

# Informant

VOLUME IV

WASHINGTON, D.C., AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1950

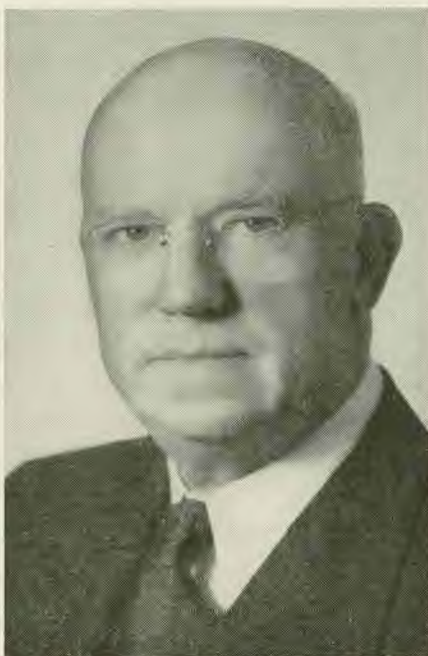
NUMBER 5

## W. H. Branson Elected President

THE things of earth are all transitory. For many months each of us looked forward with eagerness and great expectancy to the commencing of the General Conference. Now it has passed, and has become history. By proclamation from the speaker's desk at the opening service, the following day was declared to be a day of prayer and fasting. The sentiment unexpressed was that we must have the Saviour with us, for we dare not walk alone. As a result of our fellowship with the Master, the nominating committee experienced the divine touch. There was a spirit of unity and harmony such as the disciples experienced in the upper room preceding Pentecost.

At the opening of the evening service that night, July 11, the nominating committee through its chairman, C. L. Bauer, and its secretary, M. V. Campbell, presented a partial report, offering the name of W. H. Branson for president of the General Conference. The report was quickly moved and seconded and unanimously voted, the whole congregation standing. Elder Branson was warmly welcomed to his task.

Elder McElhany, who assured him of the prayers and loyalty of all the membership. Elder McElhany served faithfully for fourteen years as our world president. The colored constituency esteemed him very highly during his administration as a devout Christian leader. Our prayers and kindest thoughts



W. H. Branson

will ever follow him. It was at the opening of our General Conference session that Elder McElhany announced that he was not to be considered for further service as president of the General Conference. In the election of Elder Branson to world leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, we believe that God led in the choice. Among our people he is well beloved and highly esteemed for his work's sake.

We say to Elder Branson, we believe that the providence of God preserved you while in China and brought you safely home again. All

our workers and our entire constituency in North America pledge to you, under God, our warmest support and our constant prayers. Some of us have known you for many years. Some of us have labored with you. We know you to be a man of God, well fitted to lead a movement composed of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people.—Ed.

### Elder Branson's Response At Election

IMMEDIATELY after being elected president, Elder Branson made the following brief statement:

"Ever since Elders C. L. Bauer and M. V. Campbell came to our room in our hotel about 6 P.M. today and told Mrs. Branson and me of the action of the nominating committee, we have been overwhelmed. I have always had very high ideals regarding the type of man who should stand as the leader of God's people, and especially in these last days of peril and of final preparation for our Lord's return. But I have never felt that I could personally measure up to that standard. I feel that I am the least of the apostles. I have no natural abilities to carry such a task as you have asked me to carry. I see so much of weakness and faultiness in my life that I shrink from undertaking this holy task. One thing is sure, I have no confidence in the flesh. Of mine own self I can do nothing. I have, however, always believed in

our constituted committees and have felt that their calls should be heeded.

"I have never felt free to say no when our denominational committees have asked me to undertake any task. I also believe that the General Conference in session constitutes the highest authority of God upon earth. So I cannot refuse to serve when called upon to do so by God's people in general session. When the brethren left our hotel room, Mrs. Branson and I fell upon our knees and pleaded with God to forgive us our sins and make us what we ought to be and the kind of people God's church expects its leaders to be. Only God can be my sufficiency. My trust shall be in Him. I am fully persuaded that this is His people and that we have His truth and that He will lead us. It is because of my absolute confidence in His leadership of His church upon the earth that I find courage to undertake this great task. I plead for all of you to pray for me, for I shall always need your earnest prayers. I know that I shall have your cooperation, and this too gives me courage.

