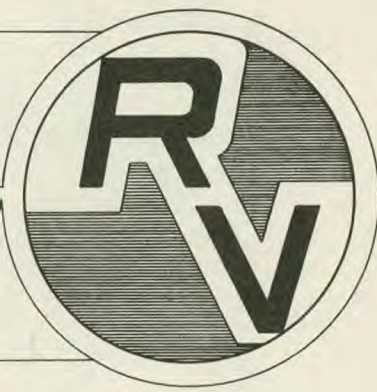


# NORTH AMERICAN **REGIONAL**

# **VOICE**



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCES OF  
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS









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NUMBER /

## North American Regional Conferences



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*Norman Miles, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Urban Ministry, Andrews University.*

**THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL CONFERENCES**

*By Norman K. Miles, Ph.D.*

Between 1888 and 1916 a number of important developments took place in the Adventist church. Several colleges were founded, many hospitals built, and the general institutionalization of the church began to take form. Missionaries began to touch almost every shore, and the advent movement became firmly established in many parts of North America. It was an exciting time, as the church enjoyed tremendous growth and development. However, it was impossible to do everything at the same time without some area suffering and in this case, it was the work of evangelizing the deep South which suffered.

During this period the South, still smarting from the defeat of the Civil War, was busy establishing a pattern of legal segregation which was to touch every aspect of southern life. The Holiness movement was giving new life to established churches, and stimulating the establishment of others. Many southerners had a deep suspicion of northerners with strange ideas who were coming south to establish schools and churches. Since most Adventists were northerners, and Saturday Sabbath observance was definitely a strange idea, Adventist were looked on with suspicion, and found the deep South a very difficult place to work. Despite constant urgings from Ellen White for more vigorous evangelism in the South the church chose to labor more vigorously in other areas. Even when James Edson White began his work in the south

among blacks he received little support from the church and had to write books and sell them in order to support his work. The slow progress of Adventism in the South was particularly serious from the black prospective since over 85% of all the black people in the country lived in the South prior to 1916.

The outbreak of World War I in 1916 made it necessary for northern industries to increase their productivity in order to meet wartime demands. To meet this need for increased manpower many manufacturers recruited southern Negroes to come and work in their plants. Hundreds of thousands of blacks left the farms and plantations and came to New York, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, St. Louis, and scores of other cities in search of work. Most of these cities had small black Adventist congregations at the time, but with the arrival of thousands of blacks these churches quickly grew in size as many of the newcomers became attracted to Adventism. The few black workers employed by the conferences began aggressive evangelistic programs and the Lord richly blessed their labors. By 1922 there were thriving black Adventist

congregations in almost every large urban area in the North.

As the churches grew it became obvious to many of the black pastors that their congregations had needs which were not being met by the local conferences. Some of these problems came about because the white administrators did not understand the needs of their black constituents. Others were the results of a segregationist policy in many of our institutions based on a mis-interpretation of some of Ellen White's statements on racial separation. Blacks had difficulty finding suitable places of worship, and when they did, they usually had to pay an inflated price. There were few church schools for black children, and no nursing homes or hospitals for black people who were ill or infirmed. Moreover, most Adventist facilities such as schools and hospitals refused to admit blacks. Those which did admit blacks observed a strict quota system. Few blacks could understand why they could not enjoy all the facilities of the church even though they were faithful tithe payers. The black pastor was caught in the middle. He understood the needs of his congregation but was



*Central States Conference Office.*



*South Atlantic Conference Office.*

often prevented from doing things which would have helped by white administrators who mis-understood the needs of the black community and the traditional role of the black preacher. Some black ministers such as J. K. Humphrey, and the Mann brothers came into such sharp conflict with their white administrators over their efforts to do something practical to help the people that they left the church. Most pastors tried to walk the tightrope between what the conference wanted out of them and what the congrega-

tions needed from them. J. K. Humphrey eventually came to the conclusion that blacks would never be able to carry on their work in a way that would most benefit the black congregations until they had black conferences and conference administrators who understood their needs.

During the 1940's the black SDA constituency became increasingly concerned about the lack of involvement of blacks in important areas of church life as well as the general policy

of segregation which took place in our schools. For several years black students at Emmanuel Missionary College, now Andrews University, were forced to eat at separate tables in the cafeteria, and Columbia Union College admitted its first black student after the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education decision.

These segregationist policies produced a strong reaction among black laymen, especially after the tragic death of a black woman who was refused admission to the Washington Sanitarium in 1943. Laymen in Washington D.C. organized the National Association for the Advancement of the Worldwide Work Among Colored Seventh-day Adventists and drew up a list of demands which were presented at Autumn Council in 1943 and Spring Council in 1944. At the Spring Council, J.A. Dotson and A.V. Pinkney, presented the requests for total integration within the local, union and General Conference fields. At the meeting J.J. Nethery convinced the other leaders to give blacks their own conferences. Black laymen who spearheaded the reform movement never asked for regional conferences, but for integration. Because the church was not ready to fully integrate, it saw fit to grant segregated conferences.

As it has turned out, regional conferences became a real blessing to the black work because they stimulated the development of black leaders, and allowed them to develop with minimal interference from leaders who did not understand their culture and needs. Because of black conferences, a vigorous work was developed by blacks for blacks.

It is certain that regional conferences have been instrumental in providing the evangelistic thrust in the black community. In 1944 when the first black conference was formed there were only about 15,000 black Adventists in North America. Today there are over 100,000 black SDA's in North America, and the regional conferences are growing at about three times the rate of the church in general in North America. Under God's blessings the regional work has, and is providing leadership for the church which may well propel us to finish the work of God in the earth.

Norman K. Miles, Ph.D.  
Urban Ministry



*South Central Conference Office.*



*Northeastern Conference Office.*



*Lake Region Conference Office.*



C. E. Dudley, President, South Central Conference.

### THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL VOICE

In November 1978, the organization in the General Conference known as PREXAD discontinued the publication of the North American Regional INFORMANT resulting from the Annual Council action to close the office of Regional Affairs (formerly Regional Department of the North American Division). When the administrators of the Regional Conferences learned of this action, great concern was expressed that some vehicle must be provided to keep our people informed of the blessings, progress, and plans for the advancement of the work among black America. After prayerful consideration it was agreed that we must keep the communication open and keep our people encouraged and informed in spite of the fact that no help will come from the General and Union Conferences toward the project. The outgrowth of this burden has produced the North American REGIONAL VOICE.

Since the late 1800s the Seventh-day Adventist denomination has published journals which told of the work among Black people in North America. James Edson White, son of James and Ellen White, was the publisher of some of these first journals, namely, THE GOSPEL HERALD, THE SOUTHERN WATCHMAN, THE WATCHMAN MAGAZINE, OUR TIMES, and THE MESSAGE MAGAZINE. *Origin and History of the Seventh-day Adventists*, p. 246.

The first issue of Edson's paper was known as THE GOSPEL HERALD. In 1905 it was named the SOUTHERN MISSIONARY. In 1935 the General Conference established a successor to the Gospel Herald and named it the MESSAGE. This journal became the organ of the North American Regional Department. *SDA Commentary*, p. 769.

The name was changed to the North American INFORMANT and was sent to the homes of each Black constituent and was paid for by the General, Union, and Regional conferences. Now, the Regional Conference must carry the financial responsibility by themselves unless they can receive \$5.00 per annual subscription from its members. Regional conferences are assessed up to tens of thousands of dollars by their present union conference to support union papers now. It will be back breaking for the regional conferences to continue to carry this additional load along with the REGIONAL VOICE. Some of these conferences must not only pay for the Union paper, but also pay for the REVIEW AND HERALD that is being sent to the homes of their memberships. One solution to this problem, it seems, would be for the members to subscribe to the REVIEW AND HERALD and Union papers individually and let the Regional Conferences supply them with this free issue of the North American REGIONAL VOICE.

