

Informant

VOLUME I

WASHINGTON, D.C., APRIL-MAY, 1947

NUMBER 5

Go West, Missionary Volunteers

WHY?

BECAUSE . . .

It's San Francisco in '47. (September 3-7.) The place and time of our first North American Youth's Congress.

BECAUSE . . .

It offers you an invitation to "Enlist for Christ," and to join the forward march of Advent youth in the greatest program for youth evangelism.

BECAUSE . . .

You will hear and see your denomination's finest youth talent in action.

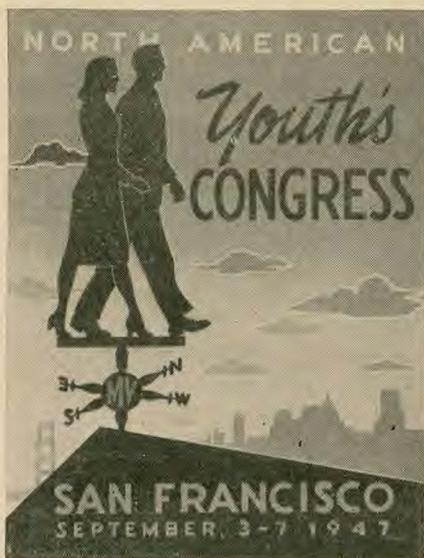
BECAUSE . . .

The program has been planned especially for YOUTH and will be thrilling from "Go" to "Stop."

BECAUSE . . .

You need the inspiration that comes in fellowship with young people of like faith.

The year 1947 is the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Young People's Department of Missionary Volunteers. Memorials, anniversaries,



and birthdays stir us as we think of their meaning and influence upon the lives of men and women. There was a time when there were no Missionary Volunteers as such. There came a time, however, when there were influences at work, changing the character of the home, the school, and the church in such a way that young people were being

profoundly influenced. God, who takes account of, and keeps His hand upon, the forces which influence the lives of His children, saw that something must be done for the young people. Then it was that He sent to the church through the Spirit of prophecy urgent counsel to organize the youth. Because of those wisely laid plans, it is possible for us to present on the 40th Anniversary of the Missionary Volunteers of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination their first

North American Youth's Congress
at
San Francisco's Civic Auditorium

WHO SHALL ATTEND?

The North American Youth's Congress welcomes all Adventist youth. To assure wide representation, each Missionary Volunteer Society may send one delegate. A traveling allowance for delegates will be arranged through their local conference Missionary Volunteer secretary. Nondelegates of the congress will provide for their own expense.

DEADLINE FOR NEWS, MAY 5, 1947

Address.—Editor, North American Informant, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Takoma Park, Washington 12, D.C.

ALLEGHENY

J. H. Wagner, Pres. F. L. Bland, Sec.-Treas.
P.O. Box 720, Pottstown, Pennsylvania
Pottstown 3844

Meeting the Challenge

THE vastness of the territory of the Allegheny Conference constitutes a mighty challenge to its leadership. Our map, with pin heads indicating the locations of churches, is a graphic portrayal of the fact. The need of lay evangelism is indicated.

Recently a large force of colporteur evangelists met in two sessions to study and prepare themselves for a more effective answer to this challenge for service. These two sessions were held during the month of February in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Cleveland, Ohio, under the leadership of Brother L. R. Preston. The colporteurs have now gone out into a number of cities, towns, and counties of our seven States. Brother Preston, with his four associates, has mapped a program that will put over two hundred thousand dollar's worth of good "preaching" and "doctoring," into first the homes and then the hearts of a large section of the colored population. We have full confidence that this great force of colporteur evangelists will receive the full approbation and blessings of Heaven.

Comparing

"SHE Stoops to Conquer," was a fitting title chosen by a writer many years ago. We still apply the principle in these days. At least such a principle was followed in our effort to place the business of the Book and Bible House in the Allegheny Conference on a sound footing. The early days of our organization were uncertain. The inexperience in leadership and inadequacy in quarters and equipment gave rise to "business faults" that were noised abroad.

We have now completed our second year of business. By comparison

there has been a great falling off of sales. But sales without receipts are of no value. By careful management the receipts of the past year reached a much higher percentage of the sales than those of the year before. Constituents who, during our early days, developed poor business habits are being retrained to adhere closely to the accepted policies. We have stooped to conquer.

These two years of business have brought sales to the amount of \$138,481.98. This figure represents the discounted value of merchandise sold. The larger amount of business done with the colporteurs and the general church supplies made most of this amount possible.

With God's guidance we feel that a larger degree of success will be ours during 1947.

H. T. SAULTER, *Manager,*
Book and Bible House.

Changes of Personnel

ELDER H. D. WARNER, who began with the organization of the conference as our publishing department secretary, has given way to Brother L. R. Preston, formerly of the North-eastern Conference, in order to pastor our church in Cincinnati, Ohio. Professor J. L. Moran, former secretary-treasurer of our conference, is now heading the work of our new school at Pine Forge, Pennsylvania, and is doing an excellent job. Elder M. A. Burgess, who was once responsible for the work of the educational and Y.P.M.V. departments of the conference, is now pastor of our large Ebenezer Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Elder Richards, former pastor of the Toledo, Ohio, church is now ordained and will go to Arizona to take up his new duties beginning April 15, 1947.

The office of the Allegheny Conference, which was located in Washington, D.C., has been moved to the location of the school at Pine Forge, and its personnel is now working in temporary quarters, awaiting the building of the new office which is to begin this spring. God has wonderfully blessed this project, and by His continued blessings we feel cer-

tain that all these plans will soon materialize.

A camp meeting is to be held on the school grounds for the first time this summer. It is planned to be carried out on a large scale. Reservations are being made even at this early date.

All our churches are now out of debt, and we are thankful to God for this happy experience. Now that the titles can be read clear, we are looking forward to the time when several new buildings will grace our location at Pine Forge, Pennsylvania. Pray for us.

ALTA WILLIAMS,
Secretary to the President.