"My chief burden shall be the winning of souls. This, I believe, should be our greatest of all goals. Our chief business as a church is to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. We must lose no time in accomplishing this solemn business for God. Everything else in the world is ready for the end. Heaven will be made up of people. The only possessions we can take with us to heaven are those whom we can save from the waves of sin, and this gathering of the people can be done only under the power and blessing of the Holy Spirit. We must now receive this Pentecostal power, and lay plans throughout the whole world to get the people ready. The hour is growing late. The night is falling. There is not an hour or a day to lose. Every department in our work should be streamlined to accomplish this great task. May God lead us into this larger work. We must never forget that the goal of all goals is soul saving."

## Message From Elder W. H. Branson

President, General Conference

WE wish to congratulate the colored brethren and sisters of North America on the wonderful report that their department was able to render at the time of the recent General Conference session, through the department secretary, Elder G. E. Peters.

Surely God has blessed our colored work in a signal manner, and this is a cause of great rejoicing to all our membership everywhere.

At the time of the session the colored delegates were unanimously agreed in requesting the Nominating Committee to re-elect Elder G. E. Peters as secretary of the North American Colored Department, and also to elect him as a field secretary of the General Conference. We are glad that he can continue the very splendid work he has done in the past, and we are confident that he will continue to have the full support of all our colored constituency.

May God bless you all and give you abounding success in winning thousands more to the blessed truth.

W. H. BRANSON.

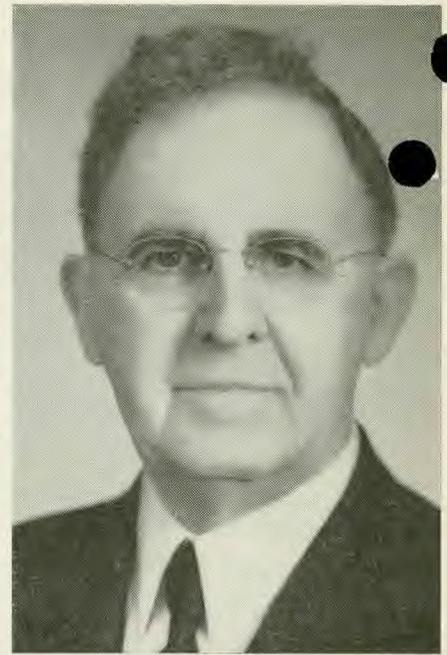
August 15, 1950.

## Opening Service— General Conference Session

Address by J. L. McElhany

THE Forty-sixth Session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists convened in the Civic Auditorium, San Francisco, California, at 8:00 P.M., July 10, 1950. The following announcement was made by Elder J. L. McElhany, General Conference President:

"The day and the hour of the opening of the Forty-sixth Session of the General Conference has arrived. We are glad to greet you tonight and welcome you to this place. In carrying on the work of our session tonight we are calling A. V. Olson, one of our general vice-presidents, to take the chair."



J. L. McElhany

Elder Olson responded as follows: "The turning of the leaves of time has brought us to the end of another four-year period and to the opening of another session of the General Conference. In His good providence God has brought us together here from the ends of the earth. In the name of the General Conference Committee I extend a hearty welcome to all the delegates and friends to this great world conference. With you I hope and pray that this session may bring to us a Pentecostal experience and blessing. I trust that this session will go down in history as the best General Conference we have ever known. As we look back over the four-year period now closing we have reason to thank God for His goodness and for His wonder-

## The North American Informant

Representing the colored work of the  
Seventh-day Adventist Denomination

Editor . . . . . George E. Peters  
Associate Editor . . . . . W. B. C.  
Editorial Secretary . . . . . Geraldine S. Ba  
Editorial Committee: J. H. Wagner, L. H. Bland, H. D. Singleton, T. M. Fountain, H. R. Murphy, Louis B. Reynolds.

Printed monthly for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, Takoma Park, Washington 12, D.C., U.S.A. Fifty cents a year; 5 cents a copy; add 20 cents for yearly subscriptions to countries requiring extra postage.

ful works to the children of men. In spite of the turmoil in the world, this last term has been the most prosperous and the most fruitful in

whole history. The reports to be considered will reveal that God has done great things for His remnant people. For all this, we praise His holy name. It is with mingled feelings of joy and sadness that we gather here tonight. Our hearts are full of joy and gratitude as we consider what God has done for us in this period, but we are sad and solemn as we behold the storm clouds looming above the horizon. I am sure that in this momentous hour we feel the need of divine help. In the words of the psalmist of old we can all say, 'unto thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens. Behold, as the eyes of servants look upon the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God.'