Alert people must communicate with each other. The Regional Conferences seek to communicate to you through the REGIONAL VOICE—a monthly journal that you will be receiving in your home. (This is the first issue and you should keep it for your posterity.) In this paper will be news from all the regional conferences who have joined in the venture; highlights from Oakwood College and Riverside Hospital; editorials on current events as they relate to you; introduction to Black personnel in the Seventh-day Adventist Church; weddings, deaths, sunset tables, and many other interesting news notes. Look for your copy next month! You will love it!

“Morning paper is just as necessary for an American as dew is for the garden.”

—Josh Billings

C. E. Dudley



L. A. Paschal, Editor, North American Regional Voice.

Dear Editor:

I can remember being in college in the late 1960's; sitting with a group of demonstrators in the hall of the administration building eating nuts and chanting peace songs. I can't really remember what the protest was about. It might have been the Vietnam War, or school admissions policies or something else, I simply don't remember.

The reason is because deep down inside I didn't view these things as part of my own personal struggle. Protesting seemed to be the thing to do and so I joined the crowd. I Protested!

The last decade was a time of great social change in this country and around the world. New words came into vogue: hippy, ecology, moratorium, civil disobedience, and a new ethic was popularized, principally by young people. Peace and love, we're all brothers under the skin. For the first time young people began to speak out, the hippies dropped out of society. They felt society to be diseased, sick, and that it could not be salvaged, so they "junked it," left it for dead, and lived in small communes by themselves.

The 1960's made way for the 1970's and more new words: energy crisis, gas shortage, double digit inflation, and a corresponding new ethic simply stated; "every man for himself."

Maybe we should ask ourselves what was the church doing through these long years. Particularly in that area that deals with giving all of its members an equal "slice of the pie."

# OPINION

Sadly our "track record" has not been good. It is shocking to realize that racism exists in the church. That certain key positions have been systematically and deliberately kept from blacks is blatantly evident to anyone observing the "pattern" closely.

We often refer to a statement made by Ellen White to the effect that "the Adventist church as enfeebled and defective as it is, is the one object of Satan's supreme regard. Racism, inequality, discrimination most certainly do not come from heaven."

The world dealt with these issues ten years ago. As early as the 1950's the United States was forced to come to grips with its racial problem. And here, a full twenty years later the church has yet to "do right" by its minorities.

Since when do we follow the world? Ought not we, "children of the light," be leaders in any movement that would make for cooperation and harmony between the races? Why does the Adventist church have to be the tail with respect to this issue?

So we have begun to protest injustices which should have been dealt with long ago. Some have felt like the "hippies," that the system was too far gone to be salvaged. But you see, that was never an option to those of us who really loved the church. For we believe that politics, notwithstanding, racism, notwithstanding, injustice, notwithstanding this church is still and ultimately God's church; the work, God's work.

No one wants to leave it, on the contrary, we want to work within it to make it what it ought to be. The REGIONAL UNION idea is not a separation, it is working within the system to make it better.

Every young man or woman that graduates from one of our Adventist colleges and has nowhere to work within the denomination, has a stake in this struggle. Every parent that secures a loan or dips into savings to keep that son or daughter in school, has a stake in this struggle.

It's our struggle and it is a just one for this church cannot be all it should be as long as a significant portion of its membership is treated as an appendage. We can no longer be content to remain on the periphery. We want to be

part of the main stream so we can do our work as God has entrusted it to us.

C. Murray—Pastor

## DEAR EDITOR:

The question had loomed in the minds of many if there is still a need for Regional Unions, in light of the recent appointment of a black as North American Division President.

In response to that inquiry one might reply: we applaud the "powers that be" for finally discovering a black man of wide pastoral, evangelistic, departmental and administrative experience, as well as, exceptional talent and leadership ability.

While acknowledging that such appointments are long over due, it would be an error in judgement, however, to assume that this solitary promotion is a panacea curing all the ills resulting from 135 years of exclusion and repression.

The inequities in our organizational structure are too numerous, complex and far reaching to be solved by opening to blacks a few key positions on an administrative strata; so far removed from the grass roots and the chronic problems that Regional Constituencies face.

We are told that once a black is appointed to the Union, Division, or General Conference level his commission outgrows the boundaries of regional, cultural and ethnic lines.

All eyes are upon the North American Division President to see if he will equitably serve the multifaceted interests and diversified concerns of our entire division. He no longer represents the black constituencies in any favored sense. For, preferential treatment on his part would cause other groups to complain, as we validly do, that their needs and interest are taking a back seat, and consequently the work among their people is made to suffer.

An analysis of the situation, makes it clear that the type of integration being employed to rectify longstanding injustices is irrelevant to the needs of black churches and workers. It has not provided a significant amount of educational, nor evangelistic materials designed to train or to reach minorities. It has not opened adequate diversified denominational employment for our

youth. It has not supplied sufficient means or funds for church growth, building expansion, and institutional development. It has offered no relief to the administrative bottle neck of seasoned regional workers. Furthermore, it is a dualistic approach which recommends integration on the higher rungs of the organizational ladder, while closing its eyes to segregation and apartheid practices on the most basic and important levels of church structure.

All too often integration in theory becomes assimilation in practices. The minority voice is swallowed up by the majority opposing view, which leads many of our constituents to think "those folk up there are doing nothing." Moreover, since the benefits to us are always minimal if not non-existent, while easing the consciences of our brethren, this whole "integration" concept could be mis-construed as mere "tokenism."

If we are sincerely seeking to follow the Biblical injunction for unity, "that they be one," why not follow it across the board, and at the basic levels where it would count, let's thoroughly integrate our churches! Have our sister churches of suburbia join us in the ghettos of Harlem, Bedford-Stuyvesant, South Chicago, and the South Bronx. In this way they won't have to wait until they get to heaven to "come over to the other side to hear 'you people' sing spirituals and gospels."

Let's encourage our youth societies to plan their Saturday night Socials-to-Save together. And what about the Pathfinders camping out together? We could integrate the faculties, staffs, and clientele of our hospitals, sanitariums, nursing homes, and all other institutions. Why not let our campaign for unity permeate every theme, economical, social, cultural, and administrative barrier immediately? Or, if that wholistic approach is too ideal, if it is untenable, why not follow the inspired counsel of the servant of the Lord and have blacks work for blacks, through our Regional Churches, through our Regional Conferences, and through our Regional Unions, until "the Lord shows us a better way!"

Johnathan Thompson  
Pastor

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# THE CONFERENCES IN ACTION

## FAMILY EMPHASIS WEEKEND

On March 30 and 31, the Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church of Des Moines, Iowa held a Family Emphasis Weekend. Dr. Mervyn Warren, Dean of Oakwood College, Mrs. Alma York, head of the Nursing Department of Union College and Lester Jones, Pastor of the Ankeny, Iowa Seventh-day Adventist Church were the featured speakers for the Family Emphasis Weekend, which began with Dr. Warren's keynote address delivered on Friday night.

In his keynote address, Dr. Warren directed his message to the youth of the church. He challenged the youth to: "Let no man Despise thy Youth." The youth were exhorted to be an example to the older members of the church by patterning themselves after the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dr. Warren spoke again during the Sabbath divine worship service. His message centered on the counsel given in Ephesians 5:22 and 25.

After a dinner served at the church and enjoyed by members and visitors alike, seminar topics on health, youth living and marriage were presented. Mrs. Alma York discussed the family health as it related to successfully coping with stress. The topic of diabetes was also discussed by Mrs. York, with particular emphasis on awareness of the warning signals of diabetes.

Pastor Lester Jones dealt with the subject of marriage and the family. He stressed the point of communication. Parents need to maintain communication with children as well as with each other. Pastor Jones noted that a recent Cornell University study shows that words comprise only seven percent of the family communication process; the remaining ninety-three percent is divided between actions and attitude.

The youth seminar was conducted by Dr. Warren who, among other things, set before the youth, the Adventist ideal for courtship and marriage. Dr. Warren supplemented his remarks by showing a film on "Life."

After the Sabbath had ended, a social gathering was held highlighted by a further sampling of Adventist cuisine. To the enjoyment of all in attendance, Dr. Warren gave a pictorial report on Oakwood College which stimulated increased interest in the continuing growth and expansion of Oakwood College.

