



The North American

Informant

VOLUME IV

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NUMBER 3

Third Biennial Session of the Northeastern Conference

THE Northeastern Conference held its election March 27 at the Ephesus church of New York City. The opening of the conference session was preceded by a union meeting of all the churches of the metropolitan area Sunday evening, March 26.

Present on this occasion were L. H. Bland, conference president, who presided as master of ceremonies; L. O. Irons, secretary-treasurer; J. J. North, home missionary and Sabbath school departmental secretary; J. Roache, educational and Missionary Volunteer secretary; C. M. Willis, publishing department secretary; W. S. Lee, newly elected pastor of the Ephesus church; F. E. Roy Jeffries, pastor of the Tabernacle church; H. W. Kibble, pastor of the Bethel church, Brooklyn; E. A. Lockett, White Plains; George Earle, New Rochelle; T. W. Wilson, Buffalo; J. L. Moran, principal of Northeastern Academy, New York; J. S. Greene, Jr., Springfield, Massachusetts; T. R. Wilson, New Haven, Connecticut; Toussaint Davis, Boston, Massachusetts; D. B. Simons, Sierra Leone, West Africa, who had just arrived on furlough; and M. S. Banfield, secretary-treasurer, Albany Conference.

G. E. Peters gave the message for the occasion. The following day the conference session opened at 9 A.M. with a Bible study by D. B. Simons. A. L. Rice, president of Atlantic Union Conference, then took charge of directing the session and the ap-



L. H. Bland, President

pointment of committees. Every item of business was conducted very smoothly and with dispatch. L. H. Bland was unanimously re-elected as president and L. O. Irons, secretary-treasurer. All departmental secretaries were likewise unanimously re-elected.

President Bland, in rendering his report, stated:

"As we look back through the five years of this conference, we can clearly see the good hand of God which has led us each step of the way. Our hearts overflow in gratitude to Him for His kindness to us. . . .

"From the beginning the work has shown progress month by month in every department. For the five years our tithes amounted to \$933,357.11. The mission offerings for the same period amounted to \$297,750.56. Baptisms for the same period were 1,020.

"We have one of the best all-round group of workers that is to be found in any conference with which to finish our task. What has been accomplished could not have been accomplished without them. We have added one church each year since the organization of the conference—each one free of debt. We have added to our corporation approximately one quarter of a million dollars in property—all free of debt. . . .

"We owe a special debt of gratitude to God for the blessings of divine intervention in returning Mr. Irons, secretary-treasurer, to our working staff. I am certain we are all aware of how close he has been to the portals of the beyond, but in response to the earnest prayers of His people, God, in His love, returned him to us; for this we are deeply grateful.

"Again we express our thanks to our loyal group of workers both in the office and in the field for their devotion to the work of God. We are ever mindful of the kind and faithful counsel given by Elder M. L. Rice, our union president, and the good help of the entire staff of union workers."



L. O. Irons, Secretary-Treasurer,
Northeastern Conference

It is gratifying to note that the present membership of the Northeastern Conference is 3,205; showing a net gain of 678 over the previous biennial term. It was encouraging to witness the spirit of harmony that prevailed throughout the conference session. On the whole everything bids fair under the fostering care of the Almighty for the continuance of a strong work in the Northeastern Conference.

Representing the union were M. L. Rice, president; T. R. Gardner, secretary-treasurer; K. C. Beem, auditor; and all departmental secretaries. W. B. Ochs, vice-president of the North American Division, and G. E. Peters represented the General Conference.

Other leaders visiting were D. B. Simons, of Sierra Leone; J. H. Wagner, president of the Allegheny Conference, and M. S. Banfield, secretary-treasurer. These brethren spoke words of encouragement and brought greetings from Allegheny and Sierra Leone.

G. E. P.

Are You Missing These?

THE material for the July issue of the *Church Officers' Gazette* is now ready for the publishers. It is our Educational Day program to be

used in all our churches on Sabbath, July 22. I have enjoyed this excellent material so thoroughly myself that I couldn't resist telling you about its coming, so that you will be looking for these stirring and significant messages on that day. None of you will want to miss it, for it is important. But I don't know that this program is really any more important or more interesting than many others that have been appearing each month for our homes and parents.

