Waurika, OK, and a sister, Mrs. G. R. Soper of Coalmont, TN.

Business Notices

Send all business notices to your local conference office for approval. Rate: 40 words or less, one insertion \$10.00 (Ads originating outside Southwestern Union, \$15.00). Each additional word, including names and addresses, 20¢ per word. Payment must accompany copy. No refund on cancellations. One ad only per person or company per issue; 80 words maximum. Some display ad space available at higher rates.

VEGETARIAN BAR-BE-QUE by Lafane's offers delicious, exciting eating. Real southern hickory-smoked bar-be-que flavor enjoyed by non-vegetarians as well as vegetarians. Available through your church, Adventist Book Center, Lafane's Bar-Be-Que, Box 766, Keene, TX 76059, 817/645-0569. p1-1t

DIRECTOR OF NURSES NEEDED: JELICO COMMUNITY HOSPITAL a 50 bed acute care facility, beautifully situated in Tennessee Cumberland Mountains, seeking qualified person to manage Nursing Service. B. S. degree required, Masters preferred. Excellent fringe benefits. Contact: Keith Hausman, President, Box 118, Jellico, TN 37762, call collect: 615/784-7252 ext. 301. p26-4t

EVERGREEN FORESTRY SERVICES is in need of Christian tree planters December — April for work in the southwest United States. Must be able to travel and camp. Hard physical work, but financially rewarding. Write to 4850 Woodland Drive, Sandpoint, ID 83864. p24-4

Sunset Schedule

	Jan. 6	Jan. 13	Jan. 20	Jan. 27
Abilene, Texas	5:49	5:54	6:01	6:07
Amarillo, Texas	5:50	5:56	6:03	6:11
Brownsville, Texas	5:54	5:59	6:04	6:09
Dallas, Texas	5:36	5:41	5:48	5:54
El Paso, Texas	5:17	5:23	5:29	5:35
Fort Worth, Texas	5:38	5:43	5:50	5:56
Galveston, Texas	5:36	5:41	5:47	5:53
Gentry, Arkansas	5:19	5:25	5:32	5:40
Keene, Texas	5:38	5:43	5:50	5:56
Little Rock, Arkansas	5:13	5:20	5:27	5:34
Muskogee, Oklahoma	5:23	5:29	5:36	5:44
New Orleans, Louisiana	5:15	5:21	5:27	5:33
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	5:32	5:38	5:45	5:53
San Antonio, Texas	5:50	5:56	6:02	6:08
Santa Fe, New Mexico	5:05	5:11	5:18	5:25
Shreveport, Louisiana	5:24	5:30	5:37	5:43
Tulsa, Oklahoma	5:25	5:31	5:38	5:46

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY often has full and part time positions available in the following areas: clerical, dental assisting, research, construction and maintenance. If these or other areas may be of interest to you, please send a resume or contact: Loma Linda University, Personnel Department, #201 University Arts Building, Loma Linda, CA 92350. 714/824-4340. p1-1t

CAREER OPPORTUNITY for administrative minded registered nurse. One year Nursing Leadership Residency, rotated among several Adventist Health System/Sunbelt hospitals. Must be willing to make a job commitment and be willing to move about freely for one year while learning to become a Director of Nursing. B.S. preferred but not required. Five to seven years of experience required. Send resume to: Carolyn Johnson, Adventist Health System/Sunbelt Health Care Corporation, 2400 Bedford Road, Orlando, Florida 32803. E.E.O.C. p1-1t

IN KEENE approximately 8 acres of land with farmhouse, detached garage, windmill, 2 wells, some trees, near schools, paved road frontage. Old Mansfield Road and 4th Street. \$69,000. 817/645-9621. p1-1t

OR AND OB HEAD NURSES urgently needed. Live near the beach on the beautiful California coast. Previous supervisory experience or extensive staff experience necessary. Call collect or send resume, Mark Williams, Administrative Assistant, Port Hueneme Adventist Hospital, 307 East Clara Street, Port Hueneme, CA 93041, (805/488-3661, ext. 215). p1-1t