Death of Dr. S. O. Cherry

THE constituency of the entire North American Colored Department mourns with Sister Cherry and all members of the family the passing of her dear companion, Dr. Cherry. He was regarded as a devout Christian and an ardent worker in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Dr. Cherry served as elder of the Pittsburgh Church for a number of years, also as a member of the West Pennsylvania Conference Committee before the newly formed conferences. During recent years the doctor spent a portion of his time at Oakwood College, where he was elected as college physician. He was laid to rest on February 3, 1947, in hope of the Life-giver.

"THE ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion." Isa. 35:10, R.V.

The North American Informant

Representing the colored work of the Seventh-day Adventist Denomination

Editor George E. Peters
Associate Editor N. C. Wilson
Editorial Secretary Leif Alfred Ballard
Editorial Committee: J. H. Wagner, L. H. Bland, J. Gershom Dasent, H. D. Singleton, H. R. Murphy, Louis B. Reynolds.

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LAKE REGION

J. G. Dasent, Pres. F. N. Crowe, Sec.-Treas.
619-621 Woodland Park, Chicago, Ill.
Boulevard 3331

Lake Region Missionary Volunteer Officers' Institute

"FORGING ahead at such a time as this," was the keynote which resounded throughout the entire session of the Lake Region Missionary Volunteer Officers Institute. The greatest representation of missionary volunteers ever known to this conference gathered in large numbers at the Shiloh Church in Chicago. Beginning Friday evening with a message by Elder H. W. Kibble, pastor of Shiloh Church, and a solemn charge to each officer by Elder J. Gersham Dasent, president of the conference, an unusual appeal was felt in behalf of saving the youth of our several churches. Pastor James Dykes, of Detroit East Side Church, was the speaker for the eleven-o'clock hour on Sabbath, and Elder F. N. Crowe supplemented his message in the afternoon with the challenge, "We must move forward!"

The Shiloh Missionary Volunteer Society acted as host to the visiting officers by presenting a most interesting program which at the setting of the sun was concluded with a vesper sermonette by our Book and Bible House manager, L. B. Baker.

On Sunday, Elder D. W. Hunter, of the Lake Union Missionary Volunteer Department, conducted an inspiring morning devotion before considering the agenda for the institute.

The discussions on various topics related to the work of each officer reached a peak during the presentation and announcement of the coming national Youth's Congress to be held in San Francisco this year. Enthusiasm ran high as we announced a conference-wide oratorical contest, the winner of which will be sent on a very elaborate tour to the California Congress. Several of our districts are using the contest as a means

of raising their share of money to send the various delegates that will be chosen to attend throughout the conference.

This meeting was one long to be remembered among the Missionary Volunteer officers of the Lake Region Conference.

WALTER J. KISACK, *Secretary,*
Missionary Volunteer Department.

News

FIFTEEN precious souls were baptized in Detroit in the month of February by Elder R. F. Warnick. Elder J. W. Allison reports six baptized in Indianapolis.

NORTHEASTERN

L. H. Bland, Pres. L. O. Irons, Sec.-Treas.
560 W. 150th St., New York, N.Y.
MO. 2-9353

M.V. Officers' Institute Successful

BEGINNING Friday night, February 14, at the Ephesus Church, the Annual Officers' Institute of the M.V. department was convened. The great interest that is characterizing the Missionary Volunteer work in this conference was evidenced by the presence of officers from the most remote parts of the conference—Boston and Springfield, Massachusetts, Rochester, Buffalo, and New York were represented.

Elder Romeo L. Hubbs, Missionary Volunteer secretary of the Atlantic Union Conference, presented a stirring challenge to the officers on Friday night. Every officer present was visibly stirred to do all in his power to carry out the aim of the Missionary Volunteer Department, "The Advent Message to All the World in This Generation."

On Sabbath, February 15, the speaker for the eleven-o'clock hour was Elder E. W. Dunbar, Missionary Volunteer secretary of the General Conference Missionary Volunteer Department. His message was a solemn one as he told of the high percentage of the children born in

the Advent message who go out of the church. He suggested greater evangelism for and by youth as one of the means of keeping and recapturing those who have left the truth. Elder Dunbar told of the brilliant work that the youth are doing in Europe and other parts of the world.

On Sunday night Elder Dunbar told some gripping experiences that he encountered on his travels to South America and Northern Europe. The needs not only of North America were magnified but also of the world. Each officer left Sunday night after the workings of the M.V. Society were explained during the mid-day hours. Everyone who attended the institute was greatly benefited.

J. E. ROACHE, *Secretary,*
Educational & M.V. Departments.

Boston Report

OUR church in Boston was greatly blessed during the year 1946, as the following figures will indicate. A total of \$13,685 was sent on to the conference last year. Of this amount, \$9,479.09 was tithe; \$1,485.36, Sabbath School Offering; and \$1,832.57, Ingathering.

The sum of \$15,229.58 was raised for the local church. Of this amount \$1,358.90 was Sabbath School Expense; \$6,507.61, Building Fund; \$653.07, Young People's Missionary Volunteer Society; \$637.07, Dorcas Society; and \$366.17, Missionary Society. The total raised for church and conference was \$28,914.58.

From the seven-week tent effort we have baptized twenty-six souls, and there are several others in the baptismal class. Mrs. Bernice Crymes, Bible instructor, has a large number of interested classes which will be productive of many honest souls. Our work is moving on during this year. To God be the glory for this report.

S. B. HUDDLESTON, *Pastor.*
Boston, Massachusetts.

SEND IN YOUR NEWS



L. O. Irons, Secretary-Treasurer, and his secretary, Miss Coleman, are discussing financial receipts of the Northeastern Conference

Progress in the Northeastern Conference

THE objective of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination is the preaching of the everlasting gospel to all the world, which must be measured in the amount of souls that are won to the cause. However, money is needed to assist in the reaching of this objective. For that reason God has mapped out a plan whereby His people will finance His program through tithes and offerings.

In the Northeastern Conference we firmly believe in this plan, as will be seen from the following comparative figures that I shall give for the years 1945 and 1946.

In 1945, our tithes amounted to \$140,406.41; in 1946, \$167,915.40, a gain of \$27,508.99. Our offerings have also shown gains over this same period. In 1945, our mission offerings were \$41,252.34; in 1946, \$56,446.25, a gain of \$15,193.91. These figures clearly indicate a growth in our conference financially, but as I have said before, the objective is soul winning.