The opening hymn was then announced, "All hail the power of Jesus' name." A fervent prayer was offered by Elder Frederick Griggs followed by the King's Heralds quartet. They rendered most melodiously, "Jesus Saviour, Pilot Me."

Secretary E. D. Dick then proceeded to seat 777 delegates, including overseas divisions, union conferences in North America, and the delegates at large having membership in the General Conference Committee. Greetings were read from W. A. Spicer, C. H. Watson, and W. G. Turner.

Plans were laid for the set-up of a nominating committee. President J. L. McElhany, who was just discharged as a patient from Glendale Sanitarium, requested Elder Cormack (secretary to the president) to read his address. The high points are as follows:

As an introduction to my address I will read Psalms 96. . . .

"In calling this body of delegates to order tonight, we begin the Forty-sixth Session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. A fact of interesting and historical significance is that eighty-seven years ago this last May twenty delegates

assembled and organized the General Conference. They elected an executive committee with a membership of three. At that time our membership consisted of thirty-five hundred persons, all of whom resided in North America.

"As we call this session to order it is impressive to realize that this message is being proclaimed in 228 countries on the earth. Well may we exclaim, 'What hath God wrought!' I am profoundly convinced that we should begin this session on a high note of praise and thanksgiving to God for all the benefits and blessings He has graciously bestowed upon this people and upon this cause. I believe that the note of thanksgiving and praise should resound throughout this whole session.

"When we review the events of the past twelve or fourteen years we are reminded that during almost every hour of this period war has raged in some part of the world, with the principal nations of the earth at times actively involved. Perhaps only through the perspective of history could the world ever be able to comprehend the events of these years. A catastrophic change has launched this world of ours into the Atomic Age. We who are gathered here for this opening session have been witnesses of one of the worlds climactic changes. . . .

"It is most fitting indeed that upon this occasion we publicly record our gratitude to our heavenly Father for His special watchcare in bringing this body of delegates safely to this place. These brethren have traveled by land, sea, and air from far places throughout the world. Again we greet you in the name of our great Leader, Jesus Christ our Lord. In behalf of the entire General Conference staff we cordially welcome you one and all to this session.

"We have gathered here to examine once more our trusteeship of the great message of truth that has been committed to us to proclaim to all the world. Perhaps only the Lord Himself is able to appraise the value of our efforts in the accomplishing of our objectives. But we

are convinced that so far as human effort and resources are concerned, this hour in the history of the movement calls for total mobilization. Every member must realize that the time has come when we must plow and sow and reap and build and labor and carry on for one and only one purpose, and that is the finishing of God's work in all the earth. . . .

"In the face of these conditions it is well for us fully to recognize the great blessing God has bestowed upon this cause in the wonderful spirit of unity that has prevailed. One of the outstanding curses of this evil time is the prevailing spirit of intense nationalism. This attitude divides nations as well as individuals. This feeling has no place among a people carrying God's message to all the world. He has not called the people of one nation only to serve Him, but He calls His people from all nations and unites them in a common bond of spiritual fellowship. . . .

"The greatest dangers we face today are not from without but from changing emphasis and shifting attitudes from within. These dangers are personified not necessarily by some enemy who infiltrates into our ranks but by our own thinking, by our own misplaced emphasis, and by our attitudes toward the fundamental principles of the message we preach. Nor do these dangers arise from those who with great pretense stand on the outside and seek to oppose and hinder the work of God. . . .

"Again I appeal to every delegate and visitor to this 1950 session to make sure that we do not compromise the principles of this message by misplacing the emphasis on any one of these principles by either our teaching or our practice. Time has shown that because of the protection and blessing of the Lord the detractors and enemies of this movement have been unable to carry out their cherished plans for the destruction of this cause. This could be accomplished far easier by those who in teaching the message change their emphases. . . .

