



**Henri,  
the  
Robot  
That  
Talks  
About  
Jesus**

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# Focus on the Cover

## Henri, the Robot That Talks About Jesus

A few years ago Henri was employed as a car salesman, especially introducing the new Ford models. When that particular job was finished, and he was about to be laid on the shelf (It would have taken a very large shelf!), a new employer saw some unique capabilities in him, and offered him a new and very significant job — talking to boys and girls and even adults about Jesus.

Henri is made of steel, copper, aluminum, and glass. He stands about six feet tall. He literally lights up to attract people's attention. His internal organs are designed with his particular job in view — seeing, talking, and listening. All the energy he needs comes through his electrical connections.

Every year, during the Christmas season, Henri stands just outside the front door of the residence of Jack and Dorothy Burton, in Odessa, Texas. People come by the hundreds to talk to him, sometimes waiting in long lines for the opportunity.

Actually, Henri is the focal point of an elaborate lighted Christmas decoration, filling the front yard and the front win-

dows of the Burton home, and covering their roof. One group of large dolls with hilarious laughing facial expressions draw people's attention, some saying that if they feel sad or depressed these dolls give them a lift.

Dorothy Burton says that she never had a real loveable doll in her childhood, and her husband gave her a near life-sized one for the first Christmas after they were married, 29 years ago. Named Sister, this doll still gets an important place in the Christmas decoration.

Even before Henri became a part of it, the Burtons' outdoor holiday decoration had become a popular sight in Odessa. Newspaper and television publicity has helped boost the attraction. Every night there is a steady stream of cars driving slowly by. Many of them park somewhere near, and the people walk to the Burton home to admire the sight, to converse with Henri, or enjoy watching others do so. Jack made an estimation last year of about 60,000 people passing by.

For his eyesight, Henri has a television closed-circuit camera in his head, which shows the people standing in front of him on a television monitor screen inside the house. For his hearing, a microphone picks up the voice of people talking to him for a speaker inside the house. Henri's voice is really that of Dorothy, sitting before the television monitor with a microphone in her hand.

It is easy to engage children and even adults in conversation about Christmas, and the presents they hope to receive. Then it is only a step from that to talking about Baby Jesus and what His birth means to the world. Henri asks the people if they believe Jesus loves them; invites the children to sing Jesus Loves Me and other songs; and suggests the importance of love in the home. He often asks directly, "Do you love Jesus? And the response from most of the people is delightfully positive.

Heart-warming experiences are not unusual. One earliten boy was asked what he wanted for Christmas. After he mentioned his desires, he was asked if he thought he would get them.

"Probably not."

"What makes you think so?"

"My Dad has lost his job."

"Really? Is Daddy there? Let me talk to him."

Dad stepped up, a little embarrassed. Answering tactful questions, he confirmed that he was indeed out of work, and with nothing much in sight. Then Henri asked to speak to the mother. With the volume turned down for a little more privacy, the name and address, and the number and ages of the children were taken down, and comforting words were spoken.

Later, Jack and Dorothy visited the home with appropriate gifts for the children. Their visit confirmed the need; so after a trip to the supermarket, they returned with food enough to last over Christmas. Not only was there talk about the love of Jesus, but a true demonstration of it. They all knelt in prayer. After the Burtons had prayed, the father asked if he could also say a prayer, and gave heartfelt thanks for this manifestation of God's care for them.

"What church do you belong to?" asked the father as they were about to leave. When they identified themselves as Seventh-day Adventists, the man exclaimed, "I knew it!" Then it was revealed that the mother in the family was brought up in an Adventist home, and that Adventist beliefs were still strong.

Although they make it truly a missionary activity, this Christmas program is a private project of the Burtons. The assistance given to the family in need came out of their own pocket. But they consider it a part of their participation in the church's caring outreach to the community. On Henri's



The Christmas lights and decorations that attract people to the Burtons' home. (Inset) Jack and Dorothy Burton.



(Left) Henri, the robot, talking to a boy about Jesus. (Right) Dorothy Burton, the "voice" of Henri.

shoulder there is a stack of *Steps to Christ* booklets and other literature, and at appropriate moments, people are told to help themselves.

Another exciting conversation with Henri was with a man who approached and said, "Henri, I'm happy now!"

"What makes you so happy?"

"Don't you remember me? Last year you told me I could get my family back together."

"Yes. What happened?"

"We did get back together!"

"And was Jesus included?"

"You'd better believe it!"

Children are admonished to love Jesus. Parents are encouraged to teach their children about Jesus. Husbands and wives are urged to love and cherish each other. Henri's personal communication through an impersonal mechanical presence makes it easy to touch people without the hidden barrier of reserve that so naturally surrounds them.

Jack and Dorothy have a public accounting business which has operated in their home for 29 years. They do not hesitate to witness as opportunity offers in their business contacts. Free literature is always on their desks. They are active in the Odessa church, he as elder, and she as Sabbath School teacher.

Charles R. Beeler,  
*Managing Editor.*

## Special Feature

### 119,000 Visit Adventist Exhibit

Whatever you may have heard or read of the problems of the World's Fair '84 in New Orleans, you may well be gratified by the success of the Seventh-day Adventist presence at that exposition.

The Adventist Living Water Theatre as an exhibit, and especially the impressive audiovisual presentation, *Christ, the Source of Living Water* received praise from fairgoers, from officials of the Exposition, and from religious leaders. George Williams, vice president of marketing for the Louisiana World Exposition observed in a letter, "The Seventh-day Adventist Pavilion has been a constant and positive influence on the overall reaction of visitors to the Fair . . . I cannot help but feel that (it) provided one of the most outstanding private pavilions at the 1984 World's Fair."

Perhaps one of the greatest indications of its success has been its effect on children and youth. Again and again, their remarks indicated a deep impression regarding Christ as the Savior. At the point in the presentation where the crowd yelled "Crucify Him!" one small boy stood up and cried out, "No, no!"

It was not a show to be watched, applauded, and forgotten. Scores of people reported how many times they had come back to see it again, often bringing others with them. A New Orleans couple said, as the Fair was closing, "We will miss you. Your program is absolutely wonderful. We have attended the Fair 22 times, and saw this show nearly every time. We love it."

October 28 was designated by the Fair administration as Seventh-day Adventist Day. Two programs were held, one at the Coronet Stage and the other at the Frey Gazebo. George Vandeman, speaker of the *It Is Written* telecast, was the featured speaker. Entertainment was provided by the Southern Gents, four gymnasts from Southern College; Julie

McClarty, also from Southern, who is national champion baton twirler; the Collegedale Caroliers, a childrens' choir from the A. W. Spaulding Elementary School of Collegedale, Tennessee; and Cottonwood, a bluegrass band from Southwestern Adventist College, Keene, Texas.