In retrospect the Family Emphasis Weekend was enjoyed and appreciated by all. In addition to church members receiving greater insights into Christian family living, a large number of visitors from the community left with a more positive awareness of the wholesomeness of an Adventist life-style.

Earl Roberts

## CENTRAL MV SPRING FEDERATION

On March 2 and 3, the Central MV Spring Federation was held in Leavenworth, Kansas. The speaker was Elder Raymond Saunders of Hartford, Connecticut. Our theme was "Till I See My Jesus."

This Federation Meeting was a spiritual blessing for all of us. Elder Raymond Saunders, a man of God, really fed us spiritual food that we all needed to lift us up.

The Central MV Federation presented its first Distinguished Federation Service Award to Brother John M. Lucas, Sr. of the Emmanuel SDA Church in St. Joseph, Missouri; Outstanding Federation Service Award to Brother Mayo Mitchell of College Avenue SDA Church in Topeka, Kansas; Pastor of the Year Award to Elder G. H. Taylor, Jr. of the Bethel SDA Church in Kansas City, Kansas and MV Leader of the Year Award to Sister Pearl Reed of Grove Heights SDA Church in Wichita, Kansas.

The Federation choir that was directed by Sister Jacci Lucas, presented to us inspiring songs. May all future Federations be a spiritual blessing to all.

Anna M. Slaughter  
Press Secretary  
MV Federation

## HOMEMADE ICE CREAM SOCIAL

How many of you had the opportunity of visiting the dining room of Camp Shady Hill the first Saturday evening of Camp Meeting in 1978? Well, if you didn't, let me inform you that you really missed a treat. After the setting of the sun, the United Christian Women, Group B, sponsored a "HOMEMADE ICE CREAM SOCIAL" with "honest-to-goodness" homemade ice cream, cakes and cookies. This "HOMEMADE ICE CREAM SOCIAL" was a first for our Camp Shady Hill Camp Meeting family and since we received such a good response, we are repeating it again at our 1979 Camp Meeting.

PLEASE, PLEASE, REMEMBER THE DATE, JUNE 16, 1979. Place this date on your calendars. We would love to have you spend an evening with us. Also, we will have on hand for you a wonderful cookbook put out by this same group—with true, tried and tested recipes. "EAT IT ALL UP," the name of the cookbook, will contain entrees, breads, cookies, casseroles, and some very good vegetarian meat dishes. All of these recipes are from the kitchens of our members and friends who have been so gracious to contribute their prized dishes for testing and tasting. REMEMBER, WE WANT TO SEE YOU AFTER THE SETTING OF SUN, JUNE 16, 1979, IN OUR CAMP SHADY HILL DINING ROOM.

Sylvia Stafford, Chairman  
Judy Hicks, Co-Chairman

## CENTRAL STATES CAMP MEETING

Camp Shady Hill  
Edwardsville,  
Kansas

JUNE 15-23



**FINISHING THE WORK THROUGH CONFERENCE GROWTH. A STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE GROWTH PATTERN OF THE LAKE REGION CONFERENCE.**

The job of finishing the work is tremendous but not impossible. The reason for our existence as a conference is to be a part of the finished work of God in the earth. How are we reaching the 30 million souls living within the territory of the Lake Region Conference? When we look at the Chicago southside where there are 250,000 black people living in high-rise ghettos within a ten block radius, the question is turned about to ask how can we reach these judgment-bound souls? The same situation can be multiplied ten times in the city of Chicago. The city of Detroit with its millions of people with a wide variety of crimes where murder is the number one crime poses another question of how can they be reached with the gospel. The same can be said of Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Minneapolis, and East St. Louis.

Nevertheless, the Lake Region Conference is making beautiful and tremendous gains. We are not really satisfied with the attainment, seeing the great challenges of the territory, but we are grateful to God for what we are able to report in statistical gains.

To meet the challenge of our territory we have 65 organized churches with a total membership at this writing of 14,590. There are 33 ordained ministers, 11 licensed ministers, and 6 Bible instructors who are committed to the task of reaching the millions in our territory.

In the field of our educational ministry, believing as we do that we have a deep concern for Christian education, and that we must have the best in physical facilities and teacher preparation that will provide quality Christian education, we operate 9 elementary schools with an enrollment of 873. Calvin Center School in Cassopolis, MI; Capitol Avenue School, Indianapolis, IN; Linden Road School, Flint, MI; Mizpah School, Gary, IN; F. L. Peterson-Warren School, Detroit, MI; Sharon School, Milwaukee, WI; Ramah Elementary School, East St. Louis; The J. R. Wagner Elementary School, Chicago Heights; and Shiloh School, Chicago, IL. There are two Day Academies operated, Peterson-Warren Academy in the Detroit area and Shiloh Academy in Chicago.



*Shiloh Academy, Chicago, Illinois.*



*Peterson-Warren Academy, Detroit, Michigan Campus.*



*Peterson-Warren Academy, Inkster, Michigan Campus.*

The education system in the Detroit area led out in the school addition to the Peterson-Warren Consolidated School System, a ten church supported institution. Included in the additions were:

- 2 New Classrooms
- 1 Science Laboratory
- 1 Home Economics Classroom
- 1 Regulation Size Gymnasium with two showers and dressing rooms.

Plans are now being studied for a \$1.5 million construction program for the Shiloh School and Academy in Chicago.

The building program also included the purchase of a new facility in which we housed our Detroit Better Living Center to help meet the needs of our Inner City Ministry.

The approximate value of church properties held by the Lake Region Conference Association is \$5,280,000. The approximate value of school buildings is \$2,880,000. The approximate value of other conference pro-

erties is \$840,000. The Lake Region Conference, in cooperation with the Lake Union, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois Conferences, operated four Inner-City Centers. They are:

- Better Living Center, Detroit, MI
- Better Living Center, Chicago, IL
- Better Living Center, Spanish, Chicago, IL
- Better Living Center, Indianapolis, IN

These facilities are an adjunct to our committed ministry to the megalopolises in our territory where decay and depravity are rampant. To really finish the work we must become more involved in this Inner-City ministry.

For our yearly spiritual convocations for our constituency we have a beautiful 120 acre camp ground in Cassopolis, Michigan fully appointed for camp meetings.

The tithe income for 1978 was \$2,813,636.51

## A STATISTICAL REPORT

(Continued from page 9)

The statistical report is meaningful only as it is translated into souls transformed into the image of Christ and awaiting His glorious return, and to this ministry the administrative officers, conference departmental directors, staff members, pastors, teachers, Bible instructors, literature evangelists, secretaries, accountants, ABC associates, and building superintendents are spiritually committed.

H. A. Lindsay  
Communication Secretary

## TREATS FOR THE NEEDY

The Hanna Street Pathfinders, the Warriors, collected canned goods and clothing for the needy. This was a first for the club. Much preparation was given to make sure all things were in order and a special area was mapped out for this project.

Several merchants donated articles for the collection. Five hundred grocery bags were donated by a local merchant and a printing company donated self-adhesive stickers.

Special letters of explanation, hallo-ween tracts and the stickers were neatly placed on each bag by the Pathfinders and helpers.

Two nights before Halloween, 25 Pathfinders along with parents and adults placed the bags on the porch and in the homes of the people participating in the project. On Halloween night, the Pathfinders picked up the bags, filled with canned goods, and returned to the church. After counting and sorting the items, the Warriors were happy to find over 500 cans.

The canned goods were turned over to the Dorcas Society who in turn along with the Investment Department prepared over 25 Thanksgiving baskets for the needy.

Because the Pathfinders worked so faithfully and cheerfully, the church planned a social for them on the following Saturday night. Over 65 boys and girls were present. A Pathfinder was overheard saying, "I like this project, treats for the needy better than trick or treat."

The Hanna Street Pathfinders are planning to have a larger collection this coming Halloween.

Ellen Tolson  
Communication Secretary



Elder Vern M. Joyner escorting Mrs. Ethelyn Reid into the new Flint church.

## FLINT CONGREGATION PURCHASES NEW CHURCH HOME

Sabbath, February 17, 1979 was a red-letter day in the lives of the members of the Fairhaven SDA Church in Flint, Michigan. The congregation officially entered their new church home at 1379 Louis Avenue.