"The Captain of the Lord's host still leads on before His people. And just over beyond is the Promised Land. Let us with renewed zeal, determination, and consecration hold aloft the banner of truth and proclaim with new power that the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Indeed, our great objective is to hold aloft the banner of truth. The messenger of the Lord describes the banner in these words: 'God has placed in our hands a banner upon which is inscribed, "Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."' Rev. 14:12. This is a distinct, separating message,—a message that is to give no uncertain sound. It is to lead the people away from the broken cisterns that contain no water, to the unfailing Fountain of the water of life.'—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 150.

"The quadrennial period just closing with this session has been one of great activity on the part of the General Conference and divisional staffs. World War II had just closed before the beginning of this period. Travel had been well-nigh impossible during the war. Great damage and destruction had fallen upon our churches and institutions. Thousands of our people had lost all their possessions and their means for earning a living. . . .

"The church must become more and more spiritual and less and less like the world. Our standards must be lifted higher and higher. Love for the world and the things of the world must be purged out of our individual lives and out of the church, for that glorious church made ready for the coming of the Lord will be without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. . . .

"The army of the Lord is forming for the final march. Just across over there is the Promised Land. There must be no turning back to the ways and practices of the world. By precept and example, by faithfulness to every principle of the truth, we must lead on before the church militant until we have passed over Jordan and the church becomes triumphant. We have as-

sembled here to lay plans for leading the church into just such a victorious experience.

"May I conclude with a personal word. After serving in this office for fourteen years, during times of difficulty, stress, and strain, I have fully decided that I should tell you all that I am not to be considered for further service as president of the General Conference. I heartily thank you all for your prayers and cooperation. I joyfully step aside and join you in praying that the Lord will choose the one He would have to assume the responsibilities of leadership. May God richly bless this delegation as you now take up the work of this session."

(Reprinted from the *Review and Herald*.)

### Concerning The General Conference

● MANY special soloists thrilled the General Conference assembly.

● NEGRO artists, brilliant in their performance, were Georgia Laster, Bernice Peterson, and Geraldine Farmer.

● THE La Sierra Collegians, robed in white and blue, and spotlighted from the balcony, presented a group of numbers one evening that showed extraordinary artistry. They concluded their program with "The Holy City" in a beautiful arrangement.

● ELDER W. C. WEBB, of the Southern California Conference, functioned in the song services as one of the leaders.

● A QUARTET composed of Elders W. C. Webb, W. W. Fordham, H. Lindsey, and George Earle rendered very effective numbers.

● A SOLO by W. W. Fordham, "Keep Looking Up," was quite adequate.

● THE Philadelphian church choir under the leadership of Elder J. E. Cox, pastor, occupied the half hour allotted to the song service, Sunday afternoon, July 16. The numbers rendered were well received.

● FRIDAY, July 14, at 3 P.M., G. E. Peters rendered his report in the main auditorium. The estimated attendance at that hour was about six thousand.

● THERE were three special meetings conducted by G. E. Peters in which colored leaders were given opportunity to report concerning their conferences and institutions. These meetings were held July 11, 16, and 20, from 3:30 to 4:45 P.M. It is estimated that the attendance of colored believers and their friends at the session numbered more than a thousand.

● THE display booth of the Colored Department of the General Conference received much favorable comment and attracted large numbers of all groups. L. B. Reynolds collaborated with the department secretary in preparing designs for the booth and was responsible for the artistic exhibit.

### Death of L. O. Irons

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Brother L. O. Irons, secretary-treasurer of the Northeastern Conference, who passed away July 15, 1950. Brother Irons served most efficiently in the Northeastern Conference from the time of its organization in 1944 until his death. He carried ministerial license for several years, and with his other responsibilities in the conference served as pastor of our church in Jamaica, New York. The best of care and the best of medical skill were afforded our brother. There were special seasons of prayer and fasting for his recovery. He was anointed, but He who doeth all things well saw fit to call our brother to rest from his labors.

We deeply regret this loss, and realize that he will be greatly missed in our work, but we bow in humble submission to the will of God. Brother Irons fought a good fight, finished his course, and was ready to go.

We extend to Sister Irons and other sorrowing relatives our sincere sympathy.