Other guests for Seventh-day Adventist Day included Victor Cooper of the General Conference Communication Department; B. E. Leach and Richard Bendall of the Southwestern Union Conference; Don Schneider of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference; and Franklin Po, architect and designer of the Living Water Theatre.

Recognition awards were presented to Marvel Sundin, executive director of the Adventist World Fair Project by representatives of the Mayor of New Orleans and the Louisiana World Exposition.

Dr. Sundin has directed the 27-week project as a volunteer enterprise and with volunteer help, from the first brainstorming session months in advance, through the fund-raising and planning stages, and finally the Fair presentation itself. Her principal helpers have been Henrietta Stumpf in charge of the volunteer teams manning the exhibit, Casper Gelbke, treasurer, and Diane Butler in charge of public relations.

The half-million dollar cost of the project was raised from private and corporate donors and from some denominational organizations.

The volunteers, working one or two weeks or more, from 20 different states, numbered 262. They distributed over 300,000 pieces of literature, including the premium books given in daily and weekly drawings, for which over 30,000 persons registered. The total attendance at the pavilion was 119,000.

The moving drama of the Plan of Salvation so powerfully presented in the audiovisual program has exalted Jesus Christ as the Source of Living Water, as the Savior of sinful humans, and the soon-coming King of the Universe. Seventh-day Adventists have been shown to be believers in that Savior.

Charles R. Beeler,  
*Managing Editor.*



(Left) George Vandeman, speaking at the World's Fair. (Right) Southern Gents gymnastic performance.

# Spotlight on Soul Winning

## Seminar Held in Church of God

Ronald Peyton, pastor of the Northeast San Antonio, Texas church, recently held a Revelation Seminar for the Prospect Hill Church of God, at the request of their minister, Ernie Lopez. Lopez had received a Revelation Seminar brochure in the mail, and called to register himself and several of his members. Peyton contacted him and arranged to conduct the Seminar in their church where all of the members could attend.

It was gratifying to enter the church and find a Revelation Seminar brochure spread out on the bulletin board, and others placed in all of the song book racks in the pews. The opening session was attended by 30 persons, who manifested enthusiasm and excitement over what they were learning.



Members of Prospect Hill Church of God attending Revelation Seminar.

One couple, who drive 60 miles to attend the church, exclaimed, "We wouldn't miss this for anything!" They requested additional material so they could visit friends and encourage them to attend.

Lopez, semi-retired for health reasons, was nationwide director of Spanish work for the Church of God. He has mentioned his desire to share the Revelation Seminar concept.

The words of our Master apply today: "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." John 4:35.

Ronald Peyton, *Pastor.*

## General News

### Annual Council Spends Day Studying Education

"The work of education and redemption are one based upon Jesus Christ," declared F. R. Stephan, director of education for the North American Division. It was because of this philosophical difference that Seventh-day Adventist schools were started 114 years ago, and not in response to "the terrible situation in public schools" as was suggested at a Conference of the American Association of School Admin-

istrators that Stephan attended recently. Stephan was speaking to the Annual Council where a full day had been set aside at the request of the North American Division K-12 Board of Education to study the challenges and problems facing Adventist schools today, to update and inform the participants of the issues, changes, and situations that exist and need attention, and to receive the input of the Council. These leaders were reminded that they were considering a segment of the work which employs more than 5,600 teachers in the elementary/secondary system of some 1,240 schools.

"We are committed," Stephan told the group, "first to the redemption of our youth and children, second and of comparable significance—to providing leadership for this church." During the past four years more than 15,600 students have been baptized. "Christian education is more than philosophical statements found in the books of E. G. White, more than enrollment data or financial statements, it is greater than a well-articulated curriculum, it goes far beyond 'the system' as we know it. It is the pulse beat — spiritual vitality of the church, it is our heritage, our future. It is here to supplement and assist the church in its unfinished task," Stephan added.

The program for the Education Day at Annual council gave an opportunity for the union and local conference officers and educational directors of the North American Division to respond to the challenge. Small groups discussed such diverse topics as: financing elementary and secondary education, upholding the church standards, intermural sports, pastoral support, the educational wage scale, job security, and the use of denominational textbooks. Study will be given to the implementation of suggested solutions to these problems made by the participants of the meeting. Administrators ended the study session expressing their support of the Church's educational program and their determination to see that education in their conferences will maintain the God-given plan for our youth.

Owen Troy, *Associate Communication Director,*  
*General Conference.*

## It Is Written Airs Special Series

The seven-part miniseries of *It Is Written* programs entitled *The Telltale Connection*, dealing with the psychic and the occult, began on January 6. The remaining topics of the series are as follows:

Psychic Counterfeits .....	January 20
The Truth About Psychic Healing ..	January 27
Toys of a Fallen Angel .....	February 3
The Tiger Behind the Door .....	February 10
The Spectacular Finish .....	February 17

Church members will want to view these programs to keep informed on current developments in this area, and should urge their interested friends to view them too.

## News In Review

### New Churches Opened in Poland

Adventists in Poland recently dedicated new churches in four cities—Siedlce (East Polish Conference), Andrychow and Kalwaria Zebrzydowska (South Polish Conference), and Przemysl (near the Russian border; this church was built largely from funds donated by a Polish-Canadian Adventist).

The Kalwaria church is of special note because the town is the site of Catholic pilgrimages. Pope John Paul II, who was born in nearby Wadowice, often visited the monastery there. The Adventist church is the only non-Catholic church in Kalwaria.

*Adventist Review*, December 13, 1984.

# Southwestern Adventist College

## Adult Degree Program Gets New Director

Marie Redwine, associate professor of home economics at Southwestern Adventist College, has assumed the position of Adult Degree Program director, replacing Joe Wheeler, who headed the program for four years.

Wheeler left Southwestern after ten years as professor of English, ADP and lyceum series director to become director of development at Boulder (Colorado) Memorial Hospital.

One of Dr. Redwine's first major duties will be to conduct a seminar, scheduled February 3 to 15, at the college for students entering the ADP for the first time.

"Adult education is the fastest growing segment of our student body, so we wanted a special kind of individual to head up the program," says Harold Wright, vice president for academic affairs. "We needed a person who has the respect of the academic community, as well as someone who deals well with people.

"The decision to complete a degree is a radical one for most adults, so the ability to communicate with them is essential. We also looked for a good detail person — someone who wouldn't let the little things get lost in the larger scheme of things. We felt that Dr. Redwine was an excellent choice."

There are currently 65 students enrolled in Southwestern's Adult Degree Program, and the program boasts 25 graduates.

