



PHOTO BY ROY H. LAURITZEN

Albuquerque, New Mexico. Erected 1959 by L. B. Baker.

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE SPECIAL

The North American



Informant

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V. L. Roberts, president.

"ARISE, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people" (Isa. 60:1, 2).

This command has been given specifically to those living in the closing days of earth's history. It is true, symbolic darkness is now covering the earth because the inhabitants of earth are grossly engulfed in the benighted entanglements of sin. It is now time for the church of God to arise and shine, because to it has been entrusted the only light that will dispel the unprecedented darkness that enshrouds the world at this day and hour.

Arise and shine! The Southwest

Region Conference constituents have accepted this dictum. Ministers and laymen, motivated by the love of Jesus, have united and are going forth indomitably, determined that this message of the kingdom shall be preached and taught throughout the Southwest area. "The message presented at this time is the last message of mercy for a fallen world." —*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 19.

The theme of this conference is EVANGELIZE! Every department is evangelistic in its objectives. Each missionary endeavor is put forth with the intent of bringing some heart nearer to Christ. Christian teachers yearn for the salvation of the children and young people who come within the scope of their influence. The literature evangelists are striving to place the gospel in all the homes in this territory through truth-filled literature.

We have a gigantic task before us. The work yet to be done in this field staggers the imagination. Statistics reveal that there are 106 large cities and a vast number of small villages and communities that we have not entered with the gospel of salvation.

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

The work before us is far too great to be completed by human efforts alone. We are therefore going forward in faith, depending on the help of the Holy Spirit, and believing that *under God, it can be done.*

We are presenting in this issue of the INFORMANT a brief report of the accomplishments in this field, with the hope of encouraging the readers to unite with us in prayer that the Lord will continue to bless the work in this section, and that we will move forward with haste to its completion.

V. L. ROBERTS



PHOTO BY A. B. BELL

Mrs. Helen L. Turner, office secretary.



The North American Informant

Representing the colored work of the
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Workers—Back row, left to right: J. L. Brown, Alexandria, La.; L. D. Henderson, Lake Charles, La.; C. McNorton, Hammond, La.; J. A. James, Shreveport, La.; W. J. Cleveland, Baton Rouge, La.; Mrs. H. L. Turner, office secretary; C. E. Dudley, Dallas, Tex.; Mrs. C. E. Dudley, office secretary; C. M. Bailey, Albuquerque, N. Mex.; Mrs. A. D. Shorter, office secretary; A. D. Shorter, Tulsa, Okla.; L. A. Paschal, Educational, MV secretary; A. R. Carethers, home missionary and Sabbath school secretary. Front row, left to right: W. C. Jones, Tyler, Tex.; J. H. Williams,

Houston, Tex.; Van Runnels, Little Rock, Ark.; Mrs. Marie Warnick, Bible instructor; J. E. Merideth, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. J. E. Merideth, academy secretary; V. L. Roberts, president; Mrs. V. L. Roberts, conference health and welfare federation president; E. D. Rudley, Ardmore, Okla.; J. C. Smith, San Antonio, Tex.; R. L. Woodfork, New Orleans, La.; Mrs. Birdie McCluster, Bible instructor; L. G. Newton, Oklahoma City, Okla.; G. J. Chissell, Austin, Tex.; D. J. Dixon, Fort Worth, Tex.; L. B. Baker, El Paso, Tex., not shown.



Dallas youth engaged in lay evangelism.

EVANGELISM in the Southwest

THROUGH the united efforts of the laymen and ministers, for the first three quarters of 1961 we have added to the churches 390 precious souls. There were twenty-three church efforts held in which the laymen played an important part. Four tent efforts were held: Hous-

ton, Texas, conducted by E. C. Ward; San Antonio, Texas, by J. C. Smith; Hot Springs, Arkansas, by Van Runnels; and Enid, Oklahoma, by L. G. Newton.

The goal for baptisms has been set at 500, the largest in any one year in the history of the conference.