G. E. P.

## Quadrennial Report of the North American Colored Department Rendered at the General Conference Session

Published in G. C. Bulletin No. 5

By GEORGE E. PETERS, *Secretary*

THE quadrennial period of the General Conference closing with Dec. 31, 1949, has produced a record of remarkable progress of the colored work in the United States. The North American Negro Department, now known as the North American Colored Department, under a departmental secretary, was formed to do a more effectual work. Its particular mission was to give study and special attention to that phase of the denomination's work as an integral part of this great world movement.

The department was created at the twenty-sixth meeting of the thirty-seventh session of the General Conference held in Takoma Park, Washington, D.C., May, 1909. During the years of departmental leadership our work developed from 1,000 in 1909 to 17,000 in 1943, showing a net gain of 16,000 believers in 34 years, or an annual net gain of 470 for each of the 34 years; but much greater progress awaited us. In the year 1886 we were a small group in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in this country, numbering only 50, paying a total tithe of \$50 that year. In 1949 the statistical report showed a present membership of more than 25,000 believers, a gain of more than 10,500 since we reported at the 1941 General session; and the tithe paid by our Negro constituents amounting to \$4,828,246.64 during the last four-year period ending December, 1949; also offerings given to missions to the sum of \$1,839,614.92 for the same period made a grand total of \$6,667,061.56 for the cause of God in four years. We can truly say, "What hath God wrought!"

### Colored Conference Organization

Recognizing the development of our work among Negro Seventh-day Adventists, under the signal bless-



G. E. Peters

ings of God, in the establishing of a large number of churches with greatly increased membership and finances aggregating millions of dollars, the delegates at the spring meeting in Chicago, April, 1944, authorized the organization of colored conferences administered by colored officers and committees.

### Lake Region Conference

The first colored conference was organized in Chicago, January 1, 1945. It embraced the colored membership of the Lake Union Conference. The name Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was adopted. At the conference session of 1949 T. M. Fountain succeeded J. G. Dasent as president, and F. M. Crowe was re-elected to the office of secretary-treasurer. The present membership is 2,977. During this five-year period 951 were baptized into the message, and two new church buildings have been erected. The present value of church

and school property is \$354,000. Four churches were organized during this period. The tithe for the five-year period amounted to \$867,570.45 and the mission offerings, \$286,371.00. There are 29 churches, 3 companies, and 8 church schools, with an enrollment of 336.

### Northeastern Conference

January 1, 1950 marked the fifth anniversary of the organization of the Northeastern Conference, with headquarters in New York City. The officers elected five years ago, L. H. Bland, president, and L. O. Irons, secretary-treasurer, still retain their responsibilities. Since the organization the members have paid in tithe \$933,347.11 and in mission offerings, \$297,750.56. The approximate value of church property is \$475,000.00. They have acquired one church property each year. All property is free of debt including the buildings for conference headquarters and day academy. They report 1,020 baptisms since the organization. The working staff has been increased from 8 to 27. Their membership, December 31, 1949, was 3,005.

### Allegheny Conference

This conference headquarters is located at Pine Forge, Pennsylvania, about four miles from Pottstown, Pennsylvania, and forty miles from Philadelphia. The conference began its functions January 1, 1945. The Allegheny Conference, with J. H. Wagner as president and M. S. Banfield, secretary-treasurer, comprises the territory and churches of the Columbia Union in seven States and the District of Columbia. The membership at the close of 1949 was 4,788. Tithe for the four-year period amounted to \$1,019,415.74 and mission offerings amounted to \$388,217.91 for the same period. The

year 1949 shows a gain of \$10,947 in mission offerings. There were 1,286 baptisms for the four-year period. There are 46 organized churches and 4 companies in this conference. A twelve-grade boarding academy with an enrollment of 100 is operated. The conference headquarters and academy buildings are located on 540 acres of land. The total conservative value of all properties is estimated at \$550,000. There is no indebtedness.

#### South Atlantic Conference

The South Atlantic Conference, with headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, is our largest colored conference, and consists of membership in the following four States in the territory of the Southern Union: North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and all of Florida except the northwestern portion. This conference began its operation January 1, 1946, with H. D. Singleton as president and L. S. Follette, secretary-treasurer. The membership at the close of 1949 was 5,132. Since its organization to the close of 1949 its membership paid in tithe \$621,762.78 and in mission offerings, \$349,782.86. There are 65 organized churches and 9 companies. There are 66 church buildings, and 19 schools operated and serviced by 30 qualified teachers. Since its organization 2,448 souls have been added by baptism and profession of faith. The conference evangelist, E. E. Cleveland, has held several successful efforts, baptizing more than 700 persons during the four-year period. Other successful evangelistic efforts have been conducted. The faithful colporteurs delivered \$407,955 worth of literature during the quadrennial period. The total property value in this conference aggregates the sum of \$480,000, on which there is no liability.