The ADP allows individuals to complete studies in their major fields, while maintaining family or job responsibilities at home. It's a chance for many to realize a lifelong ambition. "It's thrilling to see how many adults are willing to sacrifice to study here," continues Wright. "People have a deep loyalty to our educational system. They don't just want an education; they want an **Adventist** education."

In beginning the program, the student attends a two-week on-campus seminar — like the upcoming one in February — where he can get acquainted with other students in the program, meet the teachers he'll be writing to, plan his curriculum and gain encouragement. He'll then attend weekend seminars once a year at the college until his degree is granted.



Marie Redwine, new director of Southwestern Adventist College's Adult Degree Program, discusses a student's portfolio with outgoing ADP chief Joe Wheeler.

(Photo by Phillip Kantzer)

All courses listed in Southwestern's bulletin are available through ADP. "Courses with a lot of laboratory work may be a little more difficult, but many times problems can be worked out in cooperation with a local community college," explains Dr. Redwine.

Can the student receive credit for experience he has gained through work? "Yes!" says Wright. "Anywhere from five to 20 credit hours are available to students who can prove that they have knowledge or skills, not necessarily experience, outside of the traditional classroom. One of the first principles of credit-awarding is that it doesn't matter where the knowledge comes from, provided the individual knows the material well."

For further information, please call Dr. Marie Redwine collect at 817/645-3921.

## Arkansas- Louisiana

DON SCHNEIDER, Correspondent

### Gentry Church Uses Computer

Several months ago the Gentry church purchased a Televideo computer to expedite the work of the records and finance departments. This has proved to be a real asset. All the financial processes are done on the computer. Millie Carlson, church clerk, uses it to record church membership statistics. Mailing lists for the monthly *Newsletter* and other mailings are quickly and easily processed, and the Sabbath School

Millie Carlson, church clerk, at the computer.



Pastor Charles Griffin and Roy Teale.

department uses the computer for attendance records, class membership lists, and other pertinent data.

"I don't know how we got along without it," says Pastor Charles Griffin as he watches Roy Teale, a senior at Ozark Adventist Academy, put data into the personal file. Roy does much of the routine work as part of his school activities. Currently a church directory is being processed, complete with addresses and telephone numbers that have been stored in the computer.

Velda Nelson,  
Communication Secretary.

### THIRD ANNUAL MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT SEMINAR

Camp Yorktown Bay,  
Mountain Pine, Arkansas

February 15-17, 1985  
Begins 7:00 p.m. Friday and  
ends 1:00 p.m. Sunday

Cost: \$50.00 per couple including  
room and food.

For information and reservations  
contact Bob or Betty Forbes  
501/624-5206

### Vacation Bible School in Gonzales

"We were excited because more and more children attended every day," said Bonnie Gallagher, director of the Gonzales, Louisiana vacation Bible school. "The children had so much fun, they invited their friends to come with them the next day."

"We were also pleased that over one half of the participants were from non-Adventist homes, and many were from families with very little religious training and contact. You feel like you have really accomplished something when you have the opportunity to introduce young people with little or no religious background to a caring, happy Chris-



These boys and girls had fun at the Gonzales Vacation Bible School.

tian environment," continued Mrs. Gallagher.

The crafts included match containers, yuletide advent calendars, chicken magnets, love knots, deluxe hangers, and art work. Robin Broussard, one of the craft leaders, stated her secret was to "cut out and put all the required pieces together in individual plastic bags. It takes a lot of work, but it is certainly helpful with the younger children as everything is organized for them."

The pastor, Michael Tomlinson, was able to assist with the program. "We are hoping to begin a story hour on a regular basis in the near future so that we can continue to share Christ with the young people who attended. That way, these children can learn more about Christ, even though their families may not attend church regularly," he stated.

Rhonda Tomlinson,  
*Communication Secretary.*

## Pathfinders Win Parade Prize

The Beacon Hill Pioneers Pathfinder club, of DeQueen, Arkansas, won the grand prize of \$100 in the Merchants' Christmas Parade!

Barry Lambeth, the club staff, youth council members, and all club members produced a lovely float using the theme, "People Helping People." White paper napkins were stuffed into a chicken wire frame to give the appearance of snow. This was topped with holly. The message, "The Spirit of Christmas Around the World," stood out in bold red letters. A very large world balloon stood in the



DeQueen's prize-winning Pathfinder float.

middle of the float surrounded by Pathfinders dressed in authentic costumes from around the world.

Marching in front of the float, was the Pathfinder drill team, and Barry Lambeth, club director, marched at the rear of the procession. Joe Conatser had drilled the team for several weeks.

Each year as the church enters the town Christmas parade, its aim is to keep the name of our church before the public as much as possible.

Carol Coppock,  
*Communication Secretary.*

## Week of Prayer Held Jefferson Heights

Pam Smith, Jefferson Heights Junior Academy principal, has brought a new professional dimension this year to the school in New Orleans. Her plans for the school include, not only academic programs, but week of prayer and all types of spiritual activities.

Henrietta Stumpf, a former teacher of the lower grades at Jefferson Heights, brought spiritual blessing and refreshment in a week of prayer for the lower grade students, some of whose parents had been Mrs. Stumpf's students.

Upper grade students, some like Alex Johnson who has attended Jefferson Heights for all of his eight grades, were privileged to have Rick Johnson, pastor from Slidell, Louisiana, as their week of prayer speaker.

Thomas Kopko, *Pastor.*



Angie Singh, a new 10th-grade student, Pam Smith, Henrietta Stumpf, Rick Johnson, and Alex Johnson.

# Ozark Adventist Academy

## OAA Students Enjoy Happy Sabbaths

"Happy Sabbath!" is a greeting you will hear often as our students enjoy the "Specialness" of the Sabbath hours at Ozark Adventist Academy.

Many take an active part in the leadership of the religious activities planned each week. Following Friday evening vespers the student center is crowded as Robin Allen, Student Association religious vice president, leads in an afterglow when those who wish may sing, fellowship, and pray together before returning to their rooms or homes.

Sabbath School offers further opportunities for leadership and personal growth as students participate actively in well-planned programs of worship and inspiration and in the lesson study presentation.

AYF (Adventist Youth Fellowship) activities under the leadership of Evelyn Griffin have enhanced the beauty of the Sabbath afternoon hours. A variety of



Ozark Adventist Academy Sabbath School class with Kenneth Finnell as teacher.

Kevin Abrahamson and Steve Willoughby, participating in a game at AYF.





AYF bonfire and vespers.

activities are planned from week to week, including music programs, nature hikes, bonfires, and vespers, visitation to the surrounding community, and guest speakers.

Olla Gillham,  
Teacher/Librarian.