After worshipping for over 47 years on the corner of North and Gillespie Streets, the old church was destroyed by arsonists in August 1978.

The distressed congregation rented a church in the same block. Under the leadership of the pastor, Vern M. Joyner, the task of securing a new church home was begun. Though some despaired, Elder Joyner kept before the congregation the goal of having our own church home before winter. Four months was a short time to purchase a building with facilities for a church school. With no site in mind, but through a miracle of divine grace, a Methodist congregation, shortly after the fire, mentioned to a Flint realtor that they might want to sell.

The property was ideal. Five acres of land in the city limits, a brick church building 12 years old with an auditorium seating approximately 350, 3 school classrooms with a principal and secretary's office, a pastor's study, a basement auditorium and baptistry and 6 Sabbath School classrooms. The property also included a four bedroom parsonage.

The congregation liked what they saw and through much prayer and sacrifice, raised the funds to purchase the property. On Sabbath, November 18, having signed a purchase agreement, the members were allowed to use the church each Sabbath until the final move was made.

An official entry day, using the theme "Jehovahjireh" the services began by our two living charter members from Flint, Rose Bud Miller and Ethlyn Reid were escorted in and presented with keys to the church.

The message for the 11:00 o'clock hour was presented by our Conference President Elder Charles D. Joseph. After a fellowship dinner in the church annex and a baptismal service, our sister church in Saginaw gave the M.V. program depicting great men and women in black history.

The day ended with a beautiful vesper on "Creation" by our Conference Secretary, Elder R. C. Brown, Sr.

This was a day the Flint Church will long remember.

Bill Washington  
Communication Secretary

**Lake Region Campmeeting  
June 28-July 7  
Cassopolis, Michigan**

## DR. GARDNER C. TAYLOR SPEAKS TO BETHEL CONGREGATION

Accepting the challenge of the Communications Department of the Atlantic Union to be one of at least twenty churches having Community Relations Day.

In Volume VI, p. 77-78, the Messenger of the Lord has stated, "Our Ministers should seek to come near to the ministers of other Denominations, pray for and with these men, for whom Christ is interceding. . . . as Christ's messengers, we should manifest a deep, earnest interest in these shepherds of the flock." With that in mind, we were able to secure the services of Dr. Gardner C. Taylor, Pastor of the Concord Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY. Dr. Taylor's congregation numbers approximately 1,000. He is perhaps the most sought after and best known preacher in America. His ministry has taken him to many sections of the world. He is a Pulpiteer indeed, a gifted speaker, a preacher of righteousness, a man of God. He was introduced to the Bethel congregation by Elder G. R. Earle, President of the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, New York City.

Dr. Taylor's message for the hour of Divine Worship was entitled, "The Three Great Sabbath's" in which he touched the First Sabbath, at creation; The Second Sabbath, when Jesus rested in the grave and the Third, His return. Dr. Taylor spoke highly of Oakwood College and its young people and of Ellen G. White.

Music for the occasion was furnished by dramatic soprano Ms. Linda Elliott and the Bethel Sanctuary Choir under the direction of Fleurange Cherenfant and Mrs. Helen Griffith, Minister of Music.

On the following day, our pastor, Dr. Edgar T. Mimms was the speaker for the hour of Divine Worship at the historic Concord Baptist Church. Elder G. R. Earle also gave remarks.

Just before Dr. Mimms presented the message for the morning, Mrs. Antoinette Garrett, now clerk of the Bethel Church, presented Dr. Taylor with a set of the Conflict of the Ages, in behalf of the Lay Activities Department, Earl Bell, Director; Olga Dehring, Secretary.

Dr. E. T. Mimms, Pastor  
Bethel SDA Church



Elder G. R. Earle, Dr. Gardner C. Taylor, Pastor of Concord Baptist Church, and Elder E. T. Mimms.

## 21 BAPTIZED AT THE JEFFERSON AVENUE SDA CHURCH

The beauty of man working with God to win souls was evidenced in some of the experiences of those baptized into the Jefferson Avenue Church, Sabbath March 24th.

*"Train up a child. . ."*

Partial reward of parents and relatives laboring with God in training children for His kingdom was seen in the baptisms of Coleen Brown, Monique Vanderburg, Felicia and Herman Bounds, Jamel Williams, Bryon Cartwright, James Moment, Michael Brown, Michael Bradley and Kevin Vasciannie. Pastor Clarence Richardson commended Bible Instructor Avis Carethers for her work with the youngsters, Sister Carethers noting that she had not studied with a group more ready for baptism.

*"Go home. . . and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee. . ."*



Pastor Clarence Richardson of Rochester, New York, baptizes candidate.

Families are doubly united when they are united in the Lord, and there was this joy in the homes of the Brownlee, Williams, Johnson and McDonald families. Freddie and Anthony Brownlee, a father and a son were both baptized after studies in which the whole family participated. With his baptism, Robert Williams stands ready to take his place as the priest of the family, several of his children having been baptized earlier in the year. Cousins Mary Joyce McDonald and Susie McDonald received the baptismal rite; the latter had previously taken Bible studies, stopped, but becoming aware of her need for a Saviour she contacted the Bible Instructor for her studies to resume. It had been a long term dream of Sister Mary Johnson for her son Jessie to be united to Christ. After his regular attendance at church evangelistic crusade meetings earlier in the year, Jessie Johnson finally took his stand for God and was baptized

*"Go ye and teach. . ."*

As God's spirit works on men's hearts, we are admonished to knock on doors proclaiming the good news of salvation. Missionary zeal accounted for the baptisms of Sister Lillie Walker, Linda Green, Althea Green, and father and son Michael Ellis and Michael Ellis, Jr. Active layman, Brother Pedro McKnight recounted his experience with Ms. Lillie Walker of Geneva, New York. During the course of his Bible studies, accepted Christ and experienced some of Satan's displeasure. She was unable to walk, part of her body being paralyzed. After much prayer, she again regained the use of her limbs and she walked unaided to the baptismal pool.

Brother Michael Ellis had been baptized as a Seventh-day Adventist in Florida in an effort by Elder Malcolm Phipps. He had backslidden and was not attending church by the time he was residing in Rochester. Elder Malcolm Phipps was asked to conduct a week of prayer revival at the Jefferson Avenue Church and Brother Ellis heard of the meetings and attended nightly. He responded to the call made by Elder Phipps and gave his heart to the Lord.

Either before or after his conversion, Brother Ellis came in contact with Ms. Linda Green, daughter of the pastor of one of Rochester's large churches. Brother Ellis chided Ms. Green that she was not studying her Bible as she should and encouraged her to do so. During her readings, Bible verses containing references to the Sabbath, which she had read previously and gave little thought to, were impressed upon her mind. She began to question, and studied more to find the answers to her questions from God's Word. In accepting the truth she had found much as a result of her own study, she was derided by her father's parishioners and finally totally rejected by her parents and the rest of her family. But Sister Green is happy in the Lord and in the truth she now knows.

It is with much joy and thankfulness to God, that we welcome all of these individuals into the fellowship of the Jefferson Avenue Church.

Gladys Crider  
Communications Secretary

## ARISE! ARISE! EVANGELIZE

*"Throw Out the Life Line in 79 and Redeem the Time."*

G. R. EARLE, President

The year 1978 was another year of productive evangelism in the running history of the Northeastern Conference. The collective records of church membership closed with a combined figure of 1,350 newborn converts added to the kingdom of God through His church on earth. For such providential leading of Almighty God by means of His Divine Spirit operating through the combined efforts of human agents—pastors and laymen—we gratefully lift our voices in symphonic praise and adoration.

While we rejoice with great jubilation over this marvelous achievement, we must not by any means relax our evangelistic vigilance, for today's conquests will not suffice for tomorrow's

TWELVE

encounters. We must continue to work and pray that God will yet demonstrate His power to save beyond all expectations of human knowledge and experience.

As our workers assembled for the first conference meeting during the month of January, they faced the New Year with a new sense of evangelistic fervor and zeal. Every pastor was challenged to:

1. Make every church a training center.
2. Conduct classes in lay witnessing.
3. Conduct public meetings.
4. Accelerated literature ministry.
5. Personal evangelism.
6. Organizing new churches.
7. No less than a 10% increase in church membership.