#### South Central Conference

The functions of this conference, also located in the Southern Union, include churches and membership in the States of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Northwest Florida. The officers are

H. R. Murphy, president, and V. G. Lindsay, secretary-treasurer. There are 42 organized churches and 6 companies, with a membership of 2,767. Since the conference organization 8 churches have been added. At the close of 1949 there were 1,001 baptisms. The conference operates 13 church schools and employs 23 teachers. There are 28 ordained and licensed ministers, 6 Bible instructors, and 24 colporteurs. Tithe for the four-year period amounted to \$398,635.00 and mission offerings, \$238,350.32. The approximate value of church and school property is \$394,950.00. These buildings are free from indebtedness. The conference headquarters is located in Nashville, Tennessee.

#### Southwest Region Conference

The organization of our work in the Southwestern Union Conference into a mission organization with a mission superintendent and secretary-treasurer was formed during the month of December, 1946, and gave way to a full-fledged conference organization January 15, 1950. This conference is known as the Southwest Region Conference, with headquarters in Dallas, Texas. The territory includes all of the States covering the territory of the Southwestern Union. There are 41 churches and companies. The officers of the conference are W. W. Fordham, president, and V. L. Roberts, secretary-treasurer. At the time of the organization of the conference in January, 1950, there was a membership of 2,081, a net increase of 497 in three years. During that period the baptisms totaled 673, and 4 new churches were organized. The total amount of tithe paid by the believers from 1947 to 1949 amounted to \$239,714.05 and the offering to missions for the same period was \$105,719.96. The total estimate on all properties of this conference aggregate the sum of \$505,000. It is encouraging to note that all property is clear of debt.

#### Central States Mission

In 1947 the Central States Mission was organized, with a member-

ship of 789. T. M. Rowe was appointed superintendent of the mission. The present officers are F. L. Bland, president, and J. H. Jones, secretary-treasurer. This mission covers the territory of the Central Union Conference embracing the colored constituency of the States of Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Wyoming. The membership at the beginning of the year was 1,142, a net gain of 333 for the three-year period. The combined tithe and mission offerings for the same period ending December 31, 1949, was \$243,366, a net gain of \$115,105. F. L. Bland has brought strong leadership to this mission, and prospects are good for the organization of a conference in the near future. There are 19 churches and companies, 18 ministers, and one Bible instructor. There is no debt, and the estimated value of property is \$225,000. The members have organized to strongly promote evangelism during this year, 1950.

#### Pacific Union Colored Department

Our work in the Pacific Union retains its departmental organization. For nearly four years Owen A. Troy has served as secretary of the colored department. In the department there are 16 ministers, ordained and licensed, 6 Bible instructors, 20 colporteurs, and 9 school teachers. For the years 1948 and 1949, 599 baptisms are reported. The amount of tithe paid by our constituents of the Pacific Union for the two-year period ending Dec. 31, 1949, was \$404,343.15, and mission offerings, \$135,038.22, making a grand total of \$539,381.37 in tithe and offerings for that department. R. Hope Robertson, former pastor of our Los Angeles church and a successful evangelist, now devotes his entire time to evangelism in the Southern California Conference. J. Cox, our pastor in the city of San Francisco, during the last five years has built up a strong membership and purchased a representative church edifice, on which there is no liability. Completely modern and located on a 15-acre space is the new \$275,000 Los Angeles Academy,

where J. F. Dent, principal, is carrying on a strong educational program. The estimated total value of church and school buildings owned by the colored department of the Pacific Union is \$560,700. These properties are also free from debt.