## Oklahoma

BEAMAN SENECA, JR., Correspondent

The **OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE** reached its **Ingathering Goal** (\$25.00 per member) a week before Christmas and will have a good overflow. **Thanks** to Pastors, Personal Ministries Leaders and every participating member.

Robert D. Rider, *President*

### Pathfinders Canoe The Illinois River

Cheryl St. Clair, Pathfinder director, reports excitement ran high as 18 Pathfinders from the Bartlesville Adventist Elementary school boarded two vans for Tahlequah and the Illinois River.



Bartlesville Pathfinders on their canoe trip.

After riding and finally getting life jackets, paddles, canoes, and partners, they were on the river. For many, it was their first time in a canoe, and, after turning in many circles, going zig-zag and hitting every stump and rock, most caught on to the basic mechanics of paddling. Thus began an exciting 12 miles. A brief stop for lunch and back on the river found each tackling the last seven miles.

"We made it without one canoe tipping over, and only a few scrapes and bruises," Cheryl reported.

Counselors accompanying the youth group were: Terry St. Clair, Janna Lou St. Clair, Charise Bailey, Alan Preszler and the Pathfinder director, Cheryl St. Clair. Drivers were Barbara and Lou Lopez from the Freedom-Rent-a-Car.

Louise Venn,

*Communication Secretary.*

### Students Sing, Give "Steps to Christ"

On December 14, 15 academy students from Parkview Adventist Academy went Ingathering. The significant thing is that they were not going Ingathering to get but to give.

Following a Christmastime tradition established by the Bible teacher, Bob Reidenbaugh, and business teacher, Donna Nicholas, these students went caroling to give each home visited a copy of *Steps to Christ*.

The students were well received. One family who were not at home when the carolers came by their house, upon learning what the carolers were doing, drove through the neighborhood until they located them so they could tell them how much they appreciated what the students were doing in their neighborhood.

Before the students could distribute

all of their books it began to rain and they were forced to make a dash several blocks to the home of Beverley Roberts, PAS elementary teacher, where they were treated to hot chocolate and popcorn. Although the rain cut short the caroling and giving, the students had time to experience the real spirit of Christmas.

Calvin Bickell.

### AN OKLAHOMAN YOU SHOULD KNOW . . .



**Donna Marlow** began doing volunteer projects for Parkview Adventist Elementary School in Oklahoma City when her son Gary started first grade there. Gary is now 21 and employed in his family's business, but Donna continues to devote time to helping with projects at Parkview.

Donna was the choir director until last year when Parkview, now a 12-grade day academy, employed a music teacher. She says that she probably did "much more homework to prepare for the job than the students did."

Fund-raising is one of the activities which Donna frequently is asked to help with. The Central Church in Oklahoma City has one of the largest Ingathering goals in the conference — over \$12,000. Donna is a lay leader in the church who expresses a year-round interest in the Ingathering program. She starts sometimes as early as February or March giving Ingathering talks at the church, encouraging systematic giving to the "Ingathering Christmas Club."

She is also on the committee for fund-raising at Parkview. A project which has brought the school much success has been the sale of citrus fruits, nuts and apples. At the beginning the fruit was purchased through the local Lion's Club, but now it is purchased direct from the Rio Grande Valley. As the citrus fruit sales met with success, apples and nuts were added. Donna says, "The success of the project is due to the fact that many parents take orders for fruit at work." The fruit sells for competitive or lower prices than at the grocery store. A recent apple sale netted \$1,800 for the school.

For a number of years she directed Central's vacation Bible school and often she adds blessing to the services through vocal solos. Any member of Central Church will tell you that Donna Marlow is a valued leader and friend.

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# "What I've Learned Since Our Daughter Enrolled In an Adventist Elementary School."

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Four months ago I kissed Kami good-bye as she left for our local Adventist school for the first time. "My big third grade girl," I beamed, giving her a squeeze to send her on her way. As I watched her round the corner, I whispered,

"Help her, Lord, to have a good year."

I was partially committed to the idea that our daughter belonged in an Adventist school. But what **I've** learned since the first of September has now completely convinced me that we've made the right decision.



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**"Our teachers must meet both General Conference and State educational standards."**

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My husband and I have really gained confidence in our Seventh-day Adventist schools. We've seen Christian philosophy in action. We've learned that Kami's

teacher measures up to the standards set by both our church and the state.

But sometimes there's a big difference between fulfilling requirements and meeting the actual needs of youngsters. Kami's teacher does both!

I've gotten acquainted with Kami's teacher—and others at our school—and





I've found her to be a Christian teacher in every sense of the word. She knows how to motivate. She leads instead of pushing.

Most importantly, she sets an example we're proud to have Kami follow. She makes the Christian lifestyle appealing and exciting. (Kami's already talking about wanting to become a Christian teacher!) Even her methods of discipline encourage our daughter to learn the true meaning of confession and forgiveness.



**"My daughter is learning from her relationships as well as from her textbooks."**

As a mother, I'm protective of my child. I want to know her friends. We feel fortunate that Kami is building relationships with classmates from families which teach values similar to our own.

Being a home room mother is enriching my life. Once a month I volunteer to assist with a school function or field trip. I'm helping with the school's program, and building friendships with students and teachers too. Attending our Home and School Association meetings gives me an opportunity to meet other parents and talk about our children.

Our school and church sponsor many weekend activities, so we know Kami has acceptable social programs in which she can participate. My husband

and I join in as often as possible, providing refreshments, transportation, or supervision.



**"It's our home, church, and school all working together!"**

In just four months, our lives have grown to center around our hilltop church and school six days a week. It's a pattern we encourage—a natural blending of home, school, and church.

Last summer when we moved to Centerville, we looked at the options available for Kami's education. Some were much less expensive—in dollars. But we envisioned certain advantages of Valley View Adventist School. Now I've seen and learned them firsthand. And I think Adventist education is the best investment our family has ever made!

Christian  
**EDUCATION**  
An Adventist Essential

# Southwest Region

W. C. JONES, Correspondent

## New Church Opened in Navasota, Texas

In 1946, Geraldine Dobson returned from the West Coast to Navasota, a small town in south Texas. Then D. C. Batson came to town, pitched a tent, held evangelistic meetings, and baptized 18 persons. For a number of years the believers met in one place after another, until in 1955 Victoria Cooper bargained for land and a purchase was made.

Some time later it was learned that an army barracks building was available in Trinity, Texas. It was soon moved to the church site, and after days of paint-up, fix-up, and clean-up, in 1960, the members rejoiced over their own place of worship.

Father Time and Mother Nature, a tornado, and termites weakened the structure. Recently, Pastor J. R. Ellis and the congregation decided to step out on God's promises and rebuild, with the help of the Conference.