New converts at Hot Springs. Tent effort conducted by Van Runnels.



Believers of Muskogee, Oklahoma. A. D. Shorter, third from left, pastor.



Radio Evangelism in Dallas under the direction of C. E. Dudley.

New believers at El Paso, Texas. L. B. Baker, center, third row.



THE TREASURER REPORTS

SINCE the organization of the conference in 1947 the membership has grown from 1,854 to 3,169, at the close of September, 1961. Since 1950, churches have been organized in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Elgin, Texas; Las Cruces, New Mexico; Houston, Texas (two churches); and Port Arthur, Texas.

The conference offices are situated in Dallas, Texas, and housed in property which was acquired at a cost of \$130,000. This property also houses the City Temple church and Southwest Region Academy. Ten church buildings have been constructed or acquired during the past six years. These properties are situated in Little Rock, Arkansas; Ardmore, Oklahoma; Hammond, Louisiana; Lake Charles, Louisiana; Tyler, Texas; Elgin, Texas; Marshall, Texas; Texarkana, Texas; Dallas,

Mrs. A. D. Shorter, office secretary.

PHOTO BY A. B. BELL



Texas; and Wichita Falls, Texas. Church buildings have been remodeled at Tulsa, Oklahoma; Langston, Oklahoma; Shreveport, Louisiana; and Nacogdoches, Texas.

El Paso, Texas, is engaged in the construction of a church building, and there are plans for beginning construction of representative places of worship in other locations in the near future. To the already existing school buildings and classroom space, attractive and functional additions have been erected in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Shreveport, Louisiana; Hammond, Louisiana; Austin, Texas; and Roswell, New Mexico.

During 1960 the total earnings of church members in the Southwest Region Conference, as represented by the tithe income, was \$1,689,133.10. The missions offerings reported for the year amounted to \$88,757.07, which is more than 5 1/4 per cent of the earnings indicated by the tithe income. This represents an average of \$29.50 per member for the year, based on the membership of 3,009 at the close of the year.

For a number of years Southwest Region Conference has headed the list of Regional conferences in the one-dollar-a-week fund. For the 39 weeks ending September 30, 1961, the average per member per week was .719 which is .081 higher than the number two conference on the list.



PHOTO BY A. B. BELL

J. E. Merideth, secretary-treasurer.

During the first three quarters of 1961, 390 were added to the churches in Southwest Region by baptism and profession of faith. Through Blueprint Evangelism, Operation Fireside, and Operation Lamplighter it is our hope to realize another 100 as additions to the church.

We are sincerely grateful for the rich blessings from the Lord upon the combined, consecrated efforts of the workers and laymen, and their faithful financial support to the program. With more than 2 3/4 million people of our ethnic group within the boundaries of Southwest Region, who must be given the invitation to accept the benefits provided in the plan of salvation, it is apparent that a tremendous unfinished task lies before us. There are about 561,000 square miles in the conference area over which this population is scattered which increases the vastness of the task. The membership, workers and laymen alike, courageously accept the challenge and under God seek to be channels through which His blessings may flow to others.

J. E. MERIDETH

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE TITHE INCOME



SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE BAPTISMS



CAMP MEETING IN THE SOUTHWEST



Assembling for worship.



Tent city.



Combined health and welfare societies at camp meeting.



Dining room.

DURING the early years of the conference one of the major problems was that of securing facilities in which to hold camp meeting. Providentially, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Eubanks, upon recognizing the dire need, made available to the conference approximately 144 acres to be the permanent camp site. This property is situated near Winona, Texas.

On this site were developed a water system, frame cabins, rest-room facilities, and a dining pavilion. In addition to these improvements were added two 12 x 14-foot steel cabins, a 20 x 36-foot steel storage building which is used for dormitory space during camp meeting, and concrete slabs for forty family tents.

We shall be grateful for many years to Brother and Sister Eubanks for their generous gift. May this be a worthy example to others of what God can do with our worldly possessions when we dedicate them to Him.

New cabins on the campground.