I have just now taken the August folder out of the files to begin arranging the material that has been collecting for many months. In August we publish the topics for our Home and School Associations for the following year. As I was considering the topics that might be most helpful to our parents and teachers for this coming year, I couldn't help wondering how many of you are enjoying the unusual programs that this department is bringing to you this year. I wish every one of these programs could have come out in the *Review and Herald* so that I could be assured that each of you is having the opportunity of being enriched and inspired thereby.

I was wondering how many of you had the privilege in the month of March of hearing the superb program "Blessed Are the Pure in Heart," dealing with sex instruction, prepared by Dr. Harold Shryock, dean of the Loma Linda Division of the College of Medical Evangelists. Several letters of appreciation and further inquiries have come from some of the parents concerning this unusual program. None of you should have missed it!

I was wondering how many of you profited from the unexcelled program for April, "Speech Harmony in the Home," by our capable Dr. Charles E. Weniger, dean of the Theological Seminary and head of its department of homiletics and speech. In this program he studies with you the importance of acceptable speech in the home, school, and community; describes the characteristics of good speech, and gives in nontechnical language a few basic exercises that will help parents,

teachers, and children to develop pleasing speech habits.

I was wondering how many of you are going to enjoy the delightful nature program scheduled for May, "Nature Knowledge in the Home" written by Gladys Scott Wakefield whose hobby for many years has been the study of nature in its various fascinating aspects. She has brought you a challenging hour about seeds. I never knew they were so varied, that there was so much to learn about just seeds! You certainly won't want to miss the amazing nature program coming in May.

I was wondering how many of you belong to the Home and School Association and feel that you are experiencing a richer, fuller life thereby. If there is no Home and School Association in your church that does not mean that you have to miss out. Why not form a Parent Study Group or a Christian Home Council? If your church cannot be persuaded to organize any of these societies, why not take advantage of the many wonderful helps designed for you each month by subscribing to the *Church Officers' Gazette* and studying them for yourself?

I was wondering how many of you are reading some of the ten books selected for parents for the year 1950. Let us know how you are enjoying them and what help they have been to you.

Yes, I was wondering about all this and wish I knew!

ARABELLA MOORE WILLIAMS,
Assistant Secretary for Parent and
Home Education, General Conference Dept. of Education.

The North American Informant

Representing the colored work of the
Seventh-day Adventist Denomination

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ALLEGHENY

J. H. Wagner, Pres. M. S. Banfield, Sec.-Treas.
P.O. Box 720, Pottstown, Pennsylvania
Pottstown 3844

Pine Forge Academy

By A. V. PINKNEY, *Educational
Superintendent*

NESTLED in the beautiful Manawaway Valley on a 475-acre tract is the Pine Forge Academy, a co-educational institution of learning which combines the principle of Christian education with the three R's. Pine Forge trains the head, the heart, and the hands.

The institution is now beginning its fourth year, and has an enrollment of one hundred students from fourteen States and the Canal Zone. The school has recently been rated; and basing their decision on the report made by the secretary to the Academy Board and Conference committee, the officials voted unanimously to request the Board of Regents to accredit the institution on the basis of its having fulfilled the requirements as set up by the aforementioned board, which rates all the secondary schools of the denomination. As of the September term, Pine Forge will, therefore, be an accredited academy, and a grateful constituency thanks the Lord for His marvelous and bounteous blessings upon this very young institution.

Prof. R. L. Reynolds is the principal and manager of the academy, and there are three members of the faculty who have their Master's degree. They are Prof. R. L. Reynolds, Miss Cordell Evans, and Miss Ruth Mosby, who will complete her requirements for her Master's this summer.

The school is removed from the temptations of city life, and the students have a chance of knowing God and seeing His handiwork in its natural setting.

The school management is planning an agricultural program, which will make it possible for deserving and ambitious students to assist themselves financially with their

tuition costs. The store will soon be in its new home, and provisions are rapidly being made to house the laundry.

Catalogs will be available as soon as they are received from the printer, and parents are requested to plan now to enroll their boys and girls where they will be exposed to a Christian education. Address all communications to Prof. R. L. Reynolds, Pine Forge Academy, Pine Forge, Pennsylvania.