November 4, 1984 was a day of rejoicing, as the new church, valued at \$100,000 was officially opened. It seats 150 persons, has central air conditioning and heating, wall-to-wall carpet, and cushioned pews. Besides the sanctuary the building includes a pastor's study and a fellowship wing. W. C. Jones, conference president, spoke in the opening service. Victoria Cooper was honored for her dedicated service. Ed Thatcher,



From left: W. C. Jones, E. Johnson, J. R. Ellis and Ed Thatcher.

A new structure in Navasota, Texas valued at \$100,000.



city councilman brought greetings from the city.

Among those who have served the church as pastors are: N. Snipes, C. R. Pritchett, A. R. Carethers, A. Booker, J. A. Morris, W. T. Cox, M. V. Singleton and R. E. Brown. T. R. Mason and E. Johnson are to be commended for their lay leadership, holding the group together through the years.

Doris Jones, Reporter.

## Non-Discrimination Policy

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in all of its church-operated schools, admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools, and makes no discrimination on the basis of race in administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs.

## ACADEMIES

### School Name and Address

1. City Temple Academy — 1600 Bonnie View Rd., Dallas, TX 75203
2. Ephesus Academy — P.O. Box 3155, New Orleans, LA 70117

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

### School Name and Address

1. Smyrna School — 916 Broadway, Alexandria, LA 71301
  2. Berean School — P.O. Box 1925, Baton Rouge, LA 70821
  3. Emmanuel School — 702 N. Cherry St., Hammond, LA 70401
  4. A. R. Carethers School — 5878 Bellfort Blvd., Houston, TX 77033
  5. Shiloh School — 2400 S. Maple, Little Rock, AR 72205
  6. Northside School — P.O. Box 8908, Pine Bluff, AR 71606
  7. Philadelphia School — 1143 Madison Ave., Shreveport, LA 71103
  8. Bethel School — P.O. Box 660, Texarkana, TX 75501
- James Ford,  
Superintendent of Schools.



PATHFINDER DAY AT BELLFORT — October 20, the Houston Pathfinders of the Bellfort church observed a special day, with Darrell Sias as speaker. The children's choir presented special music with Alberta Long as director. Curtis Eakins is Pathfinder director.



# Texas

JOE RAY, Correspondent

## Adventists Serve at State Fair

The Texas Conference Communication Department again sponsored an exhibit at the Dallas State Fair. Several thousand people stopped by to learn their life expectancy from the health-age computer.

A visitor (left) sees her health age result on computer operated by Lisha Smith, a student from Southwestern Adventist College, while Dudley Tomblinson looks on.



Elder Wayne Andrews managed the exhibit and many volunteers from the Dallas and Keene areas assisted at the exhibit. Thousands of copies of *Happiness Digest* and other literature were given away.

The following number of people requested information on programs offered by our church: Five-Day Plan, 216; Stress Management, 351; Weight Control, 398; Food Preparation and Nutrition, 288; Home Health Care, 128; Revelation Seminar, 53; and a showing of the Bible Reference library, 100.

Reta Tomblinson and Lisha Smith at Computers. Line of fair-goers wait for health age results.



**FLASH**

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**Health Management**  
LIVE - IN - CLINIC



Cassalnnie Henry, founder of Missouri City church, wife Beverly, and children, Jennifer, Lorraine, and C. J.

## Henry Leads Church in Houston Area

Casalnnie Henry has been serving as lay pastor for the Missouri City church. He is an internal accountant at the University, but his great love is his church. Since 1981, Brother Henry has had an article in each issue of the *Briargate Beacon*, a paper sponsored by the Briargate Civic Club. In his articles he gives the names and addresses and time of services of the Missouri City church. He also quotes freely from the writings of Ellen White, and writes articles on the home, family, prayer, and character building.

Before arriving in New York from Jamaica, he helped start a new church in his homeland. In New York he helped organize two new churches. Missouri City is the second church he has assisted in raising up in the Houston area. His wife, Beverly, and children, Jennifer, Lorraine, and C. J., support their husband and father in his church ministry.

## Ft. Worth First Reaches Goal Early

The Fort Worth First Church reached its Ingathering goal of \$12,000 early in November and pushed ahead for an overflow. Roy Edgar, personal ministries director, led the church in a short, spirited, and spiritual campaign. Ruth Vohries, an 81-year-old member, solicited house-to-house for 14 nights, and brought in \$416.17. On her best night she solicited \$57.26.

There was much enthusiasm among the junior age youth, and they discovered that Ingathering can be fun!

One band consisted of Roy Edgar, Ruth Vohries, John Mitchell, the driver and, Sam Thorton.



**NEW PASTOR** — Elder Clyde D. Thomas has arrived in Texas to pastor the North Houston and Cypress Creek churches. After graduating from Union College in 1972, he became Bible teacher at Cedar Lake Academy and later served as a pastor in the Michigan Conference until his call to Texas. He is married to the former Myrtle Borton, and they have two children, Myla and Reginal. Thomas has a master's degree in religious education from Andrews University.



**JAA SENIORS VISIT KEENE** — The Jefferson academy seniors participated in College Days at Southwestern Adventist College in Keene, and were determined to raise their rating from last place. They did it by placing third in the overall rating of the seven academies represented.





Joshua congregation on the first Sabbath in the new church building.

## Joshua Church Reaches Out

The Joshua congregation, only recently installed in its newly built church building, has had a vacation Bible school, Revelation Seminar and several community services endeavors.

The first church service was held on the first Sabbath in August. It was an event many of the congregation had waited four years to see. The following week brought the first vacation Bible school with over 40 children in attendance. Arts and crafts were provided each night along with a story hour by Max Barton.

The blood pressure screening van was provided for the Joshua community in September. Volunteers from the church, which is blessed with several registered nurses, checked blood pressures of 45 participants. Information on

health and Bible studies was offered.

On Halloween, the youth and young at heart collected food items for food baskets for the needy in November. Over 200 cans and staples were collected, enough to provide for eight large boxes for families in the Joshua area. Fresh bread and produce were added to the boxes also.

A Revelation Seminar was begun in October by the pastor, Ken Veal. Several members and non-Adventists have been attending.

As you can see, the Joshua congregation barely got the walls up on the building before it was reaching out in faith to share Jesus Christ with the community. This faith is what first started the Joshua church, and it is this faith that will make it grow. Praise God for His leading!

David Gerstle,  
Community Services Leader.



Joshua vacation Bible school students enjoyed the stories and crafts.

Instead of trick-or-treat, this group collected food for Thanksgiving baskets.