SABBATH SCHOOL and HOME MISSIONARY WORK in the SOUTHWEST



A. R. Carethers, department head.

THIS great Advent Movement came upon the scene of action as a direct response to the call of prophecy. Our conviction on this point deepens as the years go by. We are thoroughly convinced that we have received from the hands of the Master a commission to the world.

The founders of the Advent Movement were called to begin a world program of soul saving whose fruition would terminate with the coming of Christ. We are the recipients of the work they so nobly started, and to us has been given the privilege of finishing the work in this generation.

The Sabbath school members of the Southwest Region Conference are doing their share in helping to carry forward the Great Commission to the world.

We know that the supreme object of the Sabbath school is soul winning. "The object of Sabbath school work should be the ingathering of souls."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 61.

The leaders and officers of the forty-seven Sabbath schools in this conference urged each Sabbath school member to win more than one for Christ during this year through evangelism in branch Sabbath schools, Vacation Bible Schools, and the weekly bring-one-visitor plan.

We are happy to report that thirteen Vacation Bible Schools were conducted last summer, with an enrollment of 1,213. Of this number, 824 were children from non-Adventist homes. A strong follow-up

program was set in motion immediately after the close of the Vacation Bible Schools which resulted in sixty-eight enrolled in the regular Sabbath school; fifty-six in the Bible Story Hour; thirty-three in church school; ten in the Pathfinders; forty enrolled in Bible correspondence courses; ten interested parents; and six precious souls baptized.

There are twenty-three branch Sabbath schools in the conference. Six were organized last year. We are planning to have a branch Sabbath school for each parent Sabbath school in the conference.

In Houston, Texas, two churches were organized in September of last year as a result of branch Sabbath schools. We can see that branch Sabbath schools pay.

The records for the past three quarters of 1961 show that eighty-eight persons were baptized as a result of the influence of the Sabbath school, and \$28,506.40 was donated to the mission program.

A. R. CARETHERS

Home Missionary Activities

THE laymen of this conference are rallying to the cause of Christ and are uniting their efforts with those of the ministers and church officers to finish the work.

In the Houston, Texas, area the laymen are doing an outstanding job in helping to finish the work in that city. Seventeen persons have been baptized this year as a result of lay evangelism.

The Society of Missionary Men

in New Orleans, Louisiana, is witnessing a new day in lay evangelism. "Go out into the highways and byways, and compel men to come to Christ" is their motto. They are using halls as meeting places, and any other place they can find available, in one case even the space under a city viaduct. C. C. Moe is the president of this group.

A group of men and women in the New Orleans church have completed a training course in lay evangelism so they can help speed the work to a finish. The training course was conducted by R. L. Woodfork, pastor, and Mrs. Birdie McCluster, Bible instructor. More than sixty men and women completed the course.

Mrs. Birdie McCluster conducted a class in New Orleans, Louisiana, where eight persons were baptized.

Mrs. Helen L. Turner filing department mail.

PHOTO BY A. B. BULL



this group, a mother of five was baptized. She gives the following testimony:

"There was a crisis in my life that left me a double amputee, partial use of my arms. I was bedridden for several months. It was my constant desire and prayer that the Lord would guide my life in the right direction. I had a deep longing to walk in intimate fellowship with God. One day Sister Birdie McCluster, a servant of God with a deep and long experience in the things of God, was sent into my life. As she taught the Holy Scriptures, my eyes were opened to the wondrous things in the law of God. I accepted the truth and was baptized. I am praying now that the Lord will open the understanding of others so that they may see the wisdom of obeying God's Word."

The laymen in Shreveport are doing a splendid job in lay evangelism. During the spring of 1960 they distributed many pieces of literature and enrolled a large number of persons in the Bible correspondence course. Later in the summer a tent effort was conducted by J. C. Smith in the area where the laymen had worked. The results were quite rewarding—thirty-three were baptized.

The Society of Missionary Men in Dallas was very active in missionary endeavors last year. The group conducted cottage meetings, hall meetings, and also did street preaching.