A. V. Pinkney

**Temperance Oratorical
Contest**

SUNDAY, March 26, the Ethnan Temple Seventh-day Adventist church, Center and Morgan Streets, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was the scene of the first temperance oratorical contest, sponsored by the temperance and Missionary Volunteer departments of the Allegheny Conference.

The awards were attractive and the selected subjects lent themselves to natural expansion. As a result, a large number of young people prepared themselves to participate.

Each local society conducted an elimination contest, and contestants appeared in the finals representing temperance and Missionary Volunteer societies in Columbus, Cleve-

land, and Dayton, Ohio; Pittsburgh and Pine Forge, Pennsylvania; and Washington, D.C.

From Pine Forge two contestants were selected: Doris Mickel, of Newark, New Jersey, and Calvin Sanders, of Chicago, Illinois; from Washington, D.C., Rosalie Redmond and Sarah Harris; from Columbus, Ohio, Catherine Warren and Robert Lester; from Dayton, Ohio, Charleste Johnson; from Cleveland, Ohio, Thomas Hill; and from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Edith Mosby.

The Pittsburgh congregation worked untiringly to make this occasion one long to be remembered. The entire church was renovated. A new organ was installed and dedicated and the rostrum was resplendent with beautiful flowers. A new carpet runner added to the color scheme. Mrs. L. Thomkins and Miss J. Marshall ably supported by Sisters Lillie Nelson and Zora B. Murphy, not only made the contestants welcome but attended to every detail so that the entire affair was an overwhelming success. Elder J. G. Dasant, pastor, said that it was one of the finest programs that he had participated in, and we do not hesitate to say that we know he has labored untiringly behind the scenes.

Elder J. H. Wagner, president of the Allegheny Conference, and Mrs. Wagner were present assuring the young people of conference support. A telegram, warm and encouraging, from Elder G. E. Peters, secretary of the North American Colored Department of the General Conference, was read.

A fine corps of judges was selected, composed of individuals whose vocations and avocations made them unquestionably qualified to sit in judgment upon the orations. These judges were unanimous in their decisions and awarded the following prizes:

FIRST, Thomas Hill, Cleveland, Ohio.

SECOND, Charleste Johnson, Dayton, Ohio.

THIRD, Doris Mickel, Pine Forge Academy.

FOURTH, Robert Lester, Columbus, Ohio.

FIFTH, Calvin Sanders, Pine Forge Academy.

The Temperance Oratorical Contest will be an annual affair, and this initial one was cosponsored by the temperance and M.V. departments, led by W. R. Robinson and A. V. Pinkney.

Present in the audience was Miss Lois Bowman, who was graduated from the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. She was the only woman of our race in a class of fifty graduates. Miss Bowman is the daughter of Mrs. Martha Bowman, home missionary secretary of Ethnan Temple, Pittsburgh church.

A. V. PINKNEY, *Educational Supt., Allegheny Conference.*

Christian Benefit Association

Mrs. Estelle Barnett, *President*

DEATH is no respecter of persons. Fifteen members died in 1949, but you were assessed for only six. These fifteen claims were met promptly. We need more than sympathy when the grim reaper reaps. C.B.A. meets that need. Already in 1950 the reaper has taken one of our full benefit members. The beneficiary can testify to the Christian courtesy and promptness with which his \$500 check was sent.

The C.B.A. provides protection in this emergency. You are your brother's keeper. (Gal. 6:2; Rom. 15:1.) This Christian nonprofit association requires no medical examination and has no age limit; no physical condition bars anyone. Write us for our special offer. It is your association. Help us make it a greater source of help to our fellow men.

We have reached the goal of 1,000 members, but there should be many more, for we have more than 25,000 colored S.D.A. church members. We feel sure that many of this number have made no provision in case of death.

For further information write to:

THE CHRISTIAN BENEFIT ASSOCIATION,
Mrs. J. Estelle Barnett, President,
1432 Hildreth Avenue,
Columbus 3, Ohio

NOTE.—Sister Barnett, a member of the Columbus S.D.A. church, is an active worker in her home church along many lines.—Ed.

Cedar Avenue Church Cleveland, Ohio



J. H. Laurence, Pastor

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord." Ps. 92:1.