#### North Pacific Union

In the North Pacific Union we have two colored congregations. We organized a church in Portland, Oregon, October 5, 1946, with a membership of 19. At the close of 1949 the membership of this new church organization had increased to 97. W. E. Cleveland was called to our work in Seattle, Washington, April 6, 1946, and a church was organized with 15 members, which has since grown to 46. Both in Seattle and Portland representative church buildings have been purchased and dedicated free of debt. We are greatly encouraged over the progress of our new work in these two cities. P. W. McDaniels is pastor of our Portland church.

#### Northern Union

Our only church in this union is in Minneapolis. Under the labors of A. L. Kirk, pastor, a church building is being erected on which \$22,000 has already been spent, and there have been several additions to the membership. This congregation paid in tithe and in mission offerings during the past three years the sum of \$10,778.83.

#### Canadian Union

In this union there are no separate congregations, but there are 70 colored believers who hold membership in our Montreal and Toronto English churches. These believers are loyal supporters of our work.

#### Institutions

**RIVERSIDE SANITARIUM AND HOSPITAL, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.**—This is a medical and surgical institution equipped with modern facilities. Dr. J. Mark Cox was assigned to Riverside April 1, 1944. He was appointed medical director November, 1944, and was at Riverside during the planning and building of

a new unit. During 1946-48 a modern fireproof sanitarium and hospital was erected by the General Conference. The furnishings and equipment were provided by the colored constituency. The new unit, consisting of 84 beds and 16 bassinets, was occupied April, 1948. Riverside is registered and approved. Dr. Cox is now on leave of absence, taking a residency in surgery with a view to specializing in that field. Dr. Carl A. Dent, who previously served as medical director of the institution for four years, was elected by the board to fill the vacancy, and is at the present time the medical director of Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital. Dr. Rayfield Lewis is staff physician. Mrs. Ruth Frazier Stafford is nursing director; E. F. Carter is chaplain; and Adell Warren, the former certified accountant, is now the business manager. These workers, along with the entire Riverside staff, merit our confidence.

**OAKWOOD COLLEGE.**—Because of the many giant oaks on the property the name chosen for this institution was Oakwood Industrial School. The opening date was November 16, 1896, at which time 16 students were enrolled. Fifty-four years have passed since Principal Solon M. Jacobs, welcomed the first student body to the school. In 1943, with J. L. Moran as president, Oakwood was advanced to the status of a four-year senior college. The enrollment for the 1949-50 school year is 411. The college now owns approximately 1,000 acres of land, 720 acres of which are under cultivation. On the campus are 12 college buildings and 16 cottages and apartment buildings for teachers. The total assets of the college are valued at \$697,832.36. The records show that 1,128 students have graduated from Oakwood. F. L. Peterson, president of the college, reports that within the last five years 145 have graduated with the Baccalaureate degree. The chief aim of Oakwood College is to serve more adequately its constituency and to provide capable and efficient workers for the Seventh-day Adventist organizations.

#### Publishing

**Message Magazine.**—This periodical, now in its sixteenth year, and published by the Southern Publishing Association, Nashville, Tennessee, has taken its place among the important contributions of Seventh-day Adventist literature. It was begun in 1934 as a trial edition, and sent out with the hope that someday the constituency would sell as many as 10,000 copies a quarter. For six years L. B. Reynolds has rendered valuable service as editor of this periodical, which has climbed to the extent that one monthly issue sold 260,000 copies. The goal is for a circulation, mostly by subscriptions, of 10,000 magazines in Nashville alone, which has a total of some 75,000 Negroes. We are thankful to be able to report that the *Message Magazine* is fulfilling its mission as a soul-saving agency.

**THE NORTH AMERICAN INFORMANT.**—The General Conference Committee authorized the establishing of a small monthly periodical to carry news and promotional material for the colored work in North America. The first issue was published in August, 1946. The name adopted was THE NORTH AMERICAN INFORMANT. It varies in size from eight to twelve pages, and is edited and published by the secretary of the Colored Department at Takoma Park, D.C. This paper is printed and mailed by the Review and Herald Publishing Association and sent to the home of each colored constituent and to the officers of General, union, and local conferences, also to the libraries of our institutions. The present circulation numbers about 12,000.