**FAREWELL** — Before they left for New Jersey, Elder and Mrs. Frank Moore were honored by the Texas Conference staff at a farewell party. They were given a grandfather clock. Frank says every time he looks at the clock he will think of his friends in Texas.

## Texico

DON SULLIVAN, Correspondent

### Opus Dei Attends Youth Congress

*Opus Dei*, "Workers of God," is a musical group whose spontaneity and spiritual energy have posed moments for every audience member to be confronted with the privilege of the awareness of God's presence.

The group's musical presentations have been patterns of meaningful worship. They sing to the Lord! As expressed in Isaiah 6, they first seek and see the Lord. They continue by presenting songs reflecting humility—ringing out confessions of unclean lips and some stumbling along God's way by the worldly. With expressions of passion and emotion they responsively echo Psalm 51, asking for clean hearts . . . and God's free spirit. As they joyously continue, they bring assurance of God's grace and His wonderful assurance of sins forgiven. Finally, they present songs expressing dedication. "Then I heard the Lord asking, 'Whom shall I send as a messenger to my people? Who will go? And I said, Lord I'll go! Send me.'" Isaiah 6:8, TLB\*.

Music is an eloquent avenue of presenting words appropriate to the emotions and ideas expressed together with the beauty of sound and quality. *Opus Dei* members have experienced two years together as a music group. They practice many disciplined hours to perfect each part of their presentations and to give their best to the Lord. As stated by them, "God likes our best efforts and we should strive for nothing less. We sing from our hearts; we sing to our God."

Audiences have been deeply appreci-



**Opus Dei.** Back row, left to right: David Gonzales, Norberto Graf, Ricardo Brack. Front row: Elva Gonzales, Liliana Graf, Nancy Brack, Eileen Baca.

ative of the group's efforts, dedication, and earnestness as workers of God and music. They have received a blessing from God who so graciously bestows it to those who seek Him.

*Opus Dei* was selected by the Southwestern Union Conference to participate in the Pan-American Youth Congress in Mexico City, December 18-22.

\*The Living Bible, copyright 1971, by Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Ill. Used by permission.

## El Paso Holds Cooking School

The El Paso Central Church recently conducted a "Taste of Nature" vegetarian cooking school under the directorship of Jill Foster, with Donna Frost, Judy Lawhead, and Tim and Sylvia Jacobsen as assistant directors. Other helpers included June Pyle, Angie McFarland, Jeri Kish, Teresa Cano, Awilda Ortiz Ramos and Vern Lawhead.

The 15 participants enjoyed a nightly nutritional lecture, cooking demonstrations, food sampling and several films, including *The Great Train Robbery*, *Vegetables All Around*, *Sugartime*, and *Eat Till Your Heart's Content*.

The seven-night course was designed to teach how to prepare meatless entrees (including many without the use of dairy products), how to use tofu in a variety of delicious ways and how to prepare low-sugar desserts, breads, and adequate and nutritious breakfasts. Several different ways of preparing vegetables and sugarless beverages were also demonstrated.

One of the projects completed was the compilation of a cookbook using the recipes and nutritional handouts given out nightly. The artwork for the cookbook was done by Randall Lawhead, a member of the church.

Participants were very enthusiastic and eager to learn, attending regularly. A banquet was held on the eighth night and some of the new recipes were used.

Cindy Rupel,

*Communication Secretary.*

## Heights Church Has Cooking School

The Albuquerque Heights Church conducted a four-part cooking school series which ended November 4, 1984.

Foods were prepared that took no, or little, sugar and oil. The purpose was to make people more aware of the natural foods that are available to provide all the body's needs. There were slide presentations each evening relating to the hazards of sugar, coffee, white flour, and to the necessity of water.

Classes were well attended and everyone benefited from the health talks given each evening by Frances Mehner.

Another cooking school is planned for late January or early February.

Pat Hudson,  
*Communication Secretary.*



**Johnnie Margaret Bailey demonstrates her cooking skills.** Other demonstrators were Margarete Holmes, Esther Maurx and Barbara Mitzelfelt.

## Reunions

**The Palmetto, Florida, church** — oldest Adventist church in Florida, 3307 10th St. W, Palmetto, FL 33561, invites attendance at a special weekend, March 8 and 9, 1985.

## At Rest

**BARR, Theodore Archie**, was born Aug. 26, 1905 in Fairmont, OK and died Oct. 20, 1984 in McAllen, TX. He was a member of the Pharr church for 33 years. Survivors include: his wife Odessa Garner Barr of Alamo, his daughter Lorraine Balderston of McAllen, his son Robin Ray Barr of Nacogdoches, his brother Dale Barr of Brownsville, 5 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. Services were conducted Oct. 23 by Brian Savage with burial in Roselawn Cemetery in McAllen.

**BODWELL, Zetta Louzella**, was born June 23, 1900 to Laura Mae and Frank Williams in Muskogee County, Indian Territory and died Dec. 8, 1984 in Midwest City, OK.

On June 4, 1919, she was married to G. H. Bodwell in Duncan, OK. As a young woman she joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church of which she remained a faithful member throughout life. She worked at the Ardmore Adventist Hospital for several years, and was very active in the Dorcas



**STUDENTS HAVE FIELD SCHOOL** — the middle-grade room of the El Paso Adventist school participated in a field school October 1-5. They visited Heron Lake State Park in Chama, New Mexico. Highlight of the week was a trip on the antique steam train. Nobert Sammer is teacher of the group.



**Interest ran high during the cooking school at Albuquerque Heights Church.**

Society.

When Mr. Bodwell died Aug. 20, 1976, Zetta moved to Summit Ridge Retirement Center, where she has resided for the past seven years.

Surviving her are: a sister, Virginia Page of Rio Vista, CA; two nieces, Corrine Lovett of Long Beach, CA, and Sherry Mayes of Artesia, NM; two nephews, Gary Parham of Williams, CA, and Stan Parham of Albuquerque, NM.

**CARLSON, William**, was born Oct. 27, 1908, at LaHolm, Sweden, and died Oct. 18, 1984, in Mountain View, AR.

He came to the United States in 1929 and worked on farms in North Dakota, Illinois, and Iowa. He was married to Ferne Nelson in 1947 at Des Moines, IA, and lived and farmed at Extria until 1960 when he began working for the Hinsdale Hospital in Hinsdale, IL, as a food purchaser.

The Carlsons retired in 1975 and moved to Mountain View, AR, where he held the position of personal ministries director.

He is survived by his wife Ferne; a son, Don Carlson, of Benton Harbor, and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Patrick Stout in Atlantic, IA and burial was in Elk Horn, IA.