We are truly thankful for what God has done for us. In the fall of 1942 Evangelist J. H. Laurence took over the pastorate of the Cedar Avenue S.D.A. church. Our membership was then less than two hundred. Now our membership is over five hundred. On many occasions chairs must be placed in the aisles to accommodate the congregation on the Sabbath. We are looking forward to the future when we can have a larger church to accommodate our people.

We have as a part of our congregation a fine group of young people. Several years ago our pastor organized them into a junior church. One Sabbath out of every month they have complete charge of the services. It is an inspiration to listen to the voices of the young people's choir singing songs of joy, with Miss Lorraine Edmond directing. Mr. Felix Battles is head of the young people's department.

In 1945 the church was organized into bands to raise money to clear the church's indebtedness, with Mrs.

C. Harris as chairman. The Lord greatly blessed our efforts, and with the help of the General, union, and Allegheny conferences, each giving \$1,000, we were able to pay off our debt. We also purchased a pipe organ and a baby grand piano to improve the sweetness of our music. In addition to this we raised \$4,000 to remodel our schoolrooms. Mrs. Geneva Shippes, president of the Dorcas Society Federation, and Mrs. Lola Stuart, president of our Home Missionary Society, sponsored this rally.

We are operating an eleven-grade academy with five teachers: Miss M. E. Laurence, principal; Mr. Willard Lewis; Miss Lorraine Edmond; Mrs. Jocelyn Jackson; and Miss Ruth E. Wrenn.

Our midweek service is largely attended. On Friday evening, at the dawn of the Sabbath, it is heavenly to hear those who have gathered for the vesper hour, singing praises to God.

Our evangelistic services continue every Sunday night. The attendance is very encouraging. Many of the believers who have answered the call, "Come out of her, my people," are the result of the Sunday night services.

Within the last five years we have paid into the conference \$197,640.79 in tithes and offerings. We sincerely appreciate what God has done for us under the Christian leadership of our pastor, Elder Laurence.

May God stir our hearts to do even greater work for Him as we realize there are many more souls to be warned of a soon-coming Saviour.

MARY BELLE COLEMAN, *Treasurer,*
Cedar Avenue Church,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Faith

As daffodils, when April storms are done,
Lift tear-wet faces to the sudden sun,
May I, when grief is spent, seek out the One
And say in simple faith, "Thy will be done."

—RUBY C. HUTCHESON.

CENTRAL STATES MISSION

F. L. Bland, Pres. J. H. Jones, Sec.-Treas.
2528 Benton Blvd.
Kansas City, Missouri

Beacon Light, Kansas City, Missouri, Spiritually on Fire

THIS caption is a perfect description of the hum of activity witnessed on a recent Sabbath at the Beacon Light church in Kansas City, Missouri, when folk came in large numbers to see it burn. It was a great home-coming day, and many who had been away from church for a long time were seen in the audience praising God.

There was a long line of cars in front of the spiritually burning church. These cars came from many points representing our near-by sister churches in the Central States. At the regular hour the Sabbath school, under the superintendency of Mrs. Arthelia Alexander, sounded the bugle call, and the services for the day began. Pastor Butler, of Lincoln, Nebraska, led the school in a lively study of the lesson. During this hour a siren was heard, and we wondered what was burning next. Looking outside, we saw not a literal fire wagon, but a large Greyhound bus carrying the victorious Ingatherers of the Leavenworth church, under the leadership of Melvin McRoy, who had brought his brigade to take part in the spiritual fire maneuvers. The Leavenworth church has accomplished great things for God in reaching its super Ingathering goal.

The time for the eleven o'clock service came, and suddenly singing such as we had never heard told the worshipers that Mrs. F. L. Bland and her fully robed choir were approaching the choir stand. The music that came from the organ, piano, and choir combined was inspiring, and truly we worshiped God in song. This was the first time the members and friends of the Beacon Light church had the privilege of hearing the newly installed Hammond organ. As the ministers filed to the platform, it was a hushed

multitude that looked on and waited for the bread of heaven.

There were many who had come to the Adventist church for the first time, and as they listened attentively the writer spoke on the subject, "Why I Am a Seventh-day Adventist." When the appeal was made every hand went up, and the angels sped on to heaven to tell the story that someone was born for the kingdom.