FOR SALE near Ozark Academy. Choice setting with 3-bedroom split-level 2½ bath home, 2100 sq. ft., intercom, built-ins, central heat and air, fireplace. \$69,500 with large assumable low-interest loan. Contact Dick Carlson, Gray Realtors, P.O. Box 676, Gentry, AR 72734. 501/736-8774, 501/736-2625. p1-1t

Communications or copy not originating in a local conference of the Southwestern Union should be addressed to the Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, P.O. Box 4000, Burleson, Texas 76028. ALL COPY, SUBSCRIPTIONS, ADVERTISEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE from church members in the Southwestern Union should be addressed to the LOCAL CONFERENCE OFFICE.

COPY DEADLINES	
Announcement for Events on Weekend of	Should Be in Local Conference Office by
February 18 and 25	January 18
March 3 and 10	February 1
March 17 and 24	February 15
March 31 and April 7	February 29

SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE DIRECTORY

777 So. Burleson Blvd.
P.O. Box 4000
Burleson, TX 76028

President B. E. Leach
Secretary Bill May
Treasurer Max A. Trevino
Associate Secretary Richard Bendall
Associate Secretary Max Martinez
Assistant Secretary Wayne Shepperd
Assistant Treasurer B. Page Haskell
Assistant Secretary W. V. Wiist

Departments

Communication Richard Bendall
Community Services; Health
Temperance ASI Fred Murray
Development and
Religious Liberty W. V. Wiist
Education Frances Clark
Associate Floyd Eccles
Ministerial Max Martinez
Personal Ministries,
Sabbath School Clayton Pritchett
P.R.E.A.C.H. Program
Director John McFarlane
Stewardship V. L. Roberts
Youth and
Temperance Wayne Shepperd

Home Health Education Service

Director, HHES; ABC Larry Townsend
Associate Director,
Treasurer W. B. Robinson

Trust Services

Director Al Brown
Treasurer Richard Green

LOCAL CONFERENCE DIRECTORY

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA — Don Schneider, President; Terence Fletcher, Secretary-Treasurer; (P.O. Box 31000) 7025 Greenwood Road, Shreveport, Louisiana 71130.

OKLAHOMA — Robert Rider, President; Deryl Knutson, Secretary-Treasurer; (P.O. Box 32098) 4735 N.W. 63rd St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73132.

SOUTHWEST REGION — W. C. Jones, President; M. M. Young, Secretary; Helen Turner, Treasurer; (P.O. Box 226289) 2212 Lanark, Dallas, Texas 75266.

TEXAS — Cyril Miller, President; Bob Wood, Secretary; Franklin Moore, Treasurer; (P.O. Box 11620) 2838 Hemphill, Fort Worth, Texas 76110.

TEXICO — Don K. Sullivan, President; Arnold Trujillo, Secretary; Edward Stacey, Treasurer; (P.O. Box 7770) 4909 Canyon Dr., Amarillo, Texas 79114.

Those desiring to make wills, trust agreements, and annuities, should make them in favor of the legal association rather than the conference. Write your conference Director of Trust Services for further information.

RECORD prepared by Southwestern Union Department of Communication.

Volume 83, Number 1



on the record

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

The Day After — This Day — The Day Coming

One of my favorite pastimes is observing people. I like people — old people, young people, and all the in-betweens. People are interesting — people are fun — people are people (an obvious observation if there ever was one!). What I mean is this — if you know anything about people, you know they are all somewhat alike and yet they are all so different.

Another reason I like people is that they are Godlike — made in the image of God. God likes people so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, in order to save them from eternal death. Jesus loves people — all the people in the world. You can know that the next person who passes you on the street, walking or riding, is loved by God. That makes people important. If they all understood this, they would walk life's road with dignity and respect. People could make this planet earth a heaven if they followed their Maker — God. One day they will! "The meek shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5. Praise God!