(Continued on page 10)

BRANCH SABBATH SCHOOL

Vacation Bible Schools in the Southwest



Mrs. Rose Cathcart, director, with branch Sabbath school in Dallas, Texas. 130 enrolled.



Vacation Bible School, Enid, Oklahoma.



Vacation Bible School, Dallas, Texas.



Vacation Bible School, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Vacation Bible School, Tyler, Texas.





Little Rock, Arkansas.
Completed 1958 by M. M. Young.



Enid, Oklahoma.



Lake Charles, Louisiana.
Erected 1959 by L. D. Henderson.

Wichita Falls, Texas.
Completed 1958 by E. D. Rudley.



HOUSES OF WORSHIP



Tulsa, Oklahoma.
Remodeled church.



Nacogdoches, Texas.
Church has been remodeled.



San Antonio, Texas.



Muskogee, Oklahoma.



New Orleans, Louisiana.
Erected 1949 by W. S. Lee.



Hammond, Louisiana.
Erected 1958 by E. D. Rudley.

IN THE SOUTHWEST



Elgin, Texas.
Erected 1958 by C. M. Bailey.



Marshall, Texas.
Erected 1961 by W. C. Jones.



Tyler, Texas.
Erected 1957 by Van Runnels.



Texarkana, Texas.
Erected 1960 by J. C. Smith.



Alexandria, Louisiana.
Erected 1954 by L. B. Baker.



Dallas, Texas.
Purchased 1957 by J. E. Cox.



Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
Erected 1948 by C. E. Bradford.

Ardmore, Oklahoma.
Erected 1961 by E. D. Rudley.



Roswell, New Mexico.
Erected 1949 by E. C. Howell.



Shreveport, Louisiana.
Completed 1956 by J. C. Smith.



Home Missionary Work

(Continued from page 7)

A Literature Band was organized during the first of last year, and this band is doing outstanding work in spreading the gospel to the people in the nearby cities, towns, and villages. Groups of members go out each

Sabbath to enroll persons in the Bible correspondence courses and to distribute literature. Literature racks have been placed in many public places in the city.

For the first three quarters of the year 1961, the following accomplishments were achieved by the laymen of this conference:

71,453 Bible Studies given
82,531 Missionary contacts made
251,457 Pieces of literature distributed
10,725 Enrolled in Bible correspondence courses

Let us work, for truly the hour is late!

A. R. CARETHERS

EVANGELISM in the SOUTHWEST



Above: Missionary men of New Orleans, Louisiana.

Left: Laymen in Dallas, Texas, street preaching.



Right: Souls won by laymen New Orleans, Louisiana.

Training Light Bearers class in New Orleans.



HEALTH and WELFARE WORK



Baton Rouge Health and Welfare Center.
Elder W. J. Cleveland.



A first-aid class conducted by the Mosier Valley Health and Welfare Society.

WE are told that as we near the end of time Satan will intensify his efforts to bring destruction to the inhabitants of the world through disaster. To cope with Satan's plans we must be prepared. The welfare societies demonstrated their efforts to meet this challenge.

A few months ago disaster struck the Louisiana and Texas borders, leaving thousands of persons without food, clothing, and shelter. An S O S was sent to the various societies in the conference for food, clothing, and other items for these disaster victims. Our societies were prepared to meet the emergency, and hundreds of articles of clothing and food baskets came from the societies all around the conference.

The leaders of the societies in this field sense the importance of preparing their members in all phases of health and welfare work. In *The Ministry of Healing*, page 149, we are told: "Every church should be a training school for Christian workers. Its members should be taught . . . how best to help the poor and to care for the sick. . . . There should be schools of health, cooking schools, and classes in various lines of Christian help work." The Dallas, Texas, Health and Welfare Society conducted many classes in home nursing and first aid, giving the members the needed training caring

for the sick and wounded. Forty persons completed the home nursing course and thirty-five persons finished the first aid course. The New Orleans, Louisiana, society had fifty-four persons completing the home nursing course, and the Mosier Valley society in Hurst, Texas, had twenty-three persons to receive pins and certificates.