We repaired to the assembly hall for dinner, and broke the temporal bread together. This reminded us of the apostolic days when the church had all things in common.

At 2:45 the large audience was again served with rich, melodious organ music, and we entered into one of the main features of the day, which was the baptismal service. Mrs. E. V. Porter, our Bible instructor, led a fine group of men and women to the water's edge for full membership through baptism.

The M.V. hour was bursting with activity as Elder R. L. Woodfork of Kansas City and others inspired the youth to do greater things for God. Youth Leader, Maurice Valentine, is burning with zeal and is determined that ere long we shall see many of the youth joining in the work of God. And so the spiritual fire burned on as the last rays of the setting sun told us that the Sabbath day was done.

The ushers, deaconesses, and deacons worked faithfully and deserve special mention.

Sunday night the church was again filled with worshipers as we saw and heard that "in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed." Beacon Light is not putting out her spiritual fire until Kansas City is warned of God's truth and the light. We solicit your prayers that under God's leadership and blessings in this midcentury year marvelous things will be done for Him.

D. B. REID, *Pastor.*

If you think well of me, and ever would be kind, be so today while I yet live upon this earth.—YU HSIEN.



Miss Marvene C. Jones

Conducts Cooking Institute

MARVENE C. JONES, of Chicago, one of the few Negro diet specialists in the preparation of vegetarian foods, completed a cooking school demonstration at the spacious Seventh-day Adventist church in Birmingham, Alabama, recently.

Miss Jones is a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology at Chicago, and has done graduate work at Chicago University. She served for several years as the dietitian for the Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital at Nashville, Tennessee, and in the dietetics department of the Provident Hospital in Chicago. She has held cooking institutes in Chicago, Illinois; Dallas, Texas; Richmond, Virginia; Columbus, Ohio; and Winston-Salem and Greensboro, North Carolina.

Miss Jones is author of the book *Eating for Health*, and is a columnist for the *Message Magazine*.

News Notes

ELDER DONALD B. SIMONS, union evangelist of the West African Union, formerly located in Sierra Leone, arrived in New York with his wife and two children aboard the S.S. *Queen Mary*, March 24. They spent a week in Washington reporting at headquarters and visiting our two congregations, the First church and Ephesus.

Elder Simons' report of his work

in Sierra Leone, where he spent a three-year term, proved both interesting and enlightening. His lectures were made very realistic by his use of some 120 films.

Mrs. Simons, who is a registered nurse, proved very helpful in the mission fields as she lent her assistance in visiting and in health work. Elder Simons stated that on many occasions Sister Simons arrived to give needed medical aid to some native in the "nick of time."

The Simonses will take some needed rest, will visit parents and friends in Wisconsin and Chicago, and then will fill appointments in our churches and camp meetings in many of our cities from Florida to California.

G. E. P.

PACIFIC UNION

Owen A. Troy, Departmental Secretary
Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day
Adventists
P.O. Box 146, Glendale 5, California

Philadelphian Church, San Francisco, California

THE full growth of our church since August 8, 1944, at the time of my arrival, to September 30, 1949, shows a record of 360. We have given 90 letters in the same period, leaving a net membership of 250. We have held one baptism since the effort and have added 12 to the list. At the close of 1949 we were able to add 22 to this number, bringing our membership to 284.

Our choir has been quite enterprising, and we have appeared before several audiences of 5,000 people and obtained a very fine record.

Our tithe was \$3,500 the first year that I took up work in this city. Last year we were happy to report \$18,000; also our mission offerings for the first year were \$1,800. Last year we reported \$8,000.

We have no debts and operate within our budget each month. During our revival services, at the close of 1949, the Royal Highness of Egypt came to our meetings, and for one week she and her princess, together with her two body guards, attended several night services. We have also

had her, with her group, as our royal guest. This excited quite a bit of curiosity in the city. But we accredited it all to the handiwork of God.

Pray for us as we continue to labor in the vineyard of the Master that during this year, 1950, we will do a greater work for Him.

JETER E. COX, SR.,
Pastor, Philadelphian Church.