When this conference was organized in 1945, the membership that was passed on to us from the

conferences in which our churches are located, amounted to 2,175 members. Under the blessings of God and the hard work of our ministers and the co-operation of our churches, our membership now stands at 2,525. Plans are being laid for very aggressive evangelistic efforts during the summer of 1947, and we are hoping at the time of the next conference session to double our membership. Pray for the work in the Northeastern Conference, especially in the metropolitan area of New York.

L. O. IRONS, *Secretary-Treasurer*.

"If you take upon yourself the sacred responsibility of teaching others, you take upon yourself the duty of becoming master of every subject you seek to teach. Be not content with dull thoughts, an indolent mind, or a loose memory."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 199.

"We should educate the youth to help the youth; and as they seek to do this, they will gain an experience that will qualify them to become consecrated workers in a larger sphere."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 212.

M.V.'s Sponsored Miss Margaret Montgomer,

MISS MARGARET MONTGOMERY, noted contralto of Washington, D.C., was presented in a recital Sunday night, February 23, at the Ephesus Church of New York City. Miss Montgomery was sponsored by the Missionary Volunteers of the New York area, their object being to raise enough money to help equip the proposed school and recreational center for the youth in and about New York City. From the recital was realized \$1,300 which will be kept in trust by the conference treasurer to help with the furnishings for the new building when it is purchased.

Anyone sympathetic with the program for a better school with recreational facilities for the saving of our youth is cordially invited to contribute toward making this project a reality.

JONATHAN E. ROACHE, *Secretary, Educational & M.V. Departments*.

America's Melting Pot

WE of the United States of America are:

One third of a million, Indian.

One third of a million, Oriental, Filipino, and Mexican.

60 million, Anglo-Saxon; 10 million, Irish.

15 million, Teutonic; 9 million, Slavic.

5 million, Italian; 4 million, Scandinavian.

2 million, French; 13 million, Negro.

1 million each, Finn, Lithuanian, Greek.

In addition, we are:

2 million, Anglican Episcopalian.

40 million, Evangelical Protestant.

1 million, Greek Catholic.

4 and one-half million, Jew.

Two thirds of a million, Mormon.

One tenth of a million, Quaker.

22 million, Roman Catholic.

One-half million, Christian Scientist.

—*Religious Digest*.

Message to Our Leaders

DEAR FELLOW WORKERS:

We have now passed the first quarter of 1947. The remaining months will soon slip away. But this may be the last year for some of us. We know not the future. God has kindly veiled our eyes. In view of the fact that we are standing on the verge of the kingdom, let us put forth extraordinary effort and an unflinching zeal to co-operate with Heaven in seeking out diligently the honest in heart from all walks of life—the rich as well as the poor.

In order to fill our heaven-appointed mission successfully, we must experience holy living, fervent prayer, and powerful preaching. Our sermons must be spirit-filled. They should be the kind that will cause men to smite their breasts and cry, "God be merciful to me a sinner." They should cause men to inquire, "What must I do to be saved?"

"Our brethren should bear in mind that we are living amid the perils of the last days. Let discourses be short, spiritual, elevated. Let the preacher be full of the word of the Lord. Let every man who enters the pulpit know that he has angels from heaven in his audience. Some who stand in the pulpit make the messengers in the audience ashamed of them. The precious gospel, which has cost so much to bring to the world, is abused. There is common, cheap talk, grotesque attitudes, and working of the features. There is, with some, rapid talking, with others a thick, indistinct utterance. Everyone who ministers before the people should feel it a solemn duty to take himself in hand. He should first give himself to the Lord in complete self-renunciation, determined that he will have none of self but all of Jesus.

"A man may lavish all the treasures of his learning, he may exhaust the moral energies of his nature, and yet accomplish nothing, because he himself has not received the golden oil from the heavenly messengers; therefore it can not flow forth from him, imparting spiritual life to the

needy."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 338.

We praise God for the souls that have been won during the past year through the mighty preaching of the Word. Reports from the various conferences have not all reached the office. We hope that we will soon be able to complete our tabulations. The next issue of the INFORMANT will give a complete statistical report of our work in North America at the close of 1946.

Let us pledge ourselves, by the assistance of Heaven, to make the year 1947 our best year in soul winning. Let us press on in our leadership, heeding the counsel of Paul, the apostle: "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before." May each one "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Sincerely your brother,
GEORGE E. PETERS.

Gleanings From the Field

At the Pacific Union Conference session, January 28-30, 1947, Elder Owen A. Troy was elected to the responsibility of full-time secretary of the Colored Department of the Pacific Union Conference.

Extracts from letter received from Elder G. Nathaniel Banks, Superintendent, S.D.A. Mission, Liberia, West Africa.

PROFESSOR GIDDINGS is busy working on his two new buildings, a dormitory and dining hall. We hope to repair the chapel this year and later on build a new administration building. All this is necessary for the proper conduct of our work at Konola Station.

Over in the Bassa district, Elder C. D. Henri is all set to put the roof on his new school building. This new structure is more than one hundred feet long, with ample rooms, and is built of concrete. It will greatly help our work there.

We have attempted to remodel our headquarters building in Mon-

rovia to represent our work in the capital city. We are spending about twelve thousand dollars in the present projects allotted to us for building purposes. Next year we hope to build a new concrete church structure here in Monrovia after we get the schools built up at the other stations.

Recently I attended our union meeting in Accra on the Gold Coast. It was a great treat to get acquainted with the other leaders and obtain a wider knowledge of our work in West Africa. Elders Read, Robison, and Johansen from the General Conference were with us, and we appreciate their assistance in helping to reorganize our field.

We are expecting Elders Read and McClements down for our local conference meeting, March 15. We feel that God is blessing in many ways, but ask a continued interest in your prayers for our mission work. School is just opening and, of course, all our stations are busy getting off to a new school year. Our quota is full here in Monrovia, so we have stopped enrolling. Our other stations are likewise full.

ELDER HAROLD LINDSEY, formerly pastor of the Compton Avenue Church of Los Angeles, will succeed Elder Troy at the Sunset Avenue Church of Pasadena.