Waiting is one of my pastimes — waiting for people like my wife and children, waiting for planes, or waiting for meetings to start. While I wait, I write or I watch people. Recently — the day after "The Day After," that synthetic horror story on ABC television depicting what an atomic bomb would do to Kansas, and viewed by over 100 million people — I sat waiting in my car watching people. I didn't see many happy people. Even some of the teenagers I saw had worried looks on their faces. It is hard to be happy when you know annihilation could take place in twenty or thirty minutes — almost total annihilation of the planet earth. Some individuals are preadapted to cope with the grim prospects of the 1980's. Those are the believers. They know God is still on His throne and still in charge. They know His plan for a better world is the only plan of real hope for the future. It is called the Plan of Salvation. Thank God for that!

We have THIS DAY — the only day we have for sure. We can make it a great day. Thank God for today. We all have 24 hours. No one has a minute more or less. It's how we use this time that makes the difference. Diversity and flexibility have always been the ingredients that make happiness possible. We can think what we want to think. We can do what we want to do. We can make this day a beautiful upper or we can make it a downer. In the final analysis, it is largely up to us.

I have always been delighted at the prospect of a new day, a fresh try, one more start, with perhaps a bit of magic waiting somewhere behind the morning. I like to stretch my mind and body and say, "It's great to be alive." "What can I do this day to bring a blessing?" Every day can be transcendently beautiful with Jesus in control of our lives.

In these hurry-up days of junk food and junk thought, fast-food religion and junk-food standards, it is hard for people to get their bearings. Millions are teetering on the edge of the abyss. They have no idea of the truth. No plan for their lives.

No hope for the future. They can either jump off the edge, drowse along, or live in a dream world.

"Have a nice day," "Make it a nice day," are words we hear often. Someone said to me recently, "Have a nice year." I like nice things — and it feels good to have my friends wish me so much niceness. The word *nice* comes from the old French word, *nescire*, meaning to be ignorant. Recently a church member said to me, "We have a nice preacher." What did he mean?! No one has ever said to me, "Ben have an ignorant day." Now, please don't stop saying, "Have a nice day!" We know what you mean. Just don't say, "Have a *nescire* day" when you visit Quebec!

There are plenty of people — millions — who are having ignorant days — all a part of their ignorance of God. These people have no hope, no standards, no plan for their lives. Children of God need not live one day in ignorance. The light is shining more and more than ever before all over the world — thanks to radio, television, and the printed page. There is nothing nice about ignorance and there is little excuse for it in this enlightened age.

You have THIS DAY. Make it great for God and nice for people, especially the ones you live with. That should be nice for you, too. Above all, remember this admonition: "But whatever happens, make sure your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ . . ." Phil. 1:27-30.*

The day I am most interested in is THE COMING DAY — the Day of the Lord) the Second Coming of Jesus. That is the day of all days — the great day of hope — the blessed hope — when Jesus returns and the dead are raised incorruptible — the day when eternal life for the redeemed will begin. Oh, what a day that will be! I can hardly wait. Keep your eye on that great day. It is coming soon — very soon. Be Ready.

Recently I received a letter (written by hand) from an old friend, Ken Stewart, a departmental director in the Chesapeake Conference. He wrote these impressive words, "As I look at myself, I don't know how I can make heaven — As I look at the love of Jesus, I don't know how I can miss it. Yet the vast majority will miss it."

No one need miss it. You won't if you stay close to Jesus. "He that endureth to the end shall be saved." Matthew 10:22. That's a promise.

You'll have a happy and prosperous 1984. Be faithful to God in all things and it will be the nicest year ever!

Yours for looking forward to
THE DAY COMING,

B. E. Leach, President.

*J. B. Phillips: The New Testament in Modern English, Revised Edition© J. B. Phillips 2958, 1960, 1972. Used by permission of Macmillan Publishing Co. Inc.

INSPIRED . . .

"A new year is opening before us. What will be its record? The manner in which we spend each passing day will decide this question . . . If we connect with God . . . His Spirit will flow through us as a channel, to refresh and bless all around us . . . Let us do His will, live for His glory, and He will give us a Happy New Year." *Signs of the Times*, Jan. 5, 1882.

GOD HONORS FAITH