Mrs. L. B. Cox

Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital

THE Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital medical library has been built up since April, 1948, when the new building was opened for service. New developments are presented first in current journals. Twenty representative journals covering literature for the past five years with indexes which make the content of the journals evident have been subscribed to.

Available to the members of the staff is medical literature presenting standard procedures as well as that which is descriptive of the most recent developments in medicine, surgery, and the specialties represented in the services of the hospital.

Bibliotherapy, supplied by the patients' library, is both recreational and therapeutic, and helps allevi-

ate preliminary apprehension and speeds recovery. The Mobile Librarian visits bed and ambulatory patients, so that they may choose their own reading material.

Many of the patients express great benefits from the curative literature and have requested literature for home use. A few have joined the church. Pray for the work here at Riverside that God will continue to bless this institution.

MRS. L. B. COX, Medical Librarian.

Thou Hast a Saviour

BY PEARL W. HOWARD

When the skies are leaden o'er thee
And the fog hangs thick before thee,
When thou canst not tell, for darkness,
Where to take thy footing next—
Think, O soul, thou hast a Saviour
Who is ever unperplexed!

When the fears of life are pressing
And thou scarce canst feel the blessing
Which in former days thou knewest,
And thy soul is sick, afraid—
Think: thou hast a living Saviour
Close beside thee, undismayed.

When life's trials have assailed thee
And earth's source of joy has failed thee,
When in loneliness thou findest
No more reason to rejoice—
Hearken, soul, for in the silence
Thou canst better hear God's voice!

Someday, 'mid heaven's joys unending,
Thou wilt see the love now blending
Every drop within the goblet
At thy lips, which grieves thee so;
And the "why" of all that's bitter
Soon, hereafter, thou shalt know!

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

W. W. Fordham, Pres. V. Roberts, Sec.-Treas.
P. O. Box 6289, Dallas, Texas

The Dorcas Society, Beulah S.D.A. Church, Dallas, Texas

UNDER the capable leadership of Mrs. Gertrude Yancy and her staff of officers, the Dorcas Society of the Beulah S.D.A. church is looking forward to doing great things to glory of God in 1950.

Various units have been organized, that every phase of human need might be met, for Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Press Eager for Adventist News

THE Pittsburgh *Courier* (Pacific Coast edition), the Los Angeles, California, *Eagle* and the Chicago *Defender* are among a few of the Negro newspapers represented in clippings recently received by the General Conference Bureau of Press Relations.

Among them were many clippings about Charles E. Kinney, our oldest living ordained colored minister and a two-column picture and caption in the *Defender* telling about Marvene C. Jones and her vegetarian cooking classes at the Birmingham, Alabama, church.

Other stories have also appeared in regular city dailies. The Washington, D.C., *Star* carried a small story

on a musical program given by the local Ephesus church; and the Riverside, California, *Press*, the largest daily in the area, in an eight-inch story, told about one of Elder Owen Troy's recent visits to the church. This was the work, Elder Troy reports, of the church press secretary V. T. Harrison.

All these articles call attention to the fine work Adventists are doing. Part of the story in the *Courier* is as follows:

"To those of us who ever wondered what made the Seventh-day Adventist denomination tick, it is the diligent, progressive members who comprise a world-wide total of nearly a million. Locally at the Wadsworth Adventist church . . . the members fit into the same category, and they are as conscientious

about their church obligations as any good Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal, or Presbyterian."

The story goes on to say, "The elder of the thriving institution, where harmonious Christian fellowship is practiced day by day, is R. Hope Robertson, of Jamaica, B.W.I." The growth of the church, its organization, and its work are then described. This story carried with it four pictures of the Wadsworth church and its leaders.

The story of Elder Kinney, pioneer colored preacher, was worked out with Elders G. E. Peters, of the General Conference Colored Department, and Louis B. Reynolds, of the *Message Magazine*. A story and picture were mailed to every Negro paper in the United States. Some of the larger papers re-



Dorcas Society, Beulah S.D.A. Church, Dallas, Texas

ceived a picture spread which Elder Reynolds prepared. This office has received ten of the clippings, through which an estimated million persons read the story of the early growth and development of our work.

These fine newspaper stories are creating a feeling of good will toward Seventh-day Adventists everywhere. The results of such publicity can only be accurately measured over a period of time.