DR. V. C. HAMILTON, of Berkeley, California, has been a patient at the White Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles for diagnosis and care. Dr. Hamilton's illness is grave, but "is anything too hard for the Lord?" Dr. Hamilton has been a tried and loyal church elder through the years. Let each worker remember him in prayer.

RIVERSIDE NOTE

At a recent board meeting of the Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital it was voted to approve the calling of a chaplain and Bible teacher for the institution.

NEWS BY MAY 5

Gleanings (Continued)

THE date of the next Riverside Board Meeting will be May 7. Besides the regular board members, many of our responsible colored leaders will be invited.

MISS RUTH FRAZIER, superintendent of nurses at Riverside, will attend the Work Shop for Nurses to be held at Takoma Park, Washington, D.C., May 19-30.

ORDINATION OF CLARENCE T. RICHARDS

CLARENCE T. RICHARDS, our worker in Toledo, Ohio, was ordained to the gospel ministry, Sabbath, March 1, following the morning service at the Shiloh S.D.A. Church of Cincinnati. The conference president, J. H. Wagner, gave the history of his work. M. S. Banfield offered the ordination prayer. G. E. Peters gave the charge, and F. L. Bland extended the welcome.

Elder Richards has accepted a call to labor in Phoenix, Arizona.

"WE should ever look upon the youth as the purchase of the blood of Christ. As such they have demands upon our love, our patience, and our sympathy. If we would follow Jesus, we cannot restrict our interest and affection to ourselves and our own families; we cannot give our time and attention to temporal matters, and forget the eternal interests of those around us. . . . 'Love one another as I have loved you,' is the command of Jesus. Look at His self-denial; behold the manner of love He has bestowed upon us; and then seek to imitate the Pattern."—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 34, 35.

"If we ever know the truth, it will be because we practise it. We must have a living experience in the things of God before we are able to understand His word. This experimental knowledge is what strengthens the intellect, and builds us up into Christ our living Head."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 97.

My Duty to My Church

GOD has sent many blessings to me, for which I am very thankful. However, there is one blessing that has meant more to me than any of the others, and that is the third angel's message. I count it a high honor to be among those who have the testimony of Jesus and keep the commandments of God.

Since I am so favored, I am also given a part in the performing of the mission that has been assigned to this church. Before I can be of any effective use to the church, I must first give my heart to God so that He may guide and direct me at all times and under all circumstances. Then I must love and respect my church and its officers, living a life in complete harmony with all the doctrines and principles which have been adopted by my church, so as never to bring reproach upon it in word or in deed. Should such an unfortunate situation arise, I should willingly obey the voice of the church and accept whatever discipline is meted out to me.

When my heart is at peace with God and man, then I am able to carry high the light of this blessed message so that others may be drawn unto Christ, who saves from sin.

Every church member should realize his God-given responsibility to warn the world of the impending doom, and point the lost ones to the sure Guide, who is able to save to the uttermost those who seek His saving grace. We may not be prepared to labor as others, but we should do what is within our power in helping to spread the third angel's message. All who can should go into training so that their efforts for God may be as perfect as possible.

This is my duty to my church, and, with the aid of the Almighty, I shall perform my duty.

JOSEPH T. POWELL, *Student*,
S.D.A. *Theological Seminary*,
Washington, D.C.

"GREAT is the responsibility of those who take upon themselves the guidance of a human soul."—*Education*, p. 280.

Press Publicity

THERE was opportunity in connection with the recently held Union Conference sessions to give newspaper publicity to the organization of our colored churches into conferences, and the acceptance of these conferences into their respective unions.

For example, the Oklahoma City *Times*, in its first report of the conference, carried this paragraph:

"At the organization meeting of the conference Wednesday night the delegates voted to accept the recently organized Southwestern Mission as a part of the union. The Mission, which has headquarters at Dallas, and is headed by W. W. Fordham, has a membership of 1,584 comprising 32 churches."

With the help of the president's secretary at this meeting we sent a story to the leading colored newspapers in the Southwestern Union, quoting figures from the report given the delegates by Elder Fordham and showing growth and spirit of the new organization.

The Asheville, North Carolina, papers gave nice publicity to the colored work. Reference to the reception of the South Atlantic and the South Central conferences was made in the first report appearing in the Asheville *Times*. "There are 107 Adventist churches in the two units," it said.

Elder G. E. Peters' morning devotional talk to the session on the subject of the Christian Home was given valuable space in the newspaper. In fact, it was more fully quoted than any other devotional service feature.

"PETERS CITES ROLE OF HOME IN COMMUNITY," is the large three-line heading, with sub-head, "Negro Leader Speaks at Morning Session of Adventists." It says:

"A true Christian home should be a model in the community," G. E. Peters, of Washington, D.C., secretary of the Colored Department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, declared this morning in speaking at the Adventists'

ministerial institute at Central Methodist Church.

"Mr. Peters, who directs Adventist Negro work in North America, said, 'Charity begins at home. The homes of the Christian workers and ministers are very revealing, particularly to those in the community.

"The model home does not merely consist of the physical appearance of the house; it has been found that many costly homes with expensive furniture were far from being model homes,' he said. 'The ideal home is not only a center for service to those whom it shelters but it extends its saving influence far and near.'

"Mr. Peters said the Christian's home should be different from the ordinary home, as those who dwell there 'should copy the example of the Master when on earth. He left His earthly home in Nazareth and went about doing good. His life and His deeds proved to be a real blessing to the community.' In conclusion Mr. Peters emphasized that the home should stand forth in the community 'as a place where love and respect, prayer and mutual understanding, combine to make it a little sanctuary in which friends, neighbors, and even enemies can find the peace of God.'"

The presidents of the two conferences in the Southern Union gave information in their reports that we hope reached some papers. For lack of time and facilities we were not able to do as much there as in Oklahoma City.

At Cincinnati we were able, with the help of Mrs. Alta Williams of the Allegheny Conference, to send a digest of Elder Wagner's report of the work of the Allegheny Conference to every colored newspaper in the Columbia Union Conference. This featured information regarding membership, contributions, new churches, payments of debts, and the establishment of the Pine Forge Academy, and carried some general news about the union session.