A. A. Wilson.

**CLEARY, Linda Pearl**, was born Oct. 10, 1944, in Olive Hill, TN, and died Nov. 18, 1984, at Hughes Springs, TX.

Linda was married to Carl Cleary in South Bend, IN, in 1966. They moved to Hughes Springs in 1980. Linda was a member of the New Hope church.

She is survived by: her husband, Carl; three sons,

James, Bradley and Scott; all of Hughes Springs; one sister, Betty Haufman of Longview; one brother, David Shepard of Hughes Springs; and mother, Sarah Hernandez of Hughes Springs.

Floyd W. Eccles and Robert Mehling conducted the service in the New Hope Church and burial was at Olive Hill, TN.

**DUNN, Carrol Goff**, was born Feb. 8, 1951, at Alexandria, LA, one of three daughters of James and Joyce Goff. She died Nov. 5, 1984, at Rapides General Hospital in Alexandria.

Besides residing in Pineville, she also lived in Forest Hill and more recently in Wichita Falls, TX, where she managed a chain of grocery stores.

Carrol is survived by: her parents, James and Joyce Goff of Deville, LA; two daughters, Margaret Douzart and Elizabeth Bardley of Deville; two sisters, Marguerite Haas of Deville, and Conzy Watson of Pineville; two brothers, Ronnie L. Goff and James I. Goff, both of Deville.

Carrol was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Services were conducted by Pastor Bill Neptune assisted by Jim Foster, pastor of the Deville, Louisiana, Catholic church. Interment was near Pollock, Louisiana.

Bill Neptune.

**GIST, Allie Lucille**, was born in Oklahoma Oct. 4, 1908, and died in California Dec. 9, 1984.

She was a member of the El Paso Central Church.

She is survived by: a daughter, Martha Hoffman, of California; four brothers, Loyde Cooper and Clarence Cooper of Texas, and Clyde Cooper and John Cooper of California; five sisters, Alice Hallet of California, Hazel Phillips, Marie Helbert, Elle Edwards and Helen Ernest, all of Texas; and two grandchildren.

Interment was in California.

**HERRING, Samuel Lee**, was born Oct. 21, 1927, in Mira, LA, and died Sept. 9, 1984, in Jefferson, TX. He was married to Jean Harris in 1951 in Texarkana, AR, and after living six years in Ft. Worth, the rest of their married life was spent in East Texas.

He was a tool and die maker at Morton-Thickol Corp. for over 27 years and had served in the U. S. Air Force in World War II.

He joined the Seventh-day Adventist church in 1962 and stood firm for the Sabbath even to the losing of his job for this cause several times.

He is survived by: his wife Jean, of Jefferson; three daughters, Sherri Zwermer, Debra Hart and Christy Herring, all of Jefferson; three brothers,

Charles Herring of Shreveport, LA; Hershel Herring of Lake Jackson and Robert Hugh Herring of Mississippi; three sisters, Mrs. Virgil Schoppe of Mississippi, Mrs. Bill Crowley of Bossier City, LA and Mrs. R. G. Grenkervich of Alexandria, LA; and one grandson.

Burial was in Pruitt Lake Cemetery near Avinger, Texas.

G. W. Wallace.

**INMAN, Frank A.**, was born July 5, 1905, in Shelbyville, TX and died Nov. 20, 1984 in Harlingen, TX. He became a Seventh-day Adventist in 1978. He is survived by: his wife, Esther Lapp Johnson Inman: two daughters, Helen Inman of Austin, and Beula Fay Blunt of Katy, TX; four step-children; his brother William Inman of Hartford, MI; his sister Josephine Shepard of Kirbyville, TX four grandchildren, and six step-grandchildren. Services were conducted by Brian Savage with burial at Restlawn Memorial Park.

**JOHNSON, Bertha D.**, born Sept. 13, 1910, at Powell, TX and died Oct. 13, 1984, in Kinder, LA. She was a member of the Lake Charles church, often making the 90-mile round trip by herself.

She is survived by: four sons, Melvin, Jr., of College Place, WA, Arden of Kinder, LA, Larry of Greenville, TN, and David of Kinder, LA; two daughters, Elizabeth Stephens of Orlando, FL, and Maureen Wade of Jay, OK; two half brothers, J. C. Davidson of Nashville, TN, Alden Davidson of Eatonville, WA, one half-sister, Polly Haynes of Avon Park, FL; fifteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Interment was at the Kinder Cemetery.

Ken Simpson.

**LAMBERSON, J. T.**, was born Jan. 6, 1921 in Bennington, OK., and died Oct. 5, 1984 in Durant, OK.

James had an Adventist background but it was only last year that he and his wife Mary united with the Durant, OK Church. He was a WWII veteran.

Survivors include: his wife, Mary; five sisters, Opal Oden, Frances Kowalski, Betty Shockley, Patsy Greenwood, and Sharon Kuhn; and one brother, Lloyd Lamberson.

Services were conducted in the Durant Church by Ertis Johnson and R. L. Winders with burial in the Highland Cemetery.

**MARTIN, Audra M.**, was born May 7, 1904, in Indiana and died Nov. 1, 1984 in Harlingen, TX. She was a member of the Harlingen church since Feb. 1983. She is survived by her daughter Betty M.

Paris of Harlingen, and her granddaughter Kathleen Becker of Corpus Christi. Services were conducted by Brian Savage with burial in Indiana.

**MOORE, Fred B.**, was born in Fairfield, TX, Dec. 15, 1901, and died in Keene, Dec. 23, 1984. Encouraged by a literature evangelist, he attended Southwestern Junior College at Keene, TX. He was married to Blanche Gilbert, who had been a teacher at Southwestern. He served as publishing director of the Texico Conference for about a year and a half, and then was called to the Publishing Department of the Inca Union in Peru, South America. His service continued in the Publishing Department, later, in the Austral Union in Argentina, and in the Antillian Union in Cuba and Puerto Rico. During furloughs he studied further and was graduated in 1950 from Union College, Lincoln, NE. After returning from mission service, he served briefly in the Texas Conference, and then retired in Keene, TX. Survivors include: his wife, Blanche of Keene; a son, Marvin of Waco, TX; a daughter, Evelyn Griffin of Gentry, AR; a brother, W. A. Moore of Cleburne, TX; four sisters, Ethel Blackwell of Groom, TX, Maude Whitehead of Grandview, TX, Maye Adcock and Sudie Clark, both of Cleburne; and six grandchildren. Burial was in Keene.

**MOSLEY, Mae Prater**, was born Sept. 9, 1899, at Gainesville, GA, and died in Columbus, SC, Nov. 25, 1984. In childhood, she moved with her parents to Texas, eventually settling at Keene.