ERNEST N. WENDTH, *Staff Member, General Conference Press Bureau.*

Progress in Grand Bassa, West Africa; During 1949

THOUGH we have been at our station only six months, after an absence of over a year, occupied by our transfer to Monrovia and our furlough, we are happy to report that the work in Bassa is in a healthy spiritual condition and is slowly but definitely growing.

For the first time since our school-work was established in Grand Bassa County in 1937, we had an elementary graduation from our day school in Lower Buchanan. Of the seven young people who graduated, four are baptized members of the church, one is in the baptismal class, and the other two are very much interested in the truth. One or two of these young people will continue their education at Konola and will ultimately take their places in the Lord's work as teachers or evangelists. Of the approximately 125 students enrolled in this school, twenty-five have been baptized and many others are in the baptismal class.

Our church at Palmberg, where our first missionaries began work back in 1927, still flourishes, and under the consistent able leadership of Brother Willie Helbig Barchue, our native evangelist, is growing and active. The working membership is approximately eighty-seven, and there are sixty in the baptismal and hearers' classes. The desperate plight of this church group is that they have no building in which to worship. In November, 1949, there were nearly 150 in attendance. Our

place of worship was the narrow piazza of the mission home. The congregation stretched around three sides of the house, so that at no time could I see more than two thirds of them. Five hundred dollars would enable us to erect a school and church building of mud blocks plastered with cement and with a zinc roof. The members of the church would supply all the other materials and the labor. This is an imperative need!

We had the privilege of baptizing seventeen converts, who will form the nucleus of a new church group in another section of Bassa, twenty-five miles from where we live. These members have built their own little mud church. Twenty more are in the baptismal class. Here we need a teacher-evangelist stationed to care for these "babes in the truth" and to cultivate the great interest that has arisen there.

Four months ago a letter was sent to me from a civilized man far in the interior of the county, requesting a teacher and baptism. We investigated, and found that this man had read himself into the message and gathered around him more than thirty others. We are following up this interest and are expecting good results. There is much to be done before the actual baptism, but we thank God for this additional opening.

Our Sabbath school and church attendance in Lower Buchanan has almost doubled in the last six months. Our average attendance is between fifty and sixty. Many of those attending are Americo-Liberians. This is the first time we have gotten an interest among them. We had begun evangelistic meetings here and the interest had become so great that we had to have separate meetings for the civilized and native people. It was necessary to close these meetings before the decisive truths were presented in order for us to go to Monrovia for the meetings there. We plan to continue as soon as we return.

Ingathering was over \$300 for 1949 as compared to \$200 in 1947. Baptisms in Grand Bassa totaled 50.

Our Sabbath school offerings show a marked increase.

We praise God for the blessing of 1949 in souls won and for spiritual, material, and physical blessings. With great hope and courage we look forward to greater results 1950. Pray for us.

C. D. HENRI, *District Leader, Grand Bassa, West Africa.*

Congratulations!

ELDER and MRS. OWEN A. TROY have recently returned from a brief vacation, during which they visited both Haiti and Jamaica. Congratulations to the Troys on their first foreign visit!

A RECENT radiogram from Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa, notified us of the arrival of a ten-pound baby boy to the home of Pastor and Mrs. P. E. Giddings. We were also informed of the ordination to the gospel ministry of Pastor Giddings. Congratulations!

Pray for the Sick

WE are glad to report that A. E. Webb is recovering nicely from his operation at the Riverside Sanitarium. Elder and Mrs. Webb are now located in Los Angeles, where Elder Webb will take over the pastorate of the Wadsworth church.

WE regret to learn of the automobile accident of E. F. Carter, chaplain of the Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital, in which he sustained a skull fracture. Elder Carter is now recovering at Riverside Sanitarium.

IN a recent automobile accident near Greensboro, North Carolina, in which Dr. Charles Drew, head surgeon of Freedmen's Hospital, was instantly killed, our own Dr. J. R. Ford sustained a dislocated shoulder and a fractured arm. Dr. Ford is a faithful member of the Ephesus church of Washington, D.C., and is recuperating at Freedmen's Hospital in this city.

ON behalf of the North American Colored Department we extend sympathy and prayers to our brethren and wish for them a speedy recovery.

G. E. P.