In order to reach these objectives, every church must make evangelism its priority concern and primary task. Tom Allen stated an accurate fact when he said "Evangelism is not a sporadic encounter, but a continuous engagement with the world at every level." If our goal is the penetration of the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ: then for the agents to carry out this task we must aim at nothing less than the total mobilization of the whole church. This kind of church action can only be accomplished by the utilization of every phase and aspect of evangelism—co-ordinated evangelism through every department of the local church:

Sabbath School outreach evangelism.

Systematic visitation evangelism.  
Reclaiming missing member evangelism.  
Lay evangelism  
Pastoral evangelism.  
Vacation Bible School evangelism.  
Bible study evangelism.  
Literature evangelism.  
Youth evangelism.  
Dark county evangelism.

The growth and development of any church is in direct proportion to its ability to mobilize its entire membership for continuous evangelistic action. Based on this thesis, the Northeastern Conference has developed a "plan of action" for total church involvement by emphasizing the concept of cooperative evangelism. Linking the efforts of pastors and laymen in personal and public service will win souls to Christ and accelerate the advancement of God's work throughout the Northeastern Conference. Such a program is a challenge to the faith and action of every pastor, Bible instructor, institutional worker, and every member of the church.

Therefore, I call upon the entire Conference membership to join ranks with our pastors and let us meet this charge with discernment and awareness. Let us detach ourselves from every other entanglement. We must have no other commitment. Let us address ourselves to the mandated task of making this challenge a reality.

**ARISE! ARISE! EVANGELIZE.  
"THROW OUT THE LIFE LINE IN 79,  
AND REDEEM THE TIME."**



Elder D. C. Batson baptizes new believer.

## SPRINGFIELD GARDENS PRAYER BREAKFAST

Church officers for 1979 met on the morning of January 14th to discuss the focus of church programs during the year. A delicious breakfast was prepared and served by the Deaconess, under the leadership of Mrs. Anna Parker.

Using Nehemiah 6:1-3 as a basis for his remarks, Pastor Willis Reed encouraged each officer to "stay on the wall." He outlined some of the concerns and aims to pursue this year in order to bring about a greater singleness of purpose and action in the church.

All department heads were afforded the opportunity of speaking to some of the needs and goals that they have envisioned in their particular area of church work. The officers solicited the prayers and support of the membership and, by the grace of God, 1979 will

be a banner year at the Springfield Gardens Church.

Marlene Evans  
Communications Secretary  
Springfield Gardens SDA Church



Springfield Gardens Pastor Willis Reid and family.

## DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING AT SPRINGFIELD GARDENS

The first Sabbath of 1979 was set aside by the Springfield Gardens church as a day of rededication through Prayer and Fasting. The focus of the day was upon greater love and unity as we busy ourselves with spreading the message that Jesus loves, forgives, and saves.

In his divine worship sermon entitled, "Drive On Driver," Pastor Willis Reed stirred the congregation as he itemized some of the vital issues that must be overcome before there can be a true revival in the church. He also gave hope in his message when he said that "God can make a way when there seems to be no way in these troubled times."

Throughout the day, songs of praise and words of inspiration were heard and enjoyed by members and visiting friends. Prayers for God's guidance through the year were offered singly, with a partner, and in small groups.

As the day's program came to a close, with prayer offered by Mrs. Daisy Pitter, the warmth and closeness of those present could be felt as they sang, "Bless be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love." God truly poured out His blessings upon the purposes of this special day at Springfield Gardens.

Marlene Evans  
Communications Secretary  
Springfield Gardens SDA Church

### NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER

S.O. James, Director

	1977	1978
PERSONS HELPED	25,000-20,000	20,000-25,000
ARTICLES OF CLOTHING	42,610	40,786
PAIRS OF SHOES	12,113	10,157
PAIRS OF SOCKS	616	2,535
PAIRS OF BOOTS	623	831
PIECES OF FURNITURE	1,501	1,068
TOYS	1,430	2,199
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS	1,655	2,576
HOSPITAL BEDS	4	6
WHEELCHAIRS	2	4
SAWS (lbs. of clothes)	16,920	24,155
REMNANTS OF MATERIAL	18 tons	16 tons
TRACTS, BIBLE BOOKS	2,500	3,100
BATTERED MOTHERS		
FIRE CALLS		

#### WANTED

USED FURNITURE                      HOUSEHOLD ITEMS                      GOOD USEABLE

To be given to NEEDY families

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99-13 Northern Boulevard  
Corona, New York 11368  
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Elder S. O. James, director of Northeastern Community Service Center.

**TRI-CITY SDA OPENING**

On Sabbath, May 5, 1979, the 25 members of the towns of Stockbridge, Jonesboro and McDonough had a grand opening of their new facilities on Route #42 just about a mile south of Route #23.

During the Spring of 1974, Brother Augusta Slaughter approached Elder Ward Sumpter, then the Pastor of the Boulevard SDA Church, and asked him to send someone to Stockbridge to conduct Bible Studies. Sister Ellen Anderson, a Sabbath School teacher and Bible Worker at Boulevard Drive, was asked to get the studies started. Sister Anderson, in turn, asked her Sabbath School class to take on the project.

Several weeks later the class met at the home of Brother and sister Slaughter, and from there, for several months, the class went throughout Stockbridge distributing literature. The literature distribution campaign was followed by a series of Wednesday night Bible Studies in the basement of Brother Slaughter's home. At one point there were as many as fifty individuals attending the Bible Studies.

After the presentation of the Sabbath, the group began to hold Sabbath Services in addition to the weekly Wednesday night studies. It was around this time that the number began to decline. Also the number of Sabbath School members involved in the project from the Boulevard Drive Sabbath School class that started out with the project. But in order to carry on the work, God sent workers from other areas: California, New York, North Carolina, and Ohio.

During the Summer of 1974, the church moved from the basement of Brother Slaughter's home to the Masonic Lodge on Wilson Street in Stockbridge. There it remained until March of 1979, and there to here.



*President R. L. Woodfork, participates in groundbreaking.*

**SAVANAH-RAMAH BREAKS GROUND**

About 2 a.m. on a cool Sunday morning in February, 1978, Principal Nathaniel Miller was awakened from slumber some 10 miles away to answer a call which said, "your school in on fire." The trauma of such an experience takes a very strong person to overcome.

Since then, the school has been meeting wherever they could find places which could facilitate over 300 youngsters. The church has been busy ever since the tragedy to find a suitable place to relocate the school. They finally settled on a plot of ground about four acres not far from the original spot. On April 22, 1979, we broke ground to erect a new school that has the potential to accommodate up to a 12th grade day school (future projection).

Representing the mayor of Savannah at this historic occasion was City Alderman Roy Jackson. In his address to the members and friends of the church in the community, he informed them that his daughter is a student of the school at the present time. Other remarks at the ceremony were given by Elders R. L. Woodfork, president of the conference; S. E. Gooden, director of Education and G. W. Timpson, director of youth activities. Elder E. J. Lewis, pastor, presided over the proceedings while Principal Miller gave a rousing welcome.

**FRED AND MILDRED PARKER-PARENTS**

For a number of years now, it has become a tradition for Oakwood College National Alumni Association to choose a parents of the year from among its members. This year, Elder and Mrs. Fred W. Parker, pastor of the Atlanta-Berean Church were the honorees. Mrs. Parker, even though a graduate of Shaw University had spent a year at Oakwood. Fred graduated from Oakwood with a Theology Degree in 1949 and since then has gone on to become an outstanding pastor-evangelist with emphasis on evangelism.