In 1939 she was married to Jake Heyman, who died in 1966. Her second husband, Gilbert Mosley died in 1974. Mae and her sister Fannie were residents of the same rest home in Cuervo, TX. Survivors include: a niece, Alta Mae Adams, and several grand nieces and nephews.

**RICHARD, Nell Mae**, was born July 29, 1908, at Biloxi, MS and died after hospitalization Oct. 29, 1984, in Hemphill, TX.

She was a charter member of the Hemphill church whose pastor, Ed McCoun conducted the services.

Survivors include: her husband, Houston S. Richard; and four nieces, Danetta Smith of Houston, Jackie Beaty of Cranberry, NJ, Annie Mae Olson of Cleveland and Patsy Bennett of Fremont, CA.

**TUBBS Bess Jordan**, was born May 15, 1905, and died Nov. 20, 1984, in Lubbock, TX. She lived most of her life in the Lubbock, TX, area. She accepted Christ as her Saviour and was baptized into the Lubbock First Church by G. A. Lagrone in August, 1922.

She was married to Travis Tubbs, August 23, 1922.

She is survived by: a son, Teddy Tubbs of Lubbock; a daughter, Virginia Caviness of Keene, TX; two brothers, Tony Sims of Ropesville, TX, and Tom Sims of Seagraves, TX; two sisters, Frances Cate of Lubbock and Mrs. Ted Evans of Meadow, TX; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Dan W. Schiffbauer.

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Announcement for Events on Weekend of	Should Be in Local Conference Office by
March 2 and 9	January 30
March 16 and 23	February 13
March 30 and April 6	February 27
April 13 and 20	March 13

## Sunset Schedule

	Jan. 18	Jan. 25	Feb. 1	Feb. 8
Abilene, Texas	5:59	6:05	6:12	6:19
Amarillo, Texas	6:01	6:08	6:16	6:23
Brownsville, Texas	6:03	6:08	6:13	6:18
Dallas, Texas	5:46	5:52	5:59	6:06
El Paso, Texas	5:27	5:33	5:40	5:46
Fort Worth, Texas	5:48	5:54	6:01	6:08
Galveston, Texas	5:46	5:52	5:58	6:03
Gentry, Arkansas	5:30	5:37	5:45	5:52
Keene, Texas	5:48	5:54	6:01	6:08
Little Rock, Arkansas	5:24	5:31	5:38	5:45
Muskogee, Oklahoma	5:34	5:41	5:49	5:56
New Orleans, Louisiana	5:25	5:31	5:37	5:43
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	5:43	5:50	5:58	6:05
San Antonio, Texas	6:00	6:06	6:12	6:18
Santa Fe, New Mexico	5:16	5:23	5:31	5:38
Shreveport, Louisiana	5:35	5:41	5:48	5:54
Tulsa, Oklahoma	5:36	5:43	5:51	5:58

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RECORD prepared by Southwestern Union Department of Communication.

Volume 84, Number 2



# on the record

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

## Hang Tough

(Part VI)

Divorce is a scourge that is wrecking the lives of countless millions in the United States today. It is condemned by the Bible. It is condemned by the church. But in the society of 1985 divorce is accepted without a blur in most parts of the country. It is almost the unusual when couples are truly happy and stick together through thick and thin, come what may.

One of the tragedies of our day is to see what God intended to be the best become of loosely-held arrangement — ready to fall apart at the seams. I thank God that there are still some who consider marriage and the family vitally important and who consider matrimony of the greatest consequence. As we see family morals disintegrating, this is not the time to throw up our hands in helplessness or hopelessness. It is a time to turn to God and be more determined than ever to restore the home to the sacred estate God intended it to be. Perhaps this nation faces no greater enemy to its basic security than the disintegration of the precious home where life starts and where character is formed. This enemy is evil, bringing disaster of the first magnitude.

What about those who are caught up in desperately hopeless marital situations? What are they to do? There is, in some cases, only one answer — separation or divorce. Some of us who are so fortunate and so blessed as to have been reared in Christian homes and who ourselves have happy Christian homes, can't begin to even imagine the total misery and danger to life itself that exists behind many closed doors. Some wives, instead of being loved and cherished, are hated and beaten. Some children are victims of child molestation right in the home. Alcohol and drugs can turn a respectable, responsible father or mother into a savage beast. Some mates demand and require certain evil practices in the intimacy of the home that are weird, unnatural, and totally destructive of self respect. Some mates in marriage are almost totally given over to Satan. With some, life itself is threatened every day. To protect and preserve the dignity of life itself, legal separation (There is no such legal status in some states such as Texas.) or divorce might be the only answer. People do have a right to survive. People have a right to live.

In such desperate situations, I would say go to a trusted pastor or counselor and lay out with fairness your situation. You will need his support. Such a person can help you protect your relationship with the church and at the same time help you preserve your dignity. The church doesn't have to know every detail. The church will accept (in the large majority of

cases) the word of the pastor and perhaps a trustworthy local elder, that you have every right to be freed. That should settle it so far as the church is concerned. Church officials and church boards, be careful about what you say and especially careful about what you put in writing. You must be absolutely sure you can prove what you are saying. Sometimes you can't absolutely prove what you know to be true.

If there is one place where church members should maintain silence and reserve judgement, it is right here. Some marriage partners do not dare say publicly all that they know and some must maintain silence for the protection of children and the innocent. And with some, there is still a small ray of hope — the miracle of conversion. There are those in the church who feel it is their right and duty to know everything. No one has the right to know everything. Ellen White says there should be a sacred circle around every home where no one else has a right to enter. I believe that!

And remember, there are always two sides. Those in positions of authority must always remember this. All you can do is your best to get a correct picture and base your decisions and actions on "to the best of my ability." Reserve space for everybody in nearly every situation. Later revelations may surprise you. I have had this experience several times.

I hate to say this, but not every "responsible" person you may talk with can be fully trusted with a super delicate problem. Some have a "gift of tongues." If you feel insecure, don't talk to a person you feel may fall within that category. And to you pastors I would say, if you run into a situation you know you are not qualified to handle, direct the person asking for counsel to someone who is professionally qualified. This is nothing against you. No one is qualified to handle every situation. Even Ann Landers directs people to professionals and does not claim to have all the answers. Anyone can always go to Jesus. He will direct you and He will see you through.

How should church members treat divorced people? (Stay tuned.)

Yours for more than human wisdom in handling delicate marriage problems,

B. E. Leach.

# INSPIRED . . .

"At all times and in all places, in all sorrows and in all afflictions, when the outlook seems dark and the future perplexing, and we feel helpless and alone, the Comforter will be sent in answer to the prayer of faith." *Desire of Ages*, p. 669, 670.

# GOD HONORS FAITH