#### Some Comparisons

At the General Conference session in the year 1941 we reported 14,537 members. At the close of the year 1949 our membership was 25,041, a gain of 10,504 or an average annual net gain of 1,167 members for each of the nine years in that period (December 31, 1940-December 31, 1949). In 1941 we reported 236 organized churches in the United States. At the close of

the year 1949 we were able to report 279 organized churches, a gain of 43 new churches, or an addition of almost 5 churches for each of the nine years involved. The tithe reported at the 1946 General session for the five-year period beginning January 1, 1941, and ending December 31, 1945, was \$3,226,096.34. We report for the four-year period, January 1, 1946-December 31, 1949, a total tithe of \$4,828,246.64, a gain of \$1,601,150.30 over the amount reported in the preceding five-year period. In 1946 we reported a total missions offering of \$1,397,557.76 for the five-year period. At this session we are reporting \$1,839,614.92 for a four-year period, or a gain of \$442,057.16 in our missions giving. The total sum given to the cause of God by our people in tithe and mission offerings during the quadrennial period was \$6,667,661.56 besides some \$260,000.00 raised for local church expense. At the General session of 1941 we reported 73 ministers, ordained and licensed. In 1950 our ministers in the North American Division number 165, a gain of 93 during the nine-year period. In 1941 we reported 5 Bible instructors; now there are 30 Bible instructors. At the session nine years ago we reported 5 assistant field secretaries (publishing department secretaries). At this session we are reporting 6 Negro publishing department secretaries and 16 assistant secretaries. At the General session nine years ago there were no Negro conferences in North America. Now there are 6 fully organized conferences and one organized mission fully staffed with colored officers and workers.

As we view these evidences of God's divine favor, manifested for the finishing of His work, we feel a deep sense of our unworthiness, and bow before Him in humility, reverently pledging our allegiance.

#### Gratitude

In closing this report we give thanks unto our heavenly Father, the giver of every good and perfect gift. To Him we give all the honor and glory for what has been

achieved during the quadrennial period. We heartily thank the General Conference for their fostering care, for the contributions and subsidies given to Riverside Sanitarium and Oakwood College, and for the liberal help provided our churches from the church extension fund. We also greatly appreciate the counsel and encouragement afforded us by the leaders of our union conferences, which have proved of vital help in the development of our work.

#### Our Need

As we look into the future our hearts are filled with an intense longing for more of the spirit and power of God to come upon us in order that in this closing hour of the world's history we might be ready ourselves, and be used of God in finishing the task of bringing the judgment hour message before the fifteen million Negroes in North America, and to assist in the program of making "ready a people prepared for the Lord" out of "every nation, and kindred, and tongue."

### We Must Prepare for His Coming

WHEN Christ comes the second time there will be only two classes of mankind on earth—those who are prepared to go with Jesus and those who are unprepared. The close of probation, which completes the destiny of each one, precedes the second coming of Christ, so when He appears in the clouds of heaven there will be no time for a heart preparation. In a message from Mrs. E. G. White we read: "In a view given June 27, 1850, my accompanying angel said, 'Time is almost finished. . . . Get ready, get ready, get ready.'"—*Early Writings*, p. 64.

"We have no time to lose. We know not how soon our probation may close. At the longest, we have but a brief lifetime here, and we know not how soon the arrow of death may strike our hearts. We know not how soon we may be

called to give up the world and all its interests. Eternity stretches before us. The curtain is about to be lifted. But a few short years, and for every one now numbered with "living the mandate will go for 'He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; . . . and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still.'"—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 454.

Those prepared for translation, and ready to be escorted by the angelic host will cry: "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation." Isa. 25:9. Those who are unprepared are described as hiding themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains, and saying to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Rev. 6:16, 17.

Could any tragedy be greater than for our Lord, who has suffered and died for us, who has pleaded our case above and whose coming is to redeem us, to find us fleeing from His presence? It would be another calamitous occurrence if we should be missing from among the righteous, when they, the faithful of all ages, look eagerly for their friends and loved ones to join them in their journey to the land of perfect day. How sad if their last fleeting view of us should be our fleeing from the presence of God, crying for the rocks and mountains to fall on us? As we think of Jesus' soon return, and that He is now preparing eternal happiness for us, we must not disappoint Him. At that time our loved ones now sleeping in Jesus will be raised; we shall meet them again. Somewhat we have made a solemn agreement with them to go to heaven together. As we face these realities let us heed the apostle's admonition: "Seeing then . . . all these things . . . what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness?" 2 Peter 3:11. G. E. P.