Elder and Mrs. Parker have met all the prerequisites which qualified them for the nomination of parents of the year. The nomination was made by Mrs. Katie Settle of the National Bank of Georgia, the president of the Atlanta Chapter of the Oakwood Alumni Association, and also a member of his congregation. They have four children, Fred, III, pursuing his doctorate in the allied health field and a graduate of Oakwood Academy; Willie, graduate of Mt. Pisgah Academy and Oakwood College is a Bible teacher of Golden Gate Academy; Walter, graduate of Mt. Pisgah Academy and Oakwood College (Cum Laude) is now director of patient accounts at Riverside Hospital; Yvonne, graduate of Mt. Pisgah Academy and Oakwood College (Magna Cum Laude) is now a graduate student at Ohio State University. Mrs. Parker is an elementary teacher who after having served several places is now serving at Atlanta-Berean Jr. Academy.

The National Alumni Association of Oakwood College in presenting the Parkers and family for this singular honor at the Annual Homecoming Alumni Association convocation at Huntsville on April 13-15 said that this was a well deserving family. Elder Parker was the Sabbath morning guest speaker and Lee Paschal of New York City is the national president.



*Elder R. L. Woodfork speaks to an overflow audience of visitors and other well wishers.*

## A THIRTEEN WEDDING CEREMONY

There are not too many occasions more beautiful than a wedding, and if the joy of one ceremony is shared by thirteen couples, the beauty is multiplied. That is exactly what Pastor and Mrs. Vanard Mendinghall and twelve other couples from the Athens, Georgia district planned when they repeated their wedding vows earlier this quarter.

The group included Joan and Herbert Barden, Arlene and Tommie Davis, Norma and Standley Gellineau, Louisanna and Richard Henderson, Jr., Deborah and George Hodges, Bashie and Samuel Jallah, Gwen and Frank Johnson, Josephine and Jimmy Linston, Peggy and Lee Linston, III, Shirley and John Melton, Sarah and John Morgan, and Betty and Willie Sanders, representing more than 100 years of marriage.

The February 24 service at the Mount Olive Church in Athens was a perfect climax to the week's Sabbath School lesson, "Obligations in the Home." The discussions that morning took on new meaning, and the practical applications were valued by both the married and single.

The spirit exhibited on the "wedding day" was one of pure Christian cooperation. Miss Louise Lewis directed the ceremony, and worked hard to make it "as close to a real wedding as possible." She made arrangements with the Athens Baldwin Piano and Organ Studio to use an organ just for the Sabbath, and it was provided free of charge. Mr. Don Bagwell, manager of the Baldwin Studio, agreed to play at the wedding,

also at no charge. Local elder Jimmy Linston, one of the grooms, was especially happy about the organ. "It adds so much to the service," he remarked.

Elder M. G. Cato, a former pastor of the Athens Church, was invited to officiate at the evening service. He and the grooms waited at the altar as thirteen brides prepared to meet them. The Sabbath had been chilly and overcast, but as Mr. Bagwell began to play, the sun broke from behind the clouds and filled the church with a warm glow. It seemed as if God Himself wanted to honor His first institutions, marriage and the Sabbath, all over again.

The wedding was also a special delight to the children of the couples. Even toddlers sat quietly and watched with rapt attention to "see Mama march in." There were smiles and some "happy tears" during the pro-

cession, but there were no mistakes. Not one groom confused his "original" bride with another! At the close of his sermon Elder Cato pronounced them all "still married," to everyone's satisfaction. As groom Standley Gellineau put it, "I wasn't nervous at all—this time."

The ceremony was followed by a formal reception at the Young Women's Christian Organization (YWCO) headquarters in Athens. The evening festivities included a "Newlywed Game" designed just for the occasion by Yvonne Moore, Janis Wilson, and Kyna Hinson.

Gifts for the "winners" of the games were books by Ellen White and other Adventist favorites. All of the participants received "consolation" gifts. No one needed much consolation though, because in a wedding with thirteen couples, the joy is multiplied.



*Each bride came with pride along with their escort to relieve the anxiety of her husband.*



*City Alderman Roy Jackson speaks to audience at Savannah groundbreaking.*



*Pictured at center is Mrs. Katie Settle preparing to make the award on behalf of the Alumni Association with the Parker family left and Elder and Mrs. Parker to the right.*



South Central Conference baptismal candidates.



E. E. Cleveland

### PHYSICIANS/DENTISTS INCREASE IN SOUTH CENTRAL

The total number of physicians and dentists who have settled in the South Central Conference territory has climbed to more than twenty-three. We now have one in the State of Mississippi with the others located principally throughout Alabama and Tennessee. It is a blessing to have these medical missionaries as part of the conference family.

### NEW INTERNS ADDED

Jessie Green of Louisville, Kentucky and Joseph Grider of Lexington were given internships for the South Central Conference during the last committee meeting. These will begin in September, 1979.

SIXTEEN



W. J. Cleveland

### SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE WORKERS REPORT HIGHEST

South Central Conference Workers report the highest baptisms in history. When the baptismal reports for the year of 1978 were given in January of this year, the total stood at 1,338. This number was 168 more than the 1977 report. Six ministers baptized more than 100. Six other ministers baptized more than 50. Seven laymen conducted evangelistic crusades under tents. Two raised up new congregations.

### THE 120 LAYMEN WHO WIN TEN IN '79

With the gigantic task of finishing the gospel, we invite laymen to *win ten* in '79. We believe that we have 120 laymen who can and will *win ten* in 1979. There were 120 in the upper room on the day of Pentecost. With the Holy Spirit we, the laity and ministry, can have another pentecost this year. LET'S WORK AND PRAY TOGETHER THAT '79 WILL BE THE HIGHEST IN HISTORY.

### CLEVELAND CRUSADE STIRS BIRMINGHAM

Dr. E. E. Cleveland pitched his 60' by 120' tent in the heart of the Black Belt of Birmingham. The location was not new to the community, for others before him had preached on this same corner. E. Ward, D. Crowder, M. Young. The people remembered, but the Spirit drew them nevertheless. In addition to the preaching of the Word, social programs were conducted and community needs were met. The crime rate went down, and city leaders expressed their gratitude for the help that the crusade brought.

The newly added members became members of the Ephesus SDA Church in Birmingham, where Elder W. J. Cleveland is pastor. The church membership was already more than 1,000. It is evident that a second congregation is in the making for the city of Birmingham with more than a million people.

It seemed like the summer of 1954 in Montgomery when thousands blocked the streets to hear E. E. Cleveland enlighten their minds and hearts in the study of the Bible. Dr. Cleveland had brought his evangelistic team to the city of Birmingham this time. Every night for nine long weeks this man of God lifted up Christ Jesus as Saviour of the world and the coming King who will return soon. When the crusade ended, more than 200 persons were baptized.

From 1954 to 1977 Dr. Cleveland served the world church of Seventh-day Adventists as the associate director of the Ministerial Department. His work took him to every continent in the world. Thousands of ministers and leaders of the church in all languages have been instructed by him during his years at the world headquarters. Because of illness that overcame his beloved wife, Celia, he accepted an invitation to serve as the Director of Church Missions at Oakwood College, in Huntsville, Alabama. During the summer months, he still conducts the evangelistic crusades. The Birmingham Crusade bespeaks that the Holy Spirit still blessed the evangelistic burdens of this man of God.

### EVANGELISM FOR 1979

In 1979 we have 43 pastors and plan to enter 36 dark counties. We need more pastors in evangelism, more laymen in evangelism and more money in evangelism.





*D. B. Reid*

**D. B. REID  
PASTOR OF THE YEAR**

Elder D. B. Reid retired worker and pastor of the Huntsville First church was voted "Pastor of the Year" during the January Workers' meeting. Reid, more than 70 years old, is still very active. During 1978, the Lord blessed him to lead his members in soul-winning crusades which netted 130 baptisms. They erected a welfare center and a gymnasium/day care center. They are planning to begin an elementary school for the downtown church.

The First church congregation became the second largest tithe paying group in the conference. Two new companies were organized and all



*D. B. Reid, baptismal service.*

departmental programs were on the increase, under his note-worthy leadership.

Pastor Evangelist P. Smith; and in Nashville, by Henry Holt Pastor/Evangelist.