There are many opportunities for giving publicity to our work through well-written news stories for the

papers. We appreciate the interest and activity of leaders in these conferences, and are anxious to cooperate in every way we can.

J. R. FERREN, *Secretary,*
Bureau of Press Relations,
General Conference of Seventh-
day Adventists.

Coming! North American Youth's Congress

I AM sure that I voice the sentiment of the colored leaders of our work in North America when I say that we are highly gratified because our denomination will hold a national Youth's Congress in San Francisco, September 3-7 of this year. As I read certain pertinent texts given by inspiration concerning the youth, I can but reach the conclusion that our young people, rightly directed, can become a potent factor in the finishing program of God's work in the earth.

Living in an hour when there are so many allurements facing the youth of this nation, I am most happy that our denomination is on the alert, and in a great mass meeting of youth from the north, south, east and west, will sound the clarion call at San Francisco, the historic center of our General Conference sessions for a number of years, calling on Seventh-day Adventist youth to gird with spiritual strength to withstand the assaults of the enemy of souls who "is come down unto you having great wrath because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

The money that will be raised by our churches and conferences to meet the expenses of this congress will be money well spent. The plan of pooling funds makes it equitable. I believe that every church and local young people's organization will be enthusiastic in co-operating with the General Conference Young People's Department.

Having an idea of some of the things being planned for the spiritual tone and uplift of the occasion, I am of the opinion that this gathering will be a foretaste of the great gath-

ering of the saved on the sea of glass. Our youth certainly deserve this kind of spiritual attention. We may never meet again in such an assembly in this old world. Therefore, every Missionary Volunteer Society in North America should plan definitely to be represented at this national Youth's Congress. Let me say again that this outlay of funds will be a most profitable investment.

G. E. PETERS.

Letter Extracts of Appreciation of "The North American Informant"

"THIS comes to express my gratitude for the INFORMANT, which regularly comes to my desk. It is a wonderful medium through which comes encouragement and inspiration from around the field such as no other journal can provide. Keep up the good work, and more and more of it."

C. E. MOSELY, *Dean of Theology,*
Oakwood College.

"AS FOR the INFORMANT, it is a real inspiration and truly lives up to the name. I never put it down until it is entirely read. Our members are also greatly appreciative for it. May it continually improve, is my prayer."

S. B. HUDDLESTON, *Pastor,*
Boston, Massachusetts.

"HAVE received one copy of the INFORMANT. Enjoyed it and hope you will keep us on the mailing list."

G. NATHANIEL BANKS,
Mission Superintendent,
Liberia, West Africa.

"INFORMANT arrived. Very excellent journal."

O. A. TROY,
Secretary, Colored Department,
Pacific Union Conference.

"THERE is no branch of legitimate business for which the Bible does not afford an essential preparation."
—Education, p. 135.

SOUTH ATLANTIC

H. D. Singleton, Pres. L. S. Follette, Sec.-Treas.
Box 4027, Atlanta, Ga.

South Atlantic Progress

THE night of February 2 was a high night in the Atlanta (Berean) Church where Elder J. E. Cox, Jr., is pastor. At that time their Hammond electric organ was unveiled and dedicated free of debt. Elder E. F. Hackman, of the Southern Union Conference, made the dedicatory remarks, and Elder H. D. Singleton, of the South Atlantic Conference, gave the dedicatory prayer. A very interesting musical program had been prepared, which consisted of several beautiful selections rendered by the church choir and male chorus. To climax the program, Professor Graham Jackson, a nationally known musician, christened the organ with about forty-five minutes of beautiful melodies. The church was packed with an overflow audience which gave \$2,000 to pay for the organ in full.

THE conference committee met on January 20 and took under consideration plans for an aggressive program during 1947. We are hoping to conduct at least eighteen tent efforts and are appealing to our ministers and laity alike to make 1947 a year of aggressive soul winning. An Ingathering overflow goal of \$29,000 was set for the conference.

THE South Atlantic Conference is happy to report that its Sabbath schools ended the year with a per capita of .316, which is a gain of nearly two cents over the previous year's weekly per capita. We are also thankful that the publishing department delivered \$116,866.60 worth of truth-filled literature, which is a 25 per cent gain over the previous year's record.

THE Educational Department reports that the conference has 21 church schools, 643 pupils, and an instructive force of 28 teachers.

WE wish to congratulate two of our ministers on new additions to their families—Elder Matthew Green on the addition of a baby daughter and Brother Osceola White on the birth of a son.

PACIFIC UNION

Colored Department

Owen A. Troy, Sec.
735 Winona Ave., Pasadena, Calif.

Report of the Pacific Union Conference Colored Department

(Submitted at the Conference Session
held in San Francisco
January 28-30, 1947)

IT WAS about 1906 that Miss Jennie L. Ireland, a young graduate nurse from the Battle Creek Sanitarium, began to do medical missionary work among the colored people in Los Angeles.

Not knowing where to start, she was impressed to ask a colored postman whom she saw on the street one day if he knew any colored people who might be interested in studying the Bible. Without any hesitation he told her that he was sure his wife would be interested in studying with her.

Bible classes combined with home nursing and healthful cooking classes were conducted in this postman's home with such good results that Miss Ireland was able to induce the conference committee at its session in 1907 to erect a building in which to conduct church services.

On the first Sabbath of August, 1908, when the twenty-three believers were organized into the Furlong Seventh-day Adventist church, a new era in Seventh-day Adventist history began. The first colored Seventh-day Adventist church west of Ohio had made its appearance. Under Sister Ireland's leadership this church grew to over one hundred members before it ever had a pastor.

Today this church is known as the Wadsworth Church, with a mem-

bership of 694. It is pastored by Elder R. H. Robertson, who is carrying on an outstanding program of year-round evangelism. For the year 1946 Elder Robertson reports that he has baptized 140 new believers. Associated with him are Sisters Hazel Perkins and Effie Davies as Bible instructors.

Others connected with the work in Los Angeles in the early days were Elders P. B. Bontemps, L. C. Sheafe, and Sydney Scott. Later, Elders P. G. Rodgers and F. L. Peterson.