Mrs. V. L. Roberts, federation president of the conference, has
(Continued on page 15)



Women completing home nursing class in New Orleans, conducted by the health and welfare society. Mrs. M. McDuffie, instructor.

PHOTO BY A. B. DELL

Right: Dallas Health and Welfare Society conducts classes in first aid. Members watch with great interest.



Below: The health and welfare society of Lake Charles, Louisiana. The men join with the women of the society in caring for the needy.





HARPER'S STUDIO

L. A. Paschal, department head.

"SCHOOLS are to be established in various places, . . . and laborers are to be sent forth. . . . We are standing, as it were, on the borders of the eternal world. We are looking for the glorious appearing of our Lord; the night is far spent; the day is at hand. . . . We want Calebs now who will press to the front—chieftains in Israel who with courageous words will make a strong report in favor of immediate action. When the selfish, ease-loving, panic-stricken people, fearing tall giants and inaccessible walls, clamor for retreat, let the voice of the Calebs be heard, even though the cowardly ones stand with stones in their hands, ready to beat them down for their faithful testimony. . . . All who ever enter heaven's gates will enter as conquerors."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 382-384. If we will all go forward together in the spirit of Caleb,

God will crown our efforts with success.

At our biennial session in 1956, I presented a challenge to this constituency. The program of Christian education is one of the foundation stones of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. God has placed before us in this conference a great challenge, unsolved problems. We face a great backlog of unfinished business. Our constituency must address itself to meeting these challenges. We need to educate boards and committees to deal fairly with teachers. We should not feel that we have bestowed a great favor on our teachers by hiring them; we should consider that they are doing a great service in teaching and guiding the children.

The facts of the case are that in past years we have not built enough school buildings. This has been due in part to our lack of vision. Too often when new buildings were built we did not insist that they be built in harmony with the best standards of school construction. As a result,

our field is full of makeshift schoolrooms which, incidentally, vitally affect the morale of teachers and usually limit the support given by the members of the churches sponsoring them.

We have in the past been willing to get along with secondhand desks, bookcases, and other furnishings; with inadequate libraries, maps, charts, and teaching tools of all kinds. Consequently, churches and boards have attached no higher value, no greater importance, to the church schools than we have ourselves.

I am glad to report at this time that outstanding progress has been made by our workers and constituency in meeting the challenge that was before us. New schools have been built in Oklahoma City, Shreveport, Roswell, Lake Charles, Baton Rouge, and Austin, and a school is under construction in Wichita Falls.

The graph on this page will show the progress in enrollment.

L. A. PASCHAL

Mrs. Etta M. Dudley, office secretary.

PHOTO BY A. B. BELL



Opening Report Enrollments—1955-1961





YOUTH WORK IN OPERATION FIRESIDE

Operation Fireside is a youth evangelistic project. In 1961 twelve meetings were held and sixty-five persons were baptized.



PATHFINDERS and SERVICEMEN ON PARADE



Choir contest.

Part of audience attending youth congress.

Summer camp.

Youth congress scene.





Academy to the left of church.

SOUTHWEST REGION ACADEMY

General Information

LOCATION — The Southwest Region Academy is a parochial school operated by the Southwest Region Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. It is situated at 1900 South Boulevard in Dallas, Texas.

HISTORY—This school had its beginning as the Beulah church school in 1919, which later became the Oakland Avenue school in 1947, and still later, the City Temple Academy in 1957. Because of the Lord's continuous blessings in growth and progress the conference committee decided to offer all twelve grades at the school and make it a project of the Southwest Region Conference. This was done in March, 1961.

PURPOSE—Every child in the Seventh-day Adventist Church should receive a Christian education in an Adventist school. It is the purpose of this school to provide such an education for every young



man and woman living in the Southwest Region territory.