**NEW CONGREGATIONS**

During 1978 congregations were organized in Franklin, TN. John Brown the Evangelist, R. Hill the Pastor; Adamsville, AL., Leo Fischer, Evangelist W. Cleveland, Pastor; Cleveland, TN J. Milner the Evangelist, P. Vincent, Pastor; Fayette, MS by

**NEW BUILDINGS**

New buildings were opened in Pensacola, Fla., M. Patterson, Pastor; Huntsville, D. Reid, Pastor; Greenwood, MS, R. Patterson, Pastor; Morristown, TN C. Houser, Pastor; Columbia, TN R. Hill, Pastor; and Jackson, TN A. Maycock, Pastor.



*Church ground breaking—Jackson, Mississippi.*



*New church building—Greenwood, Mississippi.*

**W. C. JONES REELECTED  
SOUTHWEST REGION  
HOLDS THIRD TRIENNIAL  
SESSION**

W. C. Jones of Dallas, was re-elected Sunday, March 25, 1979 to his second triennial term as president of the Southwest Region Conference. He was elected by more than 500 official delegates attending the constituency meeting of the conference held in the auditorium of City Temple, 1530 Bonnie View Road in Dallas.

Others elected Sunday included: M. L. Baez, Secretary-treasurer; J. C. Hicks, Lay Activities and Inner City Director; O. D. Kirkland, Publishing Director; Mrs. Helen Turner, Conference Auditor and Association Secretary; J. M. Phipps, Conference Evangelist and Ministerial Secretary; newly elected James Ford, Education and Sabbath School Director; and newly elected B. E. Wright, Youth Activities and Temperance Director. James Ford was serving as principal of Ephesus Academy in New Orleans. His education consists of the following: M.A. Degree and Certificates in:

- License Practical Psychiatric Nurse
- Special Ed K-12 Subjects Denominational Certificate

Mrs. James Ford holds an M.A. Degree in Instructor and Reading and B.S. in Elementary Education from Eastern Michigan University.

B. E. Wright—newly elected Youth and Temperance Director comes to us from Fort Worth, Texas where he has

been pastoring for approximately three years. His education consists of the following:

- Graduate of Southwestern Adventist College
  - ~ Andrews University (M.A. Degree)
- Mrs. B. E. Wright is a graduate of the University of Arkansas in the field of Nursing. She is also completing work on her M.A. Degree in Nursing.

The president reviewed in his report the progress of the conference during the last three years. He listed the outstanding accomplishments as:

- (1) A call was extended to J. M. Phipps of the Lake Region Conference in Chicago to come and serve as conference evangelist.
- (2) Purchasing of eight 40 x 60 tents, 4,000 steel chairs, and reporting \$82,000.00 for evangelism at camp meeting.
- (3) Total baptisms for the three period 1,203, second largest conference in the Union.
- (4) The development of four new churches:
 

Hillsboro, TX	A. Booker
Mansfield, LA	E. L. Howard
Natchitoches, LA	E. L. Howard
Thibodaux, LA	R. E. Brown
- (5) Eight new church buildings constructed:
 

Amarillo, TX	J. W. Cox
Ardmore, OK	B. E. Wright
Beaumont, TX	G. J. Chissell
Fort Smith, AK	C. McNorton
Natchitoches, LA	E. L. Howard
Port Arthur, TX	G. J. Chissell
Tulsa, OK	W. M. Rice

- Waxahachie, TX E. L. Booker
- (6) Six churches liquidated indebtedness:
  - Alexandria, LA
  - Coushatta, LA
  - Covington, LA
  - Las Cruces, NM
  - Okmulgee, OK
  - Sapulpa, OK
- (7) Tithe amounting to \$3,442,772.87, a gain over the three year period of \$1,192,423.71. Mission Offering \$270,920.40 through the Sabbath School \$278,325.00 for Ingathering.
- (8) Literature Evangelist sales amounting to \$298,783.58, a gain over the three year period of \$167,081.52.
- (9) Church School enrollment is now up to 990 with nine schools.
- (10) Purchasing of Lone Star Camp with 268 acres of valuable land, timber, lake and building costing \$450,000.00. Commendations are in order to the General Conference, Union officials and sacrificial giving on the part of the constituency for one-half of this amount has been liquidated.

The business was conducted by B. E. Leach, president of the Southwestern Union Conference. The president expressed appreciation to the union officers, conference staff, pastors, Bible workers, and dedicated laymen for making this report possible.

Doris Jones, Reporter

**Attend the**

# **Camp Meeting of the**

**Southwestern Region Conference**

**at Lone Star Camp**

**Athens, Texas**

**June 14-23, 1979**



*Enter to learn;*

*depart to serve.*

### OAKWOOD COLLEGE— DIMENSIONS OF GROWTH A NEW SCIENCE COMPLEX

From Oakwood Industrial School to Oakwood Manual Training School to Oakwood Junior College to Oakwood College: from three hundred-sixty acres to eleven hundred eighty-five acres; from sixteen students to thirteen hundred students; from four buildings to over fifty instructional offices and residential structures; from humble beginnings to a noble image, a healthy institutional personality and an impressive international reputation. Such has been the experience of growth and change for Oakwood College over the past eighty-three years.

Now with the coming of spring, 1979, there is evidence of a new surge of growth in the great "Oak" once more.

On Sunday, April 15 during the Annual Alumni Homecoming, Oakwood College broke ground for its new two story modern science complex. This urgently needed facility will greatly enhance the campus atmosphere both physically and intellectually. It is one more vital step along the path to strengthening and modernizing this important institution of the church. It will join several other buildings which were constructed during the last decade and which include Blake Center, Eva B. Dykes Library, Edwards Hall, Peters Hall, Carter Hall and most recently the Oakwood College Church.

Such rapid growth in buildings and facilities in recent years reflects the accelerated rate of enrollment at the institution, the rising esteem in which it is held by the constituency, the expanding role it plays in providing leadership for the church and its increasing attraction as a stable, mature center of higher education in the south.

This new facility will remind us once more that the college has come a long way over the years growing gradually, sometimes painfully, but nonetheless surely through physical, numerical, and academic dimensions while firmly anchored to its spiritual foundations.



*C. B. Rock, President, Oakwood College.*

Located on the open field (formerly used for softball, soccer, and cricket games) east of the Physical Plant building and south of Carter Hall, the new complex will house all of the facilities for the natural sciences and home economics. It will thus replace Ford Hall completely, and a considerable portion of Peters Hall.

It is of some interest to note that Ford Hall was built in the early 1950's when the enrollment was 250. The present enrollment at almost 1,300 is nearly six times greater, making these expanded facilities not only urgent but long overdue.

The new science building with a total floor area of 74,950 sq. ft. will consist of two floors and four (4) major divisions. The first floor south will house the biological sciences. In this section will be seven teachers' offices with corresponding offices for student assistants, and rooms for advance physiology, histology/embryology,

microbiology/parasitology, general biology, biology research, plant biology lab., instrumentation, cellular biology, greenhouse, animal house, conference room, department chairman's office, secretary's office and waiting room, a freezer and a cooler.

The first floor north will be occupied by home economics and among other things will provide space for interior design, living/dining, clothing, foods and nutrition, child development, teacher education, four auxiliary classrooms, an auditorium and a kitchen.

The second floor is reserved for chemistry, physics and mathematics. The south area will carry facilities for physical chemistry, biological chemistry, organic chemistry, auxiliary classrooms, two (2) multi-purpose labs., a research lab., conference room, chairman's office and five (5) teachers' offices.

On the second floor north will be general physics, mathematics, seminar room, conference room, mathematics lab., physics lab., A/V lab., projection room, two (2) conferences rooms, seven (7) classrooms, ten (10) teachers' offices, two (2) department heads' offices, two (2) secretaries' offices, and (1) general secretaries' office.

According to Dr. E. A. Cooper, head of the Division of Natural Sciences, this new building will contain enough space to cope with the instructional needs of a student population twice the present size. As such it represents planning against future growth in enrollment for several years to come. (We will cover the ground breaking ceremony in our next issue.)



*Mr. Adel Warren,  
Business Manager*



*Dr. Mervyn Warren,  
Dean, Academic Affairs*



*K. E. Forde,  
Communications, PR*

# PICTORIAL



J. E. Merideth, Administrator of Riverside Hospital, Nashville, TN.



Earl Moore, Associate Circulation Manager, Southern Publishing.