The next church to be organized was the Watts church (now known as the Compton Avenue Church of Los Angeles). Sister Ireland, assisted by Sister Amy Temple, retired Bible instructor, and Sister Myrtis Beaman, now a Bible instructor in Los Angeles, conducted Bible studies in Watts with the result that in 1914 the Watts church was organized with a membership of sixteen. While Elder P. B. Bontemps served as pastor, a new building was constructed to house the growing membership. Under the present progressive pastor, Elder H. A. Lindsey, the church was dedicated free from debt in 1946.

A few months after the organization of the Watts church the Berean Church on the west side of Los Angeles was organized. It was reorganized by the conference in 1943 and dedicated in 1946.

Twenty years after the organization of the first church in Los Angeles, the company which had been meeting in Pasadena under the leadership of Elder Bontemps was organized into the Pasadena Second Church. The church was dedicated under the pastorate of Elder J. M. Campbell in 1938. From this church, now known as the Sunset Avenue Church, the Sweet Chariot Hour broadcast has for the past four years been proclaiming the gospel message.

The Sweet Chariot Hour Bible Correspondence School, conducted from the Southern California Conference, is handled by Sisters Reathel Jenkins, E. Van Nockay Porter, Myrtis Beaman, and Hazel Perkins with the assistance of Sister R. G. Lewis.

On December 28, 1940, after laymen had done preparatory work and Elder J. M. Campbell had held hall meetings, a church was organized in Monrovia, California. Elder J. W. Allison is pastor of this church.

Prior to his work in Monrovia, Elder Allison had labored in Santa Monica, where he had organized a church in 1941. Elder Lindsey has charge of this growing work.

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA

AFTER pioneer self-supporting work on the part of Elder J. E. Johnson, then a recently baptized layman, the late Elder Sydney Scott held evangelistic meetings in San Diego which resulted, in 1922, in the organization of thirty believers into a church known as the Beacon Light Church. The present pastor, Elder Dennis T. Black, has plans to build a much-needed new church.

The work in San Bernardino was started in 1929 by Elder J. E. Johnson, assisted by Sister Ludie Smith; when a church of thirty-five was organized. The church was known as the Valley View Church until the new building was erected under the pastorate of Elder J. W. Allison, when it was renamed Shiloh.

The San Bernardino-Riverside district is under the direction of Elder William C. Webb, assisted by Brother William E. Galbreth. They are carrying on an aggressive evangelistic program. The Riverside church was organized in 1937 and dedicated in 1946.

Miss Justine Reed, Bible instructor, is working earnestly in Imperial Valley, preparing the field for a public effort.

NORTHERN AND CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

SEEKING to do more effective soul-winning work, the colored believers whose membership was in the various churches in the San Francisco Bay area requested the conference president to organize them into a church. Starting as a Sabbath school, the group was organized November 17, 1923.

The writer was called to be the first pastor of this church. The present pastor, Elder Russell W. Nelson, is carrying on the work in the East Bay in a strong manner. Associated with him are Brother Audrey Johnson, intern, and Sisters W. Gulley and Veva Knox, Bible instructors.

During the time that San Francisco and Oakland were in the same conference, the writer, with the aid of Sister Emma Burnett as Bible instructor and a group of laymen, began work in San Francisco which resulted in the organization of the Hamilton Square Church on May 24, 1930.

In 1944 Elder J. E. Cox was called to head the work in San Francisco. A beautiful edifice was purchased on Geary Street. Today this church, a credit to the Adventist cause, is free from debt and has a membership of 200.

Many years ago attempts with varying degrees of success were made to promote the work among the colored population in Fresno. Eventually a building was purchased in 1943 and was dedicated that year. The church has doubled its membership under the labors of Elder Victor A. Joseph and Sister Della Richardson, Bible instructor. Plans have been drawn for building a larger church.

Elder Joseph also has the oversight of the recently organized church near Chowchilla known as the Alamo Church.

Work was first started in Bakersfield by Elder G. Nathaniel Banks. The church was organized August 15, 1943, following a fruitful effort held by Elder F. H. Jenkins and Brother Richard E. Berry. They are without a pastor at present, Brother Berry having gone temporarily to the Nevada-Utah Conference for evangelistic work in that field.

NEVADA-UTAH

On May 12, 1927, a church of fifteen members was organized in Salt Lake City. It was dedicated in 1928. Brother Berry has been hold-

ing a successful church effort in Salt Lake City.

ARIZONA

ELDER C. E. ANDROSS and his committee called Elder Jonathan Allison, Jr., then an intern, to give leadership to the few believers in Phoenix and Tucson. That was in 1940.

Later, under Elder J. F. Street's pastorate and the able assistance of Elder Andross, a beautiful church was built in Phoenix. It was dedicated December 21, 1946.

The Tucson church was organized June 23, 1945. Brother Thomas J. Douglass, an intern, is the pastor of the church.

THE QUINQUENNIAD

IN THIS incomplete survey of the development of our work your attention has been called to seventeen churches in the Pacific union. These churches have a membership of over two thousand (2,115). The tithe for 1946 amounted to \$148,404.52. The tithe for the previous year was \$133,450.18, or a gain of \$14,954.34.

The total Mission Offering for 1946 was \$55,111.66. This was a gain of \$4,414.13 over the previous year. The average per capita, 67 cents.

Baptisms in 1945 were 155; and in 1946, 332; a gain of 177.

The financial blessing of God can more clearly be seen if we observe the total in tithe for the quinquennial period from 1942 to 1946.

The total tithe for the five-year period amounted to \$527,530.02. The total offerings to missions during the same period amounted to \$202,820.49. This makes a total tithe and mission offering turned into the conferences by these seventeen churches of \$730,350.51.

EDUCATIONAL WORK

THE Los Angeles Academy has grown from an intermediate school to a full-fledged nonboarding academy with an enrollment of 315 and a staff of 21. Principal J. F. Dent is giving capable leadership.

The school has outgrown its present location, and twenty acres just outside the city limits of Los Angeles have been purchased where a \$200,000 plant is being prepared for occupancy this fall.