Faculty

Ruth H. Paschal, principal, English, B.A., Oakwood College, 1946, graduate study, A. & I. State University, 1953-55; Willie E. Hucks, Bible, history, B.S., Oakwood College, 1960; Billy E. Hill, science, Mathematics, B.S., Oakwood College, 1960; Allen Reid, music and instruments, B.A., Oakwood College, 1961; Verna Thomas Hill, elementary instructor, B.A., Oakwood College, 1960; Priscilla M. Greene,



B. E. Hill, chemistry instructor.

elementary instructor; Naomi Lewis, pre-school instructor.

Special Instructor

Myrtle Wimbley, Home Economics.

Others

Hyra Brown, Dietitian; Yvette Randell, Visiting Nurse; Naomi Cooper, Transportation Service; Jackson Caver, Maintenance.



Physical education.



Pre-school division.



Educational television.

Individual tutorship.

School library.

Sewing class.

Typing class.



Wedding

Lois Frankie Fordham, daughter of Elder and Mrs. Walter W. Fordham, 3501 Bellefontaine, Kansas City, Missouri, became the summer bride of Mr. Charles W. Ray Clay, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clark of Compton, California, at the Beacon Light Seventh-day Adventist church.

Elder Fordham (former president of the Southwest Region Conference), heard the vows. The bride was given in marriage by her brother, Walter W. Fordham, Jr. She wore a gown of cascades of Chantilly lace sprinkled with sequins, with a bouffant skirt and tiered, fan-shaped back. A pearl crown held her veil of illusion. She carried a white orchid and a Bible with white roses.

Mrs. Audrey Booker, sister of the bride, was matron of honor. She carried a bouquet of green asters.

Bridesmaids were Mrs. Lois Scales, Mrs. Gaynell Brewer, Terea Gregory, and Cynthia Johnson. They wore identical dresses of mint green and carried bouquets of yellow asters.

Flower girls were Donna Meyers and Joy Barnes. Robert Booker, brother of the bridegroom, was best man. Groomsmen were Raymond Davis, and Elders Lorenzo Paytee, William Scales, and Harold Brewer. Tapers were lighted by James Burgess and Ralph Shipman, who served as ushers.

A reception was held immediately following the ceremony at the Paseo Branch YWCA, 1903 Paseo. Hostesses were Lucille Ward, Beatrice Woodson, Mabel Lewis, Mazie Mitchell, Verta Williams, Inez Haley, Elizabeth Clark, Veronica Ford, Juanita Moore, Mary Mackey, and Johnnie Mae Booker.



Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Ray Clay.

Health and Welfare Work

(Continued from page 11)

done an outstanding job in helping the women of the various societies in this conference to realize the importance of securing the health and welfare uniforms. Only a few of the women are without uniforms.

Much work was done in 1961 for humanitarian purposes by the health and welfare societies. We are happy to report that 47,441 articles of clothing were given away; \$8,030.97 was donated to welfare; 15,421 food baskets were given away; 31,475 hours of labor were donated; and 28,652 persons were helped.

The Tyler, Texas, Health and Welfare Society. Their motto is "Love Thy Neighbor," which they are trying to do in kind deeds.



Many calls were made to the Houston Health and Welfare Society for help during the disaster that struck the Texas and Louisiana borders.



The Alexandria Health and Welfare Society answered the call to help the victims of a hurricane. Hundreds of articles of clothing were given.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Health and Welfare Society. Boxes to distribute.



Dallas, Texas, Health and Welfare Society with food baskets for needy.



EDUCATIONAL BUILDINGS



Hammond, Louisiana.
Erected 1958 by J. L. Follette.



Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
Erected 1958 by Van Runnels.



Austin, Texas.
Erected 1961 by G. J. Chissell.



San Antonio, Texas.
Erected 1955 by J. H. Wagner, Jr.



Wichita Falls, Texas. Erected by E. D. Rudley.



Shreveport, Louisiana.
Erected 1959 by J. C. Smith.



Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Erected 1960 by W. J. Cleveland.

NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL—By R. L. Woodfork—Not Shown