S. E. Gooden, Communications Director, South Atlantic Conference.



Oakwood College student, Peggy Williams, is at present serving as a student missionary in Korea.



A portion of the lake on the Southwest Region Campground near Athens, Texas.



Elder Harold A. Lindsey, Communications Director, Lake Region Conference.



Willie Bathea, mortician in New York City, rendering special music in Sabbath School program at the Bronx church.



Vacation Bible School class in Syracuse, New York.

# STORIES



Walter Artes, Director, "Breath of Life" telecast, rendering special music.



Brooklyn, N.Y. Drum Corps marches in parade.



Junior campers enjoying a ride at the Southwest Region Junior Camp.



J. A. Jones, pastor, Memphis, TN, during summer crusade.



Dr. Rosa Banks conducts a secretarial workshop for Northeastern Conference secretaries.



A group of children singing at Northeastern Conference camp meeting.



Two Southwest Region Conference office secretaries relaxing in office lounge.

# NEWS FROM INSTITUTIONS

## NORTHEASTERN ACADEMY

The students and staff at the Northeastern Academy are grateful to the Northeastern Conference officials, pastors, church constituency, and our many friends for assisting us in developing a school plant and school environment representative of the needs and abilities of our youth. Without the sacrificial giving and loyal support of each of you, the dream would not be the reality it is today.

September enrollments:

1976	1977	1978
195	229	238

Enrollment by grade September 1978: Grade 9—73; Grade 10—63; Grade 11—43; Grade 12—59.

*Academy Staff:* Business Manager, Stennett Brooks; Principal, Edna Lett Williamson; Assistant Principal, Alvin Bernard; Guidance Counselor, Esme Borell; Dean of Students, Marjorie Hill.

The Northeastern Academy staff is well-integrated in Academy promotion and metropolitan church programs.

*Academy Days:* During December Northeastern hosted two Academy Days—providing a full day's program and sports events for 175 prospective 8th grade graduates. This year they came from as far as Boston, Berea.

*Academy Reflections:* The pride and joy of our school is the school publication, the *Academy Reflections*. Mrs. Donaldson, sponsor, the Northeastern Communications Department, and Youth Ministries, and the subscription staff have made our school newspaper campaign a major event. Ms. Sylvia Langley was crowned the 1978-79 Academy Reflections Queen for her outstanding work during the campaign.

*Special Features:*

1. Parent Association—Hot Lunch Program.
2. Northeastern Academy—Official Testing Center for PSAT and ACT Exams.
3. 109 x 91 in. Ceiling Screen—Northeastern Education Gift.
4. Purchase of \$400 worth of Afro-American Literature Books by the Harlem Academy Alumni Assoc.
5. Appearance of NEA's Choir at Atlantic Union College—Black Heritage Week Celebration. The Choir, under the direction of Lloyd Chung, is renown in the area for its brilliant performances.
6. "Sons of the King" and "Academy Reflectors"—Singing

groups in the Academy.

*Special Needs:*

1. Complete overhauling and refurbishing of locker area.
2. A MODERN School Bus—suitable for long trips.
3. Portable Chalkboards (3).
4. More Library Volumes.
5. An Art-Drama-English Teacher.

Our image has changed . . . observe our proud, Christian youth!!! To God be the Glory, great things He hath done. . . !

## PETERSON-WARREN ACADEMY

The Peterson Jr. Academy was an outgrowth of the City Temple and Sharon churches. In 1964 these two churches united and formed the Peterson Jr. Academy offering grades 1 through 10. The school experienced a steady growth under its first principal, C. J. Barnes, and subsequent principals William Brown, Jr., Nathaniel Higgs, and Carney Bradford. Under the leadership of Reginald Barnes, conference superintendent of education, the school was elevated to a full-fledged day academy in 1975.

The Lake Region Conference Administration, under the leadership of the late J. R. Wagner, encouraged the churches in the Detroit area to unite in administering the academy. Nine of our ten churches responded to that call.

In the escalating growth experience of the nine church operated Peterson Academy, it became necessary to offer an elementary annex in the downtown Detroit area to accommodate the overflow of elementary students in grades 1 through 6. At the time that the annex was offered, the C. F. Warren School which began in 1964 and sponsored by the Burns Avenue Church continued operation with excellent success.

With the growth of the educational program in the Detroit area, it was felt that the educational efforts of our conference and churches should not be duplicated. This being so, the Burns Avenue Church with the C. F. Warren School was invited to consolidate with the Peterson Academy so that a united front could be launched for quality Christian education in the area. This invitation was accepted. This has sponsored and operate what is called the abled all ten regional churches to



Northeastern Academy, New York, N.Y.

Peterson-Warren Academy in the Detroit area. We now have in our conference two 12-grade academies which meet the standards of our church and state.

## SHILOH ACADEMY

Shiloh Academy was started in the year 1913 as an elementary school with twenty students. High school classes were not offered until 1933. In 1952 the Academy was cut back to a junior academy and maintained that status until 1968 when it was elevated to a senior academy under the leadership of Reginald Barnes, conference superintendent, and Marian White, school board chairman.

The current school enrollment is 435 students. A wide range of subjects are offered such as 9 micro-computers for remedial and accelerated programs and college calculus where the students receive university credit if they attend Andrews University.

Over 60% of our teachers have Masters Degrees and are certified in their teaching fields. They all have denominational certificates and many carry valid State of Illinois certificates.

Our excellent band program and offerings in vocational education and art are added strength to the curriculum. Our students are so motivated and prepared that 92-95% go on to advanced studies and most complete the four year college program.

Under the leadership of Ivan Van Lange, principal, Werner Lightner, school board chairman, and Reginald Barnes, conference superintendent, the academy is now accredited by the Seventh-day Adventist Board of Regents, State of Illinois and the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The Shiloh Academy is about to enter into a building program of \$1.8 million dollars.



S. D. MEYERS

Samuel David Meyers was born in New York City in 1925. The family moved to Chicago in 1927. He attended elementary and high school at Shiloh SDA Academy and went on to Emmanuel Missionary College where he graduated in 1947. In December of 1947 he married Gloria Lee Vaughn. The Lord blessed them with five wonderful children: Anthony Lloyd, Charles Weldon, Pamela Marie, Donna Louise and Sibyl Diane.

"Sam" began his ministry in New Orleans, Louisiana; pastoring churches in Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Kansas City, Kansas; Omaha, Nebraska; Chicago, Illinois (Shiloh) and Los Angeles, California (University).

He built the Shiloh Church in Chicago after remodeling the school. It was while planning the financial program for this two million dollar project that he was exposed to the Stewardship and Development program presented by Elder W. M. Starks. The Stewardship Emphasis Series completely changed his outlook and ministry. He came to realize as he is quick to say, "Stewardship is not *everything*, it is the *only* thing!"

After his introduction to the blessings of Stewardship, he helped out in the Stewardship work in the Lake Region Conference and was elected to serve as Director for the Stewardship and Development Department at the close of his pastorate at Shiloh.

In 1974 he was asked to serve as President of the Central States Conference. One of his first actions was to establish the Stewardship and Development Department in that conference where it brought great spiritual blessings and financial gain to the cause. They were able to add several Bible workers and ministers because of the strong tithe gain realized through the Stewardship program.

An accident which happened in the fifth year of his ministry has had a profound influence on his outlook in life. While traveling with a fellow minister and lay person to a conference committee meeting on December 16, 1952 from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to Dallas, Texas, their car was struck by a truck. Elder Meyers had just changed seats with the lay person forty miles back at a gas stop. The lay person lost her life in the front seat just vacated by Elder Meyers. Though he suffered a broken hip, facial scars, a broken wrist and elbow, etc., his life was spared. Although twenty-seven of the thirty-two years of his ministry have been spent wrestling with Satan and physical handicaps, he has successfully met each new job with the feeling that he was spared for just that assignment.

Elder Meyers is already at the office and in the full swing of the work here. His schedule into the field is already getting crowded. Feel free to contact him directly for appointments. We welcome and wish him heaven's continued blessings in this most recent phase of his ministry.

## THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL VOICE

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