The first colored American to be appointed as a superintendent of a foreign mission field was educated and trained in the Pacific Union Conference. He is Elder G. Nathaniel Banks, now in Liberia, Africa.

MEDICAL MISSIONARIES

DR. AND MRS. D. WARREN HARRISON, of Pasadena, under appointment of the mission board for Ethiopia, will be the first colored Americans to be sent to the land of Haile Selassie. Dr. Harrison is a product of the parochial school system of our union and a graduate of the College of Medical Evangelists.

A word of praise should be given our doctors in the Pacific Union Conference who are graduates of C.M.E. Every graduate of this school located on the Pacific Coast is actively engaged in aggressive church work.

PUBLISHING WORK

BROTHER E. McGRUFF, assistant publishing secretary for the Southern California Conference, has the distinction of being the first and only colored person serving in this capacity in the Pacific Union Conference. (May his tribe increase!) Under his guidance colporteurs delivered more than \$20,000 worth of books in 1946.

We of the Pacific Union Conference accept the challenge of the still great unfinished work, and with God's help we rededicate ourselves to the attainment of this divinely appointed task.

OWEN A. TROY, *Secretary,*
Colored Department.

HAROLD LINDSEY, former pastor of the Compton Avenue Church in Los Angeles, reports fourteen members recently united with that church by baptism.

In Northern California

Mid a drizzling rain the members of the Market Street Church, having forsaken the worshipful accommodations regularly offered by their usual sanctuary, gathered at the Golden Gate Academy in Berkeley, March 1, 1947, to hold their Sabbath services. A memorable date indeed was this to be in the history of the church and the colored work of the area.

This holy convocation convened at this desirable location for the purpose of allowing the Market Street members to become intimately acquainted with the buildings and grounds and in order to help them form the important decision as to whether or not they should obtain the same as a center for their expanding and growing program.

The senior Sabbath school was conducted in the commodious gymnasium, which had been decorated and prepared for the occasion, while the Juniors met in the splendid adjoining chapel, and the Primary division in the spacious dining room a few yards across the court in a large, two-story building. After the Sabbath school, the home missionary period rallied the respective bands to the total report of \$1,154.07 for the annual Ingathering Campaign of the church.

"The people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits" was the text and keynote of the stirring and challenging sermon at the eleven o'clock hour by W. A. Nelson, the conference president, as he graphically envisioned a new church and center. Other conference officials assisting in the services were O. A. Troy, union secretary of the Colored Department; W. W. Ruble, educational secretary of the Northern California Conference; and Frederick T. Oakes, the local conference treasurer.

Although the rains continued after dinner, in the afternoon the Missionary Volunteer Society brightened the weather inclemency by the cheerfulness of their program in the chapel auditorium and forgot about the clouds in the sunshine of their

singing as Mrs. O. A. Troy effectively drew stirring melodies from the piano that she kept spiritedly ringing. Immediately after the Missionary Volunteer meeting, and in the same auditorium, there followed a lively symposium on "The Future of the Colored Work in the East Bay." Those who spoke for a few minutes each on various phases of the subject were R. W. Nelson, the pastor; Owen A. Troy, the main speaker; W. A. Nelson; W. W. Ruble; and A. T. Johnson, intern and assistant pastor. The congregation assisted by interspersing the symposium with Negro spirituals as Sister Troy played the piano while they sang, "Peace, Peace," "Battle Field," and "Tramping." With the setting of the sun, all reverently bowed while a prayer by the pastor appropriately closed the Sabbath. The service ended with all confidently singing, "He Leadeth Me."

The next meeting was the large church council convening with the conference officials to consider the business details of the proposed transaction, and to make a final decision. After prayerful and careful deliberation, the council unanimously voted to obtain the Golden Gate Academy site for \$67,500, which was the proffered sale price that would be applied on the new academy soon to be erected in East Oakland. The council also voted to meet this obligation by the sale of the present church, which they have outgrown, and with appropriations they were to request from the local and union conferences, and also with an additional \$15,000 cash raised by the church, a major part of which would go into the remodeling of one of the buildings for a temporary meeting place until the new church could be constructed on the corner of the lot. (I am happy to state that at this writing one of the major appropriations has already been voted by the local conference.)

An eventful day was concluded with an evening of entertainment for all. Thus a memorable Sabbath ended with this group of remnant chosen ones fully inspired.

R. WENDELL NELSON, *Pastor.*

Oakwood College

F. L. Peterson, Pres.
Huntsville, Ala.

The Spring Work

OAKWOOD COLLEGE has entered upon the second semester with an enrollment of 508. There are 364 enrolled in the college and 144 in the academy. Of our total enrollment, 87 are veterans.

The new dormitory is now under construction, and the contractor states that it will be ready for occupancy this fall. It will house 150 students as well as contain the cafeteria. Three new cottages for teachers are nearing completion, which will mean much for the comfort and housing of our staff.

The spiritual tone of our school is high, and we are anticipating a spiritual feast during the Spring Week of Prayer, March 22-27.

We are celebrating on May 4 Founder's Day, which will round out fifty years of Oakwood's existence as a training center for the colored youth of this denomination. Throughout the years the Lord has greatly blessed Oakwood, and we are confident that His guiding hand will lead this school into a wider field of usefulness to the constituency for which it has been established. We desire the prayers of our people everywhere that God might continue to lead us and give us wisdom as we endeavor to guide the youth attending Oakwood College.

F. L. PETERSON, *President*.

My Visit to Oakwood

THE happy occasion for my long-anticipated visit to Oakwood College finally presented itself after the Southern Union Conference session at Asheville, North Carolina. Much impressed with the school's lovely location and its surrounding country, I now gratefully reflect upon the wholesome environment of this institution. Surely God loves the youth of the Advent cause, to provide these fine schools for them.

The spiritual tone of the classes, chapels, worship periods, and services generally assured me that this school is under safe leadership, and that President F. L. Peterson and his strong faculty know the true program of Christian education. Elder C. E. Moseley's leadership in the Bible department was reflected in the various class recitations and student discussions of the topic in hand. It was also a pleasure to participate with Miss Natelkka Burrell's psychology class as she pointed out God's plan whereby Christian youth can reach those who are not yet privileged to know His work. Her instruction was youth-winning with many a fine little sermon precluded. I listened at the doors of other classrooms that time would not permit me to visit, and discovered a uniform interest in spiritual teaching.

My visit to the girls' dormitory was most delightful. How large a group were demonstrating that it is still possible to be sweetly cooperative with a perplexed management when overcrowded conditions present hardships to teachers and students! I marveled at the extreme neatness of the rooms. The homey, happy spirit of this dormitory was reflected in every nook and corner. The many personal interviews with these young women of vision assured me that the denomination can look to Oakwood for capable Bible instructors, teachers, and institutional workers. When visiting with many promising young men with whom I had formerly made acquaintance in the Missionary Volunteer and Sabbath school work in different conferences, my impressions for future ministerial leadership were decidedly deepened. Let me pay tribute to the cultural influence and the Christian courtesy of the deans of this college.

Sabbath day at Oakwood will long linger in my memory. Here one finds a true Sabbathkeeping spirit. The Sabbath is greeted with reverent joy and peace while students with their teachers reflect the happiness of the best day of the seven. How lovely were the hymns

of Zion so skillfully sung! I expected to hear a well-trained choir, and I was reassured of the talent of song in this school.

One outstanding impression deserves emphasis. I bring it to the attention of the parents and constituency supporting our program of Christian education. A demonstration of Dr. Eva B. Dykes' missionary leadership during the church missionary service revealed again the wonderful influence of such training in our denominational colleges. The program was naturally presented as it beautifully embraced the needs of the immediate community and the nearest city, Huntsville. There was a broad vision for the task at hand, and a sound appeal for action as a number of students presented well-prepared parts. I asked God to bless the fine leadership of Dr. Dykes in this school, and also remember the large army of noble teachers everywhere who share her deep burden for God's work outside the classroom.

LOUISE C. KLEUSER, *Ministerial Association, General Conference*.

Riverside Sanitarium & Hospital

J. M. Cox, Med. Dir. H. D. Dobbins, Mgr.
800 Youngs Lane, Nashville, Tenn.

A Tour at Riverside

TODAY, March 18, as I sit here, through my office window I am able to see the entire west side of a modern sanitarium and hospital. The structure before me is made of concrete cinder blocks with a brick veneer, beautiful in every respect, substantial and fireproof. As I think of the years we have waited for a sanitarium, I realize that many prayers are about to be answered.

With your permission I shall endeavor by way of this brief description to take you for a visit through this institution. Let us in our mind's eye stand in front of the building. At this point, by the front entrance of the steps, we note that this section is over twelve feet in length. We look to our left to the east wing,



The New Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital Now Almost Completed

The New Riverside Sanitarium Almost Completed

HERE many sick will receive special care and attention; also many of our young men and women will be trained for the nursing profession. We are still in need of means for furnishings and medical equipment. The necessary funds must be provided by our church members and friends. So far we have received \$40,000 from our constituents, for which we are truly grateful, but \$20,000 more is now urgently needed

for immediate use. We must continue to give liberally. It calls for sacrifice to reach any worth-while accomplishment. We are calling upon each member and friend in every section of the North American Division to GIVE and to GIVE again until all the furnishings and necessary equipment have been provided for this institution. Make remittances through your local conference, stating clearly, "For Riverside Sanitarium."

GEORGE E. PETERS, *Secretary,*
North American Colored Dept.

which is 115 feet, and to our right is the west wing, over 100 feet in length. Our building measures more than 227 feet across the front.

As we go up the steps and enter the lobby, immediately we are standing in front of spacious hallways leading back about 100 feet to our main dining room. To our left is an Otis elevator, and to the right a drinking fountain and telephone booth. As we turn left and walk down the hallway, on our right we notice private rooms now being furnished. At the end of the hallway is a parlor and lounge. This lounge itself is larger than our present sanitarium building.

We return now to the entrance by the elevator and walk back toward our main dining room. On our right is a drugstore, on our left and right as we go back we find private rooms for our sanitarium patients,

and immediately in front of us is our main dining room. These rooms we anticipate furnishing in such a manner as to take away the hospital atmosphere, and lend a homelike feeling to the patients.

We have one other wing on this floor which we have not visited yet, so let us return to our point of entrance. Here on our left, as we face the entrance, we notice the business end of the institution: the offices of the medical superintendent, the business manager, doctors, superintendent of nurses, and the accountant. At the far end is the library. We wish that we might be able to go more in detail, but there are other floors to see, and we are anticipating your personal visit sometime soon.

Let us take the elevator and go to the second floor. Notice the spacious draped halls with interior stucco. Incidentally, our halls on the first

floor are concrete. To our right is our obstetrical wing. This is closed from view, a State requirement. On our left is our medical wing, and right in front of us you will find two large rooms for children. We have not forgotten the lambs of the flock. By turning to our left and going south, we will find our surgical wing. These rooms will all be furnished with modern surgical beds and other equipment necessary for the comfort of those of our patients cared for in this section.

We have other floors to visit, so we take the elevator and again stop in front of three private rooms. Going around the elevator to the left, we come in contact with our blood bank, X ray, storage, supply, and scrub-up-rooms for doctors and nurses. At the end of the hallway on the left we find a major operating room; and on our right, a minor operating room. Between these two rooms is a sterilizing room.

Perhaps it would be of interest to those who read these lines to know that our concrete man told me that all the floors will be finished today. A few hours ago I watched the man who has the contract for putting in the terrazzo halls and steps, grinding away, finishing them up so they will shine like a polished gem. In a few of the rooms the plasterers have put on the last coat and radiators have been put in place. Soon experienced carpenters will be busy in the rooms doing the finishing work. Our courage is good and our hope and trust in God was never better. We believed that the time had come for Riverside to expand, and it has. Approximately \$30,000 worth of furnishings have already arrived.

I hope I have, by this brief description, given you a desire to visit what we believe to be the best seventy-five-bed hospital in North America, and definitely the only one of its kind in the world. And here let me express to you who are in the field the appreciation of those here at the sanitarium for the large support given financially, prayerfully, and morally to make this hospital credit to the denomination.

H. D. DOBBINS, *Business Manager.*